



# Quarterly World Report

JANUARY 2024



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carat celebration**

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## You just never know

Well, 2023 is a wrap. There have been so many great things to talk about, from my time in Geneva at the World Health Assembly, to a week in Rwanda meeting with government officials to advance the inclusion and recognition of chiropractic in their country, to enjoying the extraordinary hospitality of the Australian Chiropractic Association during WFC's biennial assembly and conference.

Each one of these events provided me with opportunities I will never forget.

As I step into 2024, I am looking forward to more similar opportunities. I have learned over the years that you just never know when or how those opportunities will present themselves. The key is being prepared when they do.

Some of the major challenges I see for 2024 is WFC continuing as the advocate for all chiropractors around the world, using our resources to help countries struggling to establish chiropractic as a separate, recognized health care profession.

At the same time, we must work to expose those who are trying to devalue what we do by developing substandard educational programs or making chiropractic a subset of another profession.

With our partnership with the International Board of Chiropractic Examiners (IBCE) we have established a testing program that countries can use to guarantee a minimum standard to qualify for licensure.

The WFC has established the International Chiropractic Educational Alliance (ICEA), to bring chiropractic colleges and universities together from around the world. With currently over 50 international chiropractic educational institutions, there has never been a more important time for cooperation and collaboration. WFC is providing that opportunity through the ICEA.

WFC's commitment to the continued advancement of the profession can be further demonstrated by



*Dr John Maltby, WFC President*

our upcoming Educational Conference, October 30 – November 2, 2024 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center in Malaysia. With some of the top educators and researchers from around the world, it's an event not to be missed.

Work is currently underway planning our 18th Biennial Conference in Copenhagen, May 7-10, 2025. I can't wait for that one!

Now, why the title "You Never Know" for this opening President's Message of 2024?

Well, quite simply, with all that we're currently working on, with all that we have planned, we really don't know what new challenges might arise. The current unrest in the world will undoubtedly create some unforeseen challenges that we need to be prepared for. The key is a united front based on a shared vision and mission.

**Our Vision:** A world where all people, of all ages, in all nations may enjoy access to chiropractic so that populations may thrive and reach their full potential.



## You just never know (continued)

**Our Mission:** To advance awareness, utilization, and integration of chiropractic internationally.

I firmly believe that the future of chiropractic is dependent on our coming together like never

before. Our understanding must be that chiropractic is about more than just low back pain, but is also about populations thriving and reaching their full potential.

Remember, you'll never know

how new opportunities to advance our profession will present themselves. My encouragement to you is to be prepared when they do.

I look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen in 2025! **JM**

## News from the boardroom

The third quarter meeting of the WFC Board of Directors took place on Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8, 2023 at the Sofitel Hotel on Australia's Gold Coast. It was chaired by the President, Dr John Maltby.

The Board approved the minutes of the last regular meeting and the agenda was adopted.

Matters involving chiropractic education in Türkiye were discussed, notably the program at Bahçeşehir University, currently the only chiropractic education program in the WFC Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The Secretary-General presented an activity report to the Board, which included a visit to Hong Kong to launch the new Hong Kong Chiropractic College and ongoing developments in Rwanda.

The Board received updates from each of the WFC's 7 world regions. It noted challenges in some regions in relation to lack of legislation, the absence of protection of title and substandard training programs being offered to the public. The impact of conflicts in the Middle East and in eastern Europe was noted. The Board also noted workforce issues in parts of Europe, with bottlenecks in training due to lack of student places.

The Board noted with regret the news from RMIT that it would be closing the chiropractic program in Melbourne, Australia.

In reviewing the WFC Bylaws, the Board did not identify any areas where revision was necessary and stated that therefore no amendments would be put to the WFC Assembly.

As is customary at each Board meeting, the Risk Register was reviewed. It was agreed that, aside from the replacement of the Secretary-General, who had signified his intention to step down in 2025, there were no changes to the level of risk. It was agreed that mitigation strategies would be reviewed to ensure that all risks had in place accompanying plans should those risks materialize.

The Board was notified of the upcoming Board elections in all regions for the term of office 2024-2026.

The 2024-2029 WFC Strategic Plan was presented to the Board and was unanimously approved for recommendation to the Assembly. Board members welcomed the fact that the strategy was underpinned by policy and position statements.

Under the subject of finance, the Board reviewed minutes of the most recent Finance Committee report and noted a financial risk analysis report, as well as the financial position of the WFC in the 9 months to September 30, 2023.

The Board received and approved reports from the Research Committee (including the Global Patient



## News from the boardroom

Safety Task Force), Disability and Rehabilitation Committee and Public Health Committee. It noted the appointment of the repopulated Disability and Rehabilitation Committee.

An updated version of the WFC 20 Principles was recommended to be put before the Assembly for approval.

In respect of succession planning, the Board confirmed the appointment of Ms Deb Manz, past CEO of the Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors, as part of its Executive Recruitment team.

The Board received reports on the progress of upcoming meetings and events, including

the 2024 Assembly of Members, 17th WFC Biennial Congress and 2024 Education Conference.

In relation to the WFC's status as a non-state actor in official relations with WHO, the Secretary-General provided an activity report, including the work of the World Rehabilitation Alliance and an update on the progress of the Benchmarks for Training in Chiropractic.

Updates on the progress of the International Chiropractic Education Alliance and the Global Observatory for Chiropractic were received. It was further reported that a meeting to conclude the process of development of the International Test of

Competence was planned to take place in Gold Coast.

A summary of work undertaken for the 2023 World Spine Day was delivered by the Director of Policy and Strategy.

Following consideration of the new applications for membership, the Board agreed to recommend to the Assembly the national associations of Azerbaijan, China and Palestine for WFC membership.

An update on communications strategy was received by the Board.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on February 13, 2024.

### WFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022-24)

John Maltby (President)	North American Region
Kendrah Da Silva (Vice President)	African Region
Ryan Coster (Secretary-Treasurer)	North American Region
Kei Takeyachi	Asian Region
Efstathios Papadopoulos	Eastern Mediterranean Region
Gian Joerger	European Region
Jakob Lothe	European Region
Carlos Ayres	Latin American Region
Glenn Guilderson	North American Region
Dana Lawrence	North American Region
John Maltby	North American Region
Holly Tucker	North American Region
Andrew Lawrence	Pacific Region
Corrian Poelsma	Pacific Region

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Sidney Rubinstein DC, PhD (Chair) Netherlands

### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Claire Johnson DC, MEd, PhD (Chair) USA

### DISABILITY & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

Katie de Luca MAppSc, PhD (Chair) Australia

### SECRETARIAT

Richard Brown DC, LL.M (Secretary General)  
 Rebekah Wilks BS, DC (Director of Strategy and Policy)  
 Khalid Salim (Finance & Administration Manager)  
 Sarah Villarba (Administrative Assistant)

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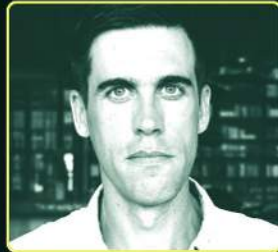
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KEYNOTES



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PATRICK BET-DAVID



DAVID GOGGINS



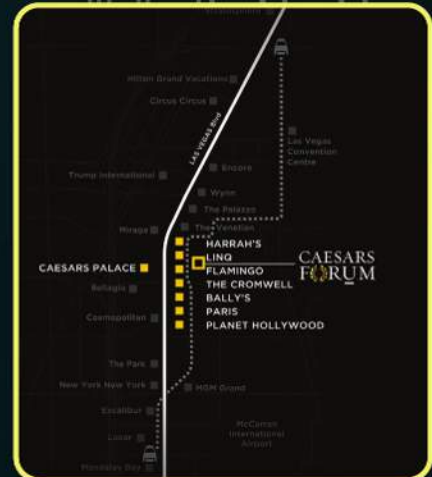
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## In-person events: finding strength in togetherness

In an increasingly digital world, where virtual meetings and webinars are prevalent, the value of in-person conferences may seem diminished. However, as our recent congress in Gold Coast showed, the power and significance of face-to-face interactions in professional settings cannot be overstated.

With over 500 attendees, the 17th WFC Congress showed that in-person events provide a unique platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and fostering innovation.

One of the primary advantages of in-person conferences is the opportunity to build and strengthen professional connections.

