

# WHERE ATHLETICS MEETS ACADEMICS 2. Constant of the second control of the second control

#### LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

We are filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable growth and impact of the Tulane Center for Sport. In 2024, we expanded our educational programs, deepened our clinical services and strengthened our national leadership in research and advocacy for athlete health and wellness.

We celebrated the success of our students — graduates who are now shaping the future of sport — and launched new programs that bring the power of sport into classrooms, clinics and communities.

Through initiatives like our inaugural Brain Fest and continued partnerships with the NFL and veteran organizations, we've reached more people, offered more services and advanced critical research that is changing lives.

None of this would be possible without you — our donors, partners, and champions. Your belief in our mission fuels our progress. Thank you for standing with us, and for helping us build a healthier, stronger future through sport.

Gabe Feldman

Co-Founder and Co-Director, Center for Sport Sher Garner Professor of Sports Law Co-Founder and Co-Director, Center for Sport W. Kennon McWilliams Professor of Sports Medicine in Orthopaedics

Gregory Stewart, MD

#### 2024 CALENDAR YEAR ( ANNUAL BUDGET

#### \$8,188,557.20 **TOTAL REVENUE**

#### REVENUE SOURCE

The Trust (Powered by the NFLPA) NFL Player Care Foundation (PCF) NFL PCF Research Tulane Center for Brain Health

The Priddy Family Foundation Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation School of Professional Advancement

\$3,727,810

**FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE FUNDING** 

**NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES\*** 

#### **NEW FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES**

Jamie Jones, LPC-S, CEDS, NCC, M.ED, Clinical Therapist Haley Crowell, LMSW, Case Manager Clare Conwill, LMSW, MPH, Case Manager Sakshi Shah, Data Control Specialist

# EDUCATION

#### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPORT STUDIES**

Graduates

**2I** 

New Students

38

Graduate Certificates New Certificate Students

19 ADMINISTRATION

20 ···· COACHING ···· 7

 $4 \cdots$  MEDICINE  $\cdots$  2

I ···· SECURITY ···· 3

#### **NEW ELECTIVE OFFERING – Tulane School of Medicine**

#### Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Non-operative Sports Medicine Research

This elective course provides fourth-year medical students the opportunity to participate in and contribute to ongoing PM&R or non-operative sports medicine research projects.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**Inaugural Center for Sport Concussion Symposium** 

#### PRESENTERS:

Jami Montagnino, MD Patrick Maloney, MS, ATC
Gregory Stewart, MD Natalie Pilie', PT, NCS
Lawrence Jackson, PhD Renee Latino, MCD, CCC-SLP

#### **CREDITS:**

**6.5 CME** for Physicians

**6.5 CEUS** for Athletic Trainers

Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers, Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, Louisiana Occupational Therapy Board, Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners Attendees

36

#### **SPORTS MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS 2024**



Testosterone and Men's Health

Lawrence C. Jenkins, MD, MBA, FACS

Associate Professor

Department of Urology

Tulane University School of Medicine



Using AI to Detect Neurological Disease and Exercise for Its Treatment Jay Alberts, PhD Director Concussion Center, Cleveland Clinic

#### 2024 CENTER FOR SPORT EDUCATION INDUSTRY BOARD

The Center for Sport Education Industry Board is comprised of an elite group of individuals thriving in the sports industry.

#### **Ryan Bartholomew**

Director of Sports Marketing Allstate Sugar Bowl

#### Sam Bruchhaus

Senior NFL Analyst & Data Scientist SumerSports

#### Jada Bukner-Greer

Associate Athletic Director Tulane Athletics

#### **Eddie Davis**

Director Major League Baseball Youth Academy

#### **Perry Faulkner**

Executive Director
First Tee New Orleans

#### Ellie Hamblin

Communications Manager
Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation

#### Eric Held

Director of Alumni Relations & High School Outreach, LSU Football

#### **Chris Hippenmeyer**

Lead Athletic Trainer
NOLA Gold Rugby/
Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine

#### Nate Recknagel

Clinical & Research Director NFL Player Care Foundation

#### Lisa Stockton

Former Women's Basketball Head Coach Tulane University

#### STUDENT VOLUNTEER COHORT

In 2024, we launched the first Center for Sport Student Volunteer Cohort. This program offers opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students who believe in the Center's mission and the power of sport to serve our community. Students fill various roles at sponsored events and benefit from networking opportunities with vendors, partner organizations and dedicated time with guest speakers.

