Established in 2000, the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program has grown to include six attending clinical neuropsychologists who work within a multidisciplinary team to assess, diagnose, and treat concussions. This team includes primary care sports medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurovestibular rehabilitation, neurosurgery, neuro-radiology, behavioral neuro-optometry, and physical therapy, including both musculoskeletal evaluations and sport-specific exertion therapy.

Under the guidance of Michael “Micky” Collins, PhD, clinical and executive director, the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program sees more than 17,000 patient visits each year. The assessment and treatment team is involved in the evaluation and management of concussions for athletes at all levels of sports participation, including professional, collegiate, high school, and recreational athletes.

Neuropsychology fellow duties primarily consist of brief neuropsychological evaluations of pediatric and adult athletes, along with extended batteries as needed. In addition to serving athletes, the program also receives referrals for neuropsychological evaluations of patients with non-sports related mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), as well as other neurologic and psychiatric disorders. There is opportunity for forensic and medico-legal consulting work as well.

The program is based within the University of Pittsburgh Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and is housed within clinical space at the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine. The Center for Sports Medicine, a 3,500 square foot state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the care of athletes, is part of the UPMC Sports Performance Complex, which also includes the practice facilities for the Pittsburgh Steelers and University of Pittsburgh Panthers.

In addition to this location, there are currently five satellite clinics located throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area including UPMC Monroeville, UPMC Bethel Park, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) at Pine Township, CHP South in Bridgeville, and the new UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry.

**CLINICAL TRAINING MODEL**

Fellows will begin with a one month intensive working with Dr. Collins. Alongside current fellows, new fellows will learn competence with the clinical interview, administration of the vestibular/ocular-motor screening (VOMS), and interpretation of ImPACT™. After the first month, fellows will enter into the regular clinical rotation, in which they will work in some capacity with all faculty members and rotate amongst the satellite clinics. Within the regular clinical rotation, fellows will continue to work with Dr. Collins on a regular basis. Fellow offices are located at the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine complex, where all fellows have access to a computer, telephone, and other necessary equipment and resources.

The educational philosophy of the program is one of scientist-practitioner. The fellowship program emphasizes a patient-centered orientation to recovery, and recognizes that each patient will have a unique clinical presentation and course of recovery. Fellows are expected to spend 80 percent of their time on clinical work and 20 percent of their time focusing on research. The UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Fellowship Program is a member of APPIC (Member Code #9139).

**Clinical Experiences**

While fellows spend the majority of their time in clinic, there are a number of additional clinical learning experiences available. Clinical opportunities within the Department of Neurosurgery include weekly teaching case conferences, didactic lectures, and morbidity and mortality conferences. In addition, David Okonkwo, MD, PhD, clinical director of the Brain Trauma Research Center and director of the neurotrauma program in the Department of Neurosurgery, invites all fellows to join him and his team, along with members of rehabilitation medicine, for weekly Rehab Rounds at the Neurotrauma ICU. Weekly brain cuttings are also offered through the Department of Neuropathology.
OVERVIEW OF CONCUSSION RESEARCH LAB AND PROJECTS

The concussion research laboratory is led by research director Anthony P. Kontos, PhD. The lab is located close to the main clinic at UPMC Sports Medicine, and includes over 2,500 square feet of research and office space. Research staff includes five funded research coordinators, research assistants, and postdoctoral research fellows.

Research equipment includes electroencephalography (EEG) imaging equipment, Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) imaging equipment, neurocognitive tests, vestibular and ocular testing equipment, force plate and accelerometers, as well as research computers and a full host of research-oriented software.

An exciting aspect of the research lab is the Concussion Research Registry, a clinical research database that provides access to data on thousands of patients for clinical research projects. With the registry, there are many opportunities to collaborate with the University of Pittsburgh MRI Research Center, the Departments of Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology, Psychology, and Physical Therapy, and the Eye and Ear Institute.

The concussion research program currently has more than $5 million in external research grants from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, National Football League, and National Collegiate Athletic Association.