Our Australian event brought together professionals from each of the WFC's seven world regions, uniting experts, researchers, and professionals from diverse backgrounds and geographical locations.

Engaging in conversations, exchanging ideas, and forging personal connections with like-minded individuals can so often lead to collaborations, partnerships, and mentorship opportunities.

The informal settings, such as coffee breaks and social events, create an atmosphere conducive to networking, where individuals can meet new people and establish relationships that may have a lasting impact on their careers. So much magic can happen in the corridors as well as on the stage at WFC congresses!

In-person conferences also serve as a hub for knowledge exchange, where participants can learn from experts in their fields. Keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops provide a platform for thought leaders to share their insights and expertise. The interactive nature of these sessions allows attendees to reflect, ask questions, engage in discussions, and gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Additionally, the diverse perspectives brought forth by speakers and participants from various backgrounds contribute to a rich and comprehensive learning experience.

Collaboration is often a catalyst for innovation and progress. In-person conferences offer a fertile ground for identifying potential collaborators and exploring joint projects. The informal interactions during breaks, amongst the poster and vendor displays and during the social events provide an opportunity for individuals to discuss their ideas and challenges as well as spawning new research projects.

These impromptu conversations can spark new collaborations, foster interdisciplinary approaches, and generate innovative solutions to complex problems. The serendipitous encounters that occur during conferences can lead to partnerships that are often unlikely to materialize in a virtual setting.

Attending in-person conferences can greatly

*continued*



Richard Brown, WFC Secretary-General



## In-person events: finding strength in togetherness (continued)

contribute to individual and collective professional development. With WFC Congress programs including the widest range of keynote and plenary sessions, debates, workshops, and deep dives that cover the latest advancements and trends in a specific field, the event has something for everyone.

These sessions provide opportunities to enhance knowledge, gain new skills, and stay up-to-date with the latest research. Moreover, presenting research or projects at conferences allows professionals to receive valuable feedback, refine their work, and improve their presentation skills. The exposure to a diverse audience also broadens perspectives and encourages critical thinking.

As the congress in Gold Coast clearly showed, the return to in-person events was something that many chiropractors craved and it showcased their unique ability to inspire and motivate individuals.

The energy and enthusiasm generated by a gathering of passionate chiropractors is contagious. Engaging with peers who share similar interests and challenges was not just invigorating, it reignited a passion for chiropractic.

Experiencing the collective enthusiasm and dedication of participants in Australia served as a reminder of the impact and importance of the WFC Congress.

While virtual meetings and online platforms have their advantages, in-person events continue to be invaluable. Our Gold Coast chiropractic extravaganza built connections, stimulated meaningful conversations, and showcased the collective energy of a community which was unparalleled.

As we navigate a digitally connected world, it is crucial to recognize and appreciate the enduring value of face-to-face interactions in advancing professional growth and development.

Later this year, we have our Education Conference in Kuala Lumpur, followed by our 18th WFC Congress in Copenhagen in May 2024. I look forward to seeing you there! **RB**

## CONTACTING THE WFC

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### Call us:

+1 647 255 8030

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## NEWS ITEMS

The WFC welcomes news items, digital images and feature stories to include in the QWR. Send all submissions QWR@wfc.org. Please note all submissions may be subject to editing.

### QWR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

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## Gold Coast congress delivers a 24 carat celebration

The sun-kissed beaches of Queensland's Gold Coast provided the perfect backdrop for the WFC's 17th Biennial Congress, which saw over 500 attendees from Australia and over 40 other countries come together to celebrate the very best in the profession.

The Australian Chiropractors Association were the perfect hosts and event partners, and delivered an outstanding level of expertise in ensuring that all aspects of the congress ran smoothly. With planning starting in the midst of the pandemic, many hurdles and uncertainties had to be overcome in order to deliver the 2023 global chiropractic event of the year.

The event was held at the impressive Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) and provided the perfect blend of natural beauty, flexible space and high quality service. The GCCEC is also a leader in sustainability, having previously been awarded the EarthCheck Platinum certification for operating at the world's highest environmental standard.

The congress played host to the widest range of attendees from within and outside the chiropractic profession. As well as practicing clinicians, delegates included students, academics, researchers, institutional and organizational leaders, accreditation professionals, testing and assessment experts, exhibitors and vendors. This mix provided for unmatched networking opportunities as well as an opportunity to learn, share knowledge and connect with like-minded colleagues.

The congress buzz was palpable as delegates filtered into the exhibition hall for the welcome reception on the eve of the first day. Over cocktails and canapés, friendships were made and renewed as delegates mingled amongst the myriad vendor booths and scientific posters. A highlight of the evening was an interesting



*The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre is recognized for its commitment to environmental sustainability.*



*The opening ceremony featured a traditional Aboriginal music and dance ceremony.*



*WFC President Dr John Maltby opened the Congress with Australian Chiropractors Association President, Dr David Cahill.*

## Gold Coast congress delivers a 24 carat celebration (continued)



*Dr Michele Maiers delivered the opening keynote address.*



*Dr Martin Camara, of the Philippines, advocated for Universal Health Coverage, ensuring that no-one gets left behind.*



*The WFC Congress provided countless networking opportunities*

array of wild animals, including snakes and a crocodile, which captivated those who queued up to get a closer look and a cuddle!

Showcasing the WFC's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, the opening ceremony featured an Aboriginal display of music and dance. Acknowledgment was respectfully given to the ancient peoples on whose traditional lands the congress was taking place.

Following a welcome by the WFC President John Maltby and the President of the Australian Chiropractors Association, David Cahill, the congress proper got underway. With a theme of 'Let's Start With The Patient', the congress focused heavily on one of the core pillars of the WFC's #BeEPIC campaign.

Opening keynote speaker, Michele Maiers, delivered a world-class exposition on the attributes of patient-centeredness, focusing on behaviors, skills, and competencies. She was followed by Martin Camara of the Philippines, a clinician and philanthropist who delivered a powerful presentation on the need to ensure that Universal Health Care was embraced in chiropractic, with no-one being left behind. Finally, Mike Schneider, of the University of Pittsburgh underscored the critical importance of why patient-centeredness should be the mantra of all chiropractors around the world.

After break, Dr Ayla Azad, CEO of the WFC's largest member, the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA), reported on key findings of the CCA's report into the patient experience. Sweden's Andreas Eklund described the outcomes of his years of research into maintenance care before a panel discussion explored issues of patient values, needs and preferences, all key components of evidence-based care.

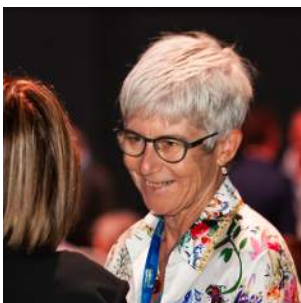
Day two of the congress opened with a focus on delivering care across the life course and featured

*continued*



## COVER STORY

## Gold Coast congress delivers a 24 carat celebration (continued)



continued

## Gold Coast congress delivers a 24 carat celebration (continued)

plenary speakers Genevieve Keating, Jeb McAviney, Lise Hestbaek, Peter McGlynn and Katie de Luca.

Patient safety was next up on the agenda with WFC Global Patient Safety lead, Katie Pohlman and Research Committee Chair Sidney Rubinstein covering key aspects of evidence related to adverse events and patient safety, before a second panel discussion, chaired by Martha Funabashi, dissected the topic of clinical risk management.

The third and final day of the congress was launched with a keynote address on the strengthening of global health systems from the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health's Deborah Kopansky-Giles and Andrew Briggs, chair of the WHO's Guideline Development Group on the new Guideline for Non-Surgical Management of Low Back Pain. Following this, World Spine Care's Mufudzi Chihambakwe spoke powerfully on the delivery of care in underserved communities.

Secretary-General Richard Brown described the role of chiropractic at the World Health Organization.

Communicating with clarity was the topic of Lesley Haig's plenary address, focusing on the role of motivational interviewing in healthcare.

One of the undoubted highlights of the congress was the keynote presentation by Dinesh Palipana. Dinesh, a paraplegic, wheelchair bound lawyer and emergency department doctor at Gold Coast University Hospital left the congress audience spellbound with his story of tragedy, rehabilitation, resilience and fortitude, as he related his story of experiencing healthcare through multiple lenses.

