Co-created Research Agenda

Research Area 1: Effectiveness of anti-doping interventions/education programmes, including development, implementation and long-term evaluation

Question 1: Are current anti-doping interventions and education programmes effective in changing evidence-based risk and protective factors for doping, and why is this the case?

Question 2: Can we develop reliable standardised tools to measure the effectiveness of anti-doping education programmes and interventions, and if so, what do these look like?

Question 3: What are the most effective processes within current anti-doping interventions and education programmes?

Question 4: What is the long-term effectiveness of current anti-doping interventions and education programmes and does this vary between different sports and cultures?

Research Area 2: Developmental influences (e.g., parental, peer, school education, etc.) from outside of sport on young athletes regarding doping and clean sport

Question 1: Who are the key influencers of athletes' thoughts, feelings and behaviours related to doping, and can they help promote clean sport?

Question 2: Which specific factors exert most influence on young athletes' doping-related thoughts, feelings and behaviours at different stages (e.g., sampling, specialising, investment) of the developmental process?

Question 3: How and when do doping-related thoughts, feelings and behaviours develop in young athletes?

Research Area 3: The role of athlete support personnel (e.g., coaches, doctors, agents) in anti-doping and clean sport

Question 1: Which athlete support personnel are most influential on athletes' thoughts, feelings and behaviours towards doping and clean sport?

Question 2: Does the influence of specific athlete support personnel on athletes' development of thoughts, feelings and behaviours towards doping and clean sport differ by sport, country, gender or culture, and if so, in what ways?

Question 3: How do different athlete support personnel view their role in anti-doping and clean sport?

Research Area 4: Athlete support personnel's knowledge and understanding of specific prohibited substances and methods

Question 1: What are the most effective methods of educating athlete support personnel around anti-doping and clean sport?

Question 2: Should athlete support personnel receive specific training on anti-doping and clean sport tailored to their particular support role, and if so, what training should they receive?

Research Area 5: Long-term studies examining the development of protective and risk factors for doping in athletes

Question 1: Does the influence of protective and risk factors for doping in athletes fluctuate over time, and across different groups (e.g., sports, cultures, genders) and if so, how and why?

Question 2: Is there a chronology of factors that should be targeted at different stages in an athlete's career to deter doping and promote clean sport?

Research Area 6: Clean athletes' perceptions of their representation and support within the anti-doping system

Question 1: What are the most effective processes for athletes to provide feedback on their experiences of the anti-doping system and are they currently in place?

Question 2: Do clean athletes feel they are represented in the anti-doping system, and how can this be improved?

Research Area 7: Long-term studies examining the development of protective and risk factors for doping in athlete support personnel

Question 1: What are the main triggers that put athlete support personnel at increased risk of supporting doping?

Research Area 8: The anti-doping system and athletes' experiences of key procedures (e.g., ADAMS, whereabouts, testing, TUE etc.) within it

Question 1: Can the anti-doping system be simplified, and if so how?

Ascending Priority

Implementing the Research Agenda

Barriers to implementation

- **Insufficient Research Funding:** Without sufficient funding it will not be possible to conduct the high-quality research required to progress the field.
- **Lack of Stakeholder Engagement:** If key stakeholders are not engaged with the research agenda it will be difficult to recruit participants, disseminate findings & influence policy and practice.
- **Research Context:** Diversity of geographical locations of researchers, siloed researchers and research teams, competing interests, lack of suitably skilled researchers and insufficient institutional support could undermine the global collaborative research approach required.

Facilitators to implementation

- **Upscaled Research Funding:** Large-scale research funding specific to doping prevention would support long-term research programmes targeted at particular aspects of the agenda.
- **Collaborative Networks:** Collaborative networks involving representatives from research groups and key stakeholders (e.g., WADA, IOC, IPC, UNESCO, iNADO, ADOs, NOCs, SportAccord, Governments, Funding Agencies) would facilitate inception, funding, delivery and implementation of high-quality and impactful research.
- **Support from Key Organisations:** Explicit support for the research agenda and its delivery from influential organisations (e.g., WADA, IOC, IPC, iNADO) would encourage stakeholder engagement and increase the likelihood of its implementation.
- **Research Collaboration:** The existence of a globally-connected group of collaborative and capable researchers, committed to advances in research methodologies, to enable the delivery of a high-quality evidence base to inform prevention policy and practice.

Key actions to implementation

- Lobby funding agencies for **increased funding** for social-science research to address the long-term gap in funding compared to the natural sciences (e.g., WADA, IOC, PCC, UNESCO, EU, CoE).
- Facilitate **harmonisation of funding priorities** across funding agencies and align priorities with research agenda (e.g., WADA, IOC, PCC, UNESCO, EU, CoE).
- Invest in **long-term programmes of research** to deliver on the research agenda.
- Establish **long-term collaborative networks through continued investment**, involving anti-doping organisations, sport federations, researchers, anti-doping practitioners and athletes.
- **Strategically allocate social science research funding** to collaborative research networks with suitable experience and skills to address specific aspects of the research agenda.
- Secure **external coordination and leadership of the research agenda** by a globally connected organisation (e.g., WADA).
- Seek **organisational support for the research agenda** from key organisations (e.g., WADA, IOC, PCC, UNESCO, EU, CoE, iNADO) and have them as signatories.
- **Actively promote the value of social science research** in contributing to the development of effective anti-doping policy and practice.