



ANNIVERSARY

**KOREY STRINGER INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

PERTINACITY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE MISSION OF THE KOREY STRINGER INSTITUTE IS TO PROVIDE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND CONSULTATION TO MAXIMIZE PERFORMANCE, OPTIMIZE SAFETY, AND PREVENT SUDDEN DEATH FOR THE ATHLETE, WARFIGHTER, AND LABORER.



15 YEARS OF IMPACT

It seems like just yesterday that a bunch of graduate students were sitting in a conference room in Gampel Pavilion working tirelessly to create the Korey Stringer Institute (KSI) from the ground up. They laid the foundation for a remarkable journey, one that has always been about saving lives, helping people perform better in challenging circumstances, and using proven research to advance our understanding and care for athletes, warfighters, and laborers.

KSI stems from the vision and tragedy of Kelci Stringer (Korey’s widow) and James Gould (Korey’s agent and friend) after Korey passed in 2001 from exertional heat stroke during a Minnesota Vikings training camp practice. Their belief that something transformational could be born from something so devastating is a testament to finding a light at the end of a long, painful tunnel.

Ultimately, these combined efforts allowed KSI to hold our grand opening at the NFL Draft at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on April 23, 2010.

Our extraordinary growth is due to many factors. First, the incredible people working at KSI have been among the best in our field and continue to provide expertise on a daily basis. This next generation of



health leaders, along with an amazing staff, have allowed us to climb a huge mountain in a relatively short period of time. We are now 107 employees strong, all of whom dedicate their time to the communities KSI serves.

We have also been extremely fortunate to have corporate partners that believe in our mission and loyally support our work. Our founding partners — UConn, the NFL, and Gatorade — have been with us every step of the way. CamelBak, Kestrel (Nielsen-Kellerman), the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, Mission, Defibtech, and Magid have supported KSI for many years, with new partners joining every year.

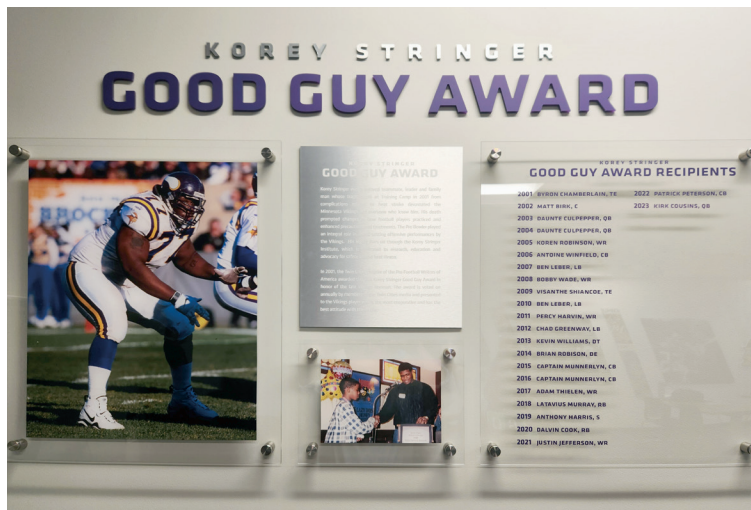
Lastly, KSI has been fortunate to have such a remarkable home at the University of Connecticut, allowing us to grow to incredible heights. UConn believed in us when KSI was nothing more than three part-time employees and a big idea. From resources to support staff, countless groups have provided incredible support so that KSI can focus on the mission at hand.

With all of this UConn support, KSI

built the state-of-the-art Mission Heat Lab in 2017. Now we are establishing the Mission/Magid Heat Testing Facility for Laborer Safety, set to open in 2025.

When we started, the concept of a not-for-profit on a college campus was virgin territory. Over the last 15 years, KSI has strived every day to honor Korey’s legacy by using his inspiration to advocate for knowledge advancement, education, consultation, and advocacy for health and safety changes. Now, the KSI brand is recognized around the world. It is amazing what can be done when so many dedicated people come together. I cannot wait to see what we can do as KSI enters the next chapter of our journey.

Douglas J. Casa, Ph.D., ATC
CEO, Korey Stringer Institute
Professor, University of Connecticut



A LIFE'S WORK

On Sept. 26, 2024, KSI founder Kelci Stringer joined KSI senior staff to visit the Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, headquarters of the Minnesota Vikings. The visit provided the opportunity to honor Korey's memory, relive past glories, and motivate the team to keep moving the needle for athlete safety.

Korey's Story

In August 2001, Korey Stringer, a Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman, passed away from exertional heat stroke. Since the time of Korey's death, his widow, Kelci, and his agent, James Gould, worked tirelessly to develop an institute to honor Korey's legacy. Together with Douglas Casa from the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Connecticut, the Korey Stringer Institute was founded in April 2010.

KSI PILLARS

► RESEARCH

Our research ranges from basic to applied science, clinical and education sciences. The state-of-the-art Mission Heat Lab at UConn's Korey Stringer Institute houses an environmental chamber that allows us to investigate the influence of heat on exercising individuals. We also conduct field research studies working with athletes, warfighters, and laborers.

► EDUCATION

KSI programs and guides teach key people how to prevent sudden death in sport, recognize and treat heat illnesses, maximize elite performance in the heat, and build emergency action plans and heat stress management plans.

► ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGES

KSI works with sport organizations, state medical boards, and national legislative bodies to campaign for the creation of policies or improvement of existing policies to prevent sudden death in sport and physical activity. We advocate for policies that are proven to reduce catastrophic injury in sport, protect all workers from heat stress, and require athletic trainers in all high schools.

► CONSULTATION

KSI offers comprehensive physiological testing services to ensure the safety and optimize the performance of athletes, warfighters, and laborers. We also provide personalized recovery plans and monitoring to heat stroke survivors to ensure safe and effective recovery.

► OUTREACH

We inform the public on ways to keep all athletes, warfighters, and laborers safe through multiple channels including traditional media, public services announcements, webinars, podcasts, conferences, and social media. KSI brings the knowledge gleaned from our research right to the people who need it most through programs including ATLAS, HSPC, innovATe, NCCSIR, and TUFSS.

FOUNDING PARTNERS



- Sponsorship of two laborer task force meetings
- Coaching Education Initiative support

UConn

- Continued support of KSI mission
- Support of new heat lab
- Continued administrative and communications support from the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources and University Communications to amplify KSI's work



- Ongoing support of TUFSS
- Creation of Smart Heart Sports Coalition and backing of the HEARTS Act

CORPORATE PARTNERS

We would like to thank our corporate partners for their ongoing efforts to ensure the mission of the Korey Stringer Institute continues to thrive. Some highlights of our collaborations are listed below.