During the past year, our faculty published over 30 articles in journals including Journal of Pediatrics, American Journal of Sports Medicine, and Pediatrics. Our neuropsychology fellows are actively involved in both grant funded research and are encouraged and mentored to pursue their own research interests.

Learning Experiences

The following experiences are available to all postdoctoral fellows, who are encouraged to be active and engaged in the research process, and take advantage of available opportunities.

Monthly Grand Rounds- Presentations by nationally recognized speakers in the area of concussion and mTBI. Previous speakers have included: Kevin Guskiewicz, PhD; Bill Meehan, MD; Jeff Bazarian, MD; Jeff Bazarian, MD; and Steven Broglio, PhD.

Monthly Clinical Didactic/Case Conference- Variety of topics related to clinical care, as well as case presentations with round table case conceptualization discussion.

Monthly Journal Club- Discussion of timely articles and topics related to the clinical care of patients with concussion and cutting-edge research on concussion and TBI.

Mentored Research Opportunities in the Concussion Research Lab- Participation in mentored research activities, including subject recruitment and consent, data collection, entry and analysis, study design, and development of papers and presentations.

CITI IRB and COI Training- All fellows will complete CITI human subjects IRB and COI training modules.

Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI)- Fellows will have the opportunity to attend training, seminars, and courses in clinical and translational research.

Professional Presentations- Fellows are encouraged to participate in the development and delivery of professional research presentations at national, regional, and local conferences. As a goal, fellows are encouraged to participate in two to four presentations per year, with at least one as the primary presenter.

Professional Publications- Fellows are encouraged to participate in the development of professional research papers, chapters, and review articles. As a goal, fellows are encouraged to participate in two to four papers per year, with at least one as the first author.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

All neuropsychology fellows are encouraged to participate in ongoing community outreach. UPMC Sports Medicine partners with over 45 area high schools and universities to offer both on-field and in-office management of sports injuries including concussion. As such, neuropsychology fellows are often asked to educate school professionals, coaches, student-athletes, and parent groups on concussion basics and the importance of proper post-injury management.

In addition to education, the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program is proud to partner with the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation to offer the Heads UP Pittsburgh program. Heads UP Pittsburgh provides free neurocognitive baseline testing for athletes ages 7 to 14 in western Pennsylvania. Athletes 15 and older are offered baseline testing for a nominal fee as well. Neuropsychology fellows are welcome to learn more about and become involved with this program.

The UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program’s website, ReThinkConcussions.com provides information for patients, visitors, and the general public, regarding basic concussion education, myths and misconceptions, and heightens awareness about concussions through frequently updated, user-friendly multimedia.

Please visit ReThinkConcussions.com for a closer look at the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program’s treatment approach, multidisciplinary team, research updates, and patient stories.
FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

The UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program seeks qualified applicants from both clinical and counseling doctoral training programs in psychology. The fellowship exclusively seeks applicants interested in a career specializing in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussion. Applicants to the two-year clinical neuropsychology specialty program are required to demonstrate academic and clinical experience in neuropsychology, conveyed through formal coursework, clinical experience, and letters of recommendation.

Applicants must have completed all requirements for their doctoral degree, which includes the successful defense of their dissertation prior to starting the postdoctoral fellowship. In order for the program to make an offer to an applicant who has not yet completed their dissertation defense, a letter from the chair attesting that the dissertation will be completed prior to the start of the fellowship is required. In addition, preference is given to candidates in which both doctoral degree and internship have been completed from programs that are accredited by the American Psychological Association.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All application materials are to be submitted by January 1, 2016. Preferred method is via email, in which all materials are to be submitted to Dr. Erin Reynolds at reynoldse2@upmc.edu. We will also accept applications via postal mail. Please send all materials in one envelope to:

Erin Reynolds, PsyD
Fellowship Director
UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program
3200 S. Water St.
Pittsburgh PA, 15203

The following materials are required
1. Statement of goals and interests
2. CV
3. Three letters of recommendation (at least one from an internship supervisor). If submitting electronically, please scan all three signed letters into one PDF document.

