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## VA's Dr. Ann McKee Recognized for Her Concussion Research on TIME'S List of 100 Most Influential People

**WASHINGTON** — TIME magazine has named [Dr. Ann McKee](#), chief of neuropathology of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System, to the 2018 [TIME 100](#), the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, announced April 19.

This recognition comes from McKee's research into the long-term effects of concussion, sub-concussion and blast injury in contact sports with athletes and military Veterans, including [Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy \(CTE\)](#), an ongoing disease of the brain that alters function.

"This acknowledgment from Time affirms the impact of Dr. McKee's years of research for the VA," said VA Acting Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Her work shifted the prevailing thought regarding head trauma, demonstrating that 'mild' particularly repetitive head trauma is not just an acute injury. It can provoke a persistent and progressive neurodegeneration CTE that continues long after the traumatic exposure."

A board-certified neurologist and neuropathologist, and recipient of a host of awards for her research, McKee has published over 70 percent of the world's cases of CTE ever reported.

"Research on CTE began with a VA patient, and from that first case of CTE, morphed into a tremendous research effort involving many other organizations," McKee said. "It has taken medical researchers and scientists working with business to detect where it first starts — on the battlefield and sports field."

McKee is credited for creating the [VA – Boston University – Concussion Legacy Foundation \(VA-BU-CLF\) brain bank](#). The organization is the world's largest repository of brains from individuals exposed to traumatic brain injuries (over 550) and neuropathologically confirmed CTE (over 320).

McKee did her undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and received her medical degree from the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. She completed her residency training in neurology at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital and in neuropathology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

In addition to her role as Boston VA's chief of neuropathology, McKee directs the brain banks for the BUADC, Framingham Heart Study and Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium, which are all based at VA Boston.

She concurrently holds the titles of professor of neurology and pathology at Boston University School of Medicine; director of the Neuropathology Core and associate director for the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center (BUADC); and director of the BU CTE Center.

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