

NECKSAFE PATRON: PROFESSOR STAN HERRING

Prof. Herring is UW clinical professor in the Departments of Rehabilitation Medicine, Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, and Neurological Surgery.

He is director of Spine, Sports and Musculoskeletal Medicine for the UW Medicine Health System and co-medical director of the Seattle Sports Concussion Program, a partnership between UW Medicine and Seattle Children's.

He specializes in non-operative musculoskeletal and sports medicine, with a particular interest in disorders of the spine and sports concussion.

Prof. Herring is a team physician for the Seattle Seahawks (NFL), Seattle Mariners (MLB) and a consultant to the UW Sports Medicine Program and the Seattle Storm (WNBA).



He serves as a member of the NFL's Head, Neck and Spine Committee where he is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Advocacy and Education.

Stan was a major contributor to the successful passage of the Zackery Lystedt Law in Washington state in 2009. This landmark legislation is named after Zackery Lystedt, who was critically injured during a high school football game at age 13. He struck his head on the ground after a play and he subsequently grabbed his helmet in obvious pain as he struggled to get up. After making it to the sideline, he sat out for about 15 minutes, and then went back in for the remainder of the game. Another hit late in the game resulted in an intracranial hemorrhage, neurosurgical intervention, nine months in a coma, prolonged hospitalization and enduring disability.

The perils of returning to the game from a significant blow to the head, and the dangers of a subsequent, more devastating injury ("Second Impact Syndrome") especially in young players prompted this legislation to prevent such occurrences. The Zackery Lystedt Law (House Bill 1824) requires medical clearance of youth athletes suspected of sustaining a concussion, before sending them back in the game, practice or training, rather than just rules and guidelines from their sport.

Following Stan's tireless efforts, all 50 states have created similar laws.

The US Congress is now looking at the Lystedt Law as a template from which to set national standards for recognizing and treating head injuries in young athletes.



May 14th 2009, Gov. Christine Gregoire signs the nation's toughest youth athlete return-to-play law: the Zackery Lystedt Law.

Dr. Herring's philosophy is to provide kind and compassionate care that focuses not only on the relief of pain and suffering, but helps patients return to activities that give them quality of life.

Stan has been associated with head and neck injuries his entire career and we are delighted to have him as one of our Patrons.