

Meet Our NEACSM Past President



NEACSM's 34th President: Declan AJ Connolly, FACSM.

Education: BA, University of Ulster, PGCE, University of Ulster, MSc, University of Rhode Island, Ph.D, Oregon State University

Current or most recent affiliation: University of Vermont

Honors & Awards:

2018: Appointed Board Member World Union Rugby Global Research Council.

2018: Appointed Board Member, World Hockey Federation Scientific Advisory Committee.

2006-2018: Associate Editor: Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research.

1997-2018: Assistant Editor: Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness.

2006-2018: Education Chair, BOD, Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Coaches Association.

2009-2018: Education Program Director, Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Coaches Association

2007-2014: Director of Certification, Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Coaches Association.

2011-2013: National Athlete Sudden Death Task Force Committee, CSCCa representative.

2015: Dunbar Bostwick Service Award for services to UVM Hockey and UVM Athletics.

2011: Joseph E. Abruscato Award for Excellence in Research & Scholarship, awarded annually to a UVM faculty member in recognition of research and scholarship.

2010: Visiting Scholar, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland.

2009: Research Service Recognition Award from American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for services to RQES journal.

2007: Awarded National Strength & Conditioning Association's "Educator of the Year".

2006: Promoted to Full Professor at UVM.

2006: Received "NSCA Award of Appreciation" for services in promotion of certification standards, by National Strength and Conditioning Association.

2006: Nominee for National Strength & Conditioning Association "Educator of the Year"

2006: Recertified CSCS with Recognition and Distinction by the NSCA.

2003: Vermont Governor's Award (Ray Sparks Memorial Award) for contribution & services to the promotion of Physical activity and Health in Vermont.

2003: Awarded Outstanding Student Advisor at UVM by Student Government Association.

2001: Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

2001: Awarded Outstanding Student Advisor at UVM by Department of Student Life.

2000: Appointed Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (FACSM).

1999: Awarded Outstanding Student Advisor at UVM by Student Government Association.

1989: James R. Reid Memorial Scholarship at the University of Rhode Island, for “outstanding academic achievement, professional involvement and dedication to field of study.”

Professional Interests: Triathlon, Rugby.

2001-present: UVM Men’s Head Rugby Coach

2001-2018: UVM Men’s Rugby Head Coach, Perennially ranked in National Top 25 teams since 2008.

2008: USA College Rugby National Championship semi-finalist.

2009: NECRC Champions, USA National Tournament Elite 8.

2010: NECRC Champions, National Sweet 16.

2011: NECRC Runner up.

2012: NECRC Champions, National Sweet 16.

2015: NECRC Champions, National Elite 8.

2016: NECRC Champions, National Sweet 16.

2018: NEWCRC Champions, #1 ranked team is USA, Eliminated Elite 8 National tournament

NEACSM Service

2006-2007: Past-President of the New England American College of Sports Medicine.

2005-2006: President of the New England American College of Sports Medicine.

2005-2008: Chair of President’s National Health Objectives & Strategic Health Initiatives Committee.

2004-2005: President Elect of NEACSM.

1999-2003: State Representative for Vermont, to NEACSM.

1. What first inspired you to enter the Exercise Science/Sports Medicine Field? What made you decide to pursue your advance degree and/or line of research/service?

I was always involved in Sport and it was a natural progression for me. I loved studying something I was interested in.

2. As a student, who were your mentors and what role did they play in your professional development?

As a professional, was there anyone who was also instrumental in your career development? Bo Fernhall and Tom Manfredi at URI were my first real advisors, Later at Oregon State it was Dr. Chris Zauner, who I dedicated my book to.

3. What is it about Exercise Science/Sports Medicine that still inspires you today?

The ever changing information and the steadily increasing importance of our field in global health.

4. Why and how did you decide to get involved with NEACSM? How did your service help you grow as a professional?

I first got involved in 1987 as a student at URI, I used to drive to Worcester for the fall meetings to work the slide projector machine.

5. What are your most memorable moments from your service to NEACSM?

The great comradery at both regional and national meetings. I have made many lifelong friends.

6. What were some of the main issues confronting NEACSM at the time of your presidency?

A centralized focus in southern New England. Most members were Mass and RI and I worked to bring more of a presence in all of New England. Also, the chapter catered mainly to graduate students and professionals. I implemented the undergraduate student award along with more practically

oriented sessions as opposed to more high end research.

7. What do you think are your most meaningful contributions to NEACSM?

Expansion into undergraduate education and attracting more of the practitioners as opposed to just academics.

8. What do you think are your most meaningful contributions to the field of Exercise Science/Sports Medicine?

My book, my advising and my work on the local and national level on certification. I have also greatly enjoyed my coaching experience as it allows me to mesh my science and coaching leadership.

9. What advice would you have for future leaders of NEACSM?

Work towards RCEP becoming a nationally recognized certification that qualifies for health insurance reimbursement.

10. What advice would you give to students who are looking to pursue a career in Exercise Science/Sports Medicine?

Get as much practical experience as you can. Everyone has the classroom stuff but practical experiences can separate you from the pack.