



## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### TUCKER CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORT

presents

#### THE 2011 SPRING DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

# “The Female Athlete and Concussions”

Thursday, April 14 • 7:00-9:00pm

Cowles Auditorium • Hubert H. Humphrey Center • West Bank

**About the Lecture:** Recent research in multiple academic disciplines has sparked a much-needed national conversation about the rising incidence, severity, and consequences of sport-related concussions. Unfortunately, the vast majority of concussion-related research has centered on male athletes. Yet concussions—and their devastating consequences—affect athletes in all sports and at all levels, regardless of gender. This has prompted scholars to ask: Do gender differences exist in sport-related concussion risk, symptoms, outcomes, and recovery? To address this critical question, nationally recognized experts will discuss the latest research about what is known and not known regarding the impact of concussions on female athletes. Strategies for future research, as well as educational and prevention efforts, will also be examined.

#### About the Panelists:



**Jill Brooks, Ph.D.**, is a clinical neuropsychologist who maintains a private practice in New Jersey and serves on the Medical Advisory Board for the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Dr. Brooks has published numerous articles in the areas of neurogenic speech and language disorders, executive dysfunction, and concussion in sports. She was instrumental in the creation of the New Jersey State Law for management of concussion in sports, considered the most comprehensive concussion law in the United States. Dr. Brooks' research on concussions in female student-athletes has been featured in such media outlets as *ESPN The Magazine* and *ESPN Outside the Lines*. She has served as a consultant at the high school, college, and professional sports levels to aid coaches and athletic administrators on the dangers of sport-related concussions.



**Diane Wiese Bjornstal, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor of Sport & Exercise Psychology in the School of Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota. She is a Fellow of the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP), and of the Research Consortium of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD). She is currently serving a three-year term for the Sport Science Advisory Board of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Her scholarship focuses on two areas of research: the health and development of competitive youth sport participants, and the psychological responses of athletes to sport injury. Professor Wiese-Bjornstal is the co-editor of *Counseling in Sports Medicine*, and has authored numerous articles in top-tier academic journals.



**Aynsley Smith, Ph.D., R.N.**, is an Associate Professor in Orthopedic Surgery and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. She is also the Research Director at the Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine Center and an AASP Certified Consultant. Dr. Smith co-directed the first-ever Ice Hockey Summit: Action on Concussions, and coordinated the writing of the seminal document, “Zero Tolerance of Concussions and other Neurotrauma in Ice Hockey: Rational for Collaborative Action.” In 2003, Dr. Smith received the Hughston Award from the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine. A widely-published scholar, Dr. Smith co-chairs the Minnesota Hockey Education Program and has been instrumental in implementing the Fair Play Program which has resulted in reduced violence and injuries in youth hockey.

FREE & Open to the Public! Parking Available

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