The glittering awards ceremony rounded off a perfect morning on day three, with scientists recognized for excellence with awards generously sponsored by NCMIC and IBCE.

As the world's largest chiropractic scientific meeting, the congress saw platform and poster



*Media interview with Dr David Cahill, President, Australian Chiropractors Association.*



*New Zealand researcher, Imran Khan Niazi at the poster display.*



*Dr William Morgan delivered a workshop on the topic of intervertebral disc disorders.*

*continued*



## Gold Coast congress delivers a 24 carat celebration (continued)



*continued*

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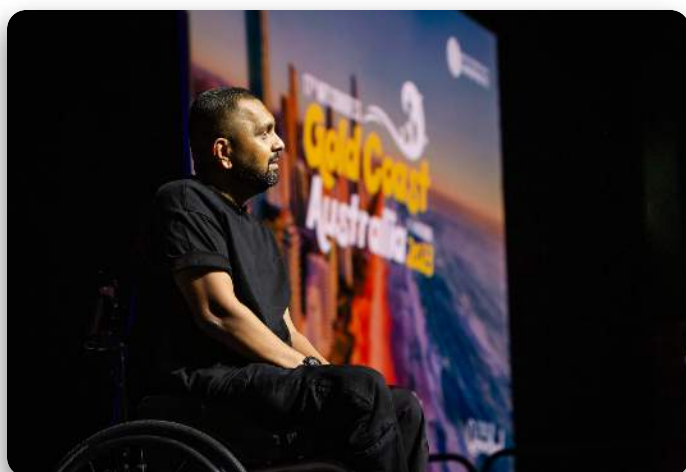
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## Gold Coast congress delivers a 24 carat celebration (continued)



*Professor Lesley Haig advocated for motivational interviewing in patient communication.*



*Dr Dinesh Palipana delivered an outstanding keynote address, speaking from his unique perspective as doctor and patient.*



*Palmer College's Zachary Shannon won the NCMIC Early Career Researcher Award*

presentations that were carefully chosen from some 235 abstract submissions. Managed by Brighthall Inc., over 100 peer reviewers analyzed and score submissions, resulting in a varied and high-quality series of abstracts presented.

Meanwhile, attendees were spoiled for choice with a range of workshops, covering topics including neurology, pediatrics, orthopedics, public health, sports chiropractic, women's health, rehabilitation, complaints avoidance, business and hands-on technique sessions.

The 2023 congress was not all work and no play, with a vibrant social program adding to the extravaganza. This included an Australian-themed social dinner at Sea World, where attendees got up close and personal with stingrays, won prizes on traditional fairground stalls and hit the dance floor.

The culmination of the congress was the traditional Gala and Awards dinner on the final night. With the dinner venue at GCCEC transformed by lights, music and glamour, WFC Honor Awards were presented to Claire Johnson and Eric Chu before more than 250 guests strutted and shimmied the night away to one of Gold Coast's best bands.

Speaking after the event, Chair of the Organizing Committee, Richard Brown, said, "This was a WFC Congress that will live long in the memories of those experiencing Australian hospitality at its best and a diverse group of outstanding speakers who selflessly gave their time, energy and expertise and showcased the very best in chiropractic.

"We're grateful to our sponsors and vendors, plus Business Events Gold Coast, Tourism and Events Queensland, whose support made the event possible.

"We now move on to the enchanting city of Copenhagen in wonderful Denmark, where our 18th Congress takes place May 7-10, 2025. We encourage everyone to start planning now for this unmissable event"

## WFC launches new strategic plan 2024-2029

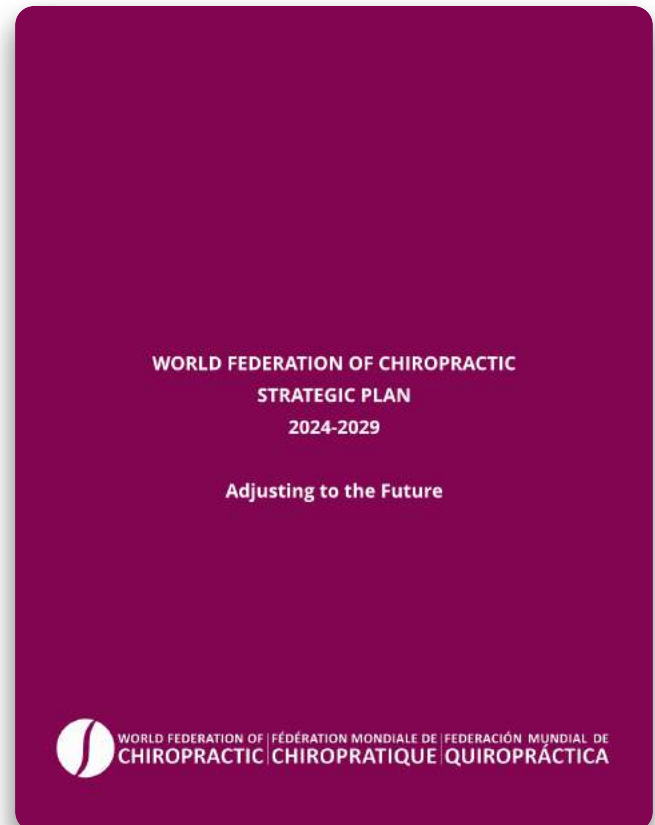
At its recent Assembly of Members, WFC Members unanimously approved a new strategic plan 2024-2029.

The plan, titled *Adjusting to the Future*, was developed over almost two years and is the product of multiple internal and external consultations with key stakeholders, including member national associations, educational partners, corporate partners and external strategic experts.

*Adjusting to the Future* takes into account the WFC's updated vision statement, values and 20 principles. Whilst acknowledging the history and heritage of the chiropractic profession, it is unashamedly future focused. With rapid technological advantages impacting on healthcare delivery, the WFC felt it was important to present a dynamic,

### WFC STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-29 Strategic objectives

1. **Create stakeholder value:** we will identify needs and expectations of member national associations and help to deliver workable and measurable solutions that drive growth and sustainability.
2. **Promote professional consistency:** we will work to promote consistency in areas of education, professional identity, service provision and meeting expectations of patients and the public.
3. **Ensure financial sustainability:** we will achieve financial sustainability through a focus on maximizing and diversifying revenue streams without over-reliance on dues income.
4. **Achieve equitable workforce distribution:** we will invest in those geographic areas where chiropractic is under-represented and work with local providers to strengthen the health workforce.
5. **Maximize operational efficiency:** to ensure the delivery of the best value for member national associations, we will streamline operations and recruit to maximize expertise and capacity.



versatile model that would allow it to respond to and create innovation in a fast-moving and sometimes unpredictable world.

WFC President Dr John Maltby said, "I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of the plan, from the members of our secretariat, executive team, Board, committee members and key stakeholders who provided valuable input and feedback.

"I am confident that with the implementation of this plan, we will be able to achieve our goals and continue to provide the highest level of service to our national association members and partners."

[www.wfc.org/stratplan24\\_29](http://www.wfc.org/stratplan24_29)



## WFC Assembly of Members 2023 celebrates global advance of chiropractic

Representatives of over 40 WFC Member national associations traveled to the Australian city of Gold Coast for the 2023 Assembly of Members.

The event, held at the Sofitel Broadbeach Hotel, was the first in-person Assembly since 2019.

The event kicked off with the traditional President's Address, with Dr John Maltby reflecting on the past year's achievements, noting in particular the Education Conference at Logan University and a visit to meet with government officials in Rwanda.

Following this, Richard Brown presented the Secretary-General's report, summarizing developments in policy and strategy in creating a

stronger, more resilient WFC.

He paid tribute to the work of the Board and staff and acknowledged the work of the Members across the WFC's 7 world regions. He urged continued engagement with the work of the WFC and stressed the ongoing relevance of the #BeEPIC campaign.

Prof. Brown reflected on the work being undertaken with WHO and, whilst acknowledging that the scope of chiropractic practice went beyond back and neck pain, he emphasized the fact that best scientific evidence in relation to the care of patients with spinal pain and disability was on the side of chiropractic.