- Naming rights to new laborer heat lab opening in 2025
- Hosted a press event in New York City with KSI staff to discuss in-lab product research
- Continued support of Heat Safety and Performance Coalition
- Working with laborer efforts with Delta Air Lines



- Sponsorship of laborer task force meeting
- Continued support of TUFSS both financially and at state meetings
- Support of ATLAS program



- Hosted Philadelphia Worker Safety event to promote the health and safety of those who labor in heat
- Dinner at industrial hygienist meeting
- Provides devices for HSPC visits
- Support of innovATe



- Ongoing feedback for expansion of products into laborer space

- Naming rights to new laborer heat lab opening in 2025
- Hosted national Magid Safety Summit with KSI staff and safety professionals
- Continued support of Heat Safety and Performance Coalition
- Joint presentation with KSI at the NSC conference in Orlando in September



- Provided an AED to be donated at each TUFSS meeting
- Support of HEARTS Act
- Support of innovATe program

2024

BY THE NUMBERS

PERSONNEL

30

PAID STAFF

77

VOLUNTEERS

PUBLICATIONS

15

BOOK CHAPTERS/
MANUSCRIPTS
(published/in press)

NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL
STATES THAT MADE
POLICY CHANGES IN 2024

24

NUMBER OF STATES
THAT INCREASED THEIR
SCORES IN 2024

24

NUMBER OF POLICY
CHANGES DOCUMENTED
FOR HIGH SCHOOL
CATASTROPHIC SPORT
INJURY PROTECTIONS
SINCE 2018

300

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

\$4,194,183

RESEARCH FUNDING

\$185,471

NON-RESEARCH FUNDING

DONATIONS

130,900

SERVICES/ELITE ATHLETE TESTING/
CONSULTATIONS

\$6,661

► MEDICAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

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► BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS

PREVENTING EXERTIONAL HEAT STROKE DEATH IN FOOTBALL LINEMEN

In May 2024, a virtual meeting was held to address exertional heat stroke (EHS) deaths in football linemen. This group makes up 87.5% of EHS deaths by position. The aim was to summarize the need for specific recommendations for the prevention of EHS in secondary school and collegiate football linemen, discuss the best-practice recommendations for EHS prevention, and provide additional prevention recommendations for the reduction of EHS in football linemen through a Delphi survey distributed to a mixed group of professionals with expertise in strength and conditioning, athletic training, exertional heat stroke, and/or sports medicine. A forthcoming peer-reviewed publication is currently underway for the Journal of Athletic Training.



KSI TEAMS RACE FOR A CAUSE

In 2024, KSI was at both the world's fastest marathon, the BMW Berlin Marathon, and one of the world's largest, oldest, and most prestigious, the TCS New York City Marathon. The KSI charity teams ran the races while raising funds to support KSI's mission.

TCS NYC Marathon KSI Runners:

Maggie Daniel, Frank Garofalo, Kyle Laham, Lindsay Lehtonen, Sheila Roderick, and Julia Wilson

BMW Berlin Marathon KSI Runners:

Emil Georgiev, Olivia Papa, Daniel Schwei, Brian Nguyen, Cassandra Devaney, Thomas Szczur, and Rebecca Stearns

To become a part of the next charity running team, contact Rebecca Stearns at rebecca.stearns@uconn.edu.



LABORER TASK FORCE MEETING

Approximately 13.3 million laborers are exposed to extreme environmental conditions in the summer in the U.S. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also estimated that 31,600 workers suffered heat-related illnesses from 2011–2019 with an average of 38 heat-related fatalities annually, a number that OSHA reports is likely grossly underreported.

With financial support from Perry Weather and the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), KSI hosted a task force meeting to highlight the current state of occupational heat safety regulations, propose federal heat safety standards, and discuss the role of athletic trainers in implementing these safety standards in the occupational setting.



GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

In June 2024, KSI traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, for the National Athletic Trainers' Association Clinical Symposia & AT Expo with a special guest, our "rubber booty manikin." It gave attendees the chance to get more comfortable with a procedure that can be intimidating for some. Data suggest that athletic trainers are hesitant to assess a patient's rectal temperature in cases of suspected exertional heat stroke, despite

this being best practice. Our goal in offering this demonstration was to help more athletic trainers become comfortable with the skill and to answer common questions about rectal temperatures.

Congratulations to the winner, John Burnett at Karns City Junior/Senior High School in Karns City, Pennsylvania, who won a Mueller Recovery Tub (thanks, Mueller, for the donation!) for practicing this skill and answering questions about this important practice.



SICKLE CELL TRAIT SCREEN

Rebecca Stearns represented KSI at a summit on Sickle Cell Trait (SCT) screening in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) this past July. This is the culminating work of a grant from the National Institutes of Health to Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to evaluate the implementation of the NCAA SCT screening policy from the perspectives and experiences of administrators, staff, and athletes. Stearns participated alongside KSI Medical and Science Advisory Board members Kristen Kucera of the University of North Carolina and Susan Yeargin of the University of South Carolina.



WARFIGHTER RESEARCH

In 2024, KSI continued cutting-edge research to help keep warfighters safe while also optimizing performance. Three grants from the Department of Defense totaling over \$6 million focused on precision heat acclimation protocols for female warfighters and increasing resiliency of intense exercise in the heat to increase lethality for female warfighters.

EAP STATEMENT

In June 2024, NATA published an updated position statement on Emergency Action Plan (EAP) development and how to implement EAPs in sport. An EAP is a critical document that outlines the preparations and on-site emergency response of health care professionals to catastrophic injuries in a prehospital setting.

KSI former staff member and current Medical and Science Advisory Board member Samantha Scarneo-Miller led the NATA position statement, with two other KSI Board members, Yuri Hosokawa and Jonathan Drezner.

This new position statement incorporates several groundbreaking updates from the previous position statement, last published in 2002.

It was also the first to go through a robust new review process by the NATA. The new updates incorporated in the statement include:

- Innovative development procedures
- Venue- and sport-specific EAPs
- EAP coordinator role
- Comprehensive documentation
- Pre-event medical meetings

The results of this work, through development and implementation of comprehensive EAPs, are vital for ensuring positive outcomes for catastrophic sport injuries.

To view the new position statement and other resources, visit: koreystringer.institute.uconn.edu/eap.

BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS



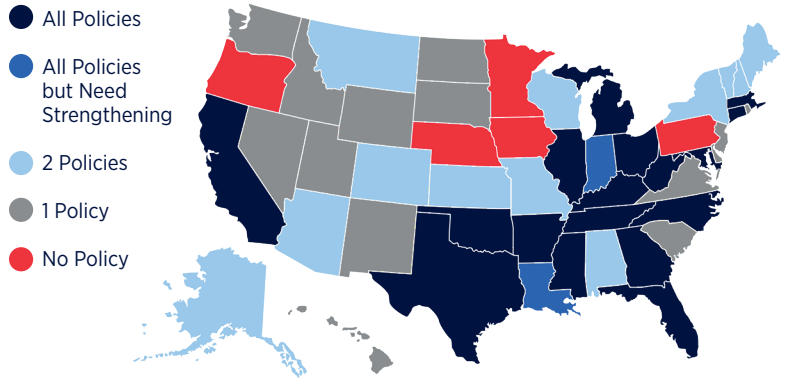
SMART HEART SPORTS COALITION

On Christmas Eve, then-President Joe Biden signed into law the HEARTS Act – Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Research, and Training in Schools. This law is the result of months of advocacy from Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin and partners seeking to provide critical support to students and athletes across the country. UConn’s Korey Stringer Institute was instrumental in advocating for the law, lending expertise and guiding on best practice for emergency care for victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) as part of the Smart Heart Coalition, a group that advocates for states to implement three best-practice policies to prevent death from SCA:

- Emergency action plans for each high school athletic facility, with the plans widely distributed, posted, rehearsed, and updated
- Clearly marked AEDs at each facility within three minutes of where practices or competitions are held
- Providing CPR and AED education for all coaches

► **TO LEARN MORE** visit the Smart Heart Sports Coalition website: smartheartsports.com.

COALITION PROGRESS AND 2024 HIGHLIGHTS: STATE POLICIES



19 States Have All Three Policies in Place

Smart Heart recognizes cardiac emergency response plans in this map whereas KSI uses an emergency action plan standard.

FEATURE STORIES

MAJOR ADVANCES IN CALIFORNIA FOR ATHLETE HEALTH AND SAFETY

ATHLETIC TRAINING IN CALIFORNIA

Title Protection Bill

AB 796

Passed, Now What?

WHAT IS TITLE PROTECTION?

A title protection bill limits who can use a specific title, in this case **Athletic Trainer**.

To use the title athletic trainer one must:

- 1 Have graduated from a CAATE-accredited athletic training program or completed eligibility requirements for BOC certification **AND**
- 2 Be certified by the BOC

For many years, California was the only state in the U.S. without regulations governing the athletic training profession, allowing anyone to claim the title of athletic trainer and potentially provide medical care to athletes. The Korey Stringer Institute (KSI), in collaboration with the California Athletic Trainers’ Association (CATA) and the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA), has worked relentlessly to change this. Their efforts included meetings, written and oral testimony, and direct advocacy by KSI’s founder, Kelci Stringer, who traveled to Sacramento multiple times in support of legislative bills aimed at regulating the profession.

To underscore the need for regulation, KSI partnered with Sarah Goble, MA, ATC, head athletic trainer at Sonoma Academy, to document the availability and employment

of certified athletic trainers (ATs) in California’s secondary schools. Their research revealed that over half of California’s secondary schools did not employ certified athletic trainers, and 8% of schools employed individuals who were not certified. The study also found disparities, with schools serving higher populations of Hispanic or Latino students and students eligible for free or reduced lunch being less likely to employ certified ATs.

These data were pivotal in the successful passage of Assembly Bill 796 (AB 796), signed into law in September 2024. The bill prohibits anyone from using the title “athletic trainer” or similar terms unless they have graduated from an accredited athletic training program and are certified by the Board of Certification (BOC). It also bars individuals with a history of criminal convictions related to certain offenses or those disciplined in other states from using the title.

The passage of AB 796 marks a historic milestone for the profession, making California the final state to regulate athletic training. The law’s success is the result of years of hard work led by Assembly-member Dr. Akilah Weber, the CATA, and the BOC. This regulatory victory significantly elevates the standards of the athletic training profession in California and enhances public trust in the care provided to athletes across the state.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

AS OF JAN 1, 2025 in order to use the terms: Athletic Trainer • Certified Athletic Trainer • Licensed Athletic Trainer • Registered Athletic Trainer • AT, ATC, LAT, CAT or any such term **the individual must meet both of the conditions above.**

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

Establishes Athletic Trainers in the State of California as Medical Professionals.

WHAT DOES THIS BILL NOT DO?

- 1 Establish a scope of practice
- 2 Define who an AT can treat
- 3 Define where an AT can work
- 4 Require ATs to register or pay a fee
- 5 Require a company/entity (high school, Amazon, college/university, etc) to hire an AT to provide care

WHAT IF SOMEONE USES THE ATHLETIC TRAINER TITLE INCORRECTLY?

Report the incident using the QR code or link ca-at.org/complaint. This data will be collected and provided to the state to show the need for further regulation.



► **FEATURE STORIES**



FALMOUTH ROAD RACE

KSI staff continued the tradition of working the medical tent and conducting research with runners at the Falmouth Road Race (FRR).

The medical team, led by KSI Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Jardine, was recognized by the Falmouth Road Race as one of the event’s most important “unsung heroes” in a recent publication. Jardine has volunteered with the FRR since 2000 and encourages anyone to join as a volunteer. Last year, nearly 60% of FRR volunteers were “first-timers.”

The medical tents are prepared for anything, but their biggest concern is Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS). To keep runners safe in the event of EHS, Jardine and KSI staff evaluate patients and provide potentially life-saving treatments through procedures including cold-water immersion to rapidly reduce someone’s temperature.

These interventions also allow KSI to conduct world-class research. This year, KSI had a team of roughly 20 research staff working with 40 runners to collect data before, during, and after the race.

“It is humbling to be part of what many consider to be the authoritative resource for EHS care,” says Jardine. “The research done here has saved athletes, laborers, and warfighters alike. What makes me most proud is that Falmouth has become the standard for other events, including the 2021 Olympics.”



KSI AT THE WHITE HOUSE

In the summer of 2024, then-President Biden convened the White House Extreme Heat Summit, bringing together leaders from local, state, tribal, and territorial governments alongside federal partners. Among those attendees was KSI CEO, Douglas Casa, who shared his expertise on heat-related health risks, advocated for more targeted public health strategies, and emphasized the importance of community education in mitigating the effects of extreme heat on vulnerable populations. Casa’s insights, grounded in his extensive research on heat stress and safety, were pivotal in shaping discussions around improving heat preparedness and response at the local and national levels.

