Sochi 2014
WADA's Olympic and Paralympic Preview
A Word from the President

WADA's new President Sir Craig Reedie looks ahead to a busy year, which includes WADA's role at Sochi 2014 and the implementation by all stakeholders of the revised World Anti-Doping Code.

Director General Comment

Welcome to Sir Craig Reedie

WADA's Director General recaps the successful Fourth World Conference on Doping in Sport, and outlines the Athlete Outreach and Independent Observer Programs that WADA will conduct at the forthcoming XXII Winter Games.
Fourth World Conference on Doping in Sport
Over 1,000 members of the global anti-doping community convened in Johannesburg in November for the Fourth World Conference on Doping in Sport. Here, Play True takes a look back at the most successful World Conference to date.

WADA Announces New Leadership, New Initiatives
The World Conference also set the stage for a number of key announcements from WADA, with actions and decisions taken at the Executive Committee and Foundation Board annual November meetings.

World Conference on Doping in Sport in pictures
A selection of images of some of the leading figures present in Johannesburg.

WADA’s Role in the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games
In early February, the world’s best winter sport athletes will converge in Russia to compete in the ultimate winter sport competition. Here, Play True looks at WADA’s role and responsibilities at the Games.

WADA’s Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games Teams
Profiles of WADA’s Independent Observer and Athlete Outreach Teams that will travel to Russia.

RUSADA: Preparing for Russia’s Big Moment

Dr. Richard Budgett

Ben Sandford: The Rugged Individualist
As the new President of WADA, it is a pleasure to write this introductory article in the Sochi 2014 Edition of Play True.

This is a big year for Russia, as the country hosts the 22nd Olympic Winter Games in a city which has seen the remarkable development of a whole range of world class facilities for the winter athletes of the world. The Anti-Doping programme for the Games is under the control of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and plans are in place for a large increase in the number of out-of-competition tests before the Games, and continuation of the IOC zero tolerance policy with a further increase in the subsequent number of in-competition tests. WADA will be present in Sochi with its excellent Outreach Program for the athletes in the Olympic Villages and the Independent Observer Program.

The Presidency of the World Anti-Doping Agency revolves between Public Authorities and the sports movement, and I am pleased to have been elected as WADA’s third President. My background in sport includes service as the President of an International Sports Federation, the Chairman of a National Olympic Committee and now a Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee. I have also served as a member of the Executive Committee and the Foundation Board of WADA since the creation of the Agency in 1999, and have been Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee ever since.

I take up my duties as a representative of the sports movement with considerable enthusiasm. The recent World Conference in South Africa – with 1,000 delegates from sport, governments and the Anti-Doping community – began and ended with the clear Declaration that every emphasis should be placed on protection of the clean athlete.

The adoption of a revised World Anti-Doping Code – after a lengthy, comprehensive and skilled consultation process – provides a clear roadmap for WADA in 2014 as all stakeholders prepare for the start date of the Code on January 1, 2015. It is my aim that WADA will collaborate with all stakeholders – the International Federations, Governments and National Anti-Doping Organisations – in preparation of the additional duties under the Code to develop specific test distribution plans after analysis of Prohibited Substances or Methods in particular sports and disciplines; in discussion and agreement on a process to enhance the quality of the compliance responsibilities on the acceptance of the new Code; and in assistance to all stakeholders in their tasks to formalise its implementation.

We live in an age of austerity which will impose on the Anti-Doping effort responsibilities to be more effective in all we do as we deal with the increasing number of obligations and the ongoing programs of research, education and improved services to athletes. The fight against doping in sport has received a major boost, however, with the announcement by the President of the IOC of the creation of a fund of $10 million to be directed to enhance research. This creates a very exciting new opportunity and is gratefully acknowledged by WADA and all its stakeholders.

WADA has achieved much in its 14 years, and I pay tribute to my predecessors, Richard Pound and John Fahey. I look forward to helping all stakeholders confront the biggest challenge facing Olympic sport. Our reaction has to be a united determination that the protection of the clean athlete and the maintenance of clean and fair sport are central to everything we do.
“I take up my duties as a representative of the sports movement with considerable enthusiasm. The recent World Conference in South Africa – with 1,000 delegates from sport, governments and the Anti-Doping community – began and ended with the clear Declaration that every emphasis should be placed on protection of the clean athlete.”
Welcome to Sir Craig Reedie

David Howman, WADA Director General

On behalf of the entire World Anti-Doping Agency, I would like to offer a warm welcome to the new President, Sir Craig Reedie.

Craig will be a familiar figure to many in the sport and anti-doping communities, bringing with him a rich experience from his years working within the sporting movement. I look forward to working under his leadership in the important years that lie ahead, as we begin the process of implementing the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code before it enters into force at the start of next year.

At the World Conference on Doping in Sport in November, the anti-doping community witnessed the approval of the Code and four of the International Standards. I would like to take this opportunity to put on record my sincerest thanks to all those stakeholders who provided such invaluable comments and input during the Code Review. They deserve our deepest gratitude for the commitment and engagement that was in evidence right throughout the two-year process. The Code Review was the most transparent, inclusive and collaborative exercise we have ever seen in the world of anti-doping in sport; it was a process that showcased the healthy relationship that has developed between sport and government in recent years, as all members of the community worked together in pursuit of the common goal of clean sport.

Throughout this process, WADA received invaluable feedback and opinions from its stakeholders which helped shape both the Code and International Standards. What we saw in Johannesburg was the vast majority state loud and clear that they believe in, and are committed to, seeing through the successful implementation of this strong, new set of anti-doping rules; a set of rules which I believe will offer the best response to tackling doping in sport to date.

This solidarity that we saw from both sport and government shows that the anti-doping community is unified in its support for the main themes of the Code: support for stronger sanctions whilst maintaining flexibility, greater emphasis on intelligence and investigations and more focus on risk assessment and smarter testing. On this last point, there is now widespread recognition that there can be no ‘one size fits all’ approach to anti-doping in sport.

Something that stood out at the World Conference was the number of passionate interventions that we saw from the athletes in attendance. Athletes are right behind this revised Code, and these strong athlete opinions must serve as an ongoing reminder that we are all working to protect their rights, for it is they who are the ones that believe in true, clean sport. What we also saw during the Conference was widespread recognition that WADA must retain its independent role in the anti-doping fight if we as a community are to be successful in the years ahead – this was a sentiment that echoed right around the auditorium throughout the Conference.

Upon the Code’s ratification, it became clear that anti-doping in sport has an excellent set of rules in place through which to combat doping in the years ahead. For the Code to be deemed successful however, it will require excellent practice from all stakeholders. These model rules have already been shared with signatories, and WADA will work closely with all those involved to ensure that the implementation process is successful. This is a role WADA will take very seriously.

With the implementation phase of the Code already underway, the focus now turns to the XXII Olympic Winter Games and XI Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi and, more specifically, WADA’s important role in the lead-up to, and during, the Games. The Olympic and Paralympic Games always offer WADA a special opportunity to play its part in protecting the rights of the clean athlete. Sochi will represent Russia’s moment in the spotlight, and will mark the eighth edition of the Games at which WADA has been asked to conduct the Athlete Outreach and Independent Observer Programs. This is a clear indication of the commitment...
“The Athlete Outreach and Independent Observer Programs to be performed in Sochi will illustrate WADA’s unswerving commitment to ensure the job of anti-doping is a job well done.”

of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to deliver rigorous anti-doping programs and significant support to athletes, and is clear recognition of the success of these two WADA activities.