Three new member applications were approved,

*continued*



WFC Board members and representatives of over 40 nations gathered at the Sofitel Hotel, Broadbeach for the 2023 Assembly of Members

## WFC Assembly of Members 2023 celebrates global advance of chiropractic (continued)

from national associations representing Azerbaijan, China and Palestine. The President of the Chiropractic Association of China, Dr Li Peng, addressed the Assembly and thanked members for the confidence they had placed in his association and for accepting the CAC into membership.

Multiple country reports were delivered by representatives from each of the WFC's 7 regions: Africa, Asia, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, Latin America, North America and Pacific. Reports provided updates on developments in areas such as legislation, scope of practice and education.

The Chair of the WFC's Global Patient Safety Task Force, Dr Katie Pohlman presented a report to the Assembly, emphasizing the importance of patient safety as a means of building trust and confidence in the chiropractic profession worldwide.

On behalf of the chair of the Disability and Rehabilitation Committee, Katie de Luca, Richard Brown described the repopulation of the new committee and the opportunities for engagement in the rehabilitation agenda, particularly in light of the passing of the first ever resolution on strengthening rehabilitation in health systems.

Other committee chairs, Claire Johnson and Sidney Rubinstein, representing the Public Health Committee and Research Committee respectively, updated Assembly delegates with their work and aspirations for the coming year.

The WFC Treasurer, Dr Ryan Coster, presented the finance report and proposed the re-election of the WFC auditor.

The Annual Report for 2022 was adopted unanimously.

A brand new strategic plan 2024-2029 was presented to the Assembly for adoption. Its development and key features were outlined, along with the pillars and key performance indicators of the strategy.

The Assembly received a number of guest



*Delegates from around the world gathered at the Sofitel Broadbeach Hotel, Gold Coast*



*Selam Akilu with Bronwen McNamara, Chiropractic Association of Ethiopia*



*Faye Deane, Education Commission Chair, FICS*

*continued*



## WFC Assembly of Members 2023 celebrates global advance of chiropractic (continued)

presentations, including from Deborah Kopansky-Giles (Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health), Faye Deane (FICS), Tamia Abrahams (World Congress of Chiropractic Students) and Donna Liewer (International Chiropractic Regulatory Society). Dedicated research presentations were given by Ayla Azad (Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation) and Henrik Wulff Christensen (Chiropractic Knowledge Hub).

At the end of day one, Board member Andrew Lawrence chaired a panel looking at the challenges and opportunities of association membership recruitment and retention.

Generously sponsored by the Australian Chiropractic Association, a welcome reception took place at the end of day one, which provided an excellent opportunity for networking and partnership building.

Further reports were received on day 2, including from the World Spine Day committee and Karlos Boghosian (International Board of Chiropractic Examiners). Sherry McAllister, President of the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress, delivered a presentation on its global aspirations.

As reported elsewhere in this *QWR*, the biennial John A. Sweaney Lecture was delivered by Mufudzi Chihambakwe.

The meeting concluded with a question and answer session, chaired by Dr John Maltby.

Commenting after the event, Secretary-General Richard Brown said, "With so many member associations reporting on their achievements, this really felt like a celebration of the profession. We were delighted to share our plans for the coming years and look forward to contributing meaningfully to supporting the development of chiropractic around the world."

The 2024 Assembly of Members will be held online in November, with the next in-person Assembly taking place May 5-6, 2025, ahead of the 18th WFC Biennial Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.



*Shimon Takayanagi, President, Japanese Association of Chiropractors*



*L>R: Karlos Boghosian (IBCE) with WFC Board members Stathis Papadopoulos and Holly Tucker.*



*Tim Button (British Chiropractic Association) with Michael Christensen (Danish Chiropractors Association)*



# Let The Fairytale Begin!

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## Outstanding service recognized with David Chapman-Smith Honor Awards at WFC Congress

Two outstanding servants of the chiropractic profession have been recognized with WFC David Chapman-Smith Honor Awards during the 17th WFC Congress, held in Gold Coast, Australia.

At a glittering gala and awards dinner, Drs Eric Chu (Hong Kong SAR) and Claire Johnson (United States) were both presented with the WFC David Chapman-Smith Honor Award at the WFC Congress, held on Australia's Gold Coast.

WFC President, Dr John Maltby, read out citations for both recipients before presenting the crystal glass awards. Neither Dr Chu nor Dr Johnson were aware that they would be receiving an award until they were announced.

Dr Eric Chu is the Chairperson of the Chiropractic Association of Hong Kong. As an entrepreneur, businessman, mentor and leader, he was recognized for his contribution to the growth of the chiropractic profession across the WFC Asia region and his humanitarian efforts with UNICEF and the UN SDGs.

A tireless advocate for World Spine Day, Dr Chu's efforts in the area of public health were also recognized, as well as his contribution to published case reports, where he is highly ranked as one of



*Claire Johnson chairs the WFC Public Health Committee, is the Editor-in-Chief of JMPT, JCH and JCM and is a director of Brighthall Inc.*

the most prodigious authors.

Dr Claire Johnson serves as the chair of the WFC Public Health Committee. A professor at National University of Health Sciences, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief of three peer reviewed journals dedicated to chiropractic research.

As a co-director of Brighthall Inc, she plays a major role in the WFC Congress scientific tracks, coordinating the call for abstracts, peer review and NCMIC Paper competitions.

She has previously been recognized by the American Chiropractic Association for her work in sports chiropractic and is a long-standing member of the chiropractic division of the American Public Health Association.

The accolades are the highest award the WFC has in its power to give and recognize outstanding international service to the chiropractic profession.

The two 2023 awards mean that just 35 recipients have received the awards since they were inaugurated in 1991.



*Eric Chu (front) is the Chair of the Chiropractic Doctors Association of Hong Kong.*

## Modern father of Canadian chiropractic passes

**Paul F. Carey (March 17, 1943 – October 31, 2023)**

One of the most influential figures in the history of modern-day chiropractic in Canada, Dr Paul F. Carey, has passed away following a long illness. He was 80.

Paul Carey was born on St Patrick's Day, 1943, the son of a British father and Irish mother. He grew up on the tough East side of Toronto, where disputes were often settled more on the basis of physical dominance than diplomatic negotiation. Driven by a love for his high-school sweetheart and later wife, Nina, and with a steely desire to improve himself, the young Paul took a part-time job, mainly outside school hours, with Eaton's department store in Toronto.

Paul opted to use his earnings to pay fees to attend St Michael's College, a respected Catholic private school in Toronto. However his job forced him to cut some afternoon classes. When his father was summoned by the principal who said this was a waste of the tuition fees being paid, and threatened expulsion, his father said, "Talk to Paul, not me – he is the one paying."

Suffering from persistent back problems as a teenager, Paul changed his career choice from dentistry to chiropractic. Despite numerous chiropractic schools in the United States, at that time there was only a single institution for Canadians, which fortunately was based in Toronto.

Dr Carey graduated from the then Bloor Street-based Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in 1967, at a time when chiropractic was becoming increasingly popular due to its coverage, through multiple union contracts, by a number of health and accident insurance companies.

Upon graduation, the 24-year-old Paul Carey moved to Stratford, a bustling town 80 miles (129km) southwest of Toronto and established his clinic, Chiropractic Healthcare, from which he



*Dr Paul F. Carey*

became highly respected in his community, treating tens of thousands of patients during the course of his 48-year career.

After just four years in practice, in 1971, Dr Carey joined the Board of the Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA), the largest of Canada's provincial associations. Serving on the OCA Board, he passed through its various offices and was its president between 1981 and 1983. Having secured the services of Mr David Chapman-Smith in 1982, a significant part of Dr Carey's tenure was engaged in developing legislation to regulate the practice of chiropractic in Ontario. What was intended to be a two-year

*continued*



## Modern father of Canadian chiropractic passes (continued)

**Paul F. Carey (March 17, 1943 – October 31, 2023)**

process took almost ten, with the Chiropractic Act finally receiving Royal Assent in 1991.

The mid-1980s were challenging times for chiropractors in Canada. Following a number of high-profile incidents, in 1985 the insurance market abandoned the chiropractic profession, leaving practitioners with no public indemnity

coverage. This existential threat to the practice of chiropractic as an accepted health profession in Canada called for drastic steps to be taken.

At the time, Dr Carey was vice-president of the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA). Facing a critical situation, the CCA shouldered the responsibility for finding a

solution. At the eleventh hour, two weeks before the existing insurance policy for chiropractors in Canada expired (December 31, 1985), with Dr Carey as a driving force, the CCA Board of Directors voted to create a professional “protective fund”.

