

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

**CONCUSSION**  
↑ LegacyFoundation



**YEARS**  
**BUILDING A LEGACY**



Letter from Leadership

Our Mission and Vision

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## LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

We couldn't be prouder of the impact the Concussion Legacy Foundation has had in only 10 years. We've changed the global conversation on concussions forever.

In 2007, no one was talking about concussions in sports. The NFL was trumpeting that it was safe to put knocked out players back into the game, so your child went back in too. CTE had never been discussed in the national press, and only two cases of CTE had ever been diagnosed in American athletes.

Today, everything has changed. We have concussions laws in all 50 states and mandatory CDC education for parents and coaches, narrated by Dr. Nowinski. Dr. Cantu's concussion return-to-play guidelines are now called the concussion protocol and followed at every level of sport.

We co-founded the world's largest CTE brain bank with Boston University and the VA. This year, we published in the JAMA that 110 of the first 111 NFL players we studied had CTE, a headline still reverberating around the globe (p.25). Now 87% of American see CTE as a serious public health issue, and we have the attention of the world.\*

But we still have so much to do. Noah Bond's story (p.18) reminds us the concussion crisis is not over, so we created Team Up Speak Up (p.8). Nick Buoniconti's story (p.30) reminds us the fight versus CTE is only beginning, so we are increasing our commitment to Research (p.23) while now offering Patient & Family Services (p.15).

Most importantly, we are positioned to truly solve the concussion and CTE crisis in the next decade by preventing most bad outcomes and developing effective treatments. Please join us on this journey.

Sincerely,



Christopher Nowinski  
Co-Founder and CEO



Robert Cantu  
Co-founder & Medical Director



John Corcoran  
President, Board of Directors

## WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?

Concussions can derail a life. The Concussion Legacy Foundation believes we all have a responsibility to ensure athletes can reach their potential on and off the field. We are committed to protecting athletes and families through research, policy, and education and family services.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Concussion Legacy Foundation is dedicated to advancing the study, treatment and prevention of the effects of brain trauma in athletes and other at-risk groups.

### OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is a world without CTE, and concussion safety without compromise.



A group of men, likely a sports team, are shown in a huddle. Their hands are raised and clasped together in a gesture of unity or support. The background is a blurred green field with white poles. A blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

# EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

The Army West Point men's rugby team was a leading Team Up Speak Up participant.



## TEAM UP SPEAK UP

The second annual Team Up Speak Up Day, our national concussion awareness day dedicated to mobilizing teammates to help diagnose concussions, set new records for participation!

This unique and innovative program was launched in response to studies revealing that standard concussion education, which asks players to self-diagnose their concussion and remove themselves from the game, is ineffective at changing behaviors. Team Up Speak Up, built on the bystander intervention model, uses a train-the-trainer approach to teach coaches how to give an effective speech to their team reframing concussion awareness as being a good teammate. Players are told that a player with a concussion needs help, and a good teammate will speak up to the coach or athletic trainer if they suspect a concussion in a teammate.

Coaches are encouraged to give the Team Up Speak Up Speech to their team along with the team captain at the beginning of each season to reset social norms and change the culture. By encouraging teams to share video of their speech on social media using #TeamUpSpeakUp, we amplify the reach of Team Up Speak Up's positive message, especially among youth athletes. To participate next year, sign up at [TeamUpSpeakUp.org](http://TeamUpSpeakUp.org).

**TEAM UP**  
**SPEAK UP**  
**TO FIGHT CONCUSSIONS**  
**9.12.17**



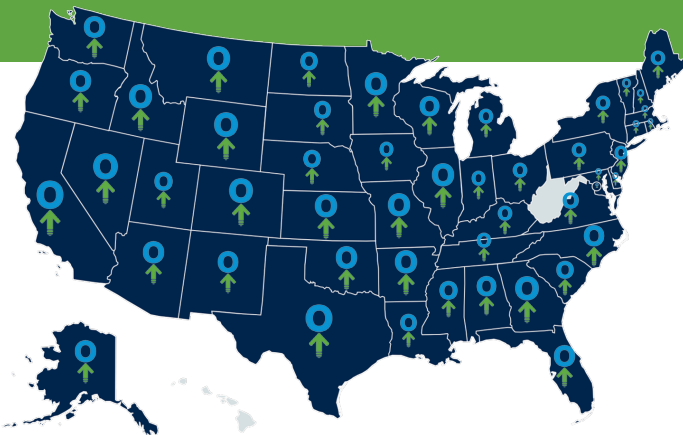
Participation from **200+ ORGANIZATIONS**  
Representing over **4.5 MILLION ATHLETES**



## A SPEECH AS EASY AS 1-2-3

- 1 We're a team and we look out for each other.
- 2 A teammate with a concussion needs your help.
- 3 I expect you to **SPEAK UP** to a coach or athletic trainer if you suspect a teammate has a concussion.

Confirmed participation in  
**48 OF 50 STATES**





## ADVISORY ROLES

Concussion Legacy Foundation co-founders Dr. Robert Cantu and Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. are proud to serve as volunteer advisors to more professional and collegiate sports organizations than any concussion-focused nonprofit in the world. By working with professional and collegiate sports to educate stakeholders and set policy, CLF is able to set the example for high school and youth sports to follow.



**NFLPA**





House Democratic members of the Energy and Commerce and Judiciary committees hosted a forum in Washington, D.C. to discuss chronic traumatic encephalopathy in football. Attendees included: (L-R) Dr. Ann McKee, Dr. Robert Stern, Chris Nowinski, Ph.D, Pro-Football Hall of Famer Harry Carson, NFL player DeAndre Levy, former NFL player and sports broadcaster Mike Adamle and his wife, Kim Adamle, and former CLF board member Dr. Eleanor Perfetto, widow of Legacy Donor Ralph Wenzel.

**OCTOBER 13, 2017:  
A HISTORIC DAY**

Upon learning he played both youth and high school football, Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. asked [Rhode Island Congressman David Cicilline](#) if he would pledge to donate his brain to the Concussion Legacy Foundation to support CTE research. Without hesitation, Representative Cicilline agreed to pledge his brain and became the [first member of Congress to make the #MyLegacyPledge](#).





The Concussion Legacy Foundation wrote and collaborated on a video that teaches about concussion, Post-Concussion Syndrome, and CTE with the fantastic team at TED Ed. The video was viewed more than 500,000 times by the end of 2017.