The Games present a good opportunity to raise awareness of clean sport among hundreds of thousands of athletes worldwide through the Athlete Outreach Program. Athlete Outreach offers a fun and interactive approach to this most serious of issues and, above all, allows us to engage with athletes and remind them of the dangers and consequences of doping. Many athletes will learn more about their anti-doping rights and responsibilities in Sochi thanks to the highly experienced WADA team and the numerous resources available to them at the WADA Outreach Centers.

The Independent Observer Missions form a crucial part of Games anti-doping activity, and I am pleased that, following its success in Vancouver four years ago, these will continue to take the form of an audit. In comparison with the previous program, these audit-format missions allow the WADA team to work alongside the Doping Control team and organizers each step of the way. With this format – which has been well received since its introduction – a report is still published following the event, but with daily meetings taking place, suggested improvements can now be enacted immediately, therefore ensuring a robust and effective anti-doping program. Above all, the consultative manner in which these missions are carried out provides athletes with the confidence they need in the quality of the doping control and results management processes.

We should never forget that athletes are the focal point of all our efforts. The Athlete Outreach and Independent Observer Programs illustrate WADA’s unswerving commitment to ensure the job of anti-doping is a job well done. This is a job that is carried out professionally, and carries with it not only the confidence of the athletes but of all our stakeholders, and that of the public, too.

Alongside the IOC, IPC and the Sochi Organizing Committee for the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (SOCHI 2014), it is our duty to provide all clean athletes with the chance to compete at these Games within the same conditions – on a level playing field.”
World Conference

Fourth World Conference on Doping in Sport

In a strong show of unity, more than 1,000 leading figures from the global anti-doping community convened November 12–15 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to review the major advances made in the fight against doping, to renew their commitment to protecting the rights of clean athletes and to help shape the future of anti-doping in sport.

The Fourth World Conference on Doping in Sport brought together athletes, Ministers of Sport, senior government officials, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), International Sports Federations (IFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs), Regional Anti-Doping Organizations (RADOs), intergovernmental organizations and media.

Organized by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and supported by Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) and the City of Johannesburg, the event marked the approval of the draft 2015 World Anti-Doping Code and four accompanying International Standards, and the adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration – all of which are major milestones in the fight for doping-free sport.

Featured speakers and distinguished guests included John Fahey, WADA President and Conference Chair; Prof. Arne Ljungqvist, WADA Vice President (Interventions) and Chair, International Standard for Laboratories; Thomas Bach, IOC President; John Coates, IOC Vice President; Fikile Mbalula, Minister, SRSA; Gert Oosthuizen, Deputy Minister, SRSA; and Kgalema Motlanthe, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa.

“We must, as nations of the world, create an environment that will ensure that when future generations reflect upon our times, they would point to our sports fields, courts – wherever sport is played – and say, ‘This is where honesty, integrity, honour, valor and truthfulness prevailed, and must continue to prevail.’”

- Fikile Mbalula, Minister of Sport, Sport and Recreation South Africa

“South Africa, a country known for its love of sport and fair play, made the ideal host for an event of this magnitude,” noted former WADA President John Fahey. “South African hospitality set the tone for a successful summit characterized by a healthy mix of debate, discussion and demand for a better system to tackle doping in sport.”

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Code and International Standards Review Sessions: Testimonials of Commitment and Support

Adopted by the Sport Movement and Governments in 2003, the World Anti-Doping Code has since served as the core document harmonizing anti-doping regulations across sports and countries worldwide, working alongside the five International Standards that are mandatory for all signatories. Both the Code and International Standards were at the center of the proceedings in Johannesburg.

During separate Code Review Sessions held over the course of two days, Conference participants from the Sport Movement and Public Authorities delivered three-minute interventions in relation to the revised Code. Sport Movement proponents included athletes and representatives of the IOC, IPC, IFs, NOCs, INAS (International Federation for sport for para-athletes with an intellectual disability), Commonwealth Games Federation, Court of Arbitration for Sport and laboratories.

Public Authority interventions were delivered from athletes, Ministers, senior government officials, NADOs representing countries from around the world and RADOs.

Speakers reiterated their overwhelming support for the principles of the revised Code, in particular advocating:

- Stronger sanctions whilst allowing flexibility
- Greater emphasis on risk assessment and smarter testing
- Implementation by all Anti-Doping Organizations of the revised Code and Standards in a responsible, effective way
- Maintaining WADA’s status as an independent organization

Athletes shared poignant, personal stories and expressed their views on how best to protect clean sport. Five-time Olympian and WADA Athlete Committee Member Cydonie Mothersill spoke in favor of the reliance on education and information in anti-doping, while World Champion fencer Claudia Bokel also delivered an impressive intervention. Other Athlete speakers included Olympic champion swimmer Kirsty Coventry, World skeleton champion Adam Pengilly, Olympic gold medalist Beckie Scott, former Argentinean National Rugby Captain Felipe Contepomi, five-time Paralympian Todd Nicholson and three-time Olympian swimmer Matt Dunn all of whom called for stronger action in the fight against doping.

“It is not only important for athletes to know their rights and responsibilities, but it is equally important that coaches, managers and agents are aware,” said Mothersill. “With the implementation of the 2015 Code, they can also be held accountable, which I believe to be an important step in keeping sport clean.”

“It has become clear that we are a united movement. United in our desire to ensure sport is true and sport is fair.”

- John Fahey
Several athletes, including Beckie Scott, voiced their support for stronger sanctions as a deterrent to potential dopers.

A member of WADA’s Executive Committee and Foundation Board, WADA’s Athlete Committee and the IOC Athlete Commission, Scott regarded the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code and Standards as “another positive step toward sport that is more clean, sport that is more fair, and sport that continues to have integrity and respect as its very essence ... at its heart. And this, above all, is what the athletes want.”

Participants also provided input during individual sessions devoted to review of four International Standards: International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI), International Standard for Laboratories (ISL), International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information (ISPPPI), and International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE). All Standards were endorsed, with one change made to the ISL regarding long-term sample storage.

**New Rules Born of Collective Wisdom**

On November 15, the final day of the Conference, WADA’s Foundation Board approved the Code and the Executive Committee approved the International Standards.

All Conference participants then joined together to do the same, representing the culmination of a two-year Code Review process that included four rounds of consultation, resulting in 4,000 proposed changes and four successive draft revisions.

“**These rules are the culmination of consultation. What has been brought together is collective wisdom.**”

- John Fahey

The subsequent adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration signified the renewed commitment of both government and sport to a set of rules that protect the rights of the clean athlete.

“It has become clear that we are a united movement. United in our desire to ensure sport is true and sport is fair,” concluded John Fahey. “These rules are the culmination of consultation. What has been brought together is collective wisdom.”

Following implementation by signatories in 2014, the revised Code and International Standards will take effect on January 1, 2015.

**Fourth World Conference Online Resources**

Related documents, speeches, presentations, intervention transcripts and news releases are available on the official 2013 Conference Website: www.wada2013.org.