This event was the first of its kind for the White House and focused on tackling the growing challenges of extreme heat, which disproportionately affects vulnerable communities across the U.S. Participants discussed the lessons learned from the previous summer’s heat events, the administration’s investments in heat mitigation and preparedness, and the need for more localized, community-driven solutions to address the heat crisis. Organizing this Extreme Heat Summit was one of five new initiatives led by the Biden administration to address the challenges of extreme weather. Biden said, “Extreme heat is the No. 1 weather-related killer in the United States. More people die from extreme heat than floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes combined.”

► KSI PROGRAMS



The Heat Safety and Performance Coalition (HSPC) at KSI is dedicated to protecting laborers in the heat. Through collaborative efforts with KSI's thermal physiology scientists, cooling gear developer Mission, and personal protective equipment manufacturer Magid, the HSPC encompasses a broad network of experts committed to improving the health and safety of the occupational worker.

In summer 2024, HSPC was proud to work alongside Delta Air Lines and United Parcel Service (UPS). KSI provided on-site expert heat advice and consultation services to below-wing airline workers at hot-weather airports around the U.S. and to UPS workers in the southeastern U.S. The work that the HSPC provides is critical for the long-term health and safety of Delta Air Lines and UPS employees. KSI is determined to continue to help both companies develop safety solutions in a continually harshening climate.



2024 HSPC HIGHLIGHTS

26

PRESENTATIONS

6

MEDIA APPEARANCES

5

ON-SITE HEAT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

4

ABSTRACTS AND PUBLICATIONS

3

RESEARCH GRANTS



The mission of KSI's innovATe project is to increase access to medical care provided by an athletic trainer for secondary school athletes in under-resourced communities through funding, advocacy, education, mentorship, strategic support to school districts, and partnerships with local medical services.

InnovATe has funded 15 school communities since its inception in 2020. Selected schools from the first cohort reached the end of the contracted period in 2025. All schools have maintained their athletic training services, and in some cases have even expanded their programs. With an average EMS response time of over 12 minutes and the average trauma center located 28 miles from innovATe-funded schools, on-site athletic training services can mean the difference between life and death for student-athletes.

InnovATe STATS

42
SCHOOLS

11,489
STUDENT-ATHLETES IN innovATe SCHOOLS

\$61,466

AVERAGE innovATe POPULATION INCOME (U.S. AVERAGE \$77,719)

18.1%

AVERAGE innovATe POVERTY RATE (U.S. AVERAGE RATE 12.5%)

8.7%

AVERAGE innovATe UNINSURED RATE (U.S. AVERAGE RATE 7.9%)



Douglas Casa visiting Los Angeles Unified School District.

KSI HISTORY

2010

April 23: Grand opening at Radio City Music Hall
UConn, NFL, and Gatorade are founding partners



2011

KSI participated at the Youth Sports Safety Summit in Washington, D.C.



Conducted studies with Kona World Ironman Championship triathletes and UConn Men's Soccer

2012

KSI led task force on NCAA athlete deaths with NATA and NSCA to address athlete deaths during conditioning sessions



Led and authored position statement on Preventing Sudden Death in Sport with NATA

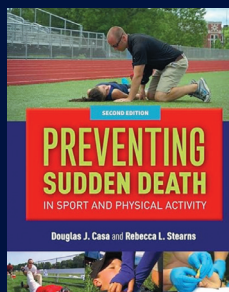
Conducted research with New York Giants



Worked with NFL Players Association on heat safety policies

2013

Collaboration with the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research as Exertional Division partner



Published textbook, "Preventing Sudden Death in Sport and Physical Activity"

Advised Fort Moore military base

2017

First state-by-state assessment of high school sports health and safety policies



KSI organizes task force on Activity Modification for Physically Active Populations

2016

Published inter-Association Task Force Document on Emergency Health and Safety best practices for Youth Sports Leagues



Published Task Force on Prehospital Care for Exertional Heat Stroke

Creation of Athletic Training Locations and Services (ATLAS) Project

2015

First Collaborative Solutions for Safety in Sport (CSSS) meeting



Published roundtable on Malignant Hyperthermia in Physically Active Populations

First publication of *Pertinacity*

2014

TED-Ed video on heat stroke went viral with over 1M views



Corporate partners now include Camelbak, Kestrel, and Mission

2018

Team Up For Sports Safety (TUFSS) launched with NATA and NFL



Opened Mission Heat Lab at UConn for state-of-the-art environmental physiology research

2019

Collaborated with several major military bases to improve heat safety policies for military personnel



Published roundtable meeting on preseason heat safety in high school athletics with the NATA and ACSM

2020

Published laborer Heat Safety Consensus Document

Heat Safety and Performance Coalition (HSPC) is founded

Launched \$3M InnovATe Project initiative



2021

Corporate partners now include Defibtech, NATA, and Magid

KSI hosts U.S. Women's National Soccer Team for heat acclimatization training for the Tokyo Olympics



2025

April 23: 15-year anniversary

320 policy changes resulted from TUFSS

15 school districts supported by innovATe



2024

TUFSS has visited 46 states (75 total meetings), with 40 adopting new policies to reduce sudden death risks in high school sports

Broke ground on third heat lab at UConn

Hosted task force meeting regarding AT in the occupational sector



2023

Smart Heart Sports Coalition formed

Conducted over 210 presentations across the U.S., reaching over 10,000 attendees on sports safety

InnovATe expands with an additional \$3M in funding



2022

TUFSS program visits 10 states

KSI testified for eventual transformational bill in New Hampshire high school sports safety





This was a busy year for TUFSS with 10 state visits — bringing our total to 46. The goal of TUFSS is to propel adoption of policies proven to reduce the incidence of catastrophic sport injuries for secondary school athletes. Since its inception, over 300 policy changes across all states have been enacted to help protect high school student-athletes from catastrophic sport injury.