As a CCA committee, the creation of the fund, early in

*continued*



*The WFC Council (1993) with Dr Paul F. Carey standing, front,*

## Modern father of Canadian chiropractic passes (continued)

**Paul F. Carey (March 17, 1943 – October 31, 2023)**

1986, with contributions from chiropractors across Canada, was the first step in the formation of the Canadian Chiropractic Protective Association (CCPA).

Within six months, the CCPA became its own, standalone entity. It was a high stakes venture. Without financial reserves and with limited experience in handling professional liability claims, the risks were significant. Dr Carey was appointed as the first President of CCPA, a role he continued to hold until 2014. Working with Dr Carey, the late Dr Donald Bramham was appointed vice-president and their tireless efforts served to ensure that the CCPA got off the ground.

Past president of CMCC, Dr Jean Moss, recalls, "Paul Carey was an icon of the profession in Canada for many reasons and showed great courage in setting up the CCPA. A huge risk was being taken. If there had been a large claim in the first few years, the organization would have been quickly bankrupted. Fortunately, fate smiled on us and we got through those first few years. Paul had the foresight to make sound long-term investments and his financial and business acumen were highly respected.

"Paul was determined that chiropractors would be protected and they went to battle on claims, but where the chiropractor was at fault, they would be fair with the patient and not drag things out needlessly. His resolve to support the profession was best seen during a high-profile inquest into the death of a patient in 1996 following chiropractic treatment six days earlier. Without the support of the CCPA the result would have been very different.

"Paul also had a belief that once the CCPA was financially secure, money should be ploughed back into the profession. They supported research, they supported the educational institutions in Canada,

and they supported the provincial associations to get better office facilities, all the time keeping premiums at a reasonable level.

"The CCPA became an organization that was respected by insurance companies and lawyers – with a reputation to be cautious in launching a claim against one of their members in the absence of an ironclad case. Without Paul and his strong character, much of this would never have occurred."

Such was his contribution to chiropractic in Canada, in 2003, Dr Carey was named as one of *Dynamic Chiropractic's* People of the Year. This recognized his contribution in defense of the chiropractic profession whilst giving testimony during the Lana Dale Lewis inquest as well as his contribution to an international task force examining efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness of neck treatments.

Along with a stable and experienced Board of Directors, CCPA became a viable and vibrant reality. With a formidable reputation for sound financial strategy and astute investments, Dr Carey's leadership was instrumental in ensuring the CCPA's success. Today CCPA protects over 8,000 members and has significant reserves and claims experience.

In 1987, whilst still CCA President, Dr Carey was present at the World Chiropractic Summit, held in London, England. Some years earlier, a delegation of chiropractors to the Middle East had identified the need for chiropractic to engage with the highest levels of healthcare in order to promote the profession and secure recognition. The vision of a global federation was born out of this and, working alongside Mr Chapman-Smith, in 1987, Dr Carey seconded a proposal to form a Presidents' Committee, which was charged with exploring the viability of such a federation being formed to

*continued*



## Modern father of Canadian chiropractic passes (continued)

**Paul F. Carey (March 17, 1943 – October 31, 2023)**

represent the chiropractic profession internationally. Dr Carey's enthusiastic support of the proposal was a key driver when it was important to get all of the large national chiropractic associations on board with the idea of a global organization to advance the profession.

One year later, in October 1988, with almost 900 delegates in attendance from 23 countries, the World Chiropractic Congress was held in Australia to celebrate both the fiftieth anniversary of the Australian Chiropractors Association and the bicentenary of Australia's founding as a nation. On October 4, 1988, the Presidents' Committee reconvened at the Intercontinental Hotel in Sydney and, in the presence of 17 countries, a resolution to draft a constitution forming the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) was passed unanimously (ratified by the first Assembly of Members in 1991).

Dr Carey joined the WFC Council (now the Board of Directors) in 1992. He served on the Council for a total of fourteen years, finally stepping down in 2006. Having passed through the executive offices of the WFC, he was elected as its sixth president in 2002, serving a two-year term of office.

During this time, alongside Drs Gerry Clum and Peter Dixon, Dr Carey served as a co-chair on one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken by the WFC - a Global Identity Consultation. A worldwide survey gathered the views of almost 30,000 chiropractors plus other key stakeholders from both within and outside the profession. Consensus was achieved, resulting in a number of identity statements being produced and a clear framework upon which chiropractic could promote itself worldwide. Continuing his engagement with the profession in general and CCPA in particular, Dr Carey was a published author. With experience of managing high-value cases involving cervical artery dissection, he published works including a

1993 report on the occurrence of cerebral vascular accidents in chiropractic practice and a further paper co-authored with Dr Scott Haldeman in 2011.

Dr Carey felt strongly that chiropractors had a place on the healthcare teams of every Canadian. He was a strong advocate for the continued development of the chiropractic profession. Writing in the Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association in 2011, he commented:

"No profession can afford to stand still in this era of rapid change. Demanding and savvy consumers, as well as professional competition, make staying the same a huge risk. I would suggest that one of our great weaknesses has been our willingness to accept the status quo."

It was this vision of continuous development and innovation that was one of Dr Carey's greatest strengths and the one for which he will most be remembered.

After 48 years in practice, Dr Carey retired from practice in 2015 and ownership of his clinic in Stratford passed to his son, Dr David Carey, himself a 1996 graduate of CMCC. However, he retained a keen interest in the profession.

Despite his retirement from practice, Dr Carey continued his engagement with the chiropractic profession. He was a commencement speaker at a convocation of CMCC and attended a meeting of past WFC presidents in 2015 in Athens, Greece. He also continued as an active supporter of the WFC. In his honor, the Paul Carey Award was established at CMCC to recognize students holding a leadership position and developing new initiatives or programs that enhance the student experience, the curriculum, or the chiropractic profession.

Recalling his former colleague, CCPA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Dean Wright, remarked,

*continued*

## Modern father of Canadian chiropractic passes (continued)

**Paul F. Carey (March 17, 1943 – October 31, 2023)**

"Paul's commitment, passion and intelligence fueled him to ensure that whatever he undertook was done to the highest level.

"Paul was unafraid to tackle a challenge - in fact, he seemed to thrive on it.

"His resilience was astounding. It inspired others to stretch themselves and find more to offer. He was forthright, and he was unabashedly willing to share his opinion.

"You always knew where you stood with Paul. While this clarity could be unsettling to some, it was a comfort for many."

Former CCA President, Dr Eleanor White commented, "When in tight spots, Paul was intelligent, thoughtful and both cool and emotional.

"He planned and prepared for all types of outcomes. He was well resourced and generous in his support of a worthwhile endeavor. He could be as tough as steel, but also quietly and privately supportive of a person in difficulty. His dedication to the goal, the standard and his loved ones, patients and the profession, was rock solid."

Paul Carey passed away on October 31, 2023, in the same quiet and dignified manner that had characterized him through life.

He was predeceased by his parents Kathleen and Phillip, his first wife Nina and an infant daughter. He is survived by his second wife Florenta, brother Bill, children David, Lisa and Robert, grandchildren Nicole, Matthew, Scott, Bryce, Evan, Cameron and Ryan and great granddaughter Olivia.



*The Presidents' meeting approving the formation of the World Federation of Chiropractic (October 4, 1988). Dr Carey standing fourth from right*



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## Millions get moving to celebrate World Spine Day

Populations across the WFC's seven world regions were galvanized into action to celebrate the 2023 World Spine Day.

World Spine Day takes place every year on October 16 and is organized by the World Federation of Chiropractic.

The 2023 theme of *Move Your Spine* emphasized the hazards of immobility and sedentary behavior associated with spinal pain and disability as part of the global burden of disease, and stressed the need for regular movement as well as quality essential spinal health services worldwide.

With an estimated 540 million people in the world suffering with low back pain at any one time, spinal disorders remain the leading cause of years lived with disability.

World Spine Day also recognizes the lack of access to quality spine care and rehabilitation in under-served communities, which results in chronicity and permanent deformity.



*The Canadian Chiropractic Association generated a range of attractive graphics*



The 2023 theme of *Move Your Spine* focused on highlighting ways in which people can help their spines by staying mobile, avoiding sedentary behaviors, not overloading their spines and adopting healthy habits such as weight loss and smoking cessation.

