

# DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SCIENCES CENTER

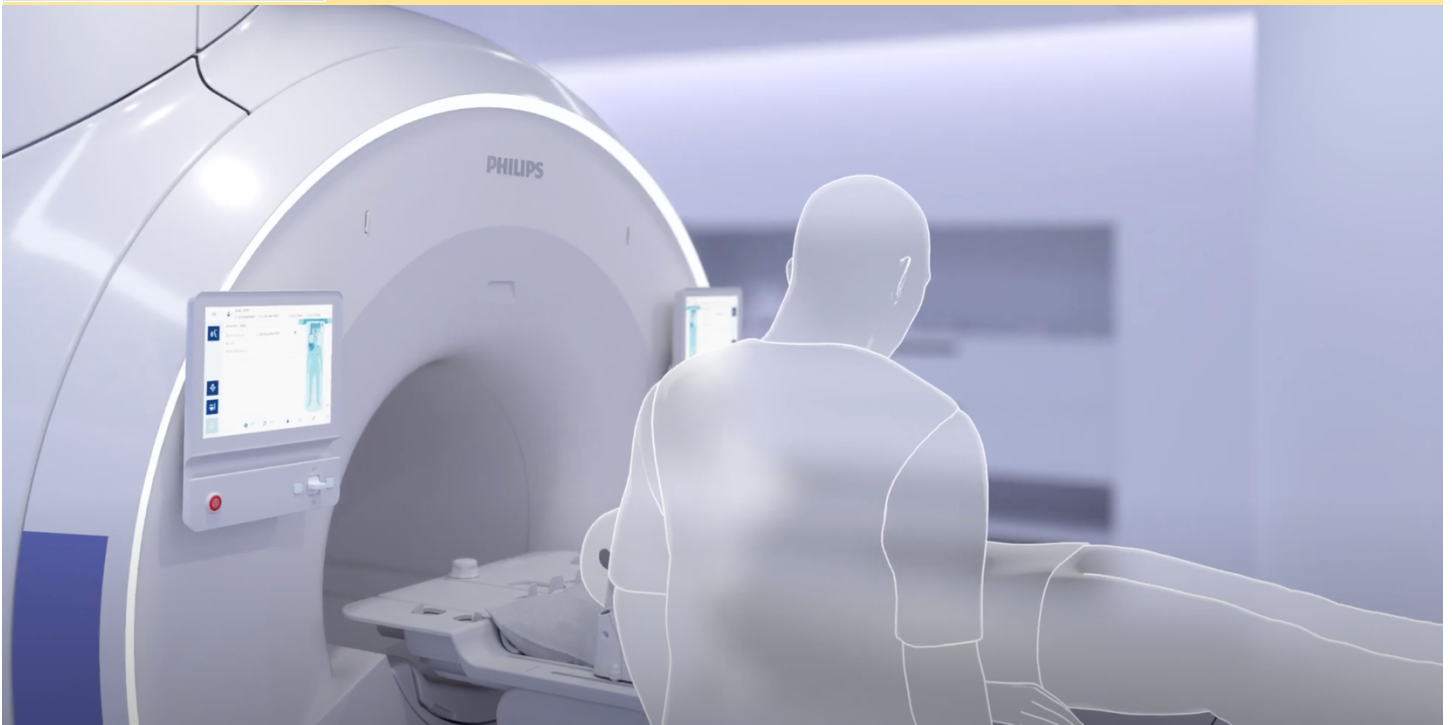
## *Imaging Researcher of the Month*



### *Dr. Christine Mac Donald*

Professor and Vice Chair of Research  
Department of Neurological Surgery  
James and Gaye Pigott Endowed Chair  
Research Director, The Sports Institute

Website: <https://neurosurgery.uw.edu/bio/christine-mac-donald-phd>



#### **What is the primary scientific focus of your research?**

*My research portfolio consists of two primary arms of funded studies: Neurotrauma and Aging. Funded studies include a clinical trial evaluating Active-Duty U.S. Military and Veterans with mild traumatic brain injury, observational studies in youth with sports concussion, civilian adults with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury as well as aging community-based cohort studies including post-mortem evaluation of decedents arising from all of these patient populations.*

#### **What is the relevance of your work to the public health?**

*We have had the opportunity to participate in Congressional hearings that have resulted in changed screening and treatment for combat casualty care. With advocacy partners we have provided supporting evidence for legislative policy change in youth sports. We are providing new considerations for the role imaging diagnostics can play as enrichment biomarkers. Each of these, as well as other contributions, have helped shape public health through policy and legislation.*

#### **How has DISC helped you achieve your scientific and public health goals?**

*The imaging resources at DISC have been instrumental to our success. Each of our studies has a neuroimaging arm that DISC provides essential support towards achieving our research aims. It is with grace and professionalism that they work alongside our research staff to assure not only the best imaging and image quality, but most importantly the best and most safe experience for our patients and families.*