The TUFSS project accomplishes this by identifying and bringing together the key individuals responsible for improving health and safety policies for high school athletes within a particular state. These individuals include, but are not limited to, state

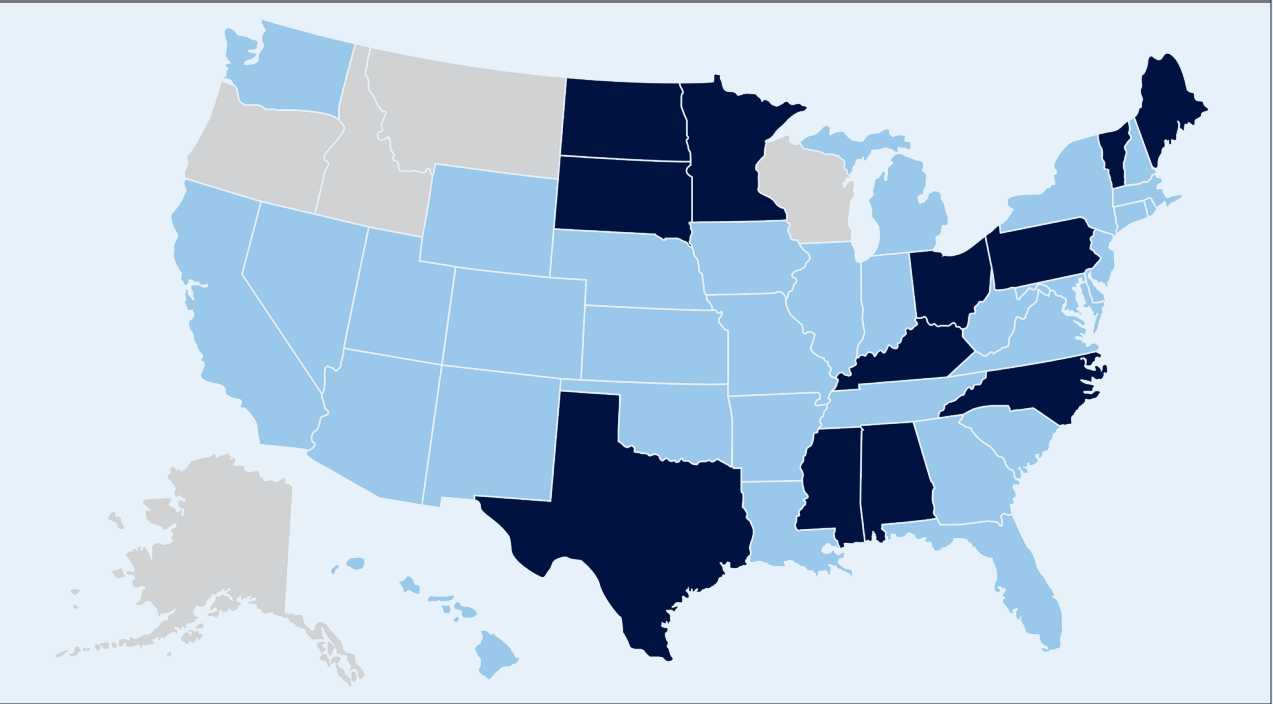
athletic/activities associations, state athletic/activity association SMAC members, superintendents, principals, state legislators, athletic trainers, coaches, and medical personnel. These state-specific meetings facilitate the collaboration of key stakeholders with the objective to formalize actionable items for adoption or improvement of health and safety policies as it pertains to secondary school athletic health care. Together with the NFL Foundation and the National Athletic Trainers' Association, along with many private donors, TUFSS continues to support athletic safety initiatives in secondary school athletics across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

TUFSS VISITS

The TUFSS group was hosted at Vikings Lake and assembled representatives from the Minnesota High School League's sports medicine advisory committee, the Minnesota Athletic Trainers' Association, sports medicine physicians, legislators, and others to discuss policies to improve high school sport safety in Minnesota.

STATE VISITS

● PRIOR VISITS ● 2024-2025



NATIONAL CENTER FOR CATASTROPHIC SPORT INJURY RESEARCH

The mission of the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR) is to conduct surveillance of catastrophic injuries and illnesses related to participation in organized sports in the United States at the collegiate, high school, and youth levels of play. The goal of the Center is to improve the prevention, evaluation, management, and rehabilitation of catastrophic sport-related injuries.

KSI manages one of the three branches of the NCCSIR consortium. These branches have evolved to reflect and address injury-specific expertise that is held within that branch. Kristen Kucera leads the University of North Carolina NCCSIR base branch, which manages all traumatic injuries. The University of Washington branch, led by Jonathan

Drezner, manages all cardiac injuries. KSI manages all non-traumatic injuries such as exertional heatstroke, exertional sickling, lightning injuries, and asthma. This past fall the University of North Carolina hosted a meeting of all coalition members at their Chapel Hill campus.

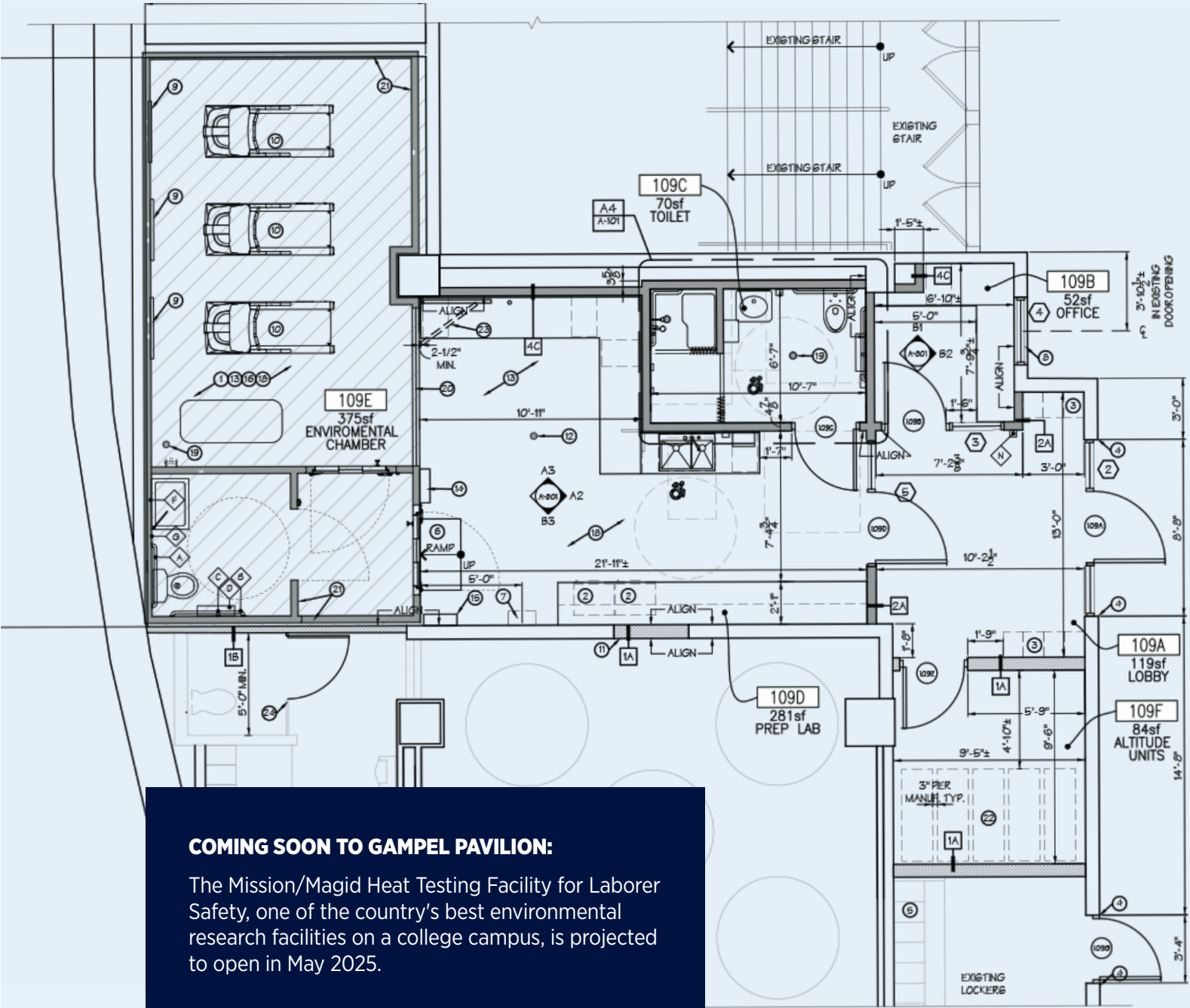
The annual NCCSIR report describes all catastrophic injuries in high school and college athletes during participation in a school-sponsored sport. The injuries are classified as traumatic (direct) or exertional/medical (indirect). Frequencies and incidence rates of catastrophic injury are calculated and stratified by sport and level.