CLF co-founder and CEO Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. gave his TEDx presentation in Boston, MA. The talk was selected by the TED editorial team to be featured on TED.com. By the end of 2017, it had been viewed more than 600,000 times.







# PATIENT & FAMILY SERVICES

Learn about Mike Adame's public battle with CTE on the next page.

## CONCUSSION AND POST-CONCUSSION SYNDROME (PCS) RESOURCES

We officially launched our Concussion and Post-Concussion Syndrome (PCS) Resources! We're bringing patients and their families the content they need to recover from acute and long-term concussion symptoms with expert videos, explanations of treatments, PCS coping strategies, and inspiring testimonials of recovery.





Nate Fine / Getty Images

In February, Mike Adamle and his wife Kim disclosed on NBC Chicago that Mike had been diagnosed with dementia. Adamle revealed that doctors had told him his dementia is likely caused by Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

Mike is a former Chicago Bear, Northwestern University All-American, and distinguished sportscaster. He has covered the NFL, USFL, and Summer Olympics, in addition to announcing the WWE, American Gladiators and many other sports and entertainment events.

Mike's courageous decision to publicly disclose his battle with dementia and inspiring message resonated with the Concussion Legacy Foundation. We're proud to partner with Mike and Kim on a new joint initiative, [The Mike Adamle Project: Rise Above](#). The mission of Project Rise is to provide patients and families living with symptoms of CTE with tools, resources, a supportive community, and most importantly, with hope.

“

If it is CTE, I'd like to be the poster person for the first guy they've found diagnosed with CTE and lived to tell about it. There's a lot of me's out there. People don't know it and they should.

”

- MIKE ADAMLE on the decision to go public with his dementia diagnosis



A program within



John J. Kim / Chicago Tribune



Noah Bond can tell you the brain injury that changed his life happened at an ordinary late-summer football practice in his small eastern Georgia town. He can tell you the hit happened during a routine drill, but he doesn't remember anything else. Ask him about the first few hours following his concussion, and he defers to his parents, Lisa and Wes. Lisa rushed to the football field when she heard Noah had received a mild concussion. Then she witnessed her fourteen-year-old son spill out of his football coach's truck

“like Jell-O” as his teammates struggled to steady him. Noah couldn't stay balanced long enough to walk on his own. This wasn't a mild injury, and those steps toward his mother's car were the first in a journey that would last more than a year and cover thousands of miles in search of the care he needed.

At the hospital, Noah couldn't remember if he had siblings, or pets, or even his own parents' names. Before then, the Bonds didn't know much about concussions. But they knew something was very wrong.

Noah was diagnosed with retrograde amnesia caused by a concussion. The Bonds were told all they could do was wait for Noah to get better. But after three days of monitoring, he wasn't getting better; he couldn't even recognize life-long friends who came to visit.

When Noah was given a formal cognitive abilities test, the Bonds learned the magnitude of his impairment. Noah was told to draw a clock face; he drew the numbers in backwards. He was shown pictures of common animals; he could only name half of them. Noah was given a minute to say as many words as he could think of starting with the letter "f"; he struggled to say more than four. The doctor acknowledged it was worse than they originally thought, but still all the Bonds could do was wait.

Noah was released from the hospital after two weeks, when he could finally stay balanced long enough to walk on his own. Wes and Lisa brought him to physical and occupational therapists, yet only some of his cognitive deficits improved. When the time came for Noah to return to school it was too much for him to handle. The amnesia gradually dissipated, but he still had constant headaches, mood swings, and trouble concentrating. His teachers and friends had a difficult time understanding what was going on, and some of his doctors even suggested he was exaggerating his symptoms. Noah woke up in pain, went to sleep in pain, and struggled through days filled with confusion and isolation in between.

"At one point, I went in my closet, sat down, turned the light off, and I would not come out. Nobody could get me out. I don't even remember what I was upset about... I just wanted to get away. I wanted it to end. And many thoughts ran through my head that normal people wouldn't ever even think about. And looking back on it, I know clearly there was something wrong. Normal people don't think about their lives and think that it should end right there."

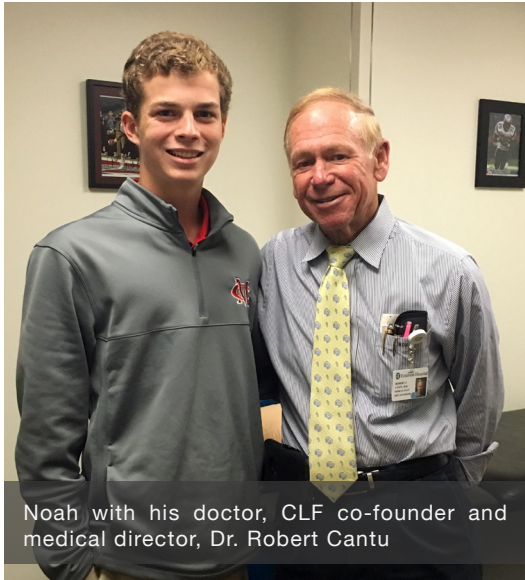
After months of failed therapies and constant pain, the Bonds had exhausted all the treatment options nearby. But Noah still needed help. So in between work, taking care of their family, and managing Noah's symptoms, the determined parents did all they could do – they kept searching. Late at night, after Noah had gone to sleep, Lisa researched therapies, doctors, and athletes who had survived concussions. One



Dear Mr. Chris Nowinski,  
I have no idea if this letter will actually get to you  
or get to you - I have no idea if you would be willing  
in family --- or more specifically my son. I have  
been researching to try to find some help ---  
or our situation. I do not work in the medical field.  
It's really hard. You are my last ditch effort. I pray  
reaches you & I pray it is well received.  
My son was tackled at football practice on Aug 12.  
He wasn't "right" after the tackle (noticed by players & coach  
he actually said he "was fine" but clearly he wasn't. (I  
s story shorter & leaving out a lot, but I'm trying to  
the main points of this day and key points following the  
then I pulled up to pick up my son (14 yrs old) - the  
that they thought he had a mild concussion & that I  
he him to be seen by a medical professional. When the  
truck door - the only way I can describe this to you -  
is body (his lack of body control) was like melted jelly. +  
the pavement. The coach struggled to catch him & and  
over to help put him in my car. My son was com  
We later were told more details that his head wa  
hard twice in that one tackle. When we got  
personnel there getting my son in an ER room told  
need to be transferred to a larger city where the  
son in unit. The sound of some time later (maybe 3  
7-00  
The hand-written letter Lisa Bond sent  
Chris Nowinski seeking help from the  
Concussion Legacy Foundation.  
well, and that he was not on drugs. When we got the  
and found out our son was NOT on drugs. We  
not think our son had been hurt at football



A message of support on the marquee at the Bond family's church.



