

04-26 Policy Matters

Subject: Supporting the NFL Draft Medical Response, A Legacy of Excellence in Sports Medicine, and More

Preheader: Here, Policy Matters. Learn the latest from UPMC's Government Affairs team.



As the NFL Draft kicks off tonight in Pittsburgh, this special edition of *Policy Matters* highlights UPMC's efforts to support the medical response and citywide readiness for an event expected to draw more than 700,000 visitors.

The draft also offers an opportunity to spotlight UPMC's excellence in sports medicine, our longstanding connection to the Pittsburgh Steelers, and our commitment to youth sports.



UPMC Playing Key Role in Supporting Medical Response at NFL Draft

Under the leadership of Donald Yealy, MD (pictured), and Leonard Weiss, MD, UPMC's emergency medicine teams are working alongside community partners — including public safety agencies, hospital systems, and emergency responders — to ensure a cohesive, comprehensive approach to care for all visitors who will attend the NFL Draft and all who call Pittsburgh home.

"We've been preparing for this for years," Dr. Yealy says. "It gives us an opportunity to allow our expertise and the city's expertise to be married up and to make sure that anyone at their moment of need gets the care, whether they live here or they came to visit for the NFL Draft."

"We will have field hospital setups that will allow us, with physician care, nursing care, and paramedic care, to treat patients for most of the ailments or injuries that they may have," Dr. Weiss says.

Together with government partners at every level, UPMC is helping lead a unified regional readiness effort.

View additional coverage from [**WPXI**](#), [**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**](#), and [**CBS Pittsburgh**](#).



Powering the Future of Sport: A Draft Week Showcase | Forge to Field AI Pitch Competition

Pittsburgh continues to demonstrate its strength as a thriving hub for AI development and deployment, anchored by world-class research institutions and a rapidly growing innovation ecosystem. This momentum was on full display at the Forge to Field AI Pitch Competition, hosted at Carnegie Mellon University on Wednesday, April 22, where emerging AI companies from across the nation showcased scale-ready sports technology innovations.

Jeanne Cunicelli, president of UPMC Enterprises, UPMC's innovation, commercialization, and venture division, joined Mark Cuban and fellow leaders in a "Shark Tank"-style competition awarding finalists with investments from a \$1.5M AI Forge Prize Pool. Governor Josh Shapiro and Pittsburgh Mayor Corey O'Connor also took part in the program, underscoring Pittsburgh's growing prominence as a national hub for AI.

[Learn more](#)



**UPMC Sports Medicine and the Department of
Orthopaedic Surgery**



Our legacy

The **late Freddie Fu, MD**, founded western Pennsylvania's first sports medicine program in 1986 in a small suite near the University of Pittsburgh's main campus. UPMC Sports Medicine has been the region's preferred sports medicine provider ever since.

Dr. Fu also established the first-ever high school athletic training (AT) program in western Pennsylvania. This program has grown into one of the largest in the country, supporting 75-plus high schools.

UPMC's ATs now support over a dozen colleges and several professional and community teams. They also cover practices, games, and events for over 1,800 teams each year.



Serving our communities today

MaCalus V. Hogan, MD, the David Silver Professor and Chair of Pitt's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at UPMC; and **Volker Musahl, MD**, chief of the Division of Sports Medicine, medical director of the UPMC Rooney Sports Complex, and program director of the Sports Medicine Fellowship Program, are internationally recognized orthopaedic leaders at UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh. They are advancing sports medicine through elite clinical care and research.

Their work is supported by top-tier clinicians and nationally recognized research programs, including musculoskeletal, biodynamics, concussion, robotics, and orthopaedic innovation laboratories.