For videos of the sessions, visit WADA’s YouTube channel, Wadamovies: www.youtube.com/user/wadamovies/videos.
The Fourth World Conference on Doping in Sport also set the stage for key announcements from WADA, with actions and decisions taken at the Executive Committee and Foundation Board annual November Meetings in Johannesburg.

Board Elects New Leadership

On the final day of the World Conference, WADA’s Foundation Board appointed Sir Craig Reedie as the next WADA President and Rev. Dr. Makhenkesi Arnold Stofile as the next Vice President on behalf of the sport movement and governments respectively.

Their terms became effective as of January 1, 2014.

Athlete Biological Passport

The Steroidal Module was approved on the first day of the Conference (ahead of its launch on January 1, 2014), joining the Haematological Module to complete the Athlete Biological Passport, which aims to identify athletes for further target testing and assists in the detection of Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

The Steroidal Module tests an athlete’s urine sample to observe unique steroidal variables, including testosterone, and will provide a useful technique to spot abuse of Anabolic Androgenic Steroids.

By automating the assessment of individual athlete steroid profiles, the new Module will greatly enhance the effectiveness of testing programs that use ADAMS.

University Project

In collaboration with the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and Gwangju 2015 Universiade Organizing Committee, WADA announced the development of an eTextbook and teaching material for first-year university students.

The anti-doping eTextbook will be part of an initiative to deliver a full ‘model curriculum’ for university academic staff to educate future practitioners, athletes, coaches and leaders of all sport on the dangers of doping in sport and their role in combating the issue.

Five universities will undertake the pilot program which began on January 1.

Whereabouts App for Smart Phones

WADA confirmed it was utilizing new technologies to assist athletes with the release of a free Whereabouts app for smartphones. The app, which was available from the end of November, is offered on iPhone and Android devices.

Using their smartphone, athletes can enter, check and change their whereabouts details at any time with just a few clicks. Mobile notifications help athletes remember their obligations to submit their whereabouts within the relevant deadlines.

The new app is of particular interest to athletes in a registered testing pool who have specific anti-doping responsibilities regarding the provision of whereabouts information to support out-of-competition testing.

Rules Matched by Practice

With the approval of the Code and International Standards, WADA is now responsible for an effective monitoring process.

WADA confirmed that enhancements would be made to processes to assist signatories with the implementation of more effective, intelligent anti-doping programs moving forward.

The compliance and monitoring process will be discussed by the Foundation Board in May 2014.
WADA’s Role in the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games

In early 2014, the world’s best winter sport athletes will converge in Sochi, Russia, to compete in the ultimate winter sport competition – the 2014 Winter Olympic Games from February 7–23, and the Paralympic Games from March 7–16.

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Spectators across the globe will experience the thrill of seeing the elite of winter sports compete for gold, silver and bronze medals.

Alongside the Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the Sochi Organizing Committee for the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Games (SOCHI 2014) and other organizations will continue their goal of ensuring doping-free Games.

The IOC, IPC and event organizer SOCHI 2014 oversee anti-doping controls during the period of the two Games – from the opening of the Athlete Villages to the day of the Winter Paralympic Closing Ceremony on March 16 – with the IOC and IPC also responsible for doping controls throughout the pre-Games testing period.

Leading up to and during the Games, WADA’s main role is as a facilitator for the anti-doping program. WADA coordinates efforts with the IOC as required, and maintains ongoing communication with Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) to promote stakeholder implementation of robust, effective anti-doping programs, coordinated through the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS).

WADA’s primary role during the Games includes monitoring the possible review of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), a right of appeal to The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in respect of decisions made by the IOC and IPC during the Games for doping cases, and conducting the Independent Observer (IO) and Athlete Outreach Programs.

“The Games requires the full contribution of the entire sporting community to prevent doping cheats from competing in Sochi,” said WADA President Sir Craig Reedie.

“In this major anti-doping partnership, WADA functions as an independent international organization – a monitoring and coordinating body in the fight against doping in sport.”

“Rigorous and coordinated anti-doping measures maintain the integrity of the Games, and give our athletes confidence that significant efforts are being made to protect their right to compete in clean and fair sport.”

Pre-Games

All Olympic and Paralympic signatories to the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) have a responsibility to make these events as clean as possible.

Well in advance of the Games WADA encourages all relevant ADOs, including National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs), Regional Anti-Doping Organizations (RADOs) and International Federations (IFs), to carry out robust anti-doping efforts in conjunction with the IOC.
WADA remains a steadfast advocate of testing athletes before they leave for the Games and, with the IOC, reinforces the importance of intelligent and intensive testing on prospective athletes – both out-of-competition and during the Games.

ADOs are encouraged to make concerted efforts to regularly test the right athletes at the right time, helping to preclude cheating athletes from participating, and maximizing the chances of a clean Games.

By providing access to intelligence and information, including assessments of athlete whereabouts and testing information in ADAMS and identifying prospective participants, WADA helps ADOs align at the national and international levels to ensure that all prospective athletes receive the appropriate level of education and testing prior to their arrival in Sochi.

All completed tests should be reported in ADAMS (in line with Code Article 14.5) to provide the IOC with the level of pre-Games testing carried out on each athlete.

Additionally, NADOs and IFs are asked to expand their Registered Testing Pools for the first quarter of 2014 to include potential participating athletes at the highest risk of doping. This ensures the availability of detailed whereabouts information to all authorized testing agencies, including WADA and the IOC.

Cross-organizational intelligence sharing is also encouraged, with WADA and the IOC soliciting input from ADOs on athletes to potentially target for testing under the IOC testing plan prior to, or even during, competition.

**Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)**

Athletes with a documented medical condition that requires the use of a prohibited substance or method must secure what is known as a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) under the criteria specified in the Code’s International Standard for TUEs (ISTUE).

TUEs must be granted systematically across all countries and follow the ISTUE, with IFs and NADOs responsible for TUEs granted to athletes in their Registered Testing Pools. In contrast with the IOC, the IPC, in its role as an International Federation, establishes a Registered Testing Pool for international level athletes in each sport. All athletes competing in the Paralympic Games can be included in the IPC’s Paralympic Games Testing Pool.

As is the case in the IOC and IPC Sochi 2014 Anti-Doping Rules, all TUEs must be managed, requested and declared through ADAMS except in justified circumstances.

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Sochi 2014

ANTI-DOPING FACTS AND FIGURES

**609**
Minimum number of blood samples to be tested for doping during the Sochi 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**2,500**
The record number of sample specialists who will gather at February’s Sochi Olympics, roughly 450 more than at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games.

**455**
Number of sample specialists who will gather at the Winter Paralympics.

**2,287**
Minimum number of urine samples to be tested for doping during the Sochi 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**553**
Number of people who will form the Games anti-doping workforce.

**1,733**
Number of trained specialists who will collect blood and urine samples (DCOs).

**1 in 2**
Ratio of athletes to be tested for doping during the Winter Games, which includes every medal winner.

**3,938 m²**
Size of the Sochi 2014 Anti-Doping Laboratory.

**24/7**
Operating times (hrs/day) for the Sochi 2014 Anti-Doping Laboratory.

**24 hrs**
Quickest turnaround for a sample analysis.

Most athletes requiring a TUE are expected to have one in place well in advance of Sochi 2014. However, in compliance with the 2014 Anti-Doping Rules for Sochi, athletes can also apply to the IOC/IPC for a TUE to cover their participation in the Games. A committee of physicians (TUEC) is appointed by the IOC/IPC Medical Commission to assess existing TUEs and consider new requests in accordance with the ISTUE. Decisions rendered by the TUEC are then considered the final decision of the IOC/IPC.