Students

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#### **SPORTS LAW**

#### **Tulane Sports Law Society**

The student-run organization of the Sports Law Program is one of the largest on campus, with 130+ members in 2024. Approximately 200 sports professionals engaged with our students through the Sports Law program's conferences, symposia, receptions and competitions.

- Tulane International Baseball Arbitration Competition
- Tulane Pro Football Negotiation Competition
- Tulane Pro Basketball Negotiation Competition
- Tulane International Fútbol Negotiation Competition
- Tulane Women in Sports Law Symposium



These events bring hundreds of law students from schools nationwide and draw more than 100 sports professionals as judges and speakers, including representatives from 35 different major league teams, top sports agencies, major sports media outlets and the NBA, NBPA, NFL, NLFPA, MLB, MLBPA and MLS.

Sports Law Society's
2024–2025 E-Board:
Brendan Garfinkel,
Julia Harter,
Alyssa Estepp,
Shawn Farhadian,
Taylor Brown,
Steven Cutler,
Ryane Mejia,
Cornelius Ford,
Ella Gisclair,
Molly Chelovitz



#### 7th Annual Tulane Entertainment & Sports Law Conference Co-presented by Tulane Law School and Tulane Center for Sport

Some of the most influential lawyers and executives in the entertainment and sports industries come to Tulane for this annual conference to discuss the dynamic changes reshaping sports, media and entertainment. The 7th annual conference featured 10 panels and 47 speakers, including keynote speakers R.C. Buford (5-time NBA world champion; CEO of the San Antonio Spurs), Mike Tannenbaum (founder, The 33rd Team; former New York Jets General Manager and Miami Dolphins Executive Vice President), and Patrick McEnroe (former pro tennis player; ESPN commentator).



Tulane alumnus Tim Francis (L'86) with keynote speaker Patrick McEnroe and Greg Williamson.



Speakers also included top executives from major league teams; renowned lawyers from national sports law practices; Academy, Grammy and Emmy Award-winners; executives at top agencies like WME and CAA; and executives from major studios and platforms like Sony, Amazon Studios and LiveNation.

## Mentors 80

#### Students

70

#### **Sports Law Mentorship Program**

Every year, the mentorship program connects Sports Law students with sports professionals across the sports industry, giving students an inside look at career paths in the industry. The 2024-25 program matched more than 80 mentors with more than 70 current Tulane Sports Law students.

Mentors come from all areas of the sports industry — pro teams, leagues, agencies, national law firms and college athletics programs, including the NFL, NFLPA, MLS, NHL, MLB, MLBPA, FIFA World Cup '26, Duke University Athletics, Philadelphia Eagles, Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints & Pelicans, Miami Marlins, Golden State Warriors, Los Angeles Lakers, CAA, Wasserman, Athletes First, Fanatics, New Balance, Under Armour, Pro Football Focus, DraftKings, BetMGM, Holland & Knight, McGuireWoods, and more.

#### **Career Development**

The Sports Law program continued its strong track record of placing students in summer sports jobs, with at least 11 students in such roles in summer 2024.



Summer sports law students make the most of summer opportunities. Tulane Law student Julia Harter (L'25) spent the summer of 2024 as a legal intern with the Los Angeles Clippers.



#### **Virtual Internship Program**

The Sports Law program continued its Virtual Internship partnership with the Dallas Mavericks, placing 11 students by the end of 2024. This program, which previously placed students with other pro teams such as the San Antonio Spurs, gives Sports Law students the opportunity to gain valuable experience working on front-office projects with team executives.

