



University of Cape Town
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Dear Parents

On Weds 17th May, an information session was held at Bishops where Professor Tony Figaji, head of pediatric neurosurgery at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, presented an information talk on concussion. At the same session, our team members provided information on our concussion/rugby study currently running at the school. Only a few parents were able to attend that session. The study is however still running until the end of the rugby season and we are therefore still recruiting participants for the study.

There are two groups in the study: a rugby group and a non-collision sport control group. The study is open to 16- and 17-year old rugby players and other sportsman who do not play a collision sport (control group).

The informed consent forms (for rugby and control participants) for the study are attached. These forms include an explanation of the study requirements, methods and ethical considerations in full. Parents are also asked to complete a data usage form.

If parents agree to their sons' participation in the study, their sons will be offered an assent form to prior to testing – this will be their independent agreement to participation in the study. These assent forms will include similar information to the consent forms.

Parents who would like their sons to participate in the study can complete the relevant attached forms and send them directly via email to me or to return these to the school within the next few days. Given the fact that schools are closing for the mid-year vacation this week, we are arranging testing sessions over the next three weeks at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Dates for those testing sessions are as follows:

9-11am and 2-4pm on each of the following days:

3 & 4 July; 10 & 11 July; 20 & 21 July

Please let us know by emailing Pete Farlam at the BSU (pfarlam@bishops.org.za) if your son would like to participate in the study and whether he would be able to attend one of these testing sessions at UCT. Consent forms can also be brought along to these testing sessions.

Kind regards,

Leigh Schrieff-Elson, PhD.