During the Sochi Games, WADA will monitor the applications for, and approval of, TUEs. Consistent with its role under the Code, WADA has the right to review any TUE decisions made by the IOC or IPC. Athletes whose TUE Application to the IOC/IPC is denied can ask WADA to review the decision. If WADA then determines that the denial of the TUE did not comply with the ISTUE, the Agency has the ability to reverse the decision. If the decision is not reversed, the athlete can appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
WADA’s Right of Appeal

All anti-doping disciplinary actions in relation to the Games, including sanctions and disqualifications, are taken by the IOC and IPC. As with all anti-doping decisions, these can be appealed to the CAS, which will operate a special ad hoc court during the Games to allow for speedy hearings and decisions.

Under the Code, WADA has the right to appeal decisions made by the IOC or IPC on any anti-doping case connected to the Games. The right of appeal is consistent with any anti-doping decision taken by signatories to the Code, which include the IOC and IPC.

When possible, the entire disciplinary procedure will take place within 24 hours from the time the athlete is informed of the violation.

Independent Observer (IO) Program

WADA will have an Independent Observer (IO) Mission in Sochi to monitor the various phases of doping control and results management processes at both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

“The Sochi Games are the eighth Olympic Games at which WADA has been invited to conduct its Independent Observer and Athlete Outreach Programs.”

Photo: SOCHI 2014
Teams are made up of experts in various anti-doping areas including athlete representation, doping control, legal matters, medical expertise and program management. These experts are expected to function as neutral observers, ensuring that appropriate procedures are followed throughout the doping control process.

The Olympics IO Mission consists of an eight-member team led by Andy Parkinson. Meanwhile, the Paralympics IO Mission consists of a four-member team led by Katharina Grimm (see pages 22-27 for Team Member biographies).

“At previous Games and other major events, independent monitoring and reporting have consistently produced unbiased, constructive feedback,” said WADA Director General David Howman.

“The IO Program instills confidence in athletes and the public, and WADA is pleased the IOC and IPC have once again invited the IO Teams to observe their Games.”

During the Games, each IO Team meets daily with their respective Games organizer (IOC or IPC) to provide input and proactively suggest on-the-spot improvements. This audit-style format was successfully piloted by WADA at the 2006 Asian Games, and subsequently introduced at other Major Events including the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games and the 2012 London Olympic Games. In addition to daily reporting, the IO Team will also provide the IOC, IPC and SOCHI 2014 with a complete final report following the Games.

“The IO Program instills confidence in athletes and the public, and WADA is pleased the IOC and IPC have once again invited the IO Teams to observe their Games.”
Athlete Outreach Program

WADA’s Athlete Outreach Program will be an active, accessible and visible presence at the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games.

An Outreach Center will be conveniently located in each Athlete Village to attract a high level of traffic throughout the sporting events.

Anti-doping experts and retired athletes recruited by WADA worldwide will staff the Centers, helping enforce the quality and credibility of the anti-doping message. Individuals on the Athlete Outreach Teams come from NADOs and IFs, and include members of WADA’s Athlete Committee (see pages 22-27 for Team Member biographies).

A relaxed, one-on-one environment will offer athletes and their entourage a great opportunity to exchange with experts and peers, and learn more about anti-doping rights and responsibilities.

WADA plans to provide innovative, interesting ways to promote the Play True message at the Sochi Games, including the interactive Play True Quiz, a computer game that offers athletes, coaches and officials a fun way to test their anti-doping knowledge. The Quiz is available in 32 languages and will once again be a core element of the Athlete Outreach Program.
Thierry Boghosian has been a member of WADA’s Science Department since 2004. His main responsibilities include managing WADA Laboratory Accreditation, conducting on-site assessments of Accredited Laboratories and interacting with stakeholders regarding issues with ISL compliance and associated technical documents.

Thierry was a member of the WADA Independent Observer Team during the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games and the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games.

Prior to joining WADA, Thierry was Laboratory Manager at the WADA Accredited UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, where he was also involved in the development and management of the Anti-Doping Laboratories at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympic Games and the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Françoise Dagouret has worked in sports administration since 1990. She completed a master’s degree in international sports management, law and humanities of sport in 2001, then joined WADA in Lausanne as a Project Manager in anti-doping communication and awareness.

From 2003–2009, Françoise was responsible for the World Archery anti-doping program, including the organization and supervision of doping control operations worldwide. In 2009, she joined the newly-established Doping-Free Sport Unit at SportAccord, the union for both Olympic and non-Olympic International Sports Federations (IFs), and organizers of international sporting events.

With her team, Françoise has contributed to the achievement of Code compliance among SportAccord membership, and has directly implemented entire or partial anti-doping programs for 28 IFs. She was a member of Independent Observer Missions at the 2002 and 2010 Winter Paralympic Games.

Rob Koehler has been an integral member of WADA’s staff since 2002. He has been largely responsible for the advances made in initiating Regional Anti-Doping Organizations around the world, including the development of anti-doping programs in 15 regions in more than 123 countries.

He was Chair of the WADA Independent Observer (IO) Team at the 2001 World Swimming Championships (Fukuoka, Japan), a member of the IO Team at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, and managed the WADA pre-Games testing programs at the 2000 Sydney Summer Olympic Games and the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games.

Rob has been working in the anti-doping field for nearly two decades. Prior to joining WADA, he worked with the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, where he was involved with the Spirit of Sport Foundation, promoting the values of fair, ethical and drug-free sport.

He was also responsible for managing doping control programs for major Games in Canada, including the 1997 Summer and 1999 Winter Canada Games, the 1999 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships and the 1999 Pan American Games.

Michèle Mercier joined WADA in 2008, working with WADA’s Executive Office and Legal Department for more than four years before joining the Program Development Team in February 2013.

Her primary responsibility is the management of grant programs to assist the development of Regional Anti-Doping Organizations.

Michèle has been involved in coordinating several WADA meetings and events around the world, and is currently studying part-time to complete her master’s degree in business administration.
Andy Parkinson is the Chief Executive Officer of UK Anti-Doping. Prior to this role, he worked at UK Sport as Director of Drug-Free Sport, where he managed the UK’s national anti-doping program and oversaw the transition of anti-doping responsibilities to UK Anti-Doping.

Andy has worked in sport for more than 15 years. In 2003, he joined the International Paralympic Committee as Medical and Scientific Director, and in 2006 was named Head of Operations for UK Sport.

He played an active role in WADA’s Independent Observer Program at the 2008 Beijing Summer Paralympic Games (Team member), the 2009 Games of the Small States of Europe (Chai) and the 2010 Tour de France (Co-Chair).

In May 2012, Andy was elected Chair of the Ad hoc European Governments’ Committee for WADA (CAHAMA).

Huw Roberts is currently Legal Counsel to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the world governing body for Athletics. He is responsible for all aspects of the International Federation’s regulatory affairs, disciplinary matters and litigation/arbitration.


Huw has a particular expertise in anti-doping matters and regularly represents the IAAF in doping appeals before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

This is Huw’s second time serving as legal representative on the Independent Observer Team, having previously performed this role at the 2006 Turin Winter Olympic Games.