#### **Tulane Sports Law Career Pathways**

In 2024, the career pathways program produced three industry-focused panel discussions offering real-life insights into key roles: front office/agents, in-house counsel and college sports. The new career pathways roadmap is a guide for sports law students that maps out career-building opportunities and actions to take at key points during the year.

#### **Sports Law Advisory Board**

Currently comprised of 38 Tulane Sports Law alumni, the current board is a diverse and high-profile group of sports professionals from every corner of the industry, including pro team front offices, major law firms, and sports agencies. The board added 10 new members in 2024:

#### Erinn Banks (L'13)

Assoc. Athletic Director/Asst. Provost, Tulane University Athletics

#### Schuyler Corbin (L'22)

Corporate Counsel, NFLPA

#### Lauren Estrin (L'05)

Deputy General Counsel, PlayOn Sports

#### Curtis Franks (L'05)

General Counsel, FIFA World Cup 2026

#### Brandon Harrell (L'11)

VP, Legal & Business Affairs, LiveNation Entertainment

#### Vicky Neumeyer (L'98)

Senior VP / General Counsel, New Orleans Saints & Pelicans

#### Onsi Saleh (L '17)

Asst. General Manager, Atlanta Hawks

#### A.J. Stevens (L '16)

VP of Client Strategy, Athletes First

#### Mercedes Townsend (L '19)

Associate, Casey Denson Law

#### Jaimie Wolf (L '01)

VP & General Counsel, Philadelphia Union

# CLINICAL SERVICE

Veterans Served

3

3-day Assessment

92

Intensive Outpatient Program



The Center for Brain Health continued its vital mission to support brain wellness and recovery through innovative care and community engagement. Our outreach efforts were seen through the 118 Veterans we served, and reflect growing community trust in our services.

26

## BRAIN FEST East Jefferson 9 General Hospital 2024





The inaugural Brain Fest, held on November 2, 2024 at LCMC's East Jefferson General Hospital, attracted crowds with live music, yoga, children's activities, food trucks and educational sessions aimed at brain health awareness. We are so grateful to our generous sponsors, including Abita, LCMC/East Jefferson, Louisiana Seafood and others whose support helped make this festival a success.







**BRAIN FEST 2024 SPONSORS:** 

















## IN THEIR WORDS: Stories of Healing and Hope

Our team sees the daily realities of serving veterans and first responders — but nothing captures the true impact of the Center's program like hearing directly from those whose lives have been changed by it.









U.S. Marine Corps veteran Beryl Billiot, 56, endured years of pain from his five years of service and a brain tumor diagnosis before finding hope at the Center for Brain Health.

## It opened a whole new world for me and it was life-changing.

- BERYL BILLIOT, U.S. MARINE CORPS VETERAN





These days, United States Marine Corps veteran Nicholas Landry fights flames as a member of the Kenner Fire Department. But for more than a decade, he has waged a different battle managing the symptoms of a traumatic brain injury from his military service.



People with this injury deserve answers. People with depression, anxiety or suicidal thoughts — they might feel like the road has ended, but it's just a curve. Sometimes you take that curve, and you go to a place like the Center for Brain Health, and

