



July 1, 2014

Dear Parent,

We need your help! If you follow the news concerning sports and **concussions**, you may be concerned with the implications that experiencing a concussion have for your child's health and well-being – we share that concern. Dr. Catherine Mazzola the Director of Pediatric Neurological Surgery at Morristown Medical Center and Dr. Richard Servatius at the Rutgers' Stress and Motivated Behavior Institute (SMBI) are conducting a study to understand how head injury affects brain functions such as attention, learning and memory. With all of the studies concentrating on adults, particularly professional athletes, relatively little is known concerning the effects of concussions on children and adolescents. Our study is also unique in that we will cover a 6-month span after concussion, detailing potential long-term effects that may otherwise be missed.

Your child is eligible to participate in this study because he/she has sustained a **concussion**. By participating, your child would receive neurocognitive, vestibular and other testing. Your child may be one of about 400 students who participate. The study involves an initial session that lasts about 2 hours. Your child may be asked to return for additional testing. During these sessions, your child will be given surveys and will play computer-based tasks that assess areas of functioning, such as memory and muscle reactivity. To participate, we need your consent and your child's active agreement to take part in the study. Participation is completely voluntary.

If you and your child are interested in potentially participating in this study and/or if you would like want additional information, please feel free to contact our co-investigator:

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Thanks!

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