Tim Ricketts joined WADA in July 2013 as Deputy Director, Standards and Harmonization. Prior to this role, he worked 10 years in Dublin as the Anti-Doping Manager for the International Rugby Board.

Tim started in Anti-Doping in 1992, after completing his university studies in sports science and sports administration at the University of Canberra. His first position was Doping Control Officer and Administrator with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority.

He went on to become Anti-Doping Manager at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Paralympic Games and the 2000 Sydney Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sochi will be Tim’s third Independent Observer (IO) Mission, having been an IO Team Member at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games and the 2010 Tour de France.

Annelies Vandenberghe is an active player on the Belgium National Korfball Team. She won a silver medal at the World Games in 2005 (Duisburg), 2009 (Kaohsiung) and 2013 (Cali), and at the World Championship in 2007 (Brno) and 2011 (Shaoxing).

Currently, Annelies is preparing for the 2015 World Championship, which will be held in her home country of Belgium.

She graduated from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven with a master’s of science in physical education and kinesiology in 2006, and received her doctorate in biomedical sciences in 2011.

Annelies works as a Physical Activity Specialist at the Flemish Institute of Health Promotion and as Physical Coach for the Belgian National Youth Korfball Teams.

She is a member of the International Korfball Federation’s Athlete Committee and WADA’s Athlete Committee.
Merita BRUUN
Finland
Information and Anti-Doping Manager
International Floorball Federation

Merita Bruun joined the International Floorball Federation (IFF) in 2005 and began her anti-doping career in 2006. She has worked in the field of Therapeutic Use Exemptions, testing, results management and compliance, and anti-doping information and education. In addition to anti-doping, Merita also oversees IFF communication and ParaFloorball activities.

Merita was responsible for launching the IFF Say NO! to Doping campaign in 2010, which has since been featured at a total of nine IFF events including six World Floorball Championships. She is currently a member of WADA’s Education Committee.

She played ice hockey and American football for the Finnish national team.

Eva BUNTHOFF
Germany
Director, Public Relations
National Anti-Doping Agency Germany

Eva Bunthoff joined the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) Germany in 2010, initially as a member of the Communication and Prevention Team. She was responsible for various communication projects and had a major role in media relations, coordinating press conferences and the annual media workshop.

She also contributed to NADA’s marketing, further developing the Agency’s website, and implementing social media networking tools to help NADA Germany reach its target groups in a new, innovative manner.

Eva was named Director, Public Relations in 2013, and is responsible for all of NADA’s communications. She manages public and media inquiries, and manages the communications between the Agency and its various stakeholder groups.

Eva studied at the Universities of Hamburg and Copenhagen, and has a degree in sport science, with a focus on media and economics.

Tania Elias CALLES WOLF
Mexico
Advisor and Sailing Coach
SEMAR Mexico

Tania Elias Calles Wolf joined the Mexican Navy in September 2013 as an Advisor and Sailing Coach.

The project’s goal is to introduce and develop the sport of sailing in several schools around Mexico. The program is open to children aged 6–18 as a free sporting activity. The challenge is to create future world-class athletes with the support of Navy infrastructure and personnel.

Tania is finding her involvement to be a great experience and full on responsibility. She is pleased to offer her expertise and collaborate in an endeavor of such great vision and purpose for her country.

Tania is a three time Olympian in Sailing, and has been a member of WADA’s Athlete Committee since 2012.

She graduated from the Universidad Iberoamericana in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering.

In June 2013, Tania became a published author. Her autobiography “El Desafío” recounts her life as an athlete, specifically the goals she set and the challenges she faced in the pursuit of Olympic glory.

Venera ABDULLA
Kazakhstan
Manager
Central Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization
Kazakhstan National Anti-Doping Centre

Venera Abdulla is Manager of the Central Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization in Almaty, Kazakhstan and, as of 2009, is also the International Doping Control Officer (DCO) for the Kazakhstan National Anti-Doping Centre.

She has served as an anti-doping official at several major sport events. During the 2011 Asian Winter Games she was Doping Control Station Manager.

Venera also worked as an International DCO at the following major sport events: 2009 Asian Indoor Games (Hanoi), 2011 IAAF World Championships (Daegu), 2011 World Championship Kurash (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), 2012 Asian Championships in Taekwondo (Tashkent) and the 2013 AIBA World Boxing Championships (Almaty).

She also participated in the 2012 WADA-CHINADA Anti-Doping Education Symposium in Shanghai and was a member of the Play True Generation Team at the 2013 Asian Youth Games (Nanjing).

Bo-I David CHEN
Chinese Taipei
Senior Doping Control Officer
Chinese Taipei Anti-Doping Agency

David Chen joined the Chinese Taipei Anti-Doping Agency (CTADA) in 2005. His primary work at CTADA is to implement and conduct the doping control process.

With a sport communication and education background, David has given several lectures on anti-doping education programs to athletes, Physical Education teachers and coaching staff.

David holds a master’s degree in health and physical education and a doctorate in sport management (with the focus on sport communication and media). He is currently on the faculty of the Graduate Institute of Sport Pedagogy, University of Taipei.

Erik GALAS
Canada
Manager, Anti-Doping Intelligence
Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport

Erik Galas graduated from McGill University with a bachelor’s degree in physical and health education, and a minor in political science.

After graduating, he joined the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) as a two-sport varsity athlete (American Football and Basketball) with professional experience in the Canadian Football League and with American Football in Germany.

Since that time, Erik has been a member of the CCES Testing and Results Teams, while leading the development of Centre’s work in the areas of Intelligence and Investigations. CCES’ Intelligence and Investigations capacity has focused on partnership development with law enforcement agencies and other external partners to enhance procedural efficiencies of data collection and analysis to increase the pursuit of non-analytical anti-doping rule violations in Canada.

Eva Bunthoff joined the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) Germany in 2010, initially as a member of the Communication and Prevention Team. She was responsible for various communication projects and had a major role in media relations, coordinating press conferences and the annual media workshop.

She also contributed to NADA’s marketing, further developing the Agency’s website, and implementing social media networking tools to help NADA Germany reach its target groups in a new, innovative manner.

Eva was named Director, Public Relations in 2013, and is responsible for all of NADA’s communications. She manages public and media inquiries, and manages the communications between the Agency and its various stakeholder groups.

Eva studied at the Universities of Hamburg and Copenhagen, and has a degree in sport science, with a focus on media and economics.
Dr. Victoria Ley is the Director of the Education and Research Department at the Spanish Agency for the Protection of Health in Sport (formerly Spanish Anti-Doping Agency), where her main responsibility is the development and promotion of education and scientific research projects, and outreach.

Victoria has represented Spain on the Council of Europe’s Monitoring Group and the Ad hoc European Committee for WADA (CAHAMA), and was appointed a member of the Anti-Doping Convention (Council of Europe) Monitoring Group on the evaluation process in Moscow (December 3–5, 2013).

Prior to joining the Agency, she worked as a research scientist in biochemistry and as Director of the Spanish Evaluation and Foresight Agency.

Captivated by the Olympic Spirit, Lirong Ren started her career in sport after graduating from university in 2001.

Lirong worked with the Chinese Olympic Committee and the IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission for 11 years before deciding to take on the challenge of opening the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) office in Lausanne.