#### you realize there's hope.

- NICHOLAS LANDRY, U.S. MARINE CORPS VETERAN

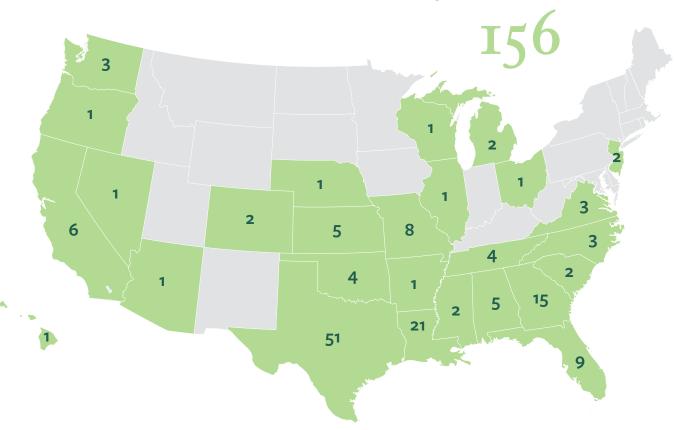




## The Trust (Powered by the NFLPA) BRAIN & BODY ASSESSMENT



#### **2024 TOTAL NEW PLAYERS**



PLAYERS FROM **27 STATES** VISITED THE PACT CLINIC IN 2024 THROUGH THE TRUST PROGRAM



#### NFL Player Care Foundation HEALTHY BODY & MIND SCREENING

	FORMER PLAYERS	RETURNS	NEW
MARCH 2024  Denver, CO	37	21	16
APRIL 2024 <b>Detroit, MI</b>	26	12	14
JUNE 2024 <b>Henderson, NV</b> Las Vegas Raiders Alumni Wellness Weekend	79	24	55
JUNE/JULY 2024 <b>Canton, OH</b>	29	17	12
AUGUST 2024 <b>Cleveland, OH</b>	16	10	6
SEPTEMBER 2024 <b>Philadelphia, PA</b>	41	26	15
OCTOBER 2024 <b>Miami, FL</b>	73	44	29
NOVEMBER 2024 Houston, TX	90	46	44
DECEMBER 2024 Irvine, CA	56	27	29
FEBRUARY 2025 New Orleans, LA (Super Bowl)	129	93	36

# RESEARCH



**TULANE CENTER FOR SPORT BRAIN BANK** 

As of June 2025, the Tulane Center for Sport Brain Bank has received 24 brain donation commitments, with 10 brains fully processed for research. This marks a significant step forward in our efforts to better understand the long-term effects of traumatic brain injury and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in athletes and veterans.

Brains in Bank

IO

Committed

24

Our mission is to provide comprehensive neurologic care to our donors, study the mechanisms that contribute to the development of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), and enrich our understanding of the pathology, etiology, and epidemiology of traumarelated neurodegenerative disorders. The data and tissue samples collected are actively supporting studies aimed at advancing diagnosis, treatment, and prevention strategies for those at highest risk.

#### Infrastructure

In 2024, our research team continued the expansion of a cloud-based data collection ecosystem for the NFL Player Care Foundation's Healthy Body and Mind Screening and NFL TRUST Brain and Body Assessment Clinical Programs to support increased caseloads.

Research also continued implementing program-specific automations and business intelligence solutions—including workflows and dynamic reports to support informed clinical decision-making, facilitate research and sponsor reporting, and enhance overall data management efficiency across two clinical programs.

A key achievement this year was the enhancement of the Center for Sport Cardiovascular Imaging Core with the implementation of a custom, stateof-the-art Cardiovascular Information System. This Al-powered system is specifically trained and uniquely tailored to former professional athletes and athlete populations, incorporating their distinct physiological and clinical characteristics. Its features include:

- Efficient processing of ultrasound-based measurements of cardiac structure and function, tailored to detect athletic heart adaptations and distinguish them from pathological changes.
- Advanced analysis and reporting of critical cardiovascular parameters from echocardiography, with specific focus on conditions prevalent in athlete populations such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy.
- Comprehensive analysis and diagnostic interpretation of electrocardiogram (ECG) data, including identification of athlete-specific ECG patterns and potential abnormalities linked to high-intensity training.
- Seamless integration of imaging data from both echocardiography and ECGs to provide a holistic cardiovascular profile, aiding in the differentiation between physiological adaptations and disease.
- Robust quality control and standardized reporting capabilities designed to ensure consistency and accuracy in monitoring longitudinal cardiovascular health in athletes.

#### **Patient Data**

Processed multidimensional health data from 1,073 patient encounters across two programs, resulting in over 82 GB of meticulously curated data points for comprehensive analysis.





