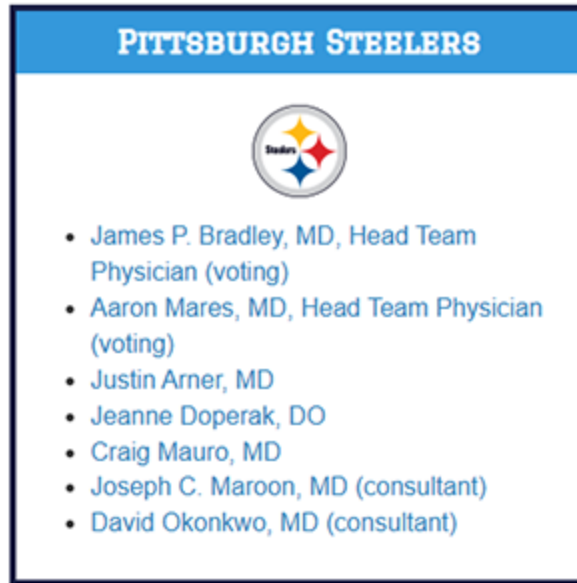
Together, they are helping to drive advancements in injury prevention, surgical precision, and athlete outcomes.

Dr. Hogan has been named a 2026 UNCF Bill Nunn Jr. Legacy Award recipient, recognizing his professional excellence and commitment to expanding access, equity, and opportunity. The award honors the legacy of Bill Nunn Jr., a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., who transformed the NFL Draft by identifying and elevating talent from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, forever changing who was seen, valued, and selected.

Also of note is the internationally known **UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program**. The program recently celebrated its 25th anniversary since its launch in the fall of 2000.

The UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program is a global leader in evidence-based concussion diagnosis, treatment, and research. It cares for more than 20,000 patients annually and has set the standard for concussion care worldwide. The program is led by Michael "Micky" Collins, PhD, clinical and executive director, with research leadership from Anthony Kontos, PhD.

Learn more about [UPMC Sports Medicine](#) and our [sports team partnerships and sponsorships](#).



UPMC's Longstanding Partnership with the Pittsburgh Steelers

UPMC is proud to serve as the official health care provider for the Pittsburgh Steelers. We deliver world-class medical expertise to support player health, performance, and safety. Through a longstanding partnership that also includes UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and collaborations with professional sports leagues, UPMC physicians provide comprehensive, specialized care both on and off the field.

UPMC physicians in the NFL Physicians Society

Together, this multidisciplinary team reflects UPMC's commitment to advancing sports medicine, brain health, and elite-level care for professional athletes.



UPMC Magee-Womens' partnership with the Steelers

With Pittsburgh having the highest percentage of female fans in the NFL, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital is proud to partner with the Pittsburgh Steelers in promoting women's health and breast cancer awareness.

The partnership raises awareness for the Magee-Womens Cancer Program, part of the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. It recognizes cancer survivors during the "Crucial Catch – Intercept Cancer" game held at Heinz Field in October. We also hold numerous community events throughout the year that support women's health.

[Learn more](#)



UPMC Community Commitment: Community and Youth Sports Partnerships

UPMC's commitment to youth health and community well-being comes to life through a wide range of outreach and sports-focused initiatives. From empowering young athletes with safe play education and student athletic trainer workshops to supporting confidence, teamwork, and lifelong health habits through programs like [Girls on the Run®](#), [Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre](#), [sports performance programs](#), and initiatives like [Every Victory Counts](#) with the Steelwheelers, Three Rivers Rowing, and Mighty Penguins, UPMC is making a measurable impact beyond traditional care.



Managing the Invisible Injury: UPMC Western Behavioral Health Foundation Welcomes Nearly 800 to Student-Athletes Symposium

UPMC Western Behavioral Health Foundation's third Mental Health and Student-Athletes Symposium at PPG Paints Arena was the largest to date, drawing nearly 800 registrants from schools, colleges, sports organizations, and health and community groups across Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. With this year's theme, Managing the Invisible Injury, attendees engaged with professional sports leaders, UPMC Sports Medicine, and other clinical experts to explore the psychological effects of concussions and head trauma, along with how student-athletes' mental health needs evolve from high school through college.

[Learn more](#)

Stay Informed

UPMC's Government Affairs Team is committed to delivering relevant and timely news on the latest health care trends, medical research, and clinical developments as they relate to public health issues.

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UPMC, 200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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