

**WADA Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group (SSREAG)  
Meeting**  
18 February 2021

**Meeting Outcomes**

**MEMBERS**

Rob DONOVAN (Chair)  
Thierry ZINTZ  
Susan BACKHOUSE  
Gretchen LOWERISON  
Sian CLANCY  
Kim NOLTE  
Andrew HEYES  
Leonardo José MATARUNA DOS SANTOS  
Derwin CHAN

**WADA**

Amanda HUDSON  
Tony CUNNINGHAM  
Ani MELIKSETYAN

**OBSERVERS**

David PAVOT

The inaugural meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) [Social Science Research Expert Advisory Group \(SSREAG\)](#) was held virtually on 18 February 2021. The main focus for the meeting was to induct the new members and provide an orientation to WADA's Social Science Research (SSR) Program.

The outcomes and key summary of agreements made by the SSREAG are outlined below:

1. Ms. Amanda Hudson, Director, Education, welcomed the members of the SSREAG – Professor Robert Donovan (University of Western Australia, Australia), Prof. Dr. Thierry Zintz (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium), Prof. Susan Backhouse (Leeds Beckett University, UK), Dr. Gretchen Lowerison (Coreidea Innovation Inc./Bishop's University, Canada), Dr. Sian Clancy (Drugfree Sport New Zealand), Dr. Kim Nolte (University of Pretoria, South Africa), Mr. Andrew Heyes (University of Birmingham, UK), Dr. Derwin Chan (Education University of Hong Kong), Dr. Leonardo José Mataruna dos Santos (Canadian University of Dubai, UAE), as well as the observer, Prof. David Pavot, holder of the [Research Chair on Anti-Doping in Sport](#), based at the Université de Sherbrooke (Canada) in partnership with WADA.
2. The SSREAG was provided an overview of the background and development of the SSR Program at WADA. The SSREAG also received a briefing on WADA's governance structure as well as their position and role within it.
3. The SSREAG was presented with an overview of [WADA's SSR Strategy for 2020-2024](#), its background, and six key strategic priorities for the quadrennial cycle.

4. The SSREAG was updated on the 2021 SSR Program Work Plan (Work Plan) that will guide the work of the group in 2021. The SSREAG members welcomed the Work Plan and shared their enthusiasm for forming working groups and contributing to the implementation of the SSR Strategy based on their research expertise and shared interests.
5. The SSREAG was provided with an overview of the [WADA SSR Grant Program](#) and details of its recent restructure. This includes the new three-tiered approach to investing in SSR as well as the new application processes for each tier. Further details can be found in the [Overview and Guidance for Applicants document](#).
6. The SSREAG was informed of their role in the review process of the twelve Tier 1, eighteen Tier 2 and thirty-three Tier 3 applications that are in the final phase of the review process. An overview of the independent peer review process was also provided. The results of the review process conducted by the SSREAG and by independent peer reviewers will feed into their deliberations before outlining their analyses to the [WADA Education Committee](#) in April 2021. The Education Committee will then put forward funding recommendations to the [WADA Executive Committee](#) who will make the final approval of funding at their meeting in May 2021.
7. The SSREAG was briefed on the status and provisional dates of planned events including the Global Education Conference and future SSREAG meetings.
8. The SSREAG will consider opening a research topic for submissions in the Anti-Doping Sciences section of the [Frontiers in Sport and Active Living Journal](#) in 2021.
9. The SSREAG supported the proposal that the next meeting be held on 12 and 13 April 2021, as well as the proposal to hold a joint meeting with the Education Committee on 14 April 2021.