Noah with his doctor, CLF co-founder and medical director, Dr. Robert Cantu

name kept showing up: Chris Nowinski, co-founder of the Concussion Legacy Foundation. The Bonds' trust in medical experts had eroded after months of misdiagnoses and dead-end treatments. But Chris was different. He'd suffered through severe concussion symptoms and recovered. So, desperate for a glimmer of hope, Lisa handwrote a letter to Chris asking for help.

Within weeks, Noah was at his first appointment with Dr.

Robert Cantu, the same doctor who helped Chris heal from his concussions and Chris' co-founder of the Concussion Legacy Foundation. As the Bonds recounted their months of misdiagnoses, failed therapies, and struggles to cope with everyday life, Dr. Cantu listened intently. "Noah, you're going to get better," he said, and the Bonds knew they were in the right place. Dr. Cantu told the Bonds that Noah's long struggle with symptoms was the result of Post-Concussion Syndrome (PCS) and that Noah needed a targeted approach aimed at treating his individual symptoms. PCS can take months and sometimes years to heal, and Noah had his work cut out for him, but finally there was a light at the end of a long, dark tunnel.

Dr. Cantu worked with the Bonds to develop targeted therapies for Noah's symptoms, and the Bonds traveled over 2,000 miles per week so he could complete them at the Cantu Concussion Center. Noah underwent cognitive therapy to improve his memory, vestibular therapy for his balance, and ocular therapy for his vision and headaches. After months of suffering through uncertainty and isolation, Noah finally felt a dramatic reduction in symptoms. The Bonds found the answers they were searching for.

Today, Noah has found a new normal. He's traded in his contact sports for golf, and has found a new passion: raising awareness about concussions and

Post-Concussion Syndrome. He accepted the Concussion Legacy Foundation's Resilience Award at the 2017 Concussion Legacy Gala, a testament to his strength in the face of a great challenge.

**"If you push through, things will get better. Don't ever feel like you're alone. There's somebody out there who understands completely what you're going through."**

Noah's story is one of endurance through extraordinary hardship, made possible by the love and determination of his family. Yet there are many thousands more like Noah who need help but aren't sure where to turn. Noah hopes by sharing his story someone else suffering from PCS will find the strength and determination to persevere:

"If you push through, things will get better. Don't ever feel like you're alone. There's somebody out there who understands completely what you're going through. You'll be able to find help, everything will be ok. In some ways it just takes time." ♀



The Bond Family at the 10th Annual Concussion Legacy Gala in November, where Noah was honored with the Resiliency Award.



Dr. Cantu looked Noah straight in the face, leaned in close and he said, “Noah, you’re going to get better. And that meant the world.”

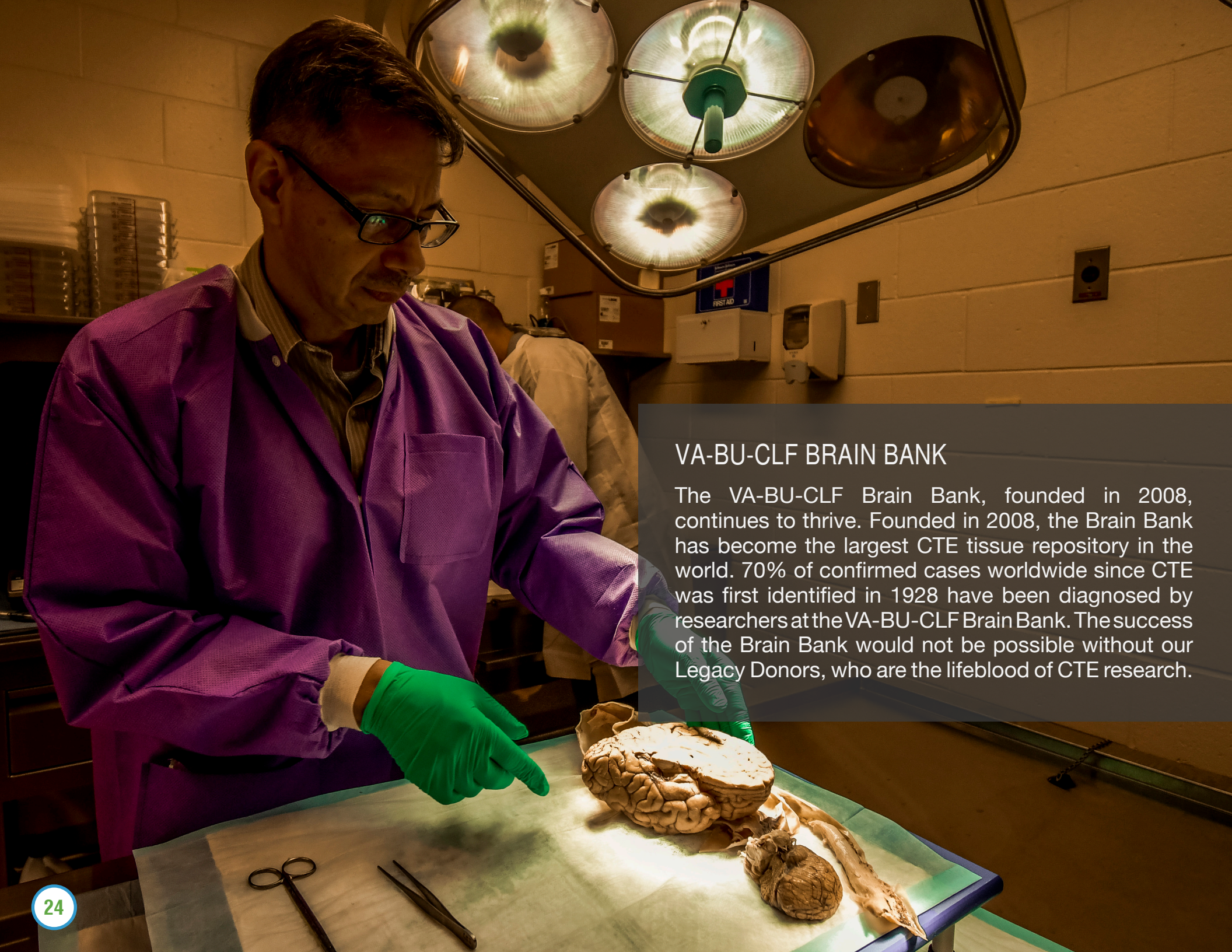
“I get the sense that not only is he trying to fix Noah, and help us as parents, but it’s almost like he’s trying to fix this big wrong that exists in this country today.”