#### Collaborations / Partnerships / Alliances

Our Director of Research, Dr. Camilo Fernandez, conducted ongoing, cross-disciplinary academic and research collaborations with leading institutions and organizations, including the National Football League; the Department of Epidemiology at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine; Tulane University School of Medicine; the Sections of Cardiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Cincinnati; the University of Colorado; Harvard University; Emory University; the American College of Cardiology; and the American Heart Association. These partnerships facilitate integrated research efforts, knowledge exchange, and advancement of clinical and epidemiological studies relevant to athlete health. Dr. Fernandez's work also includes the following honors and achievements:

- Inducted to the Sports Cardiology Council of the Interamerican Society of Cardiology
- Elected to serve on the Clinical and Scientific Committees of the Interamerican Society of Cardiology Sports Cardiology Council for the 2024–2026 term
- Elected as Academic Coordinator of the Panamanian Society of Cardiology for 2024–2026
- Elected to the Medical Committee of CONCACAF
- New Partnership: oneAMYLOIDOSISvoice to expand access to diagnosis, care, and resources for patients suspected of having amyloidosis or undergoing evaluation for the disease

#### **Mentoring and Training**

The Data and Research Core is dedicated to advancing research excellence and fostering innovation in healthcare. Through our multidisciplinary and collaborative infrastructure, we provide comprehensive training and invaluable experiential opportunities. Our mission is to develop a diverse cohort of future investigators specializing in sports medicine. In 2024, we contributed to the training of:

- Research staff (1): Provided practical experience in research logistics, data management, analytics, and the responsible conduct of research.
- Medical students (1): Training in clinical and translational research methodology, biostatistical analytics, and research ethics/compliance.
- Undergraduate (2): Training in epidemiologic research methods, biostatistical analytics, and research ethics/regulatory compliance

#### **Accepted Works & Presentations**

#### Fernandez C, Romero A, Stewart G.

Factors Influencing Coronary Artery Calcium Levels in Retired NFL Players. JACC 83(13):2409

#### Fernandez C, Romero A, Stewart G.

Race Modifies the Association of Traditional Cardiometabolic and Professional Football Specific Factors with Right Ventricular Systolic Function in Retired NFL Players. JACC 83(13):2410

#### Urbina EM, Russell M, Fernandez C, Cain E.

The Virtual Home Clinic: Feasibility and Challenges for Longitudinal Cohorts. *Circulation* 149(Suppl\_1) DOI:10.1161/circ.149.suppl\_1.P470

#### O'Connell, Kang S, Fernandez C, Mills K.

Metabolically Healthy Obesity is Associated With Higher Levels of Executive Function in Middle-Aged Adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study. *Circulation 149*(Suppl\_1) DOI:10.1161/circ.149.suppl\_1.P332

#### Cristian AL, Fernandez C, Barshop R, Stewart G.

The Association Between Hand Grip Strength and Depression in Retired National Football League Players. Physiatry 2024.

#### Cristian AL, Fernandez C, Barshop R, Stewart G.

Inflammation Associates with Depression among Former National Football League Players. Physiatry 2024.

#### Fernandez C, Stewart G.

Algorithms to Action: The Impact of AI on Cardiovascular Medicine. Panamanian Society of Cardiology Scientific Sessions 2024

#### Fernandez C. Stewart G.

Empowering Clinicians: The Evolving Role of Clinical Decision Support Systems. Panamanian Society of Cardiology Scientific Sessions 2024.

#### Fernandez C.

Key Considerations for a Successful ECMO Program. Panamanian Society of Cardiology Scientific Sessions 2024.

#### Fernandez C.

Optimizing Heart Health: Cardiovascular Assessment of Elite Athletes. Panamanian Society of Cardiology Scientific Sessions 2024.

