



# The CARE Consortium Newsletter

## Thank you for participating in the CARE Consortium Studies

As a student-athlete or military service academy cadet/midshipman, you played a vitally important role in the CARE Consortium research study – the largest of its kind to examine the short- and long-term effects of concussion.

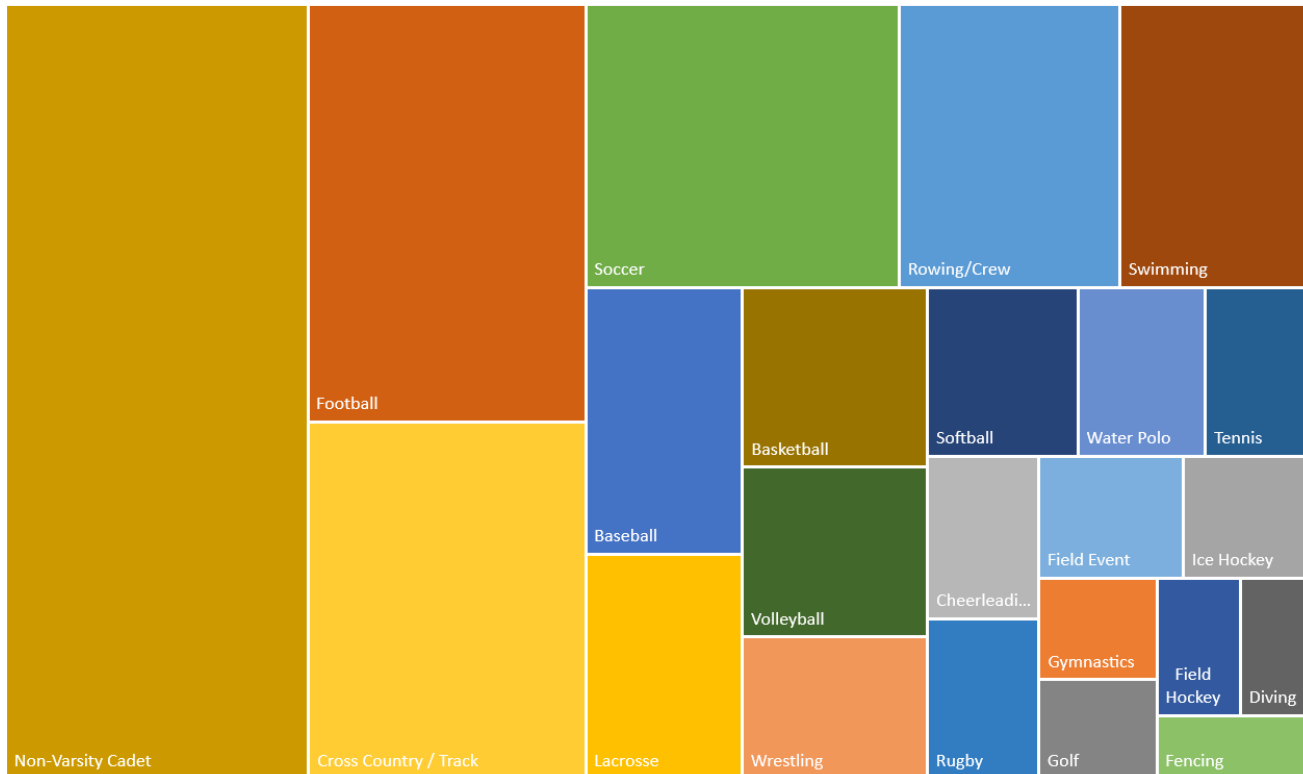
Over the coming months and during the five-year study cycle (2021-2026), you may receive an email, text message or telephone call from our research team inviting you to participate in the next phase of the study, the CARE- SALTOS Integrated (CSI) Study. Your participation is vital in this continued effort to study the long-term effects of concussion and repetitive head impact exposures.

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## Over 4000 Enrolled in Online Survey!

Tier 1 Completions by Sport



Recruitment for the online portion of the study began in March 2022 and we have had an overwhelming response to the invitations to participate. To date, we have over 4000 former CARE study civilian and military participants enrolled in the Tier 1 portion of the CSI Study.

For the online portion of CSI, also referred to as Tier 1, you may be

contacted by email, text message, or by a University of Michigan survey research operations (SRO) specialist, inviting you to complete the study questionnaires either online or over the telephone with one of our study interviewers. Once you set up an account in the participant portal you can complete the online surveys at your convenience, taking a break when needed, and picking back up where you left off without having to start over. We hope you will join your friends, colleagues, and peers by participating in this important study.