During her service with the NOC and IOC, Lirong was involved in the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, Universiades, Asian Games and other major sport events.

Administration of the IWUF’s anti-doping program became part of her responsibilities in 2012, enriching Lirong’s sport administration experiences.

Veronika Loginova began her career in anti-doping in 2010 as a Results Management Specialist in the Therapeutic Use and Exemptions Department at the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA). In 2011, she was put in charge of RUSADA’s Educational Programs Department.

She is responsible for conducting seminars for different target groups (athletes, coaches and sport doctors), issuing informational materials and implementing different kinds of educational programs.

Veronika helped organize and conduct Athlete Outreach Programs during pre-testing for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, at the 2013 Summer Universiade (Kazan), the 2013 IAAF World Championships (Moscow) and 2013 World Combat Games (Saint Petersburg).

Her experience also includes coordinating athlete education in Registered Testing Pools and ADAMS.

Stacy Spletzer-Jegen joined WADA in 2001, overseeing the development and implementation of athlete and outreach activities, initially in Lausanne and now in Montreal.

Prior to joining WADA, Stacy worked for the U.S. Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs, and later relocated to Sydney to work for the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC). There she implemented a national anti-doping awareness program, raising awareness across Australia by using the AOC’s top sportspeople as role models. Much of WADA’s Athlete Outreach Program is based on this program.

Stacy is a Chicago native, and holds an undergraduate degree in communications and a master’s degree in sport management from Northern Illinois University. She lives in Montreal with her husband Tom and four year old daughter Margaret.

Born in Switzerland, Nadège Veintimilla joined the world of anti-doping in 2002 as Coordinator of the Biological Passport Program for Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). In her nine years with UCI, she has had many different responsibilities and has contributed to the development and growth of the Anti-Doping Department and future Cycling Anti-Doping Foundation.

In 2012, Nadège became Anti-Doping and Medical Manager at the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) where she reorganized, consolidated and set the objectives for her department. She also implemented the FIVB’s Athlete Outreach Program at volleyball competitions.

Nadège holds a specialist in management and leadership diploma. Her mother tongue is French, but she is also fluent in English and Spanish. She loves all types of sports including skiing, swimming, sailing, biking and trekking.
Ying Cui started her career in anti-doping in 1998 at the General Administration of Sport of China, later accepting a position at the Chinese Olympic Committee Anti-Doping Commission (COCADC), the predecessor of the China Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA).

She attended the first International Summit on Drugs in Sport, held in Sydney in November 1999, where the International Intergovernmental Consultative Group on Anti-Doping in Sport (IICGADS) was established. She has since attended all IICGADS meetings and a majority of WADA Foundation Board meetings.

Ying joined WADA in 2005 and was involved in WADA’s Independent Observer Missions at the 2009 World Games (Kaohsiung), the 2010 Asian Summer Games (Guangzhou) and the 2011 All Africa Games (Maputo).

She has a master’s degree in sport management from the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta.

Hong has more than two decades of experience working in the General Administration of Sport of China (Sport Ministry) with profound knowledge in the field of sport education and anti-doping.

She has participated in numerous international multi-sport events, including Summer and Winter Olympic Games, Summer and Winter Asian Games, World Games, East Asian Games, Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, Asian Beach Games, and Asian Youth Games.

She is currently serving on the WADA Education Committee and Olympic Council of Asia Anti-Doping Commission.

Dr. Katharina Grimm currently works as the Director of Medical Affairs at the Aspetar-Qatar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, one of the world’s leading sport medicine facilities.

She headed the Federation International de Football (FIFA) Medical Office for six years. During that time she worked as a FIFA Medical Officer at several women’s, youth and senior World Cup events.

Katharina has been a member of the FIFA TUE Advisory Group, and is currently a member of the African Football Confederation’s TUE Committee and a member of WADA’s TUE Expert Group. She is also Chair of the International Federation of Sports Medicine (IFSM) Interfederal Commission and a member of the IFSM Executive Committee.

She holds a master of science in medicine (sports medicine) from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and has a diploma in the management of nonprofit organizations from the Institute for NPO Management, University of Fribourg.

Cyril Troussard currently serves as the Head of the Legal Department at the French National Anti-Doping Agency (AFLD). He is in charge of the results management process and the prosecution of domestic doping violations including providing legal advice, drafting decisions and preparing written submissions in administrative disputes.

Prior to joining the former AFLD in October 2005, Cyril worked in the field of criminal law as a legal assistant for the Ministry of Justice, and for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

He has a pre-doctoral research degree in private law from the University of Burgundy, a master’s degree in criminal law from the University of Montpellier and a certificate of sports law from the University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne.
ATHLETE OUTREACH TEAM

Catherine COLEY
Canada
Manager, Communications
WADA

Catherine Coley has been a member of WADA’s Communications Department since 2009. Her responsibilities include managing WADA’s Web site, supporting outreach activities and media relations, and coordinating communications with the Agency’s various stakeholder groups.

A former competitive swimmer, Catherine still enjoys taking part in several sports.

This will be her fourth Paralympic Athlete Outreach experience.

Vitalie IGNATENCO
Republic of Moldova
Sport Physician
Doping Control Officer

Dr. Vitalie Ignatenco is a sport physician and president of the National Olympic Committee Medical Commission for the Republic of Moldova.

Vitalie was a team doctor at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games. In 2010, he received his Doping Control Officer certification and has since overseen doping control tests in sport competitions within Moldova.

He is a graduate of USMF Kishinev.

Tanja KARI
Finland
Program Manager, TRAILS
Paralympic Sport Club Salt Lake City
University of Utah Rehabilitation Center

Tanja Kari is Program Manager of Therapeutic Recreation And Independent Lifestyles (TRAILS), a comprehensive outreach program for people with spinal cord injuries or disease. TRAILS is designed to prepare individuals of all ability levels to engage in active living through recreational experiences.

Tanja is a 10-time Paralympic gold medalist in Cross-Country Skiing and 10-time World Championships medalist (nine gold, one silver) who retired after the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Paralympic Games. In 2010, she was inducted into the Paralympic Hall of Fame.

She is a member of the International Paralympians Association Working Group and has been a member of WADA’s Athlete Committee and the International Paralympic Committee’s Anti-Doping Committee, Athletes’ Council and Nordic Skiing Committee.

Tanja has a master’s degree in exercise, sport and health sciences from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

David MÜLLER
Austria
Head of Prevention, Education and Public Affairs, Quality Manager
NADA Austria

David Müller joined the Nationale Anti-Doping Agentur Austria (NADA Austria) one month after its formation in August 2008.

Since then, he has become responsible for the Prevention and Education Program and Public Affairs, and is NADA Austria’s Quality Manager. As of 2009, he is also a lecturer for the University of Vienna.

Key components of his projects for NADA Austria are utilization of online tools and working directly with all target groups.

This will be David’s second time participating in a WADA Athlete Outreach Program, having taken part in the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games (Innsbruck).

He is currently completing a doctoral thesis on “Doping and doping-equivalent behavior.”
Partner Profile

RUSADA: Preparing for Russia’s Big Moment

With the XXII Winter Games finally upon us, responsibility rests firmly on the SOCHI 2014 Organizing Committee to manage the practical implementation of the Games IOC and the IPC Anti-Doping Programs. This being a traditional authority delegation scheme, it is clear that strong anti-doping programs can only be worked on and carried out through a collaboration of organizations, ideas, and efforts.

