

UPDATE



# neurosurgery

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## **Congressional Pediatric Trauma Caucus Raises Awareness about Injuries in Youth Sports**

*Neurosurgeons Commend Reps. Hudson and Butterfield for their Efforts to Strengthen Pediatric Trauma System*

**Washington, DC**—The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) applaud congressional Pediatric Trauma Caucus co-chairs Reps. **Richard Hudson** (R-N.C.) and **G.K. Butterfield** (D-N.C.) for hosting a “back to school” themed briefing to discuss pediatric trauma and youth sports. Initially [launched in May](#), the Pediatric Trauma Caucus aims to identify strategies for strengthening the nation's pediatric trauma system and reducing traumatic injuries in children.

Annually, more than 10 million children require emergency department care for the evaluation and treatment of traumatic injuries. The economic costs of pediatric trauma — including hospital and other ongoing costs related to lifelong disability and requisite skilled care in this sizeable cohort — are significant: \$14 billion in lifetime medical spending and \$66 billion in present and future work losses.

Shelly D. Timmons, MD, PhD, FAANS, director of neurotrauma at Penn State Hershey Medical Center and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee, participated in the briefing. Recognized as an expert in neurotrauma, Dr. Timmons, who formerly chaired the AANS/CNS Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care, fully understands the importance of neurosurgeons taking a lead role in the prevention, management and treatment of traumatic injuries.

“Since pediatric trauma is the number one killer of children in the United States, we must act now to reverse this trend,” Dr. Timmons observed. “Children are not just ‘little adults’ and differences exist between the developing immature brain and the mature adult brain. The impact of the types of injury and the considerations related to acute care and recovery vary accordingly, and thus, our systems of care must accommodate these differences.”

Neurosurgeons have long been involved in the diagnosis and care of individuals with traumatic injuries, and the specialty's neurotrauma experts are furthering knowledge on traumatic brain and spinal cord injury through clinical and basic science research. Additionally, the profession has helped shaped current guidelines for the evaluation and treatment of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and is actively involved in developing public policy related to TBI, concussions and spinal cord injuries. Given the magnitude of the issue and the impact on society, the AANS and CNS launched a [#ConcussionFacts](#) awareness campaign, created a Neurosurgery Blog series called “[Hard Knocks](#)” and neurosurgeons work closely with the [ThinkFirst](#) National Injury Prevention Foundation.

“Organized neurosurgery is steadfast in our commitment to raising awareness about traumatic injuries to ensure the safety of the public,” said Dr. Timmons. “We thank Reps. Hudson and Butterfield for their leadership on the issue of pediatric trauma and believe today's discussion is a positive step in the right direction.”

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*The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 8,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit [www.aans.org](http://www.aans.org) or [www.cns.org](http://www.cns.org), read our blog [www.neurosurgeryblog.org](http://www.neurosurgeryblog.org), follow us on [Twitter](#) or connect with us on [Facebook](#).*