#### **Research Projects**

"Association of Body Roundness Index with Coronary Artery Calcium Burden Among Former Elite Athletes"

"Describing the Health Profile of Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen Veterans with Mild to Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury"

"Distribution and Determinants of Left Ventricular Diastolic Function in Former NFL Players"

"Correlates of Right Ventricular Systolic Function in Former NFL Players"

"Renal Function Profiles and Associated Factors in Retired NFL Athletes"

"Concordance Between Self-Reported Urinary Symptoms and Prostate-Specific Antigen Levels in Former NFL Players"

"Lipoprotein(a) Distribution and Associated Factors in Former Professional Football Players"

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### **TULANE VOLLEYBALL ANALYTICS CAMP**

The summer camp, a collaboration with Tulane Mathematics professor Scott McKinley, offered classroom and court sessions for students to learn how to improve their play through analytics.



### Partnership With MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL YOUTH ACADEMY

The Center for Sport continued its great relationship with MLB's Youth Academy program, with staff developing and teaching two courses: Name Image & Likeness (2024) and MLB Arbitration (Fall 2023).



#### THE STARTING BLOCK

As the educational partner for the program, the Center developed sports-focused lesson plans for the second cohort, which had approximately 50 students on the roster. Programming included guest speakers on careers in sports and field experiences in sports medicine at the Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine and in college athletics.

#### **Guest Speakers**



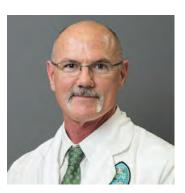
Sports Management Connie Kowa Sports Marketing Consultant



**Sports Management** Tyler Thompson Learfield



Sports Media & Broadcasting Maddy Hudak FanNation/Sports Illustrated Sideline Reporter



Sports Medicine Greg Stewart, MD Tulane School of Medicine



Sports for Social Change Maurice Smith, MEd Tulane University Center for Public Service

# GIVING

Our work on campus and in our community wouldn't be possible without the generous support of so many organizations and donors.

THE GOLDRING FAMILY FOUNDATION

THE PRIDDY FAMILY FOUNDATION

DOUGLAS J. HERTZ FAMILY FOUNDATION

Every gift—no matter the size—makes a meaningful difference in advancing our mission. Your contribution helps us expand access to care, fuel groundbreaking research, and support life-changing programs. We're deeply grateful to have you as part of our community.

Denise and Trebor Breaux
Vincent J. Catalanotto Jr.
Darlington Methodist Church of Chipola
Karen and Kenneth Frye

Louis Jung III Elizabeth Ferrara Kraft Michael Spivey and Lauren Galliker Melinda St. Germain



THE PRIDDY FAMILY graciously opened their home to host an intimate evening for supporters of the Center for Brain Health. Their ongoing commitment to our mission shines brightly, standing firmly behind the vital work we are doing for veterans and the community. At the event, the Priddy's made an additional generous contribution of \$50,000, inspiring attendees who collectively raised \$12,000 more to advance brain health initiatives. Their unwavering support continues to be a cornerstone of our success and growth.



Dr. Gregory Stewart, Cindy Stewart, Kikie Priddy, George Brower, Lauren Brower







Top Left: Members of the Treme Brass Band; Top Right: Kikie Priddy, Kathryn & Jeff Scurlock Bottom left: Peter Crean, Mary & Robert Lupo; Bottom right: Alicia Franck, Ginny Wise, Shannon Ack, Brinkley Serkedakis









Top right: Sakshi Shah, Bonnie McCollough; Bottom left: Cindy Stewart, Brad Clement, Cheryl Abana-Emmer; Bottom right: Kevin Wilkins, Ginny Wise, Kikie Priddy









Top right: Beryl Biliot, Kikie Priddy; Bottom left: Dave Tibbets, Claudia Tibbets, Eric Beverly

## THROUGH SPORT WE UNITE.CHALLENGE. INSPIRE.INNOVATE.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Bonnie McCollough, Director of External Relations 3800 Houma Blvd., Suite 260 | Metairie, LA 70006 Cell: 504.228.2571 Email: bmccollo@tulane.edu

https://centerforsport.tulane.edu







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