The Center relies on active surveillance and media reporting to gather cases. Anyone can report a case and help further our knowledge on how we can better protect athletes. Report a case at SportInjuryReport.org.



Robert Huggins & Amir Defino

NEW KSI HEAT LAB



COMING SOON TO GAMPEL PAVILION:

The Mission/Magid Heat Testing Facility for Laborer Safety, one of the country's best environmental research facilities on a college campus, is projected to open in May 2025.

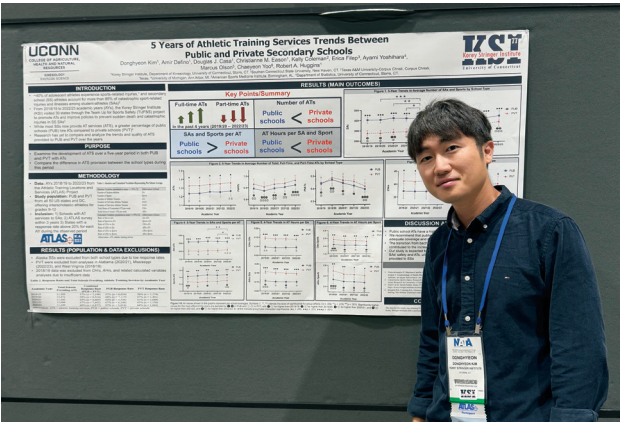
In 2024, the ATLAS team worked diligently to assist states as they navigate the challenges facing athletic training today, in particular the recruitment and retention of athletic trainers (ATs) in the secondary school setting.

With increased hiring of ATs in the private sector, specifically with occupational workers and laborers, along with lower numbers of ATs nationally, schools are left without appropriate care for their student-athletes.

As a result of these trends, the ATLAS project has seen a 14% reduction in secondary school AT services nationally over the past five years. According to the most recent ATLAS report, in 2024 11,121 schools, or 52%, had AT services, while 10,252, or 48%, either provide no AT services to their athletes or their AT status was unknown.

Recent research presented at NATA by ATLAS associate director Donghyeon Kim highlighted important findings:

- Athletic training services over the past five years have been provided differently to public and private secondary schools, and the extent of AT services diminished for student-athletes in both sectors
- In the U.S., high schools with the greatest level of poverty had the lowest access to AT services at 49.5%, while schools with the least amount of poverty had the highest access to AT services at 83.6%



Donghyeon Kim

.....

Samm Scarneo-Miller '17
Ph.D., ATC
 Assistant Professor,
 MSAT Program Director,
 West Virginia University



CATCHING UP WITH A KSI ALUM: SAMM SCARNEO-MILLER

Q: WHAT DO YOU DO?

A: My role at West Virginia University is the director for the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program and assistant professor in the Division of Athletic Training. I help to advance and modify our curriculum to develop strong and competent athletic trainers. This traditional faculty role has a split between research, teaching, service, and administration. My research is focused on emergency action plans; policy and procedure development; and the intersection between dissemination, implementation, and the prevention of sudden death.

Q: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED THERE?

A: My time at WVU has taught me the importance of a strong leader, accountability, and the need to advocate for myself and our students.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

A: My favorite thing about my job is mentoring students and being able to work with them on my research agenda. Developing and implementing emergency action plans and policies and procedures to prevent sudden death in sport is an essential part of an athletic training program and, if done properly, will save lives. Integrating students into this research helps with ensuring the publications we are putting out are translatable to the practicing athletic trainer and helps the students see a different side of research.

Q: WHAT IMPACTFUL PROJECTS, RESEARCH, AND PRESENTATIONS HAVE YOU DONE?

A: I have been very fortunate to have been involved in several impactful projects since my time at KSI. Most recently and most notably, I was honored to lead a team of researchers and clinicians to write the newest NATA Position Statement: Emergency Action Plan Development and Implementation in Sport. This update was 22 years in the making. Under guidance from the NATA Pronouncements Committee and Doug's first-ever Ph.D. student, Susan Yeargin, we developed a collaborative and dedicated group of co-authors to write this position statement. Development of this document was a

feat, and since its publication we have been working on revolutionizing the dissemination of position statements to athletic trainers and the general public. This has included surveying the populations we are working to help, developing work groups of individuals working in each of the settings, and developing tailored strategies for those stakeholders to help others. We want to share it with as many people as possible, and the publishing of the document was one small step in doing that.

Q: HOW DID KSI AND UCONN PREPARE YOU FOR THIS POSITION?

A: I would not be where I am professionally or personally without KSI and UConn. From a faculty development standpoint, the curriculum and faculty at UConn prepared me to handle academic life and to navigate the challenges that come with it. From a professional development and advocacy standpoint, Doug's leadership taught me to have fun while working hard and getting things done. He taught me that being a leader means caring about the people you are leading and showing them you care. From small "milkshake walks" to car rides to D.C. (with a pit stop for Doug to get a haircut), I value the time we spent together. It has helped me be a better leader and mentor to my own students.



KOREY STRINGER INSTITUTE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

This eight-week summer research and advocacy fellowship program provides students exposure to high-level research, advocacy, and education initiatives. Individuals are fully immersed in the daily operations of an active research lab where they assist with field studies, epidemiological investigations, and laboratory protocols. Fellows help KSI with advocacy initiatives and educational efforts at the local, state, and national level focused on preventing sudden death in sport and physical activity.

