

Nowinski in Vox: Youth tackle football will be considered unthinkable 50 years from now



Vox's *Hindsight 2070* series poses the question to 15 experts: "What do we do now that will be considered unthinkable in 50 years?" Concussion Legacy Foundation CEO Chris Nowinski, Ph.D wrote, "As a neuroscientist and a former college football player, I'm most concerned with the two-thirds of American tackle football players who are children and particularly susceptible to harm. The brain changes tremendously on the journey from birth to adulthood. Any form of trauma can change the brain, and thus change the child."

"Children as young as 9 are getting hit in the head more than 500 times in one season," Nowinski continued. "That should not feel normal to us...Parents have to ask hard questions when their child wants to play tackle football. Are the benefits of youth tackle football worth risking the lifelong health of your brain? A better question - can a child make that choice?"

[Read the full feature here.](#)

Learn why Flag Football Under 14 is the best choice

Former Minnesota Duluth hockey captain Andrew Carroll diagnosed with CTE

Andrew Carroll, who played in the AHL and ECHL after his UMD career, was diagnosed with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) by researchers at the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank.

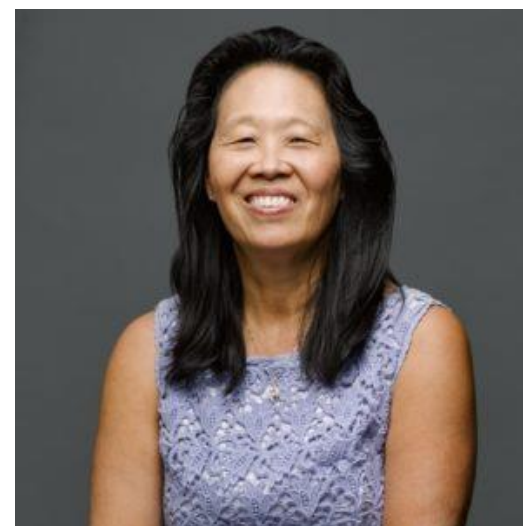


Carroll's family donated his brain after his death last year at age 32. They hope his story can help raise awareness and promote research and prevention of CTE. "Knowing it will certainly impact how you see the game moving forward," said Andrew's brother, Chris. "In your mind and my heart right now, it will certainly change things."

[Learn more about Carroll's CTE diagnosis here.](#)

Bill Gates is talking about exciting new research from Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center and CTE Center researcher Rhoda Au

The work of Dr. Rhoda Au, a researcher with the BU Alzheimer's Disease Center and CTE Center, has caught the attention of Bill Gates.



In a recent blog, Gates wrote, "I recently met a researcher named Rhoda Au who is working on some seriously cool ways to detect Alzheimer's. If her research proves successful, we might one day predict whether you will get the disease by simply listening to the sound of your voice or watching how you write with a pen."

Au, who also leads neuropsychology for the Framingham Heart Study, plans to also investigate other neurodegenerative diseases, including collaborating with the Concussion Legacy Foundation to study CTE.

[Read Gates' blog to learn more about Dr. Au's research.](#)