- WES BOND, NOAH’S FATHER





# RESEARCH



## VA-BU-CLF BRAIN BANK

The VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank, founded in 2008, continues to thrive. Founded in 2008, the Brain Bank has become the largest CTE tissue repository in the world. 70% of confirmed cases worldwide since CTE was first identified in 1928 have been diagnosed by researchers at the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank. The success of the Brain Bank would not be possible without our Legacy Donors, who are the lifeblood of CTE research.



70%

of confirmed cases worldwide since CTE was first identified in 1928 have been diafnosed here

ALS

In 2009, Dr. McKee discovered a link between CTE and ALS symptoms.

1ST

MILITARY CASE SERIES

PUBLISHED IN 2012

1ST CASES

- Ice Hockey (2009)
- College Football (2009)
- High School Football (2010)
- Mized-Martial Arts (2012)
- Baseball (2013)
- Soccer (2014)

LARGEST CTE TISSUE REPOSITORY IN THE WORLD

DISCOVERED

- TDP-43
  - Beta Amyloid
  - Microglia and Inflammation
  - Prion Spread
  - CCL11
- ROLES IN CTE DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESSION

Over 60 publications

Over 60 original publications and CTE review articles have been written with data from the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank.

To read them and learn more, visit [concussionfoundation.org/about/scientific-publications](http://concussionfoundation.org/about/scientific-publications)





# 110

N.F.L. Brains

The New York Times

“

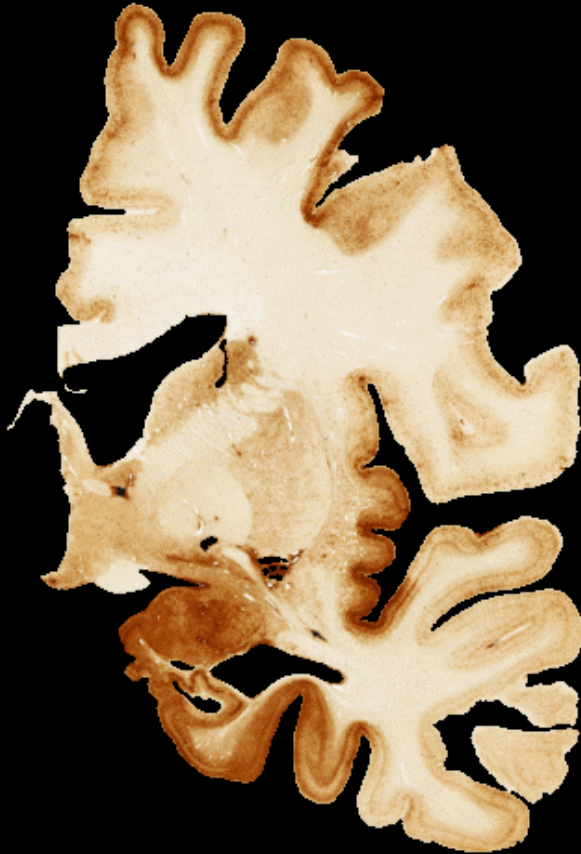
It is no longer debatable whether or not there is a problem in football.  
There is a problem.

”

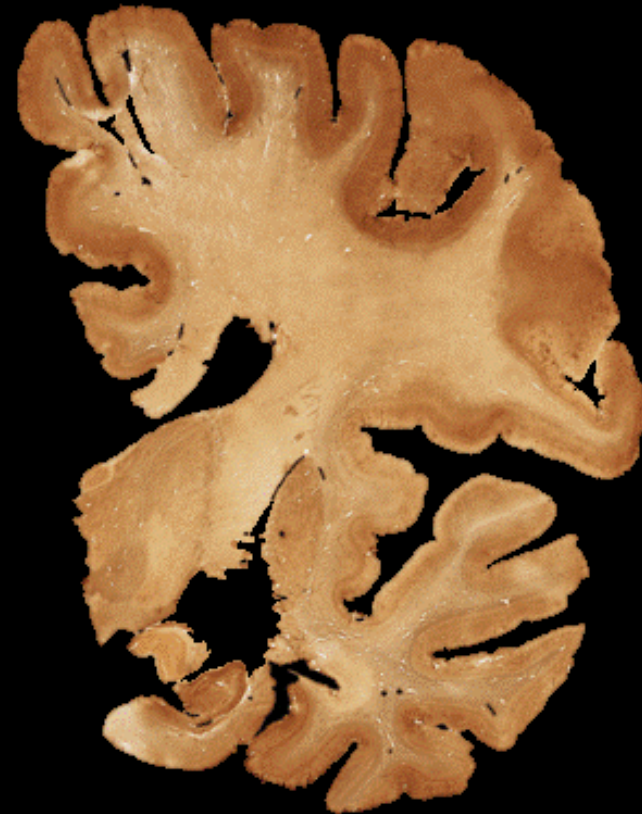
- Dr. Ann McKee  
Director, VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank

Researchers at the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank, led by Director Dr. Ann McKee, examined the brains of 202 deceased football players. In July, their findings were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Of the 202 players studied, 111 of them played in the NFL. 110 of the 111 former NFL players studied were found to have suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the chronic brain disease caused by years of repetitive brain trauma.

Thanks to hundreds of Legacy Brain Donor family members, CLF worked with the New York Times graphics team for two years to publish an unprecedented display of nearly all 111 brains.



The image above is from the brain of Ronnie Caveness, a linebacker for the Houston Oilers and Kansas City Chiefs. In college, he helped the Arkansas Razorbacks go undefeated in 1964. One of his teammates was Jerry Jones, now the owner of the Dallas Cowboys. Jones has rejected the belief that there is a link between football and C.T.E.



The image above is from the brain of Ollie Matson, who played 14 seasons in the N.F.L. — after winning two medals on the track at the 1952 Helsinki Games. He died in 2011 at age 80 after being mostly bedridden with dementia, his nephew told The Associated Press, adding that Matson hadn't spoken in four years.



## MY LEGACY #MyLegacyPledge

We launched the My Legacy campaign in 2015 to recognize individuals who have made a lasting contribution to research and awareness of concussions and CTE, and to encourage others to pitch in to create their own legacy.

