

CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Professor Vicki Anderson BA (Hons), MA (Clin Neuropsych), PhD, FAPS, FASSA, FAAHMS, FASSBI

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Dr Anderson is Director, Clinical Sciences Research, Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), Professor, University of Melbourne, and Past President of the International Neuropsychological Society. Her clinical research addresses mechanisms and outcomes from injury to the developing brain, predominately traumatic brain injury, and concussion. She has authored 600+ peer reviewed publications and 6 books and has over \$55M in competitive funding. Major translational impacts from her research include: i) seminal papers on vulnerability of developing brain to insult ii) *HeadCheck* community-centered, free, digital health tool for monitoring post-concussion symptoms (partnership with Australian Football league), with 70K+ downloads; iii) published first age-norms and validation of the ChildSCAT-3; iv) design and development of Melbourne Paediatric Concussion Scale for post-acute symptoms (included in Child SCOT6) and v) design and trial of symptom-targeted multimodal treatments; iv) member of CISG expert panels; and vii) co-author of the first-ever international pediatric sports concussion guidelines (CISG).

CANDIDACY STATEMENT

CISG VISION

My involvement with CISG expert panels and conferences over the past 7-years has provided me with insight into the working of the CISG. Its commitment to understanding the importance of combining a rigorous scientific base and strong partnerships with major sporting codes internationally will ensure the work of the CISG can be effectively disseminated through to the sporting community. Given its relative infancy, and the many knowledge gaps to be filled, concussion continues to be an area that attracts great attention and controversy. I believe it is essential for the CISG to retain its emphasis on both science and industry partnerships with industry to achieve its role as a global leader in the concussion space.

Looking to the future, growing community concerns regarding involvement of children in sports has potential to impact sports participation. The CISG is in a unique space to generate knowledge to accurately inform the community regarding child safety in contact sports as well as the importance to physical activity and competition to children's health and well-being.

Attention to transparent processes and governance, and an increasing focus on equity, diversity and inclusion will be critical. Further, going forward, it will be strategic to consider the most effective and accessible approaches to developing and

delivering CISG key products (guidelines, assessment tools) through use of innovative technologies (e.g., living guidelines, digital tools).

How your background and training fit the needs of the position

As a clinician and researcher in the field of brain injury for almost 40 years, I bring a wide range of skills and experience to the CISG. My research spans multiple dimensions, from basic science (neuroimaging, blood biomarkers) and behavioural outcomes (neuropsychology, mental health) to 'real life' impacts, through translation and dissemination of evidence-based knowledge in the form of novel and accessible diagnostic tools, treatments and digital technology.

My current roles confer the opportunity to advocate for the importance of concussion research through my two primary leadership roles: Director of Clinical Sciences Research (MCRI, one of the top three child health institutes in the world) and the newly established Centre for Child and Youth Concussion. These roles each require big picture, strategic thinking, and community engagement with key stakeholders in the field.

Specific areas of interest or directions you would like to see added or enhanced in the organization.

With my expertise in children and youth, I am keen that the CISG extends its scope to advocate for the ongoing inclusion of young children in sports. This may be achieved through the development and dissemination of age-appropriate evidence-based resources such as preventions, guidelines, assessment/diagnostic tools, and treatments, particularly those 8 years and younger. As previously noted, the use of novel technology to build and translate these resources will also increase the reach of the CISG and its key messages.