Candidates are selected based on the strength of their applications and desire to pursue a career field related to preventing sudden death in sport and the physically active.



2024 SUMMER FELLOWS

Fumi Asanuma
 Tokyo, Japan
Nicolletta Davis
 Tuscaloosa, Alabama

To apply, email Nia McBride
 at nia.mcbride@uconn.edu.

KSI ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY 2024

On May 16, 2024, the Korey Stringer Institute held our annual Awards Ceremony at the Branford House at UConn Avery Point.



Elaine Lee
Robert A. Huggins
Lifesaving Research Award



Christina Emrich
KSI Lifesaving
Education Award



Cassandra Snow
John Jardine KSI Lifesaving
Service Award



William Adams
Rebecca L. Stearns KSI
Alumni Award



Carl Maresh
Kelci Stringer Founders
Award



Jeff Kearney
Rachael Oats Service
to KSI Award



Gillian Frey
Neeley Heilman
Allison Slitt
KSI Undergraduate
Impact Awards



Sarah Pandoursky
Outstanding Support to KSI
by a UConn Employee



STAFF HONORS AND AWARDS



NATA HALL OF FAME

Douglas Casa

On June 26, 2024, Casa was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame, which exists to recognize the very best of the profession. Induction into the Hall of Fame honors athletic trainers who exemplify the mission of NATA through significant, lasting contributions that enhance the quality of health care provided by athletic trainers and advance the profession. To date, more than 330 athletic trainers have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. These men and women have shaped the profession through their noteworthy accomplishments and dedication to service, leadership, and professionalism.



Rebecca Stearns

2024 Excellence in Outreach and Engagement in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources/Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, UConn



Cecilia Kaufman

2024 Darren L. Johnson, MD Doctoral Research Fellowship Endowment from the National Athletic Trainers' Association Research and Education Foundation



Dr. John Jardine

2024 David Moyer Award by the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association

Gabrielle Brewer

2024 New England Chapter American College of Sports Medicine President's Cup Winner

2024 New England Chapter American College of Sports Medicine Student Investigator Doctoral Award



Margaret Morrissey-Basler

2024 New England American College of Sports Medicine New Investigator Award



► KSI SNAPSHOTS



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Performance
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Safety & Education
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Postdoctoral
Research Associate,
Adjunct Professor
Advisor of Occupational
Heat Safety



Lauryn Dawes
Assistant Director of
Warfighter Performance
& Safety



Peter Figueiredo
Heat Lab Director
Director of Warfighter
Performance & Safety

STAFF



Gillian Frey
Sports Safety Analyst



Juan Garcia
Assistant Director of
Warfighter Performance
& Safety



Rebecca Gonzalez
Associate Director of
Occupational Safety



Aleksis Grace
Director of Sports
Safety, Associate
Director of
Communication



Joey Grubb
Assistant Director of
Athlete Performance &
Safety



Neeley Heilman
Sports Safety Analyst



Andrea Hudy
Associate Director of
Athlete Performance &
Safety



Cecilia Kaufman
Director of
Occupational Safety



Donghyeon Kim
Associate Director of
Sports Safety



Kaylie Langer
Assistant Director of
Warfighter Performance
& Safety



Elaine Lee
Senior Research
Coordinator



Monroe Maki
Assistant Director of
Research & Laboratory
Operations



Ciara Manning
Director of Research
Operations



Monique Marcelino
Director of Athlete
Research, Director of
Education



Nia McBride
Assistant Director of
Sports Safety



**Margaret Morrissey-
Basler**
Senior Advisor of
Occupational Heat
Safety



Kayla Perez
Assistant Director of
Athlete Performance &
Safety



Jui Shah
Assistant Director of
Athlete Performance &
Safety



Michael Szymanski
Postdoctoral Research
Associate, Adjunct
Professor, MSAT
Program



Julia Yitts
Assistant Director of
Occupational Safety

SUPPORT STAFF

Thank you to the
members of our UConn
community who work
with us to ensure our
endeavors are successful.

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CAHNR Communications

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UConn Foundation

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Institute for Collaboration
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and Policy (InCHIP)

UConn IRB
Administration Staff

▶ ACTIVE GRANTS CY 2024

GRANTS - RESEARCH

SPONSOR	TITLE	PROJECT PERIOD	TOTAL AWARD
NFL Concussion Settlement - Education Fund	NFL InnovATe	6/1/20 – 7/31/26	\$3,000,000
NFL Concussion Settlement - Education Fund	NFL InnovATe 2.0	7/1/24 – 6/30/29	\$3,074,368
National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA)	Team Up For Sports Safety (TUFSS)	4/1/20 – 3/31/26	\$600,000
National Football League (NFL) Foundation	Team Up For Sports Safety (TUFSS)	4/1/22 – 3/31/25	\$1,200,000
Magid Glove & Safety Company	The National Heat Safety Coalition	1/6/24 – 1/5/27	\$413,648
MPUSA, LLC (Mission)	The National Heat Safety Coalition	1/6/24 – 1/5/27	\$413,648
DOD/Army/Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity	Enhancing Lethality of Female Warfighters by Increasing Resiliency to Repetitive Days of Intense Exercise in the Heat (DOD 1)	9/1/21 – 12/31/24	\$1,610,605
DOD/Army/Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity	Optimizing Customized, Precision Heat Acclimation Protocols to Enhance Performance and Readiness of Female Warfighters (DOD 2)	9/30/22 – 9/29/25	\$3,779,988
Milwaukee Tool	Milwaukee Tool Helmet Fan Study	7/1/23 – 12/31/24	\$145,000
National Athletic Trainers' Association	Athletic Trainer Location Services (ATLAS) Project	4/2/24 – 4/1/26	\$100,000
Delta Air Lines	Delta Heat Safety Assessment	9/7/23 – 8/31/26	\$118,723
VigiLife	Assessment and Validation of Heat Strain Monitoring System	10/2/23 – 12/31/24	\$49,388
United Parcel Service (UPS)	UPS Heat Safety	10/25/23 – 12/31/26	\$433,043
ColdVentures	ColdVest Falmouth Road Race	4/1/24 – 12/31/24	\$45,486
Delta Air Lines	Delta: KSI Bump Cap Study	2/1/24 – 12/31/24	\$49,681
Perrigo	Perrigo Service and Consulting Project	7/1/24 – 6/30/2025	\$30,000
Genova Diagnostics	Genova Diagnostics Athlete Performance Study	8/23/24 – 8/22/27	\$164,691
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR)	8/1/23 – 8/31/26	\$115,909

▶ 2024 PUBLICATIONS

Margaret C. Morrissey-Basler, Gabrielle J. Brewer, Travis Anderson, William Adams, John S. Navarro, Monique Marcelino, David G. Martin, Douglas J. Casa (2024). The Effect of Heat Stress Mitigation Strategies on Thermoregulation and Productivity During Simulated Occupational Work in the Heat in Physically Active Young Men. *Front. Sports Act. Living* 5:1274141. doi: 10.3389/fspor.2023.127414.