## *Tier 2 In-Person Study Visits Underway at IUSM and MCW*



At the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), 32 participants have completed the Tier-2 in-person study visits, with an additional 30 scheduled to participate in the near future.

Participants have flown to the two study sites from all over the US, and we have had two participants who reside outside of the US coordinate their business travel to accommodate the Tier 2 study day. As a reminder, travel is a covered expense and there is a stipend to compensate you for your time to participate.

The majority of participants thus far have been surprised at how quickly the study day goes by. If you decide to participate, you will fly into the study site the night prior; many of the participants have taken advantage of the trip by exploring the city the night before and

trying new restaurants suggested by our study staff. After a good night's sleep at a nearby hotel, participants arrive at the study center and complete their visit within 7-8 hours, receiving their study compensation after. The sites are responsible for taking care of your travel and ensuring the process runs as smoothly as possible.

Sites will contact Tier 2 eligible participants, but if interested, you can reach us by e-mail to determine if you meet the eligibility criteria to participate.

## *Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) now Enrolling*

The CSI Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Cohort at Eglin Air Force Base is underway!

Recruitment and enrollment of the new cohort of military service members at Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD) has begun, with the first participants completing the study in October 2022.

Participants are undergoing an in-person, baseline research evaluation, including surveys, neuropsychological testing, and a blood draw. These participants will have the option to participate in additional CSI studies in the future, including online surveys (Tier 1) and in-person comprehensive assessments (Tier 2).

The EOD Cohort Study will help us better understand brain health and injury in enlisted service members and those with high risk of blast exposure due to their military training and service.

Students and staff at NAVSCOLEOD are eligible to participate in the CSI EOD Cohort Study. Compensation is provided for the blood draw. Interested individuals can contact the Study Coordinator, Megan Swartz, at 240-204-1573 (call or text) or [csi\\_eglin-ggg@usuhs.edu](mailto:csi_eglin-ggg@usuhs.edu), to sign up or receive more information.

## *Questions? Contact us!*

If you have questions regarding your eligibility, participation, token of appreciation, or anything else study related, you may email us at [carealumni@umich.edu](mailto:carealumni@umich.edu), or call 1-833-842-1393, and a member of our study team will respond to you within 48 hours.

## Enhanced Data Security Coming Soon



Maintaining study participants' confidentiality and keeping CARE/CSI data secure is of utmost importance to our study team. We will be adding an enhanced security measure to the account registration process to better protect your study data. The enhanced security measure includes a unique access code that is embedded in the study link you may receive in the coming weeks. The access code will need to be entered on the identity confirmation page in order to create a username and password before being granted access to the consent and study questionnaires in the participant portal.

If you already set up a user account from a previous invitation to participate, you will not need to do anything new when logging back into your account. Our study team is here to help if you encounter any issues with the new study links containing access codes. Just call or email us!

## Profiles of CSI Study Participants

In each CSI Study newsletter we profile members of our research teams and partners, and thought our study participants might be interested to see who else was enrolled in the CSI study. This is an opportunity to tell your story, what you are currently doing in life, and why this research study is important to you. If you agree to be profiled, you will no longer be an anonymous study member, you will be fully identified, so consider this opportunity carefully prior to volunteering to participate in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

If you are interested in being featured in an upcoming issue of the CARE Consortium CSI Study Newsletter, please fill out the questionnaire ([https://umich.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2tosywZxkbY7jOC](https://umich.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2tosywZxkbY7jOC)) or email us to let us know you're interested. Indicating interest does not commit you to be in the feature and you can change your mind at any time prior to the release of the newsletter. If you're selected, you will be contacted by a member of our study team to either arrange an interview over Zoom, or to answer interview questions via email. We will also ask you to sign a consent form granting us permission to identify you as a study participant in the CSI Study.



## CARE/CSI Website, Publications, and Resources

Please visit our newly designed CARE Consortium website ([www.CAREConsortium.net](http://www.CAREConsortium.net)) for more information about the CARE Consortium studies and links to beneficial physical and mental health resources for participants and families.

The CARE Consortium website offers active links to many of the over 80 scientific publications authored by CARE Consortium investigators. [www.CAREConsortium.net/resources/publications/](http://www.CAREConsortium.net/resources/publications/)

## Thank you!

On behalf of the CARE Consortium Principal Investigators and study teams, we would like to thank you for your continued participation in this very important study. Your contribution will inform policy aimed at improving the health and safety of athletes and military service members.



**NCAA•DOD**  
**Grand Alliance**  
**CARE Consortium**