Concussions’ impact on athletes topic of Vernon talk

When is it safe for an athlete to return to play following a concussion? In recent years, concussions resulting from sports activity have gained the attention of sports enthusiasts and scientists alike.

On Wednesday, clinical neuroscientist Dr. Paul van Donkelaar will present a talk as part of the Science in Society Series entitled “How can science guide the management of sport-related concussions?” The public event, jointly hosted by Okanagan College and the Okanagan Science Centre, will be presented at Okanagan College’s Vernon campus lecture theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Van Donkelaar is a professor and director of the School of Health and Exercise Sciences at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

In his research, van Donkelaar and his team study how a concussion affects blood flow to the brain, and how that affects concentration, balance and attention span.

Wednesday’s presentation will highlight key discoveries in changes to the brain as a result of a sports-related concussion and how this knowledge will lead to improved initial diagnosis, care and return to activity decisions.

Admission to the event costs $7 in advance or $10 at the door. For advance tickets, call the Okanagan Science Centre at 250-545-3644.