World Spine Day organizing committee co-chair, Dr Dani Weisner, said, "Public health initiatives like World Spine Day are critical in raising awareness, providing information and empowering the public to care for their spines. For spine health experts, World Spine Day provides a perfect opportunity to meaningfully contribute and proactively participate in their communities through education."

As usual, the WFC's annual World Spine Day competition drew entries from around the world. WSD committee co-chair, Dr Rebekah Wilks, commented, "We were thrilled with yet another year of energy and innovation. Our competition entrants were all incredibly ingenious and we loved the way in which WFC member associations, educational institutions and private clinics all threw themselves into the spirit of World Spine Day."

Winner of the national association category went

*continued*



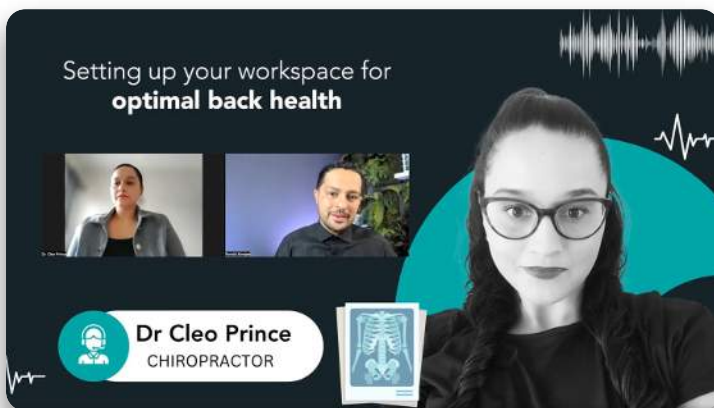
## Millions get moving to celebrate World Spine Day (continued)



Canadian Chiropractic Association



Children's Chiropractic Foundation (Hong Kong)



Chiropractic Association of South Africa

to the Canadian Chiropractic Association. With an outstanding program of innovative activity to celebrate World Spine Day, the judges felt that their range of activities, public engagement and community impact made them worthy winners.

The Chiropractic Doctors Association of Hong Kong

won the runners-up prize, while a highly competitive entry from the Chiropractic Association of South Africa saw them receive a commendation.

More recognition went to South Africa this year, with the Chiropractic Student Council at the University of Johannesburg winning first prize for the educational institution category. Their campaign impressed the judges with its adherence to the theme and its engagement of students and faculty throughout the program.

The judges also congratulated the International Medical University (Malaysia), who were awarded second prize.

In the individual/clinic category, first prize went to the Children's Chiropractic Foundation (Hong Kong), which ran an outstanding campaign. Highly commended was the New York Medical Group, also based in Hong Kong for its program of community action, resulting in thousands benefiting from self-help advice, tips and general education to maintain a healthy spine.

WFC Secretary-General Richard Brown said, "I'd like to recognize and thank our brilliant organizing team of Danielle Wiesner, Rebekah Wilks and Danielle Tonkin for once again putting together the event and judging the World Spine Day competition.

"We believe that World Spine Day is the largest single day of action dedicated to care of the spine on the planet. I urge every chiropractor to plan an event in their community on October 16 each year.

"By getting involved in public health in this way, chiropractors can demonstrate their expertise in spinal health and collaborate interprofessionally."

The theme for the 2024 World Spine Day will be announced later in the year.

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## WORLD SPINE DAY

### Millions get moving to celebrate World Spine Day (continued)



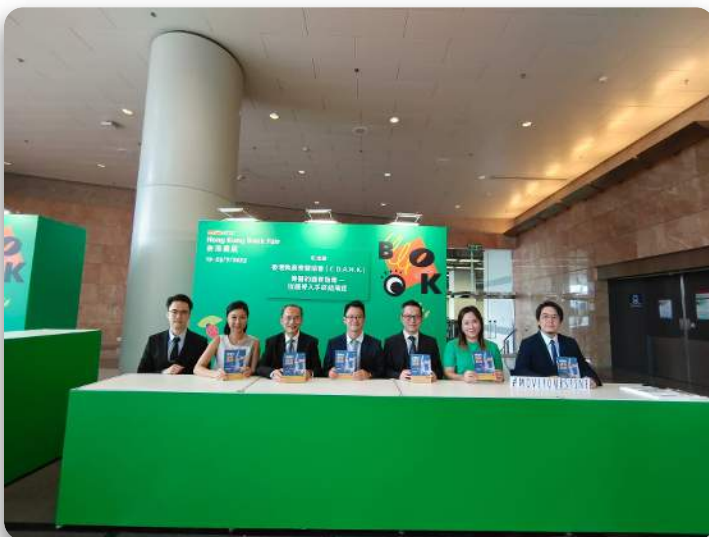
*InterCare (Philippines)*



*Student Council, University of Johannesburg*



*International Medical University (Malaysia)*



*Chiropractic Doctors Association of Hong Kong*



*New York Medical Group (Hong Kong)*



## WFC WORLD SPINE DAY 2023 COMPETITION WINNERS

### WFC MEMBER ASSOCIATION CATEGORY

FIRST PRIZE

**Canadian Chiropractic Association (Canada)**

SECOND PRIZE

**Chiropractic Doctors Association of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR)**

HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Chiropractic Association of South Africa (South Africa)**

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION CATEGORY

FIRST PRIZE

**Chiropractic Student Council, University of Johannesburg  
(South Africa)**

SECOND PRIZE

**International Medical University (Malaysia)**

### PRIVATE CLINIC / INDIVIDUAL CLINICIAN

FIRST PRIZE

**Children Chiropractic Foundation (Hong Kong SAR, China)**

HIGHLY COMMENDED

**InterCare (Philippines)**

**New York Medical Group (Hong Kong SAR, China)**

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## Chiropractic mourns the loss of a giant

**Gerard Clum May 7, 1952 – October 27, 2023**

Dr. Gerard Clum, longstanding Board member and past president of the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC), passed away on October 27 following a long illness. He was 71.

Dr. Clum, known to many as Gerry, was arguably one of the best-known figures in the chiropractic profession. A member of the inaugural Board of Directors of the WFC when it was formed in 1988, he served as a Board member until stepping down in 2015. By that time, he had occupied all of the Executive offices of the WFC, including serving as its eighth president between 2006 and 2008.

Fondly remembered for his unfailing gentlemanly conduct, sense of fairness and diplomatic skills, Dr. Clum was widely respected in all quarters of the chiropractic profession. Between 2003 and 2005, he served as a co-chair of the WFC's Identity Consultation, a challenging role that called on the views of all stakeholders and developed a statement around which the vast majority of the profession could coalesce.

As a child growing up in Buffalo, NY, Dr. Clum experienced a number of falls, including bilateral fractures of his hands and a broken ankle. A throwaway comment from an attending orthopedic physician caused his family to get his eyes checked, whereupon it was discovered that he was suffering from Bilateral Optic Atrophy, a progressive condition causing deterioration of the optic nerve leading to loss of vision. Brutal tests were undertaken, including a pneumoencephalogram, which Gerry remembers as being like having his brain sucked out of his skull. With no medical treatment available, he was recommended to attend a Braille School due to his severe visual impairment and was consigned by the medical profession to gradual sight loss and eventual blindness. The future looked bleak.

Around this time, in 1964, his father was seeing a



*Dr Gerard W. Clum*

chiropractor in Port Colborne, Ontario. The chiropractor enquired about young Gerry's eye condition and, with the help of textbooks from his library, explained what bilateral optic atrophy was. He offered to treat Gerry, stating that while he was unsure whether he would be able to help him, he would love a chance to try, promising that he would not make the condition worse.

Treatment commenced with chiropractic adjustments, whereupon, to the amazement of ophthalmologists at the Cleveland Clinic and elsewhere, a dramatic improvement in Gerry's vision was noted. Gerry recalled with a smile, "With an ophthalmoscope in one hand and a Camel (cigarette) in another, he looked at my eyes and through a big, bushy moustache, he declared, "This is a God-damned miracle! What

*continued*

## Chiropractic mourns the loss of a giant

**Gerard Clum May 7, 1952 – October 27, 2023 (continued)**

has this boy been doing?" When informed that he had been treated by a chiropractor, the ophthalmologist snarled through a haze of tobacco smoke, "I wouldn't take my dog to see a chiropractor." By the end of the summer of 1964, with ongoing chiropractic care, Gerry's vision had improved from a dismal 20/90 to only mild visual deficit of 20/40.