Work led by SOCHI 2014 is supported by the national anti-doping system, which is applicable to the Russian sports community at both the national and international level. Directed by the IOC and the IPC, SOCHI 2014 relies equally on the anti-doping policies of the Russian Government and the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation, including those provided by the national project plan that was adopted specially in the lead up to the Sochi Games.

The Sochi 2014 Project Plan was approved by the Government of the Russian Federation and received a priority national program status at the initiative of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Kozak. Following its adoption, various amendments to the Russian legislation were made, including adjustments to customs-related legislation in order to facilitate cross-border transportation of sample collection equipment and biological material for doping control purposes.

Along with national legislation enhancement, the Sochi 2014 Project Plan – including general anti-doping policies of the Russian Federation – embraced anti-doping information and education, testing programs, personnel training, national and international communications, most of which are implemented on a daily basis by the national anti-doping organization, the Russian Anti-Doping Agency “RUSADA”.

For the ambitious Sochi 2014 Games project, RUSADA has been intimately involved in the team throughout the preliminary stages, specifically through rendering assistance in the field of education, information and Doping Control Personnel training.

RUSADA supports SOCHI 2014 anti-doping policies through education sessions for national and international athletes by preparing a special edition of education materials, and rendering consultations to any interested athletes.

The Doping Control Personnel training has formed an important part of cooperation between RUSADA and SOCHI 2014 in relation to the Games. Nearly 500 people will be engaged as Doping Control Station Managers, Doping Control Officers, Phlebotomists and Chaperones, the majority of whom have been specifically trained by both SOCHI 2014 and RUSADA.

With a vast amount of experience in the field, RUSADA supports SOCHI 2014 anti-doping policies through education sessions for national and international athletes by preparing a special edition of education materials and rendering consultations to any interested athletes. It was with that level of support from RUSADA, coupled with funding from the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation, that SOCHI 2014 successfully organized a number of Outreach Programs for the international athlete community during 2012 and 2013 Test Events at Sochi Olympic venues. The WADA Athlete Outreach Program has proven to be an effective and appealing
tool for the athletes and their personnel to learn, through both intellectual and exciting competition.

In view of Sochi 2014, RUSADA’s testing initiatives – which were implemented in 2011 - have also proven to be in high demand. The testing program conducted by RUSADA has ensured increased testing efficiency in Russia. In relation to the Winter Games, RUSADA’s experience will be used to its full potential by the Intelligence Task Force, an ad hoc working panel designed to function under the auspices of the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation, which will also include the participation of the Russian governmental bodies, IOC, WADA, SOCHI 2014 and RUSADA.

At the international level, the multilateral cooperation of SOCHI 2014, IOC, IPC, WADA and RUSADA as carried out over the past two years has also proved extremely efficient. This cooperation facilitated a number of international education and information projects, and ensured participation of the SOCHI 2014 collaborating parties and RUSADA at each and every one of the preliminary stages, helping bring the sports community closer to the sports celebration of the Sochi 2014 Games.

“When I am asked for my predictions of anti-doping rule violations at Sochi 2014, I respond that it is in the athlete’s interest and it is the athlete’s responsibility to stay clean”, said Igor Zagorskiy, RUSADA Deputy Director for International Cooperation.

“One can only do one’s best in letting all the participants realize well in advance the importance of competing fairly. We are doing our best, and hope for a clean Games”.

[Photo: RUSADA]

(RUSADA (from left to right) - Mr. Nikita Kamaev, RUSADA Executive Director; Dr. Ramil Khabriev, RUSADA Director General; and Ms. Natalia Zhelanova, Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation, Head of Department for Anti-Doping and Intersectional Cooperation)
Interview

Dr. Richard Budgett

Play True magazine met with IOC Medical Director and former Olympic Gold Medalist Dr. Richard Budgett OBE as he approaches his first Games since beginning his post in Lausanne.

Dr. Richard Budgett has a list of accomplishments that even the hardest to please would be impressed by. Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Rowing Gold Medalist, Team Doctor for the British Bobsleigh Team, Chief Medical Officer for Team GB in three consecutive Games and Chief Medical Officer for London 2012 all feature highly on the 54-year-old Scot’s CV.

It is his current role, however, that must be seen as the pinnacle of Budgett’s post-rowing career. Now fully settled in his role as Director of the IOC’s Medical and Science Department in Lausanne, Budgett sat down with Play True ahead of Sochi 2014 to explain what awaits him at the XXII Winter Games.

You arrived in your current role as the Director of the IOC’s Medical and Scientific Department in October 2012 – how have the first 16 months been?

It has been a busy and productive first 16 months. During this time, much of my focus has been on Sochi, which I have visited on a number of occasions. In fact, my first visit to Sochi was during my first month in the role. In the time since then I have seen dramatic changes, particularly due to the fact they are doing so much building and development there – there has been a great deal of progress in a very short space of time.

“The Winter Games in Sochi will be your first Games in the IOC role – what will be your main responsibilities in the lead-up to, and during, the competition?”

I am responsible for the medical preparation, the anti-doping preparation and the public health, as well as ensuring that the organizing committee puts the appropriate programs and safeguards in place. I will work with the local health authorities, anti-doping body (in this case RUSADA) and laboratory, and I will be monitoring their progress on a regular basis. In the IOC we have certain milestones each of these bodies has to reach, so I will be ensuring that they all achieve what is required as we approach Games-time.

2014 will be seen by many as Sochi’s year – the Winter Olympics, a Formula 1 race – from an anti-doping perspective, what will be the main challenges at the Games?

I’m glad to say that the National Anti-Doping Organization RUSADA has made huge progress over the last five years, so I am very lucky to have inherited an anti-doping organization that really is on an upward trajectory. It is working very efficiently, training good Doping Control Officers (DCOs), it has a very active program, so that means that the actual delivery of anti-doping services of the team on the ground led by Alexei Slautin has every chance of being excellent. RUSADA now has a good number of DCOs – more than the 120 we need – with appropriate experience.

“In the IOC we have certain milestones the relevant bodies have to reach. so I will be ensuring that they all achieve what is required as we approach Games-time.”

In addition, when it comes to the missions that will take place outside the Olympic venues, we have got a good partner to help organize those, and to help channel the intelligence we desperately need in the lead-up to the Games itself. This means we can carry out effective testing from weeks before the Games right up until the start. This will help ensure our test distribution plan is as effective as it can be – that is one of my main responsibilities.
The main challenge is the sheer scale of the operation, and the fact that the laboratory has to move from Moscow down to Sochi. Of course, the laboratory has been under much inspection of late so we are hoping everything runs smoothly. It is a brand new laboratory in Moscow, a brand new laboratory in Sochi with good scientists, good machines, so come Games time they will have lots of experts in place. An event of this magnitude is always challenging, but I am confident it will all come off smoothly.

You have been an anti-doping advocate for a long time – where did this interest stem from?

Well, as an athlete I was tested. Then, as a team doctor I was involved on the coal face educating athletes and acting as the accompanying person in doping control stations. My interest was always there during the time I spent on the IOC Medical Commission games group overseeing the anti-doping programs in Beijing and Vancouver. I also gained a great insight from joining the WADA List Committee in 2005. Chairing the committee for a number of years gave me a good background into the whole structure of WADA, the way that the list is put together and the challenges that face the anti-doping community as a whole.