For application questions:
Dr. Erin Reynolds
reynoldse2@upmc.edu
Jenna Troff, Administrative Assistant
troffjl@upmc.edu
412-432-3681

Local Information

The UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh. Founded in 1787, the university is one of the oldest higher education institutions in the United States and one of the most respected and productive research centers. Pitt’s main campus is in Oakland, only 5 minutes from the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine, opening much of the city to affordable living options and plentiful cultural opportunities. Pittsburgh boasts a number of museums, including the Carnegie Museums of Art, Natural History, and Science; the Andy Warhol Museum; the Mattress Factory Art Museum; Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens; Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center; and the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum. Pittsburgh’s theater district is a short bus ride away and includes a number of active theaters with top acts in musical theater. In addition, Pittsburgh is home to a vibrant sports scene, including professional football, baseball, and hockey teams, as well as a full range of collegiate athletics through Pitt and other local universities. Please visit the following links for more information regarding moving to Pittsburgh and exploring the city:

www.coolpgh.pitt.edu
www.visitpittsburgh.com
Michael “Micky” Collins, PhD
Executive and Clinical Director

Dr. Collins is an internationally renowned expert in sports-related concussion. A leading clinician and researcher, Dr. Collins serves as executive and clinical director, as well as founding member, of the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program.

Dr. Collins’ expertise attracts elite and professional athletes from around the world seeking the comprehensive concussion management. On a daily basis, Dr. Collins and his UPMC program colleagues see dozens of patients — embodying youth, high-school, collegiate and pro athletes — with concerns about safe return to play and return to school/work following treatment and rehabilitation.

In addition to his extensive clinical experience, Dr. Collins has been a lead author and investigator on numerous groundbreaking studies of high-school and college athletes published in JAMA, Neurosurgery, American Journal of Sports Medicine and Pediatrics, amongst others. He has been the lead author or co-author on more than 75 peer-reviewed research articles in medical journals and has delivered more than 350 presentations at national and international scientific meetings. National and local media often interview him as an expert source.

Dr. Collins has been instrumental in developing concussion-management policy in youth sports, return-to-play laws, and the Centers for Disease Control’s concussion toolkit. He is a co-founder of ImPACT™ (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing), the most widely used computerized sports-concussion evaluation system that has become a standard of care in nearly all organized sports at all levels. As a result, he is a leader in educating and implementing the proper usage of such baseline and post-injury neurocognitive testing as one tool to help determine an injury’s severity and recovery for safe return to play.

In addition to training thousands of physicians and certified athletic trainers in the diagnosis and management of sports-related concussion, he advises numerous athletic organizations and teams — including several major college programs, the Pittsburgh Steeler, the Pittsburgh Penguins, numerous MLB clubs, USA Rugby and Cirque De Soleil. Dr. Collins serves as a reviewer or editorial board member on a number of academic journals, as well as serving as associate editor for Neurosurgery (Section of Sports and Rehabilitation) and the Journal of Sports Neurology.

Anthony Kontos, PhD
Research Director

Dr. Kontos is director of research for the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program and associate professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his doctoral degree in kinesiology/sport psychology from Michigan State University where he received master’s degrees in counseling psychology and exercise science and completed an internship in counseling psychology. He completed his bachelor’s degree in psychology at Adrian College, where he was four-year starter on the men’s soccer team. Dr. Kontos has specialized in mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) research for the past 12 years, has 107 professional publications and 164 professional presentations, and has received research funding as a PI or Co-PI from external sources including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Defense (DoD), US Special Operations Command, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Football League (NFL)/GE Head Health Challenge, National Operating Committee of Standards for Athletic Equipment, and the NFL Charities.

Dr. Kontos’ research focuses on concussion, including neurocognitive and neuromotor effects; psychological issues; and concussion in military, pediatric, and sport populations. Dr. Kontos is a reviewer for journals including the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, American Journal of Sports Medicine, Pediatrics, and Neurosurgery; as well as an invited reviewer of grants for the NIH, NCAA Grand Challenge, National Athletic Trainers Association, Walter Reed Army Institute for Research, and US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. He is also the current President-elect of the American Psychological Association Division 47 and attended the 2014 White House Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit.
Erin Reynolds, PsyD  
**Fellowship Director**

Dr. Reynolds serves as fellowship director for the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program and is an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. She completed her bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and earned her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Reynolds completed an APA-accredited internship, as well as a two-year, APA-accredited postdoctoral residency in neuropsychology at the Bedford Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Bedford, Mass. She then sub-specialized in sports neuropsychology through an advanced fellowship with the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program.

Currently, Dr. Reynolds treats pediatric through adult athletes as well as non-athlete populations. She is actively involved in ongoing research projects within the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program. Dr. Reynolds is a frequent invited lecturer on the topic of sport-related concussion at local, as well as national meetings. Dr. Reynolds is a reviewer for journals including the Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology. She is an active member with the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) and currently serves as a board member on NAN’s Education Committee.

Vanessa Fazio, PhD

Dr. Fazio is a clinical neuropsychologist with the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program and assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Fazio earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Suffolk University in Boston, with a concentration in neuropsychology. She completed an APA-accredited clinical internship in neuropsychology at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. Dr. Fazio joined the faculty in 2008 after completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship with the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program, and her clinical specialty is pediatric concussion.

Jonathan French, PsyD

Dr. French is a clinical neuropsychologist with the UPMC Sports Concussion Program and assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. He graduated from Widener University in 2010 with his doctorate in clinical psychology and concentrations in forensic and neuropsychology. He completed his internship in the neuropsychology division of Delaware Youth and Family Services. Dr. French focused his research at Widener on traumatic brain injury, as well as the evaluation of malingering in neuropsychological testing. His dissertation examined personality characteristics of individuals engaging in malingering during neuropsychology assessment. Upon completion of his doctorate, Dr. French completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program. His current clinical interests include working with school districts in the area to provide the proper accommodations to individuals who have suffered a concussion.

Alicia Puskar, PsyD

Dr. Puskar is a clinical neuropsychologist with the UPMC Sports Concussion Program and clinical instructor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and neuroscience from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., and a master’s degree in clinical psychology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Puskar received a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, with an emphasis on neuropsychological assessment. She completed an internship in neuropsychology at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, and fellowships with the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program and Kreinbrook Psychological Services. Dr. Puskar specializes in adult and geriatric populations and works primarily with non-sport related mild traumatic brain injury.

Nathan Kegel, PhD

Dr. Nathan Kegel is a clinical neuropsychologist with the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program and assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a master’s degree and doctorate from Duquesne University in child psychology and school psychology. He completed an internship in pediatric neuropsychology at The Watson Institute in Sewickley, Pa., followed by a two-year fellowship with the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program. Dr. Kegel’s clinical interests focus on assessment and management of pediatric concussion.
CURRENT FELLOWS

Alicia Sufrinko, PhD
Dr. Sufrinko joined the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program as a postdoctoral fellow in August 2013. She is a Wisconsin native, completing her bachelor’s degree at Marquette University with concentration in psychology and biological sciences. She then earned a doctorate in clinical health psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology at East Carolina University. Dr. Sufrinko completed her predoctoral internship in neuropsychology at the University of Florida/ Shands Hospital. Upon completion of her fellowship, Dr. Sufrinko will be joining the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program as clinical faculty. Dr. Sufrinko’s clinical interests include assessment and management of sports-related concussions within pediatric and adolescent populations. Her current research interests include the role of sleep in recovery from concussion, and identifying risk factors for injury and poor outcomes following concussion.

Aimee Tessar, PsyD
Dr. Tessar joined the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program as a postdoctoral fellow in October 2013. She received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn., and continued her graduate education in clinical psychology at the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology, graduating with concentrations in both health psychology and neuropsychology. She completed an internship in psychology at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., with an emphasis in rehabilitation and neuropsychology. Dr. Tessar has always had a passion for sports, playing volleyball, basketball, and softball through high school.