Not deterred by the eye-doctor's less than glowing endorsement, at that life-changing moment, Dr. Clum's career trajectory was cemented. There were no other options - he would become a chiropractor, no matter what.

Looking back, he recalled that he was blessed not to have had to ensure much of the high school angst regarding career choices that his peers had

to endure. He was certain that he wanted to be a chiropractor. At the age of 18, in 1970, he enrolled at Palmer College of Chiropractic, graduating three years later in 1973.

Remaining in Davenport, IA, Dr. Clum went into practice in January 1974 but remained connected to his alma mater, becoming a junior member of faculty. At the time, he also harbored aspirations of practicing in South Carolina, and obtained a license to practice in the Palmetto State.

However, in the summer of 1974, Dr. Clum's life was to take on a new direction, when he attended a fund-raising event run by Dr. Sid Williams at one of his Dynamic Essentials seminars. Inspired by the larger-than-life Williams, Dr. Clum became one of the first three faculty members at the newly



*The inaugural WFC Council (1988) with Dr Clum (standing, center)*

*continued*



## Chiropractic mourns the loss of a giant

**Gerard Clum May 7, 1952 – October 27, 2023 (continued)**

formed Life College of Chiropractic in Marietta, Georgia. With this encounter, and with Gerry marrying his sweetheart, Cathy on November 2, 1974, it was another life-changing year for Gerry, who at the time was still only 22.

Over the course of six years, Life College grew from a handful of learners to a campus with 1500 students enrolled. By 1981, Dr. Williams had aspirations to expand his operations and had eyed California as a potential second campus location. At that time, two upper-cervical chiropractors had formed the Pacific States Chiropractic College. However, the institution was in financial trouble and needed urgent support. Dr. Clum was offered the role of president, which he initially accepted, but then withdrew, recommending that Dr. Williams' acute business and entrepreneurial skills were desperately needed in the first instance. The advice of the Life College President was duly sought, a rescue package was put in place and Life Chiropractic College West (LCCW) was born. Dr. Clum was appointed as its first president.

The early days were not easy. Hurdles needed to be overcome and there was much work to do. The first attempt at accreditation failed, primarily on financial grounds, before CCE approved Life West's second application six months later. The institution continued to grow, during which time Dr. Clum's efforts saw a new loan system put in place that saved institutions from bankruptcy and enormously reduced student loan debt default.

With Life West thriving under Dr. Clum's leadership, it was not long before further opportunities presented themselves.

He became involved with the Council on Chiropractic Education, the Association of Chiropractic Colleges and the ICA, passing through the executive offices of each. It was through his lifetime membership of the ICA and his service on

its Board and as Vice-President, that Dr. Clum was able to pursue international interests.

Dr. Clum's involvement with the WFC commenced in 1987, when the concept of the World Federation of Chiropractic was first mooted at a Summit meeting in London. A congress in Sydney in 1988 saw the WFC being formed, with Dr. Clum serving on the inaugural WFC Council, a seat he was to continue to hold, representing the International Chiropractors Association, until stepping down in 2015.

One of the key projects of which Dr. Clum was a leader was the WFC's Identity Consultation. Arising from a 1988 Institute for Alternative Futures report, which stressed a need for a clear and agreed-upon role for the chiropractic profession, a Task Force was assembled under the joint chairs of Dr. Clum, Dr. Paul Carey and Dr. Peter Dixon. Following a global consultation, the outcomes were reported in 2005 with unanimous approval. Meetings were hosted at LCCW and the outcome underscored Dr. Clum's ability to convene the best minds from across the political and philosophical spectrum.

Having served in the offices of Secretary-Treasurer, Second Vice-President and First Vice-President, Dr. Clum was elected President of the WFC in 2006, serving a two-year term of office. Bringing a wealth of experience to the role, his reputation for unfailing courtesy and gentlemanly conduct made him one of the profession's great statesmen, representing the WFC around the world, including as the host president at the 2007 WFC Biennial Congress in Villamora, Portugal.

Dr. Clum stepped down from his role as President of LCCW in February 2011, following over 30 years in office. He subsequently was appointed to the office of Presidential Liaison for External Affairs at Life University, where he oversaw a range of

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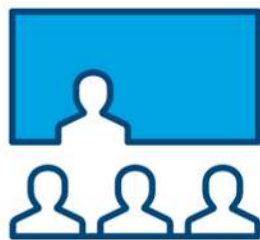
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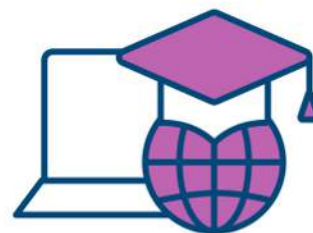
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## Chiropractic mourns the loss of a giant

**Gerard Clum May 7, 1952 – October 27, 2023 (continued)**

activities under then President Dr. Guy Riekeman and his successor in the role, Dr. Rob Scott. He remained active, coordinating meetings of the Octagon Group and participating in the Rubicon Group, representing chiropractic educational institutions with a vitalistic philosophy.

One of the roles of which Dr. Clum was most proud was as Director of the Center for Compassion, Integrity and Secular Ethics at Life University. In this role, he oversaw the Chillon Project, providing higher education to people impacted by the prison system in Georgia. This included the offering of two degree programs at Arrendale State Prison, a maximum-security facility for women in Alto, Georgia. The project also provides full scholarships for correctional staff to obtain degrees at Life University.

In addition to the above, Dr. Clum continued to serve on the Board of the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress and as a Board member of the Integrated Healthcare Policy Consortium. He was awarded Chiropractor of the Year by the ICA, Man of the Year by *Dynamic Chiropractic* and was the 2014 recipient of the Lee Homewood Award for the Association of the History of Chiropractic. He was the recipient of the WFC Honor Award, the highest honor the WFC has in its power to bestow, in 2015.

Dr. Clum remained a mentor to many in the profession until his passing in October 2023. Testament to the esteem in which he was held, his passing brought tributes from across the international chiropractic profession, irrespective of political viewpoints. Those who served with him remembered his polite diplomacy and the courteous and respectful manner in which he was able to communicate his opinion.

Speaking after his death, current WFC President Dr. John Maltby said, "Gerry Clum was one of the



*The WFC Council (2010), Budapest, Hungary (Dr Clum standing, left front row)*

greatest advocates for chiropractic. His life was truly dedicated to the vision of the WFC: that all people, of all ages, in all nations should have access to chiropractic. With Gerry, it was never about him; it was always about chiropractic.

"I was humbled when he asked me to take his place on the Board of the WFC after having served 27 years. To me, Gerry was a mentor, a champion, but most of all, a friend."

Dr. Clum's passing will be felt acutely by the entire chiropractic profession and all who had the honor of serving with him across his illustrious 50 years of service. Recent years saw him in failing health, but despite this, he found time and energy to attend chiropractic events, provide counsel to chiropractic leaders and retain an active interest in the affairs of the profession.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Cathy, three children Don, Cassie and Lauren, and four grandchildren, Skylar, Cameron, Xander and Kaiya. In December, Skylar will walk across the graduation stage of Life University, 50 years almost to the day from when her grandfather did the same at Palmer School of Chiropractic. Dr. Clum's legacy lives on, through his beloved family and profession.

## Standing ovation for 2023 John A. Sweaney lecturer

Dr Mufudzi Chihambakwe earned a standing ovation at the recent WFC Assembly after delivering the biennial John A. Sweaney Lecture, sponsored by IBCE.

The Zimbabwe-born, South African trained, Botswana-practicing chiropractor is the first African to have delivered the prestigious lecture, which captivated chiropractic leaders representing over 40 nations.

Dr. Chihambakwe is the clinical supervisor at the World Spine Care clinic in Botswana's capital city, Gaborone, proving evidence-based, people-centered care to underserved communities.

A published author and President of the African Chiropractic Federation, he is also the founder of Spine Health Africa, a charity that organizes mission trips to support remote villages in Zimbabwe.

