

## **Under 23 cyclists' openness to doping: understanding the causes of doping behaviour among American junior road cyclists with professional aspirations**

This research examines the possible ways professional aspirations are a cause of doping in sport. The goal of this project is to provide a better understanding of the relationship between professional aspirations and openness to doping among junior athletes. Most junior cyclists with the potential for professional careers are self-developed and have little contact with organized anti-doping education programs. For this reason, it is necessary to understand the link that junior cyclists may be making between successes within a specific sport and doping. Using traditional anthropological techniques the research team will collect data from collegiate cycling programs as well as a national development team. These two groups will provide a comparative sample between self-developed Under 23 cyclists (U23) with limited doping education and U23 cyclists who are participating in a national development program that has anti-doping as an aspect of its training. Athletes with professional aspirations from both groups will be interviewed and surveyed concerning their openness to doping.