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Flouris A.D., Notley S.R., Stearns R.L., Casa D.J., Kenny G.P. Recommended water immersion duration for the field treatment of exertional heat stroke when rectal temperature is unavailable. *Eur J Appl Physiol*. 2024 Feb;124(2):479-490. doi: 10.1007/s00421-023-05290-5

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► 2024 – 2025 EVENTS

2024

- JANUARY
- 19 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Montgomery, Alabama
- 22 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Clinton, Mississippi
- MARCH
- 8 UConn Sports Analytics Symposium, Storrs, Connecticut
- 18 Preventing Sudden Death in Sport; the Work of KSI, Mount Royal University, Canada
- 20 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Burlington, Vermont
- APRIL
- 24 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Ames, Iowa
- 24 – 26 Advancing the Field of Athletic Training Leadership, AT100 Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina
- MAY
- 9 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Lexington, Kentucky
- 20 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Fargo, North Dakota
- 22 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- 23 Evidence-Based Medicine in the Realm of Heat Stroke and Sudden Death, Norton Sports Health, Virtual
- 23 – 26 KSI Presentations Highlighting DOD Research Outcomes, American Physiological Society Meeting, Long Beach, California
- JUNE
- 4 Evidence-Based Medicine: Heat Stroke and Sudden Death, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina
- 5 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 19 Institute for Sports Medicine (ISM) Emergency Care Symposium, Storrs, Connecticut
- 25 NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo Presentations, New Orleans, Louisiana
- SEPTEMBER
- 12 National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR) Consortium Meeting, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- 16 Evidence-Based Medicine: Heat Stroke and Sudden Death, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida
- 26 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- OCTOBER
- 18 Keynote: Preventing Sudden Death in Sport; the Work of KSI, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 23 KSI Presentation on Heat Illness, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

- 23 Enhancing Laborer Heat Safety, New England American Industrial Hygiene Association (NEAIIHA), Norwood, Massachusetts
- 29 Enhancing Laborer Heat Safety, Delta Safety Summit, Atlanta, Georgia
- NOVEMBER
- 18 Evidence-Based Medicine: Heat Stroke and Sudden Death, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
- DECEMBER
- 2 Evidence-Based Medicine: Heat Stroke and Sudden Death, University of New England, Biddeford, Maine
- 3 Team Up For Sports Safety Meeting, Augusta, Maine
- 2025
- JANUARY
- 10 – 13 EATA Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 22 – 24 Gatorade Expert Panel Meeting – Laborer Issues in the Heat, Chicago, Illinois
- 29 – 30 Institute of Sport Exercise & Health – Sports & Exercise Medicine Conference, London, England
- FEBRUARY
- 4 NSC Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Network Meeting, Arlington, Virginia
- 11 NSC Western Occupational Safety & Health (WOSH) Network, Anaheim, California
- 13 UPS Safety Summit, Seattle, Washington
- 15 – 16 Emergency Care in Sports, University of Georgia/NFL Co-Sponsors, Atlanta, Georgia
- 24 – 25 NFL Combines, Indianapolis, Indiana
- MARCH
- 4 Emergency Planning in Sports Conference, Storrs, Connecticut
- 17 KSI Exertional Heat Stroke CEU Course, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia
- 27 Occupational Hygiene Association of Ontario Spring Symposium, Virtual
- APRIL
- 4 KSI Exertional Heat Stroke CEU Course, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- 11 Hilliard Discussion Keynote Speaker, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
- 23 – 25 AT 100 Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 24 – 27 American Physiological Summit, Baltimore, Maryland
- 25 InnovATe Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, Maryland
- 22 NEACSM Annual Spring Conference, New Britain, Connecticut
- 23 KSI's 15th Anniversary, Storrs, Connecticut
- MAY
- 15 KSI Anniversary & Awards Celebration, UConn Avery Point, Groton, Connecticut

- 16 American Industrial Hygienists Association Connect Professional Development Course, Virtual
- 19 – 21 American Industrial Hygienists Association Connect Conference, Kansas City, Missouri
- 27 – 30 American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia
- JUNE
- 2 Delta Air Lines, Safety Day, Atlanta, Georgia
- 9 – 12 Sport-Climate Change Working Group, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- 24 – 27 National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Clinical Symposia & AT Expo, Orlando, Florida
- 24 KSI Medical & Science Advisory Board Meeting, NATA Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida
- JULY
- 11 – 12 KSI Staff Competes at Ragnar Trail Relay Vermont, Ascutney Outdoor Center, West Windsor, Vermont
- 18 University of Cincinnati Sports Medicine Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 22 – 24 ASSP Safety Conference, Orlando, Florida
- AUGUST
- 8 Douglas Casa's 40th Heat Stroke Survival Party, New London, Connecticut
- 13 Falmouth Road Race Medical Symposium, Falmouth, Massachusetts
- 17 Falmouth Road Race, Falmouth, Massachusetts
- JULY – AUGUST
- Delta Air Lines Station Visits at Eight Airports Through the Summer
- SEPTEMBER
- 2 – 3 MAGID Annual Employee Safety Summit, Chicago, Illinois
- 15 – 17 National Safety Council Safety Congress and Expo, Denver, Colorado
- 12 – 21 World Track and Field Championships Medical Conference, Tokyo, Japan
- 21 KSI Team Competes at BMW Berlin Marathon, Berlin, Germany
- OCTOBER
- 2 – 4 KSI Staff Competes at Ragnar Trail New Jersey, Wawayanda Lake State Park, New Jersey
- 16 – 17 New England ACSM Annual Meeting, Springfield, Massachusetts
- 16 – 18 Midwest ACSM Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- NOVEMBER
- 2 KSI Team Competes at TCS New York City Marathon, New York City, New York

DONATE TO KSI

Your generous donation will support KSI's ongoing efforts to provide research, education, advocacy, and consultation in order to maximize performance, optimize safety, and prevent sudden death for athletes, warfighters, and laborers.

Funds raised will provide support across a variety of priorities including, but not limited to: health and safety coaching education, advocacy for policy changes nationwide and state by state, research, and many new initiatives.

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