The signature gesture of My Legacy is the #MyLegacyPledge to donate your brain to the Concussion Legacy Foundation and VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank. Since we took over the pledge database from Boston University and moved it online, pledges have gone from 100 a year to over 1,000 in 2017.

Each pledge ensures our researchers can continue their work and raises awareness of the critical role brain donation plays in concussion and CTE research. Over 2,800 athletes, veterans, and controls have made the pledge.



**LEONARD MARSHALL**  
Former NFL Defensive End

“This is literally a life-and-death matter, and it’s time we start having real, honest conversations about brain trauma in professional and youth sports.”

**MATT HASSELBECK**  
Former NFL Quarterback  
ESPN Broadcaster

“I want to be part of the solution, and by pledging my brain I am doing my part to provide the data to protect the next generation of athletes.”





**AJ MLECZKO GRISWOLD**  
**Olympic Ice Hockey Legend**  
**NBC Broadcaster**

“I want to do anything I can in my years after playing to help future generations, whether it be my kids, my friends’ kids, or my kids’ friends. That’s My Legacy.”

**BEN LOVEJOY**  
**New Jersey Devils Defenseman**

“I have pledged to donate my brain to give back to the sport that has given me so much, with the hope that it can continue to get safer.”



**200**

new brain pledges,  
an all-time record for  
pledges in a month

**BRAIN PLEDGE MONTH**  
**February 2017**



**30**

pledges from former  
NFL players, including  
Super Bowl Champion  
Randy Cross



## MY LEGACY: NICK BUONICONTI

Nick Buoniconti is Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker who played for the Boston Patriots and led the historic Miami Dolphins teams of the 1970, including the undefeated 1972 team.

Over his life, Nick has given so much to so many, whether it was the joy of watching him during his Pro Football Hall of Fame career or crusading for his fellow players, or watching him clown around on HBO's Inside the NFL, or playing golf with him, or the \$450 million he has raised for spinal cord injury research, or simply being Undefeated Nick!

However, Nick was diagnosed with dementia, and over the past four years, has developed serious neuromotor issues. These medical issues are believed to be a result of the many years Nick passionately played football. With the support of his wife Lynn, Nick continues to fight valiantly everyday.

For his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday, Nick and Lynn launched the Nick Buoniconti CTE Research Fund. They are committed to fighting CTE for the thousands of others who will benefit from effective treatments and, eventually, a cure.

“

I owe it to the thousands of others who will follow me on this trek. My life is not what it was, and I just want to be able to help with [Dr. Ann McKee's] research and hopefully the research will end up helping so many other players.

”

- Nick Buoniconti on the decision to pledge his brain to research at the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank



greater  
BOSTON

## YOUTH FOOTBALL RISK

The Concussion Legacy Foundation is proud to continue to be the sole underwriter of the L.E.G.E.N.D. Study led by Dr. Robert Stern, director of clinical research at the BU CTE Center. L.E.G.E.N.D. is a longitudinal study that seeks to understand the risk factors for CTE in the living.

In 2017, L.E.G.E.N.D. researchers published critical research that showed a link between youth tackle football participation and earlier onset of cognitive and emotional symptoms. The study found that football players who began playing before age 12 were twice as likely to have problems with behavioral regulation (e.g., impulse control, controlling emotional responses) in adulthood, and three times as likely to have problems with depression.

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Age of first exposure to American football and long-term neuropsychiatric and cognitive outcomes

ML Aloisco<sup>1,2</sup>, AB Kasimis<sup>1</sup>, JM Stamm<sup>1,3</sup>, AS Chua<sup>4</sup>, CM Baugh<sup>1,2,5</sup>, DH Daneshvar<sup>1</sup>, CA Robbins<sup>1,6</sup>, M Mariani<sup>1</sup>, J Hayden<sup>1</sup>, S Conneely<sup>1</sup>, R Au<sup>7,8,9</sup>, A Torres<sup>10,11</sup>, MD McClean<sup>12</sup>, AC McKee<sup>1,2,13,14,15</sup>, RC Cantu<sup>12,16,17</sup>, J Mez<sup>12</sup>, CJ Nowinski<sup>1,6</sup>, BM Martin<sup>1,18</sup>, CE Chaisson<sup>1,18</sup>, Y Tripodis<sup>1,4,19</sup> and RA Stern<sup>1,2,9,16,19</sup>

Previous research suggests that age of first exposure (AFE) to football before age 12 may have long-term clinical implications; however, this relationship has only been examined in small samples of former professional football players. We examined the association between AFE to football and behavior, mood and cognition in a large cohort of former amateur and professional football players. The sample included 214 former football players without other contact sport history. Participants completed the Brief Test of Adult Cognition by Telephone (BTACT), and self-reported measures of executive function and behavioral regulation (Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function-Adult Version Metacognition Index (MI), Behavioral Regulation Index (BRI)), depression (Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)) and apathy (Apathy Evaluation Scale (AES)). Outcomes were continuous and dichotomized as clinically impaired. AFE was dichotomized into < 12 and ≥ 12, and examined continuously. Multivariate mixed-effect regressions controlling for age, education and duration of play showed AFE to football before age 12 corresponded with > 2x increased odds for clinically impaired scores on all measures but BTACT: (odds ratio (OR), 95% confidence interval (CI): BRI, 2.16, 1.19–3.91; MI, 2.10, 1.17–3.76; CES-D, 3.08, 1.65–5.76; AES, 2.39, 1.32–4.32). Younger AFE predicted increased odds for clinical impairment on the AES (OR, 95% CI: 0.86, 0.76–0.97) and CES-D (OR, 95% CI: 0.85, 0.74–0.97). There was no interaction between AFE and highest level of play. Younger AFE to football, before age 12 in particular, was associated with increased odds for impairment in self-reported neuropsychiatric and executive function in 214 former American football players. Longitudinal studies will inform youth football policy and safety decisions.