Having been an elite athlete, did you have a particularly strong stance on anti-doping?

I think as a former athlete you do empathize more with current athletes; I certainly find myself being more fundamental in my anti-doping stance. We have absolutely no tolerance for doping in the IOC, or in any of the other organizations that I have worked for, but having been an athlete and a team doctor, it affects you in terms of how you might feel threatened by other athletes who are cheating. You begin to feel quite passionate about it, as opposed to simply regarding it as an intellectual exercise and taking the view that it is about athlete health and the rules of sport.

Looking to the future – where do you think the main focus for anti-doping lies?

I think the main challenge is to get one of our most effective tools working, which is the Athlete Biological Passport. I say this both for the Steroidal Passport and for blood parameter (the Haematological Passport). If we can get the passport working efficiently alongside an international intelligence unit, we will catch more of those who are cheating. Then we will really start to win this battle.
Ben Sandford: The Rugged Individualist

*Play True* magazine met with two-time Olympian in skeleton racing and WADA Athlete Committee member Ben Sandford, who has been in intensive training for Sochi 2014.


This characterization of New Zealanders is shaped by a pioneer culture and a complex landscape that features miles of coastline, cascading glaciers, erupting volcanoes, placid lakes and vast mountain ranges.

Elite winter sports athlete Ben Sandford is every inch the product of this environment.

Tall, with angular features, clear blue eyes and an enviable mane of dark, curly hair, this Kiwi has made some tough choices on his journey to pursuing his passion for skeleton racing.

His first four years competing in the sport were challenging. Ben relocated to Canada to train in Calgary. As skeleton is not a professional sport with the level of visibility required to attract significant sponsorship revenue, Ben covered his costs by saving tips from his waiting job, bunking with old friends and new, and living out of a backpack.

Usually soft-spoken and reserved, Ben becomes animated when sharing his love of skeleton and his commitment to be proactive in getting sport and anti-doping issues on the table.

He comes from a family of athletes, and was introduced to skeleton racing by his Uncle Bruce at the age of 12. Though Ben didn’t pursue skeleton seriously until years later, the early memories of hurtling down the handmade, rough-hewn ice track his uncle had built him have remained.

And just like his uncle, Ben never set any limit on what was possible.

Bruce Sandford competed in skeleton during the late 1980s and early 1990s, winning a gold medal at the 1992 World Championships. Twenty years later, Ben would win the bronze medal at the 2012 World Championships. Up to that point, his uncle had been the only individual from the Southern Hemisphere to medal in bobsleigh, luge or skeleton at the Winter Olympic or World Championship level.

What was it like growing up in New Zealand? Did you do a lot of sports?

I grew up in Rotorua in the middle of the North Island, in a house right on the lake. The coast was 40 minutes away, so I would often spend my weekends at the beach.

Summers were spent outdoors, swimming, sailing and playing cricket – that was my passion as a child. Winters were devoted to rugby (the national sport). My Dad told me I could play any winter sport I liked as long as it was rugby!

I played from age five to 15, but never really made progress. Rugby wasn't my sport. I was a skinny kid, and often got “the bash” from the other, bigger players.

What about your family?

My family has always been active in sports. Dad was into boating and sailing – and rugby, of course! Mom played volleyball for New Zealand back in the ‘70s and my aunt played squash for Jordan. My Uncle Bruce got me into skeleton.

Why skeleton?

Skeleton looked like an amazing sport, and was always in the back of my mind. My uncle had done skeleton and was good, so I thought why not me too?
I asked my uncle for advice on how to get started in skeleton. He wrote me a top secret ‘skeleton manual’, helped me get into a week-long skeleton school in Austria, gave me his old helmet and a speed suit, then sent me on my way.

When I tried the sport I absolutely loved it. I thought it was the most “crazy-unique” thing ever! I knew from that moment that skeleton would be something I would be doing for a long time.

My uncle made me think of skeleton as an intellectual challenge, to a certain degree. In his manual, he described how he would look at the lines and analyze the tracks.

So, I spent a lot of time looking at the ice and walking the tracks, and as much time as possible sliding.

You were a bronze medalist at the 2012 World Championships, and are always in the top 10 – what are your goals for the Sochi Games?

The ultimate goal is to win a medal at Sochi – the further up the podium, the better!

So much in skeleton, and sport in general, comes down to how you perform on the day. For Sochi I need to be in good shape, having gotten good results in the season, and be sliding and pushing well.

I might not be one of the favorites to win a medal, but I am close enough that if I have a couple of good days, I could win one – which is a good place to be.

One fact people probably don’t know about you: you hold a law degree – has this been useful to you?

For a long time I thought that I should have done something more practical than law. It’s hard to transfer one’s legal skills internationally, compared to a profession such as being a builder.

However, the longer I have been in sport the more I have realized how important my law degree is, and how much it has helped me – especially my involvement in athlete commissions.

What are your plans after Sochi?

I will probably retire after Sochi.

I will definitely consider working in the sports field, perhaps combining my legal background. My father is a lawyer, but I don’t see myself writing contracts full time. I will find the niche that interests me the most. I’m open to all suggestions, including the anti-doping field.

(continued on page 34)
What led to your involvement in WADA's Athlete Committee?

It was a gradual process. I had been involved with the International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation (FIBT) for a very long time, which led to the New Zealand Olympic Athletes' Commission (NZOC) and then WADA.

Athletes have an important part to play in deciding how their sports are run, and what impact decisions have on them. WADA is obviously an organization that has a lot of impact on athletes.

Coming into the anti-doping world, it's been pleasing to see how well it is run, but I also think it is really important that athletes are there when decisions are made, in order to give their own perspective.

There is always room for improvement. As with the Code revision, ADAMS or creating anti-doping information, athletes should be involved. As the end users, we need to be there to explain, "this will work for me, that won't work for me."

How aware were you of doping growing up? Was it something you had a strong view on?

When I was young and my uncle was competing, I wasn’t aware of doping. The first time I heard about doping was in ’88, with Ben Johnson. It still bothers me today, because as time passes, you learn that seven of the eight guys in the race had been caught doping.

Do you realize that young athletes look up to you as a role model, and that you have a responsibility in that sense?

I don’t know if people set out in their sporting career to become role models, but it is something you have to step into.

I am very aware of my reputation as a clean athlete, and as an athlete from New Zealand. As part of that, I am very aware of being a role model. But I feel like being a role model is so much bigger than who I am. To me, I am just an athlete. For someone to think of me as a role model is very flattering.

One of the coolest experiences I have ever had as an athlete was going to primary schools in New Zealand, and getting to talk to kids about skeleton, especially after the Olympics. They were so happy to have an Olympian there.

I don’t know if they are going to remember me two weeks or two years from now, but I know that as a kid who grew up loving sport, I can remember every single athlete who came to my school.

As a role model, I make it a priority to encourage fair play.

What would you say to a young athlete considering doping?

Don’t do it, it’s not worth it! You don’t have to cheat to get to the top of your sport. You just have to work hard, and you will get there.

I know that when I am on the podium, or when I finish in the top 10, I have earned that. I am completely honest, I am completely clean.