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Acute Topics in Anti-Doping

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As we now operate under a revised and stronger version of the World Anti-Doping Code that came into force in January 2015, it is the appropriate time to provide the anti-doping community with an updated view of the approaches being taken to protect the clean athletes all around the world. This publication, edited by Olivier Rabin, the Science Director of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and Yannis Pitsiladis, a leading researcher, covers a wide range of issues including the revised regulatory framework, anti-doping science, possible future changes in emphasis, and the social and ethical dimensions of anti-doping, all entirely appropriate as we look towards the future.

WADA has become a major investor in anti-doping science and has invested since its inception close to USD 75 million. The opportunity now exists to develop this program further as governments around the world have provided some matching funding to meet the USD 10-million fund created by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This is an exciting development and will widen the range of opportunities open to the scientific community to develop further new and potentially revolutionary processes necessary to protect sport and its athletes.

Progress of science and its implementation in routine anti-doping activities is pivotal in our strategy to expose doped athletes. That was particularly true at an individual level with the re-testing program of samples collected by the IOC during the Beijing and London Olympic Games, which revealed more than a hundred new doping cases. Also, in 2016, the combination of science with intelligence and investigations revealed the proofs of the institutionalized doping program in Russia.

Contributions to this volume of work come from some of the world leading experts in their fields of work and study and provide a wide-ranging picture of the current situation and future opportunities facing the anti-doping community. This is entirely relevant to the challenges faced and the efforts being made to advance the science and knowledge essential to the important tasks ahead.

I commend this book to the reader and thank all the contributors for their willingness to advance the cause of clean sport.

Sir Craig Reedie
President of WADA