*Translational Psychiatry* (2017) 7, e1236; doi:10.1038/tp.2017.197; published online 19 September 2017

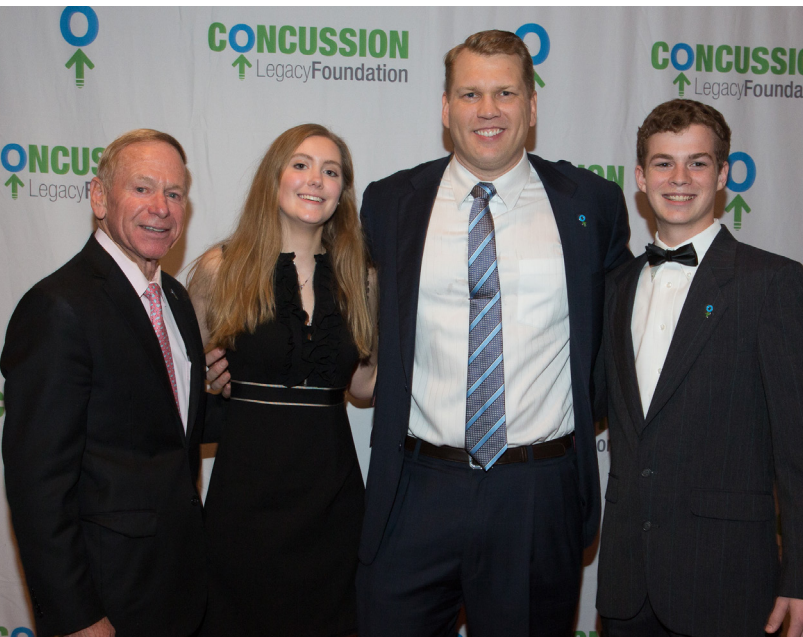
# COMMUNITY EVENTS



Brain pledges show off their brain donor cards at the 2017 Chicago Honors.



CLF's Brandon Boyd helps demonstrate concussion symptoms using "concussion goggles" during Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Concussion Awareness Week, a co-branded partnership between CLF and MLL.



CLF co-founders Dr. Robert Cantu (L) and Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. with Resiliency Award honorees Esther Lovett (Center, L) and Noah Bond (R).



CLF Director of Family Relations Lisa McHale addresses a packed house at the 2017 Chicago Honors.





CLF's Tyler Maland shows even high fives can be difficult when you have a concussion.



CLF co-founder and CEO Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. (L) and CLF Board of Directors member Paul "Triple H" Levesque (R) with Impact Award honoree Bob Costas at the 10th Annual Concussion Legacy Gala

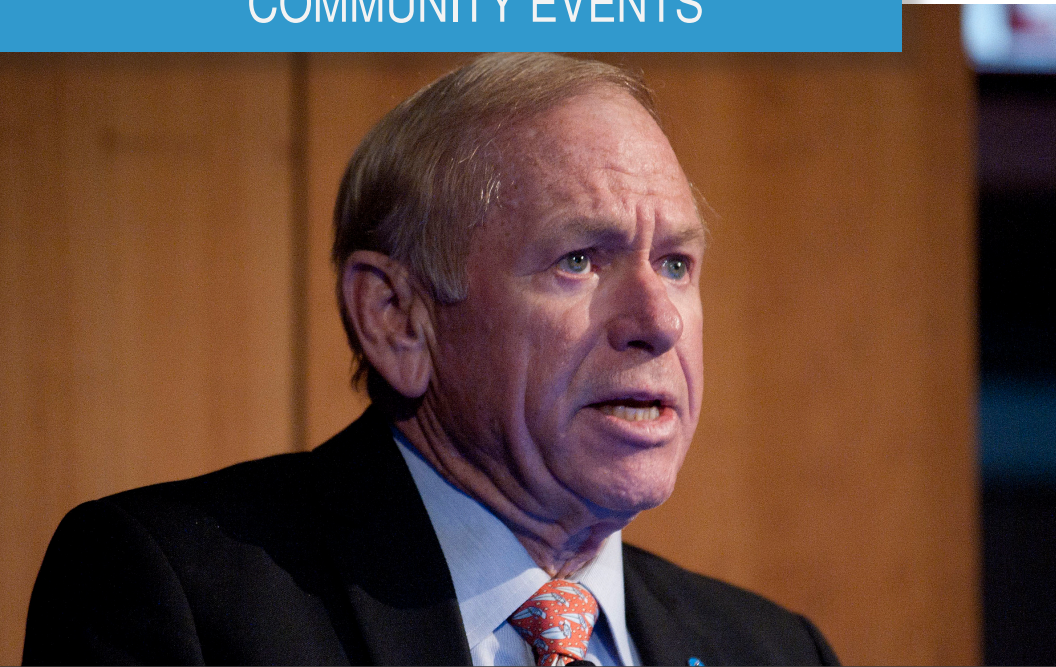


Dr. Ann McKee, Director of the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank, explains the brain donation process to Lieutenant Commander Carla Chase of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps at the VA Brain Trust in Boston.



(L-R) Malcolm Gladwell, Pro Football Hall of Famer Warren Sapp, Dr. Ann McKee, and Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. discuss the future of youth tackle football at Unnecessary Roughness, an event hosted by The Motley Fool, and moderated by Tom Gardner (not pictured) CEO of The Motley Fool.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



CLF co-founder and Medical Director Dr. Robert Cantu speaking at the VA Brain Trust in Boston.



Former NFL player and former CLF Board of Directors member Isaiah Kacyvenski poses with his brain donor card. Kacyvenski was one of the first professional athletes to pledge their brain to the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank when it was founded in 2008.



New York Giants two-time Super Bowl Champion Leonard Marshall pledged to donate his brain to CLF at the 2017 VA Brain Trust event in Boston while Chris Nowinski, Ph.D., Dr. Ann McKee, and US Secretary of Veterans Affairs David A. Shulkin look on.



Super Bowl Champion & former Chicago Bear Otis Wilson shares a laugh with CLF co-founder & CEO Chris Nowinski.



