



Concussion Reporting, Removal

Pulling back the curtain on collective influences to concussion reporting and removal from play in youth sport

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Social Sciences and Humanities
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Contemporary landscape of concussion reporting and removal in youth sport

- Legislation, education, social marketing campaigns in support of the effective management of concussion
- Yet, continued underreporting and compromised likelihood of removal from play (Bretzin et al., 2022; Cusimano et al., 2017; Salmon et al., 2021)
- Reluctance to self-report or remove increases risk for further injury and longer recovery (Eliason et al., 2023; Howell et al., 2020; McLendon et al., 2016)



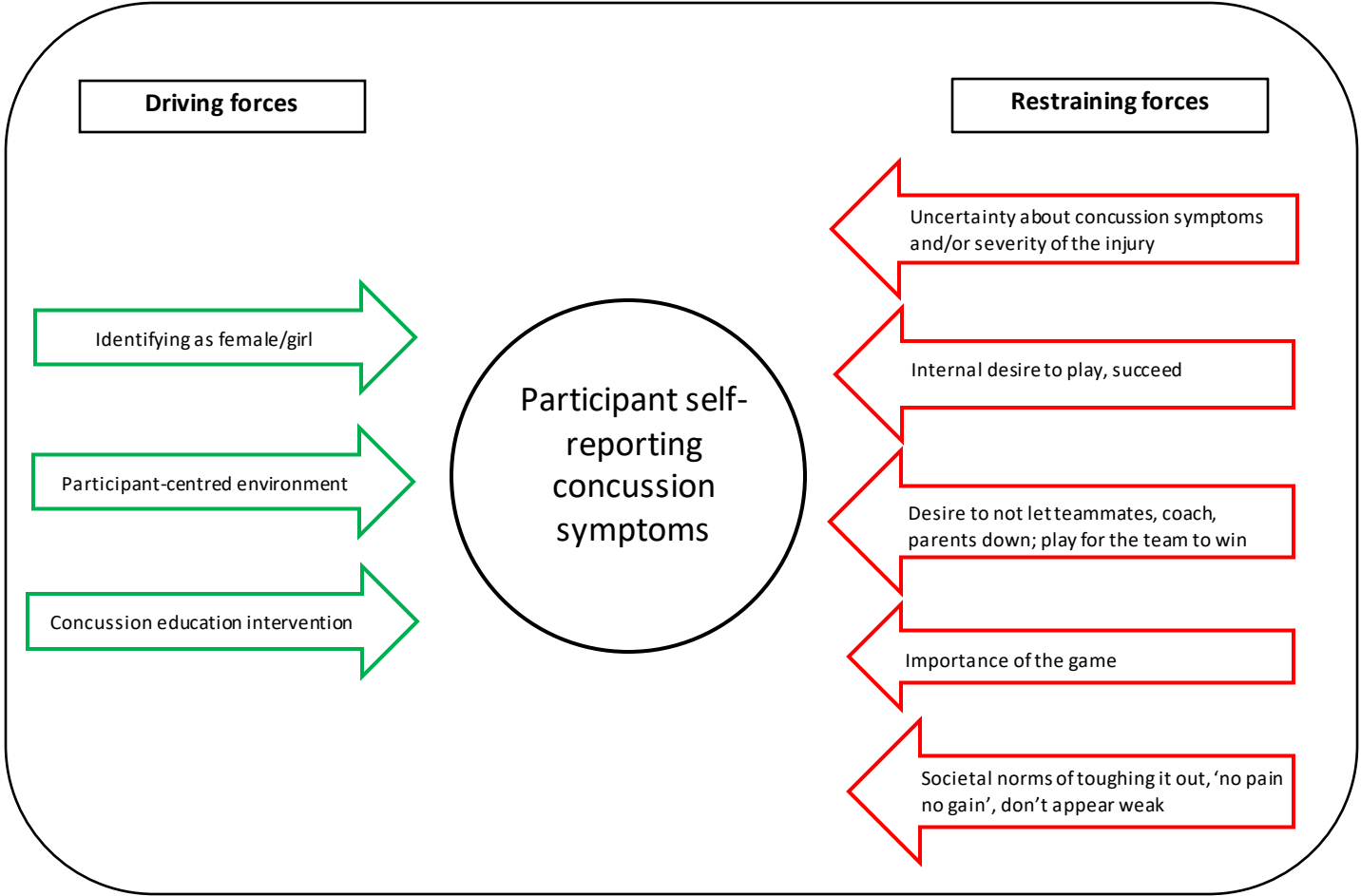


Our transdisciplinary research project

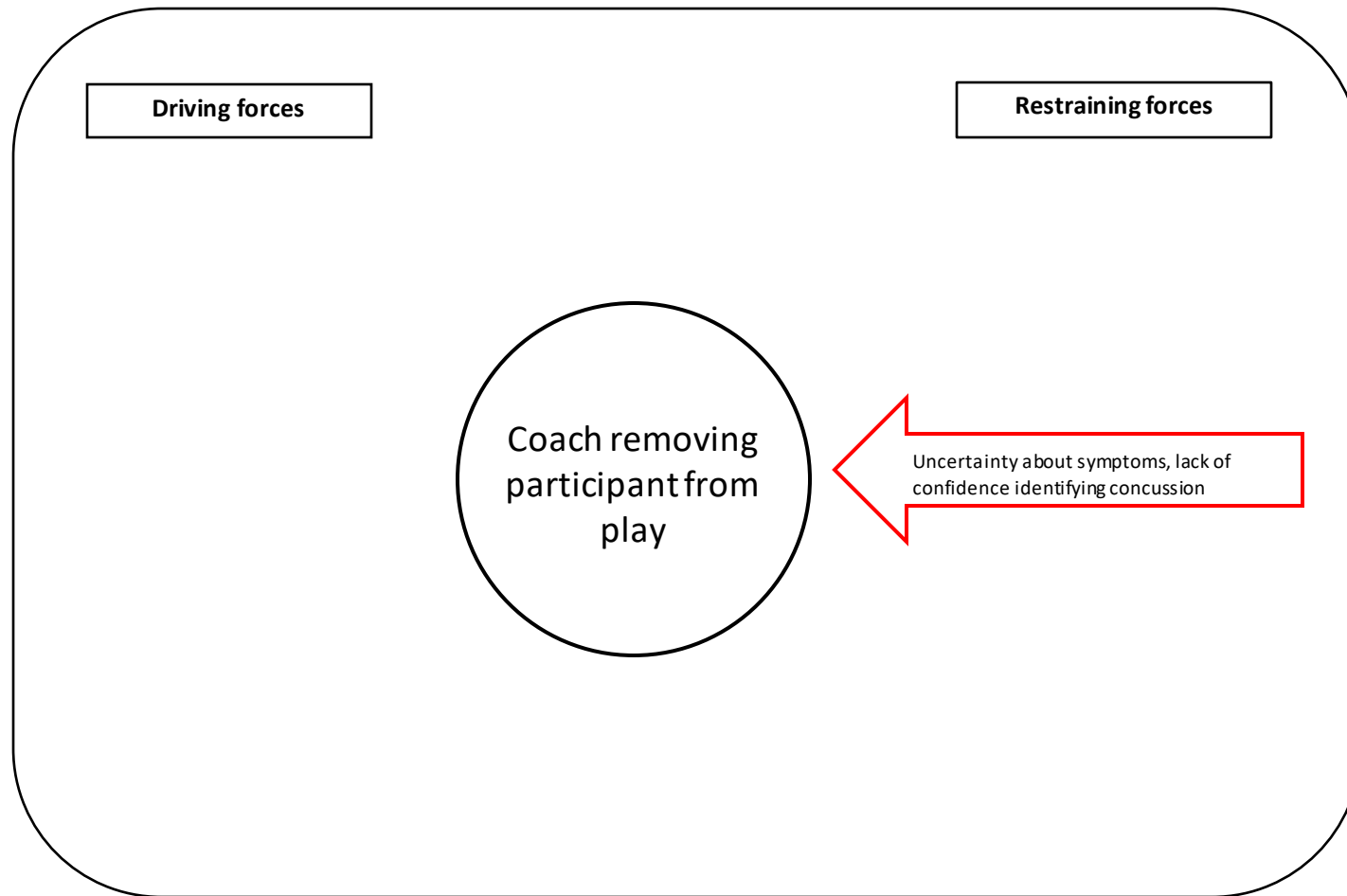
(with Jeffrey Caron, Stephanie Cowle, Debra Gassewitz, Annette Greenhow, Johnny Misley, Kaleigh Pennock, Brendan Riggan, Parissa Safai, Shannon Sibbald, Mercedes Watson)

