SUMMARY

Concussions impact approximately 2% of the population yearly. Identifying research priorities from the perspective of people most impacted by concussion is important to ensure that future concussion research addresses the needs of those who will benefit most from the findings. The James Lind Alliance (JLA) collaborates with patients, caregivers, and clinicians to prioritize important unanswered questions in healthcare. Using JLA Priority Setting Partnership methodology, a recent Canadian study has successfully identified the 10 most important unanswered questions about concussions from the perspectives of patients, caregivers, and clinicians.

The top 10 concussion research priorities were identified through a collaborative process involving two online surveys and a virtual workshop. The project took place from October 2020 to May 2022, with participation from Canadian concussion patients, caregivers, and clinicians. The first survey collected 1761 unanswered questions about concussion from 249 Canadians and compiled them into 59 summary questions. These questions were checked against existing research to ensure they were unanswered. A second survey completed by 989 Canadians helped create a shortlist of 17 questions, and a final priority setting workshop with 24 Canadian concussion patients, caregivers, and clinicians determined the top 10 research questions.

These top 10 questions mainly focus on early and accurate concussion diagnosis, effective symptom management, and predicting and treating poor outcomes. This list will help guide the concussion research community and assist in prioritizing funding for research that is most meaningful to those living with concussions and their caregivers.