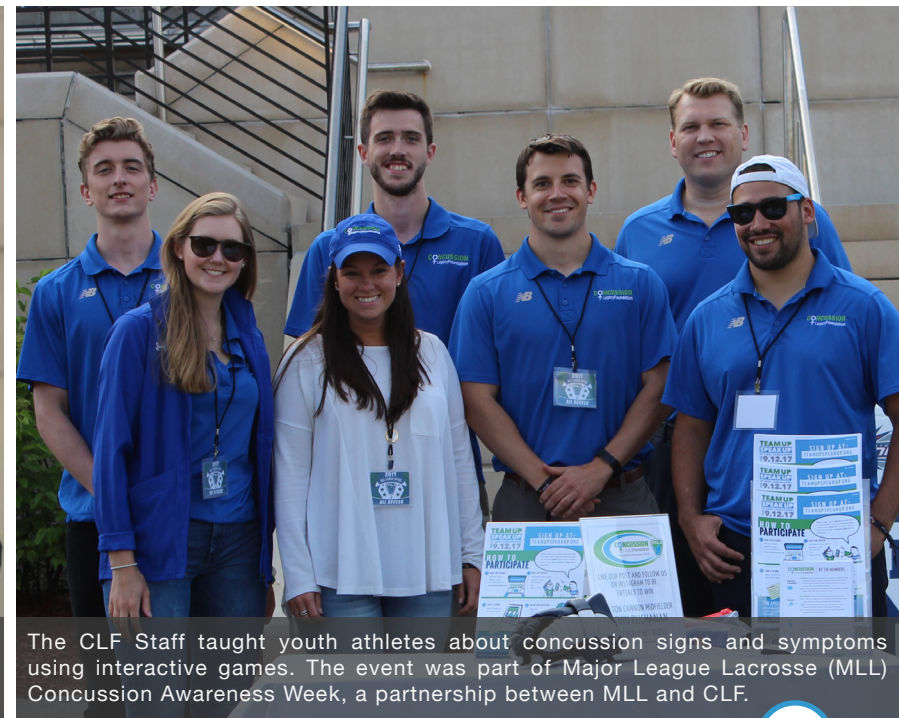
Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. with Colonel Sidney R. Hinds, M.D., Department of Defense Brain Health Research Program Coordinator, at the 2017 VA Brain Trust in Boston.



Cole Lyle, shown with his service dog Kaya, pledged to donate his brain at the VA Brain Trust. Lyle, a marine combat veteran, works to provide veterans easier access to service dogs.



Chris Nowinski, Ph.D. Former Chicago Bear Gary Fencik presents his friend and former teammate Mike Adamle with the Courage Award at the 2017 Chicago Honors. Read more about Adamle's public battle with dementia and likely CTE on page XX.




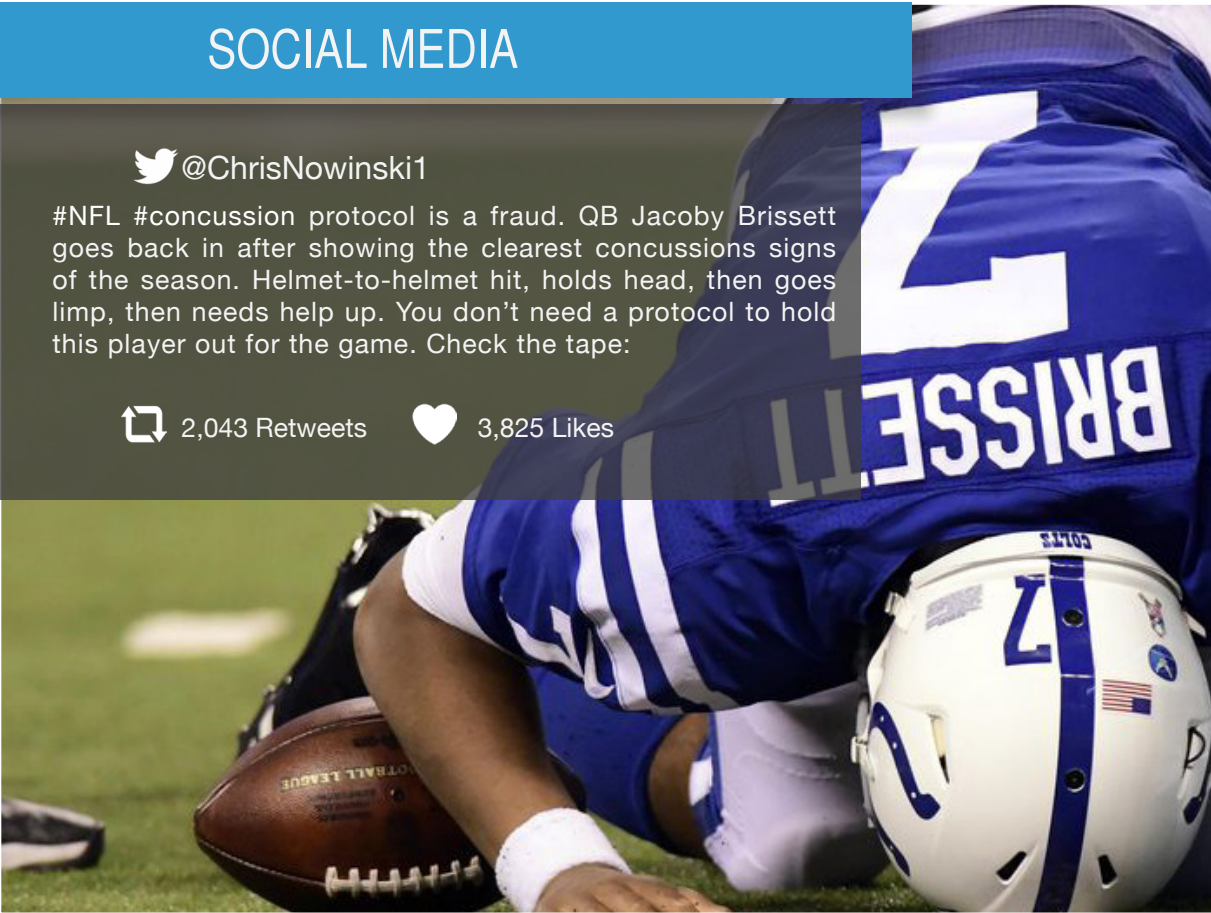
The CLF Staff taught youth athletes about concussion signs and symptoms using interactive games. The event was part of Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Concussion Awareness Week, a partnership between MLL and CLF.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

 @ChrisNowinski1

#NFL #concussion protocol is a fraud. QB Jacoby Brissett goes back in after showing the clearest concussions signs of the season. Helmet-to-helmet hit, holds head, then goes limp, then needs help up. You don't need a protocol to hold this player out for the game. Check the tape:

 2,043 Retweets  3,825 Likes



# #1

Chris Nowinski is the most influential person on Twitter when it comes to concussions for the second consecutive year, according to Right Relevance.



## Sparking Conversations



21.3M Twitter Impressions keep the concussion conversation in the news.

# #3

The Concussion Legacy Foundation is the third most influential organization on Twitter when it comes to concussions for the second consecutive year, according to Right Relevance.



