

SMART Member Profile

Barbara Morris, MS, ATC, CSCS



Barbara Morris is the Assistant Director of USF Health's Sports Medicine and Athletic Related Trauma (SMART) Institute. She is not only a certified athletic trainer (ATC), but also a

certified strength and conditioning specialist (CSCS). She currently oversees the SMART Institute Outreach Program which is responsible for providing coverage and care to local high schools through the services of certified athletic trainers. Morris has worked extensively in sports medicine clinical settings, including athletic training outreach, industrial rehabilitation and administration. Her organizational, leadership, and interpersonal skills are critical to the success of the SMART outreach component. Morris is also involved with teaching PREPARE, a sports safety course, to coaches and parents in the community.

Morris earned a Master's of Science from the University of Central Arkansas, specializing in Kinesiology. She also has a Bachelor's of Science in Education from Arkansas State University, where she was a two sport letter winner in basketball and softball. While managing a physical therapy clinic, Morris simultaneously earned clinical specialist credentials in industrial rehabilitation. Morris is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the Southeastern Athletic Trainer's Association and the National Strength and Conditioning Association, holding certifications as both an athletic trainer and a strength and conditioning specialist.

"The Florida State legislature and USF Health's Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine are truly giving to the community and making a difference by providing certified athletic trainers in areas where the service was previously non-existent. This service, in addition to the educational programs offered to coaches and parents, is truly making Florida a safer sporting community."

Barbara Morris, MS, ATC, CSCS

ATC in High School Setting Profile

Matt Huber is a certified athletic trainer (ATC) for USF Health's Sports Medicine and Athletic Related Trauma Institute (SMART). He is currently the ATC for Dr. Earl J. Lennard High School.

Prior to joining SMART, Matt worked at the Sarasota Memorial Emergency Room. He has worked in the field of emergency medicine as an emergency medical technician for more than seven years, during which time he held the position of head medical officer for a town beach department in New Jersey. He also volunteered as an EMT for a first aid squad in New Jersey.

Matt earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Rowan University in New Jersey. He is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, and in his spare time he enjoys the outdoors, as well as watching and playing sports. In particular, Matt is a huge New York Giants and New York Yankees fan.



"When I first moved to the State of Florida I was shocked at the level of care for athletes in the high schools. SMART allows us to provide daily care to the community through prevention, evaluation, rehabilitation and education, serving as a huge asset for many communities in the Tampa Bay area that previously did not exist."

Matt Huber, ATC

A SMART Tip

Research shows that females are 4 times more likely to tear an ACL than their male counterparts in the sport of soccer. The SMART Institute is working to reduce those odds. The PEP Program (Prevent Injury, Enhance Performance) has been instituted in the 10 Hillsborough County schools covered by SMART ATCs. This program was developed by the Santa Monica Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Program. It includes exercises involving stretching, strengthening, neuromuscular control and proprioception. This program takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and can be incorporated into the normal warm-up routine. For more information please contact Barbara Morris, MS, ATC, CSCS at 813-396-9626.

A SMART coach profile

Jim Wilt has nearly 33 years of experience as a high school coach, 22 of which were in Hillsborough County, where he began in 1985. He has also coached in other states such as Ohio and West Virginia. Coach Wilt was also the head football coach at three other Hillsborough County schools prior to joining Lennard - Brandon, Durrant, and East Bay.

"What a relief the SMART program gives me as a coach. Knowing that the students-athletes have the highest quality care everyday at practice and games allows me to concentrate on other aspects of my job with confidence that my players are always being provided with the highest professional care."

Jim Wilt,
Head Football Coach,
Physical Education Chairperson,
Dr. Lennard Senior High School
"Home of the Longhorns"

Community Partner

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, Inc.'s mission is to serve inner city youths who are at risk of dropping out of school by improving their self-esteem, character, work ethic, social adjustment, and academic performance. The SMART Institute is pleased to partner with this organization by teaching sports safety courses to the students who attend this Pinellas County school program. In addition, certified athletic trainers and physicians from USF Health provide first aid coverage for the Annual Chi Chi Charity Golf Classic benefiting the foundation.

A SMART parent profile

Tammy Hansen is a mother of three sons, with the oldest a senior at Dr. Earl J. Lennard High School. Her oldest son is captain of the baseball team, as well as a member of the soccer and football team. Mrs. Hansen is also a Hillsborough Public Schools Special Education Teacher.

"During an away football game, my son sustained a severe injury resulting in being transported by ambulance to the emergency room and spending three days in the intensive care unit. If it hadn't been for the SMART Institute being a vital part of the Lennard Athletics Department a quick and personal response to his injuries would not have been possible. Not only was the SMART athletic trainer the first on the scene, he talked to me on the phone while my son and I were being transported to the hospital, keeping me calm. He then came to the hospital and stayed with us until my son was stable and admitted into ICU. During my son's recovery, the SMART athletic trainer consulted with my son's physician to assist in a safe rehabilitation program. The athletic trainer also created an assistant/helper position so my son could continue to be a part of the team."

Tammy Hansen
Lennard High School

A SMART Accomplishment

On August 17, 2007 the SMART Institute including Dr. Gereige, from the Department of Pediatrics, conducted an in-service for approximately 550 Pinellas County physical education teachers and their assistants. This was a 2 hour module that covered statistics and first aid response to basic medical injuries as well as emergency preparedness. Mr. Nick Grasso, Pinellas County athletic director had this to say about the program:

"I believe the training was very informative, thorough and well received by our employees. Your department should be very proud of their work and on this particular day they were not only a friend to Pinellas County Schools, but they were a huge asset to our employees who are the front line with our students."

Research project profile

The SMART Institute surveyed athletic directors at high schools throughout the State of Florida to assess how they currently provide on-site care at their football games. It was interesting to learn that the majority of high schools do provide a certified athletic trainer, although some were merely part-time and present for games only, not available at any practices throughout the remainder of the school year. In addition, when part-time coverage is provided, it reveals that these same schools have no on-site athletic trainer to provide care for any of the additional remaining boys and girls sports that the school offers. Perhaps most importantly is the fact the there is no consistent model of care throughout the state as it relates to coverage at football games. The SMART Institute is currently working on developing a model that meets these needs.

Medical Provider	Percentage
Athletic Trainer	88%
EMT/Paramedic	69%
Orthopedic Surgeon	54%
Family Physician	31%
Physical Therapist	13%
Chiropractor	10%

USF Health Sports Medicine

Mission of SMART

A comprehensive sports safety program that utilizes a multidisciplinary approach with a team of professionals through the use of education, research and injury care and prevention thereby elevating the standard of care of youth, recreational, high school and collegiate and professional athlete.

Contact Information

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