

World Congress on Science and Football

Welcome to the World Congress on Science and Football, a global scientific forum dedicated to advancing the development and application of science across **all** football codes. The International Steering Committee on Science and Football oversees the congress, ensuring its continuity and commitment to fostering innovation in performance, health, and education within the football community.

The congress themes are dynamic with the ever-evolving football landscape. The congress covers research from core disciplines, such as biomechanics, physiology, psychology, and sports medicine. It also covers research from applied themes, such as coaching, data science, match analysis, motor behavior, performance profiling, recovery strategies, sports medicine, and training.

This document covers the history of the World Congress on Science and Football in the following sections:

1. Vision and missions

- 1.1 Vision
- 1.2 Missions

2. Historic overview

- 2.1 World Congress on Science and Football (WCSF)
- 2.2 World Congress on Science and Soccer (WCSS)

3. Developments

- 3.1 Future Alignment
- 3.2 PhD Network

4. Tom Reilly Memorial Keynote Lecture

5. International Steering Committee on Science and Football

- 5.1 Contact Details
- 5.2 Members

1. Vision and missions

1.1 Vision

To be the global leader in advancing the application of science across all football codes, fostering innovation, and enhancing performance and health within the football community.

1.2 Missions

- Provide a scientific forum to advance scientific knowledge
- Develop and foster a global community in football research
- Facilitate enhancements in performance and health
- Embrace diversity within football and strive to make science accessible

2. Historic overview

2.1 World Congress on Science and Football (WCSF)

Founded by Professor Tom Reilly, the inaugural WCSF was held at Liverpool John Moores University in 1987. Held every four years, WCSF provides a scientific forum for researchers and practitioners in all football codes in which to present their recent work to advance the use of science in football.

1987	Liverpool	England	
1995	Cardiff	Wales	
1991	Eindhoven	the Netherlands	
1999	Sydney	Australia	
2003	Lisbon	Portugal	
2007	Antalya	Turkey	
2011	Nagoya	Japan	
2015	Copenhagen	Denmark	
2019	Melbourne	Australia	
2023	Groningen	the Netherlands	https://wcsf2023.com

2027: The 11th WCSF will be held at Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, England.

2.2 World Congress on Science and Soccer (WCSS)

First held in 2008, WCSS alternates with WCSF and has a primary focus on soccer. It takes places every four years.

2008	Liverpool	England	
2010	Port Elizabeth	South Africa	
2012	Ghent	Belgium	
2014	Portland, OR	United States of America	
2017	Rennes	France	https://wcss-rennes2017.sciencesconf.org
2022	Coimbra	Portugal	https://wcss2021.org/welcome/

2025: The 7th WCSS will be hosted at the University of the West of Scotland, Glasgow, Scotland from 18th-20th June, 2025. <https://wcss2025.com/>

3. Developments

3.1 Future Alignment

WCSS will be organised for the final time in 2025. The congress will transition into the World Congress on Science and Football, occurring biennially and encompassing all codes of football.

3.2 PhD Network

The launch of a network for PhD students was supported in 2023. PhD researchers from various universities dedicating their research to various disciplines in all codes of football came together during WCSF 2023 in Groningen. This effort resulted in the launch of 'FC PhD': a network for PhD researchers in football.

Are you a current PhD student in football and interested in joining this network? Contact Jur Brauers: j.j.brauers@umcg.nl

4. Tom Reilly Memorial Keynote Lecture

The Tom Reilly Memorial Keynote lecture was introduced in 2011, after the passing of Professor Tom Reilly in 2009. Concluding each WCSF, this keynote lecture celebrates the achievements and progress of football science.

2011: Professor Brian Dawson

2015: Professor Barry Drust

2019: Professor Kevin Norton

2023: Distinguished Professor Aaron Coutts

Title: *Advancements and Challenges in Monitoring Football Players: A Retrospective Analysis of Scientific Practices and Future Perspectives*

5. International Steering Committee on Science and Football

5.1 Contact Details

Dr. Sigrid Olthof

Chair of the International Steering Committee on Science and Football

Liverpool John Moores University

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5.2 Members

Sigrid Olthof, Liverpool John Moores University (Chair)

Aaron Coutts, University of Technology Sydney

Martin Littlewood, Liverpool John Moores University

Tim Meyer, Saarland University

Jur Brauers, University of Groningen (PhD representative)