@ChrisNowinski1

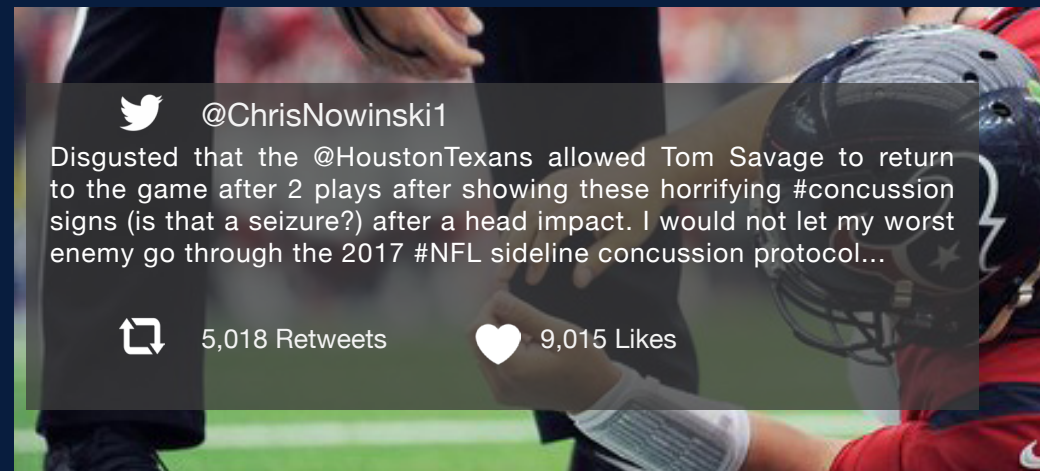
Disgusted that the @HoustonTexans allowed Tom Savage to return to the game after 2 plays after showing these horrifying #concussion signs (is that a seizure?) after a head impact. I would not let my worst enemy go through the 2017 #NFL sideline concussion protocol...



5,018 Retweets



9,015 Likes








## Join The Conversation

#TeamUpSpeakUp  
#FlagFootballu14  
#MyLegacyPledge  
#BrainPledgeMonth



 @ConcussionLF

BREAKING: Aaron Hernandez was diagnosed with Stage 3 (out of 4) #CTE by Dr. Ann McKee at the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank:

  16,751 Views



 @ChrisNowinski1

Gronk's cheap shot gave Tre'Davious White a #concussion. If he's not suspended, it signals cheap shots are fair game now in NFL. Had it been Tom Brady's knee, player would be banned for life. Just because you can't see his injured brain doesn't mean it's not as serious.

 40,055 Retweets  81,336 Likes

Chris Nowinski's tweet led to a larger media conversation about gaps in the NFL's concussion protocol. In December 2017, the NFL made an unprecedented mid-season change to the protocol, specifically mentioning "impact seizure" as grounds for automatic removal.



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Benton Spangler  
St. Vrain Valley Education Assn.  
James Stamas

State Street Foundation, Inc.  
Katie Staudt  
Thor Stein  
Megan Stembridge  
Ellen Stewart  
Carol Stewart  
Yvonne Stewart  
Kathleen Stierwalt  
Margaret Stineman  
Karen Strandell  
Lyndsay Strandell  
Ben Strauss  
Shelly Streett  
Thomas Strickland  
Keith Striga  
Sarah Stringer  
Brian Stubbs  
Barbara Stuber  
Maureen Stuvell  
Jenn Sullivan  
Kathleen Swendiman  
Tiff Swezey  
Symetra  
Alan Tapolow  
Richard Tappen  
Shawn Taylor  
Roxanne Taylor  
Dean & Ann Taylor  
Thomas Taylor  
Laura Taylor  
Tamara Taylor  
Mary Ann Taylor  
Desiray Pierce Taylor  
Jeanette Teckman  
Kara Teeple  
Joel & Carol Thea  
Neil Thomas  
Barbara Thomason  
Rosanne Thompson  
Three T Legacy Trust  
Andrew Thurlow  
Brandon Thurston  
Elfriede Tillman  
Timex Group USA, Inc.

Anthony Todar  
Jordan Todd  
Manisha Tolani  
Desiree Tombul  
Michael Toth  
Matt Tracy  
Sandra Trainor  
Tony Trozzo  
Tyler Tubridy  
Kelley Tucker  
Nicolas Tueni  
Scott Turco  
University of Notre Dame Electrical  
Engineering Dept.  
Daniel Vaughn  
Marlene Veselsky  
Zehra Vollmer  
Diane Vrem  
Shana Wachowski  
Lynn Waddell  
Susie Waggoner  
Michael Waltner  
Shane Walton  
Sheila Wamhoff  
Maureen Wardell  
Jennifer Washburn  
David Watson  
Gordon Weightman  
Ross Weisman  
Brent Weiss  
Alexander Weissent  
Michael Welch  
Deborah Wenger  
Tammy Wheeler  
Thomas Wheelock  
Kevin White  
James White  
Tina Wideman  
Misty Wiggins  
Susan Wilbanks  
Kathleen Wilhelm  
Quentin Williams  
Ryan Williams  
Karen Williams

Charlene Williams  
Lynn Williams  
Bonnie Williamson  
Jed Willoughby  
Karen Willox  
Mary Ann Wilson  
Shahena Wingate-Pearse  
Denis Wittman  
Donna Wojciechowski  
Matt Wolf  
Downriver Wolfpack  
Alexandria Wood  
Dayle Wood  
Timothy Woods  
Nancy Woodworth  
Thomas Woolley  
Amanda Worden  
Brian Wright  
Robert Yaap  
Amy Yerdon  
Richard Young  
Michael & Julie Young  
Maher Zabaneh  
Thomas Zambrano  
Marc Zelnick  
John Zembron  
Jack Zeramby  
Jonathan Zigelboim  
Barbara Zimmerman  
Monica Zore  
Frederick Zweifel  
Howard Zwirn

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## FINANCIALS

Public Support and Other Revenue	
Contributions	\$1,758,468
Program Services Revenue	\$43,125
Investment Income	\$0
Other Revenue	\$37,144
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Total Revenue	\$1,838,737

## EXPENSES

Research Grants	\$128,221
Program Service Expenses	\$973,879
Management and General	\$188,241
Fundraising	\$227,858
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Total Expenses	\$1,518,200

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	\$1,013,483
Property and Equipment	\$20,205
Other Assets	\$7,000
Pledges and Accounts Receivable	\$666,257
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Total Assets	\$1,706,945

**CONCUSSION**  
↑ Legacy Foundation