

## **CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

**David Maddocks Ph.D.**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

As part of a Masters Degree in Clinical Neuropsychology, I commenced research (including base-line testing) into the neuropsychological effects of concussion in sport in 1985. I first presented and published data in 1988, at the Australian Sports Medicine Federation (ASMF) conference. I was awarded the ASMF Young Investigators Award for my research and was invited to present at the American College of Sports Medicine Conference in Seattle in 1992. I completed a Ph.D. in 1996, from the University of Melbourne, investigating the cognitive effects and recovery after concussion in elite Australian Rules footballers. Aspects of this research have been adopted by international sporting organisations and incorporated into the various editions of the *Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT)*, including the "*Maddocks Questions*". I have continued research and been a co-author of CISG Consensus Statements arising out of CISG conferences in 2012, 2016 and 2022, presenting podium papers in 2012 and 2016.

### **CANDIDACY STATEMENT**

#### ***My vision for CISG***

My interest in concussion in sport commenced in 1985. My involvement and passion for the topic has continued ever since.

The concerns about the potential for long-term effects of concussion in sport, particularly since the mid-2000's, have significant implications for the health of athletes as well as the future for many sports.

The CISG can and should continue to play a leading role in the further understanding of all aspects of concussion through ongoing systematic reviews of the scientific literature. Areas of focus should include: sideline evaluations; assessment of recovery; rehabilitation; return to learn/sport; potential long-term effects (including CTE); and when to retire. There must be a major focus on welfare, education and advocacy.

There should be a broadening of the existing membership base in terms of inclusion and diversity, including gender and representation across the health professions. Contact, collision and projectile sports are played throughout the world. While there is presently strong representation from Europe, North America and Australia, membership growth within Asia and South America should be a priority.

I believe the CISG has been at the forefront of concussion for over 20 years. However, there has been criticism from some quarters that it is a "closed shop" and that some consensus members are beholden to the influence of various sports controlling bodies.

Transparency in CISG processes, including: ongoing open elections for Board positions; the processes by which systematic reviews and consensus statements are conducted; and declarations of conflicts of interest (perceived or actual) are vital as part of good governance.

***Background & Training***

I have a Masters Degree and Ph.D., in clinical neuropsychology (University of Melbourne), and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Neurosciences (Lincoln). My Ph.D. thesis investigated recovery from concussion in elite sports-people.

I worked as a neuropsychologist in rehabilitation hospitals in acquired brain injury for over a decade. I have continued to be involved in clinical research into the long-term effects of concussion in sport.

CISG is registered as a non-profit incorporated entity in Delaware (USA). It is subject to the Corporations Law in Delaware, as well as its own By-laws and Articles.

I have an Honours Degree in law from Monash University (Melbourne). As an attorney/lawyer, I have advised many not-for-profit entities on proper governance and compliance with legislation and by-laws, including properly run elections and conflicts of interest.

I believe these additional qualifications/expertise, as an attorney/lawyer, would be valuable to CISG as a not-for-profit Board which is subject to legal duties as a registered corporation.

***Specific areas of interest or directions I would like to see added or enhanced in CISG***

In many countries there have been various government regulatory enquiries into concussion in sport. CISG can and should play a leading role in submissions and advocacy in such inquiries.

I would like to enhance the processes presently being undertaken by the CISG in terms of growth of member benefits, including:

- regular scientific meetings - taking advantage of online meeting technology to reach a wider audience between the Consensus Conferences held every four years;
- research funding – particularly for young investigators;
- special interest groups (e.g. paediatrics/adolescents, CTE, history of concussion etc.); and
- legal guidance.