- Identify the actors and factors associated with reporting/removal
- Youth sport (12-17 years of age), Club sport
- Realist review of peer-reviewed research revealed patterns of influence to reporting and removal
 - 64 research articles, variety of sports, 8 countries (predominantly US, Canada)
 - Patterns of influence – minimum 3 studies reporting evidence of an influence
 - Influences to sport participants' and coaches' behaviour only

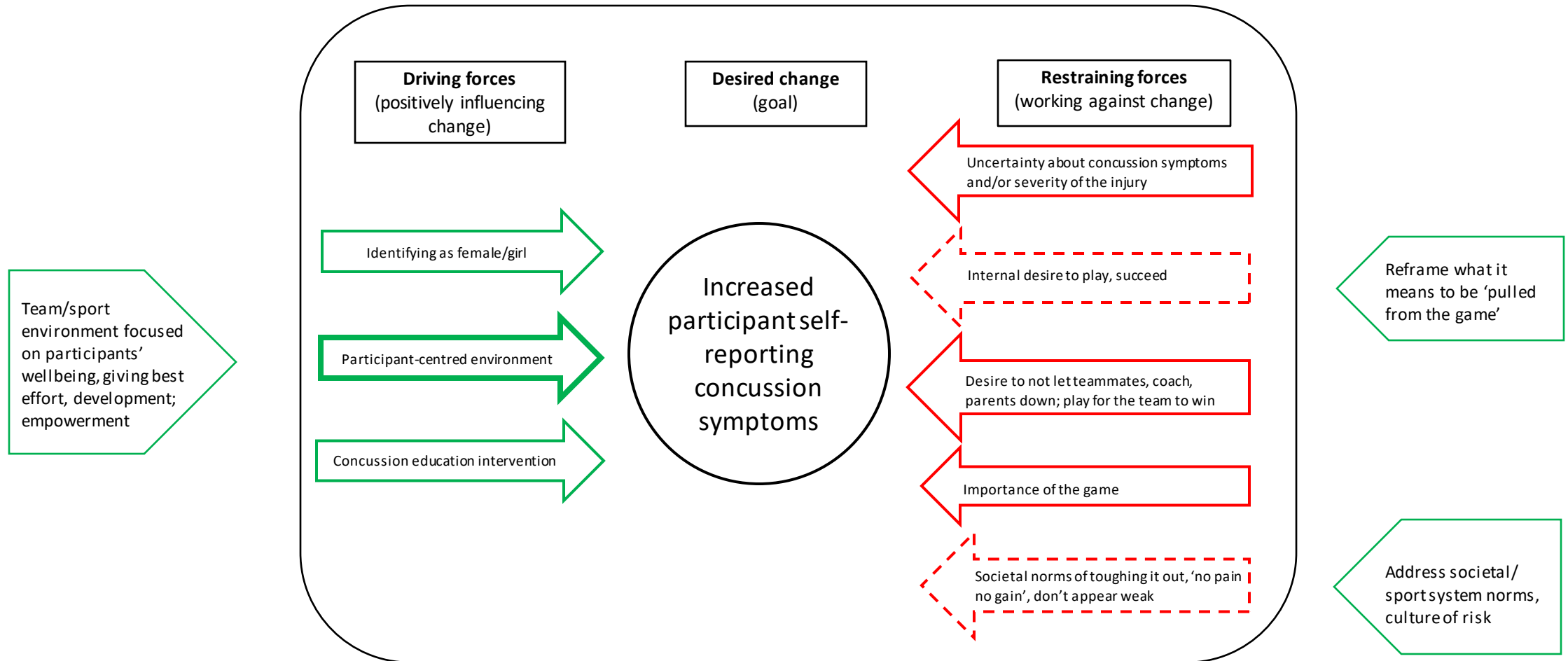
Collective and multi-level influences to participants self-reporting concussion symptoms



Influences to coaches removing participant with suspected concussion from play



“Force field” for change



Implications for policy and practice

- Driving and restraining influences to reporting/removal is a critical part of:
 - Conversation about concussion management, injury prevention
 - Implementation of concussion guidelines and protocols
- Human/social factors must be considered
 - Friction, conflict
 - Mis/alignment with policy and practice
 - The myth of compliance





Recommendations for future research

Continued investigation of influences to other key actors reporting/removing youth sport participants from play:

- Coaches
- Parents
- Trainers
- On-field officials
- Fellow sport participants



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