

Contact: Ronna Charles Nu'Man  
[rbranch@msm.edu](mailto:rbranch@msm.edu)  
(404) 752-1717  
Morehouse School of Medicine

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## **SATCHER AND SOREL LAUNCH INITIATIVE TO TACKLE CATASTROPHIC INJURIES AMONG YOUNG ATHLETES**

*Washington Conference to Kick-off Nationwide Sports Safety Initiative*

October 31, 2013 - WASHINGTON- Former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D. and noted global health professor Eliot Sorel, M.D. are launching Protecting Athletes and Sports Safety (PASS), a new national initiative aimed at reducing catastrophic injuries among young athletes during the National Conference on Youth Sports Safety on Nov. 8, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 5 pm. The initiative will commence with a day-long conference and opening reception at the Barbara Jordan Conference Center at the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, DC. During the conference, participants will hear from experts on a wide range of issues including, adolescent brain health and development, using public policy to inform and engage the public, as well as the role of the media in preventing catastrophic injury.

The conference will include speakers from the ranks of both college and professional football, pro and youth soccer, and an introductory video from NBC sport analyst Bob Costas. It will also host participants from more than 75 governmental entities and organizations, including the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, Brain Trauma Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will coalesce to create a strategic plan for the initiative and discuss best practices.

Dr. Satcher is now the director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute (SHLI) at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. Dr. Sorel is a recognized global health leader and Clinical Professor of Global Health at George Washington University Department of Global Health and Health Services.

Speakers representing the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA), the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), and Turner Sports among others will be featured.

The lunch session will include a dialogue between former professional football player Mark Kelso, the DC United MLS Head Trainer Brian Goodstein; and two former youth athletes who stopped playing soccer and lacrosse as a result of their injuries.

Additional information on the conference and initiative can be found at [www.youthsportssafety.org](http://www.youthsportssafety.org) or contact Chris Thrasher at (404) 421-7757.

**About Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM)**

Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) was founded in 1975 in Atlanta, Georgia, as a two-year medical education program at Morehouse College, with clinical training affiliations with several established medical schools for awarding the M.D. degree. In 1981, MSM became an independently chartered institution and the first medical school established at a Historically Black College and University in the 20th century. MSM is among the nation's leading educators of primary care physicians and was recently recognized as the top institution among U.S. medical schools for our social mission. Our faculty and alumni are noted for excellence in teaching, research and public policy, as well as exceptional patient care.

Morehouse School of Medicine is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award doctorate and master degrees

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