The title of Dr Chihambakwe's 2023 lecture was "The Light We Carry: Chiropractic As A Public

Service."

Dr Chihambakwe spoke about the remote village in Zimbabwe where his grandfather and father were raised and where his family herded cattle. It was, said Dr Chihambakwe, the place where he first saw a light after seeing a sign in his native Shona language outside a health center: '*Vanhu vanorapwa pano havabhadariswe mari*' essentially making a promise to help anyone coming to the center in need of assistance.

Dr Chihambakwe pointed out that despite aspirations of Universal Health Coverage, a core pillar of the World Health Organization's work, there are many populations with the greatest burden of disease that remain with little or no access to quality health services.

In his lecture, Dr Chihambake referred to the phrase Sawubona, meaning 'I see you.' He pointed out the relative invisibility of spine related disorders in countries where the burden of communicable diseases is high.



Dr Mufudzi Chihambakwe

*The light we carry  
Is not for those that can see  
But for those that  
Think they are blind  
Yet have just been sitting in the dark  
This whole time.*

Chihambakwe (2023)

Paying tribute to World Spine Care, Dr Chihambakwe spoke of the importance of the work in underserved communities.

Present in the audience was Dr John Sweaney's widow, Dr Inger Villadsen, who, along with delegates at the WFC Assembly, rose in tribute to the wise words articulated in the lecture.



## WFC in Denmark for annual academic meeting



*Richard Brown (fourth from left) with ECU President Vivian Kil and members of the DKF Board.*

Secretary-General Richard Brown delivered an opening address at the

(DKF) 2023 convention and AGM, held in November 2023 in Odense, Denmark.

As part of a group of national and international speakers, Prof. Brown (pictured below with the Board of the DKF along with ECU President, Dr Vivian Kil) spoke of the value of vision, persistence and teamwork and its relevance to organizational success.

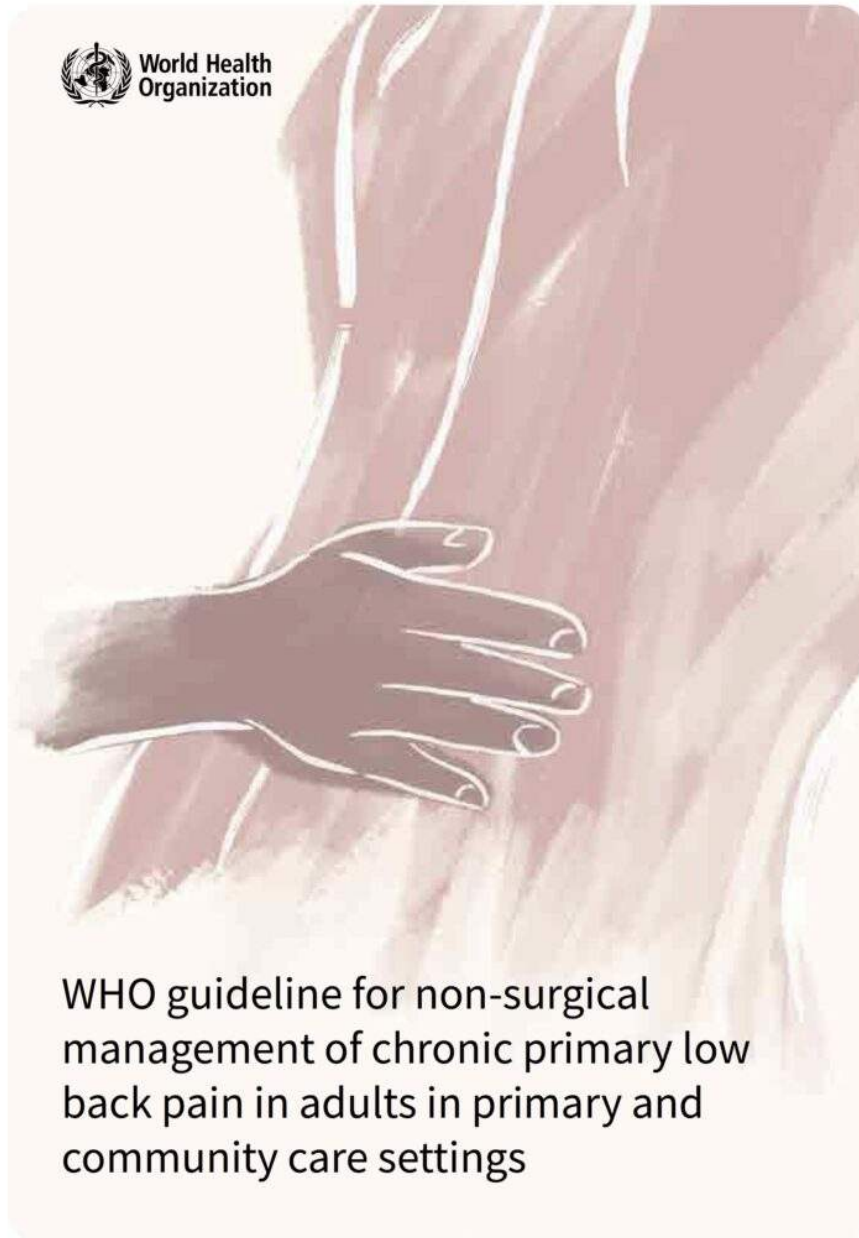
He went on to congratulate the DKF on its achievements in delivering on the WFC's #BeEPIC principles and the reputation of the Chiropractic

Knowledge Hub as a powerhouse of research. He also reminded attendees that the 18th Biennial WFC Congress would be held May 7-10, 2025 in Copenhagen.

The DKF is the WFC member national association for Denmark, which is seen as one of the most successful nations in the world for chiropractic.

Denmark has a chiropractic program at the University of Southern Denmark, where there is high public utilization and chiropractors are recognized and respected within the mainstream health system.

## New WHO LBP Guideline provides strong endorsement for EPIC chiropractic



In December, the World Health Organization launched its Guideline for the Non-Surgical Management of Chronic Primary Low Back Pain in Adults in Primary and Community Care Settings. The Guideline presents a

strong endorsement of the EPIC (evidence-based, people-centered, interprofessional and collaborative) pillars that were set out by the WFC in 2017.

Led by Professor Andrew Briggs - a keynote speaker at

the 17th WFC Biennial Congress in Australia - the launch set out key elements of the guideline's recommendations, both in terms of those interventions to be utilized and those to be avoided.

Spinal manipulation was one of the physical therapies recommended for use in all patients, including older adults. Other recommended physical therapies included dry needling, a structured exercise program and massage.

Structured and standardized education and advice were also part of the key management recommendations, as was cognitive behavioral therapy.

TENS, therapeutic ultrasound, traction and lumbar braces/supports were all found not to be of value, with recommendations against their use as part of care for adults with chronic, primary low back pain.

The Guideline was also scathing of most forms of commonly used forms of pharmacological interventions, with only non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication receiving a conditional recommendation.

Opioids, benzodiazepines, antidepressants, anticonvulsants, muscle relaxants, cannabis-related preparations and paracetamol (acetaminophen) all received the thumbs-down, with explicit guideline advice not to use or

*continued*



## New WHO LBP Guideline provides strong endorsement for EPIC chiropractic

recommend. With the exception of topical cayenne pepper (capsicum), no herbal remedies were recommended.

The Guideline was supportive of the use of multi-component biopsychosocial interventions, repeatedly advocated by the WFC, and presenters at the launch repeatedly stressed the value of shared decision-making and the need to acknowledge patient needs, preferences and context.

Speaking after the launch, WFC Secretary-General Richard Brown commented, "This important WHO Guideline is a strong endorsement of what many evidence-based chiropractors do in their clinics and offices around the world, every single day.

"As a non-state actor in official relations with WHO, the WFC has for many years strongly advocated for a dedicated low back pain guideline that is applicable for all adults, including older people.

"We are particularly pleased to see a powerful endorsement of a biopsychosocial approach to spinal pain and disability, the importance of rehabilitation and interventions for which chiropractors are specifically trained, included in this guideline.

"Chiropractors have consistently high levels of patient satisfaction as a consequence of strong, empathic

### WHO GUIDELINE FOR NON-SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC PRIMARY LOW BACK PAIN IN ADULTS

#### Key evidence-based recommendations

1. Structured and standardized education and/or advice.
2. