



## Pink Concussions and SportsCAPP Announce The Connecticut Concussion Conference

Conference Will Feature Experts Presenting Solutions for Schools to Manage Concussions and Youth Sports Organizations to Manage Risk

NORWALK, JAN. 12, 2013 – Katherine Snedaker, MSW and Founder of [Pink Concussions](#), an international social media organization focused on research and resources for female concussions from sports, accidents or military service, and [SportsCAPP](#), a Concussion Education, Advocacy and Policy Group, has announced the dates for **The Concussion Conference: Connecticut: Return to School THEN Return to Learn.**

The Conference will take place on **Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Chelsea Piers Connecticut** in Stamford, and then repeat with the same format on Friday, January 31, 2014, at **Quinnipiac University School of Medicine** in North Haven, CT.

To register, see [www.TheConcussionConference.com](http://www.TheConcussionConference.com) and to follow on Twitter use #CTBrain.

The Concussion Conference will provide training sessions for school nurses, school staff, pediatricians, athletic trainers, and parents on how best to help children return to school and continue to heal after concussions.

The Conference daytime training sessions will feature multiple national speakers including Brenda Egan Brown who is co-author the new 2013 [CDC Resource: Helping Students Recover from a Concussion: Classroom Tips for Teachers](#). Also presenting is Dr. Mike Lee, co-author of the newly issued **American Academy of Pediatrics'** report, [Returning to Learning Following a Concussion](#).

A number of national speakers and panels of local experts scheduled: Brenda Egan Brown, Alan Goldberger, Dr. Robert Fryer, Dr. Karen Laugel, Dr. Mike Lee, Dr. Tricia McDonough-Ryan, Rebecca Petersen, Dr. Jimmy Sanderson, Katherine Snedaker, Dr. Thomas Trojian, Dr. David Wang plus

representatives from Brain Injury Association of CT, Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association, Student Athletes and Parents.

**The Thursday evening event, “Youth Sports and Concussions”** will feature **Alan Goldberger**, a nationally recognized authority on sports officiating and sports law and **ESPN’s TJ Quinn**, reporter and youth coach.

These three events have been endorsed by: Association of School Nurses of CT **ASNC**, CT Association of Public School Superintendents **CAPSS**, CT Association of Schools **CAS**, CT Athletic Trainers Association **CATA**, CT Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics **CT AAP**, CT Concussion Task Force **CCTF** and The Fairfield County Medical Association **FCMA**.

"As a parent of student-athletes and as a concussion educator, I have learned concussions are a part of life, sports and just being a kid," said, Katherine Snedaker, "While there is no magic helmet to prevent concussions or medical cure, Connecticut schools and parents are not powerless. Research now shows that proper concussion management at home and at school can really help students recover. This conference will provide the training needed by school nurses, doctors and parents to manage concussions with best practices and the most current medical information."

**The Concussion Conference** will include training by a number of national experts to provide practical solutions and tools. Here is a sample of key topics:

#### **For Schools**

1. Best Practice Strategies and Accommodations to Help Students Returning to School
2. Most Effective Roles of School Nurse and School Staff
3. "Return to School" Protocols: How to Implement Plans in CT schools

#### **For Medical Providers**

1. Concussions: Current Science and Best Practices for Care
2. Role of the Pediatrician in Return to School
3. Standard of Care in Treating Multiple Concussions and Post Concussion Syndrome

#### **For Youth Sports**

1. Legal Risk Management for Coaches, Athletic Trainers and Officials
2. Current and Future Role of Athletic Trainers
3. New CT Rules and Laws for High School & Youth Sports

"Schools can formulate a concussion academic plan to enable the great majority of students to remain in school while recovering," states keynote speaker, Brenda Eagan Brown. "Educators who understand concussion, follow accommodations, and fluidly adjust them until concussion symptoms resolve are promoting faster recovery."

Afternoon panels sessions with Connecticut school politicians, nurses, parents, doctors, athletic trainers, and coaches will focus on charting future steps to improve concussion care in our state.

Along with concussion management team training, the conference will have demonstrations of new concussion management tools and an athlete injury software platform by The Agency for Student Health Research.

In addition to the daytime events, presidents, board members and coaches from all Fairfield County

youth sports organizations are invited to **Youth Sports and Concussions Night** with **Alan Goldberger**, a nationally recognized authority on sports officiating and sports law. **ESPN's TJ Quinn**, reporter and youth coach, will speak on his own youth-coaching experiences and introduce Alan, who will address liability issues with concussions in youth sports in his talk on **"The Student Athlete – Concussion Issues for Coaches, ATs and Officials: Managing the Risk"**. The event will be at Chelsea Piers in Stamford, CT, at 7 PM on Thursday, January 30, 2014. For tickets, visit the conference website.

Pink Concussions is proud to host this truly unique conference to unite the different professionals who work with students – School Nurses, Staff, Medical Providers, Athletic Trainers, Coaches – along with Parents who are concerned about youth concussion. Pink Concussions believes this conference will set the stage for Connecticut to retake a leadership role in how concussions are managed in our state. **The Orthopedic & Spine Institute of Stamford Hospital** is the hosting sponsor for the day and evening events on January 30, 2014, at **Chelsea Piers Connecticut**. **Quinnipiac University School of Medicine** is hosting the event on January 31, 2014, at their North Haven campus.

### **About Katherine Price Snedaker, MSW**

Katherine was an invited participant in the **Concussion Health & Safety Meetings at the NFL Headquarters** for the last two years. In 2013, Ms. Snedaker was chosen to present for the Obama-appointed **Institute of Medicine/National Research Council committee** who compiled a comprehensive federal report regarding youth concussions to guide federal/state agencies and policies. She consults on youth sports concussion at the state, national levels and international levels utilizing in person presentations, Tweeter chats, and various forms social media groups via her organizations [SportsCAPP.com](http://SportsCAPP.com) (focusing on youth sports and concussions) and [Pink Concussions](http://PinkConcussions.com) (1<sup>st</sup> website in the world to focusing solely on female concussions). Katherine is currently working with researchers from Clemson University on two international studies on 538 female athletes and their history of concussions and plans to publish in Spring 2014. She has vast experience with concussions as an athlete, a mother, a coach, **CONNy Lacrosse League Concussion Advisor**, and a parent of two sons who have sustained multiple concussions & resulting PCS. She has run a successful Post Concussion Symptoms group for teen girls. Katherine is available for educational outreach programs for sports teams and schools, along with consultation on the creation and revisions of school and youth sport concussion plans.

### **About Brenda Eagan Brown, MEd, CBIS**

Brenda Eagan Brown is the co-author the new 2013 [CDC Resource: Helping Students Recover from a Concussion: Classroom Tips for Teachers](#). And she recently wrote a peer-reviewed article for school nurses on concussions in schools, *K-12 Students with Concussion: A Legal Perspective* which will be in the upcoming publication in the *Journal of School Nursing*. In 2012, Brenda was chosen to present the Pennsylvania Return to School Program for the Obama-appointed **Institute of Medicine/National Research Council committee** who compiled a comprehensive federal report regarding youth concussions to guide federal/state agencies and policies.

Brenda is published and presents at the state, national and international levels and has received multiple awards for her work in pediatric TBI. For more info, please visit <http://theconcussionconference.com/speakers/>

### **About Alan Goldberger**

Alan Goldberger is a partner in the Summit, New Jersey firm of Brown Moskowitz & Kallen, P.C., where he serves as counsel to national, state and local officiating and sports organizations and

insurance carriers in the sports industry. He is a member of the New Jersey, New York and Maryland Bars. A former three-sport referee, and frequent speaker to groups of sports officials, coaches, athletic administrators, and attorneys nationwide, Alan Goldberger provides commentary on officiating and legal issues in the national media; and serves as counsel to officiating, sports organizations and insurance carriers in the sports industry. He is the author of *Sports Officiating: A Legal Guide*, now in its second edition. For more info, please visit <http://theconcussionconference.com/speakers/>

## **About TJ Quinn**

TJ Quinn is an award-winning investigative reporter for ESPN and a backup host for the show, "Outside the Lines." He joined the network in 2007 after spending more than 15 years as a newspaper reporter, primarily with the *New York Daily News*. T.J. is recognized as one of the nation's leading reporters on doping in sport, and has also hosted several shows on concussions from the youth to professional levels. T.J. is a veteran youth sports coach himself, and he serves as an adjunct professor of journalism at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. For more info, please visit <http://theconcussionconference.com/speakers/>

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## **THE TRAINING CONFERENCE**

**The Concussion Conference** will offer national speakers and state experts to present on school concussion topics and train participants in using best practices for working with students with concussions. The School Concussion Management Team training will provide schools with free tools to be prepared to track, monitor, and manage student's academic changes and symptom changes at school. The training will also teach the specific academic and symptom monitoring roles school personnel should take on to collect informal data to drive decision making, as well as the importance of establishing a concussion return to school protocol.

Thursday, January 30, 2014    Stamford: Chelsea Piers Connecticut    9 AM to 3 PM

Friday, January 31, 2014    North Haven: Quinnipiac University School of Medicine    9 AM to 3 PM

The morning sessions are designed to teach specifics for each group below, and afternoon panel discussions will provide networking and sharing opportunities between groups. Participants will brainstorm in the afternoon sessions with other stakeholders about action steps and concrete solutions to improve concussion care for Connecticut students.

Specific sessions designed for:

**For School Nurses & Staff** - Learn strategies and accommodations for student concussion with goals of reducing student symptom severity and potentially promoting a faster recovery. Learn how to implement a Concussion "Return to School" Protocol at the local level. Learn from Brenda who is co-author of the new 2013 [CDC Resource: Helping Students Recover from a Concussion: Classroom Tips for Teachers](#). And she recently wrote a peer reviewed article for school nurses on concussions in schools, **K-12 Students with Concussion: A Legal**

**Perspective** which will be in the upcoming publication in the *Journal of School Nursing*.

**For Pediatricians** - Review current concussion science and recommendations for best practices with a focus on Pediatrician's Role in Return to Learn & School Communications. Discuss the 2013 AAP RTL Report with **Dr. Mike Lee**, one of the co-authors plus Post Concussion Syndrome in Students.

**For Coaches, Referee & Sport Organizations** - "The Student Athlete – Concussion Issues for Coaches, Athletic Trainers and Officials: Managing the Risk" by **Alan Goldberger**, a nationally recognized authority on sports officiating and sports law plus possible updates in CT Concussion Law.

**For Parents** - Learn how proper school concussion management can help students reducing their symptoms and potentially promoting a faster recovery. Learn how to implement a Concussion "Return to School" Protocol at the local level. Review current concussion science and Post Concussion Syndrome.

**For Students with Concussions/PCS** – Discover support groups & resources from local students, national experts and online communities

Thank you to our Hosting Sponsors: **The Orthopedic & Spine Institute of Stamford Hospital** hosting the January 30, 2014, events at **Chelsea Piers Connecticut. Quinnipiac University School of Medicine** is hosting the event on January 31, 2014, at their North Haven campus. Any sponsors and exhibitors who are interested, please see **[The Concussion Conference](#)** or contact Katherine 203.984.0860 or [Katherine@PinkConcussions.com](mailto:Katherine@PinkConcussions.com) :

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**Katherine Price Snedaker, MSW**

**[THE CONCUSSION CONFERENCE](#)**

Concussion Education Advocate

Concussion Mental Health Social Worker

Mom of Two Sons with Multiple Concussions

[PinkConcussions.com](http://PinkConcussions.com)

[SportsCAPP.com](http://SportsCAPP.com)