Melissa Womble, PhD
A Northern Virginia native, Dr. Womble competed as a NCAA Division I cross country and track athlete for four years while completing her bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of South Alabama. She then obtained her master’s degree in applied psychology and doctoral degree in combined-integrated clinical and counseling psychology also from the University of South Alabama. During her doctoral studies, she developed and ran a concussion management program for two years for local collegiate and high school athletes from which she authored her dissertation focused on concussion management procedures and computerized instruments. Dr. Womble also worked as a graduate assistant for the University of South Alabama’s Athletic Program in which she conducted ADHD/LD assessments and provided sports enhancement therapy for collegiate athletes. Subsequently, Dr. Womble completed her internship at Henry Ford Medical Center in Detroit, where she continued pursuing her interest in traumatic brain injuries and also rounded out her previous training by working with other neuropsychological populations. She has presented at national/regional conferences, has published in peer-reviewed journals, and was awarded the National Academy of Neuropsychology’s dissertation award in November 2014. She joined the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program as a postdoctoral fellow in August 2014.

Paul Cohen, PhD
Dr. Cohen joined the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program as a postdoctoral fellow in August 2015. He earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a member of the varsity cheerleading team. Dr. Cohen’s experience with intercollegiate athletics exposed him to the myriad of complications that may arise with concussions, and built the foundation for a career in effectively managing sport-related head injuries. He went on to earn his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Loyola University, and completed his pre-doctoral, APA-accredited internship at Tulane University School of Medicine. A lifelong sports fan, Dr. Cohen enjoys working with athletes of all ages in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussions.

Jill Fleischer, PsyD
Dr. Fleischer joined the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program as a postdoctoral fellow in August 2015. She earned her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Widener University with concentrations in neuropsychology and school psychology. She also graduated as a certified school psychologist. Previously, she earned a master’s degree in education from Brooklyn College and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Cornell University. Dr. Fleischer’s clinical interests include the assessment and treatment of concussion in athletes of all ages, particularly those with comorbid diagnoses including ADHD, learning disabilities, and mood disorders. When she is not working, she can be found playing and watching sports, hiking, biking, and skiing.
MEDICAL CO-DIRECTORS

Freddie H. Fu, MD
Internationally acclaimed for his work as a knee surgery pioneer, researcher, and educator, Freddie H. Fu, MD, is a distinguished service professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Fu earned undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Medical School, before receiving his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He is known for his trailblazing surgical techniques, education, and research; as a result receiving the highest honors and awards from orthopaedic organizations in the United States and across the globe - more than 200 total.

Dr. Fu is the editor of 29 major orthopaedic textbooks, the author of 122 book chapters, co-author of more than 500 published research papers, and a presenter at more than 1,000 worldwide conferences and meetings. He also has been recognized nationally and internationally for compiling an accomplished, deep, and diverse Orthopaedic faculty and fellowship program. A civic leader, Dr. Fu was named by Pittsburgh Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Pittsburghers of the 20th Century and has served on various charitable and medical boards on the local, state, national, and international levels.

Joseph C. Maroon, MD
Dr. Maroon is clinical professor of neurological surgery and the Heindl Scholar in Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He received his medical and neurosurgical training at Indiana University, Georgetown University, Oxford University in England, and the University of Vermont. He is board-certified in neurological surgery.

Dr. Maroon’s clinical and research interests are in the development of minimally invasive surgical procedures for the brain and spine; the prevention and treatment of traumatic injuries to the central nervous system; innovative approaches to pituitary and brain tumors; and complementary approaches to inflammatory diseases of aging. A lifelong athlete, Dr. Maroon has served as team neurosurgeon for the Pittsburgh Steelers for more than 25 years.

Primary Care Sports Medicine:
Kelley A. Anderson, DO

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:
Maria Twichell, MD

Neurovestibular Rehabilitation:
Anne Mucha, DPT

Exertion Training:
Cara Troutman-Enseki, DPT

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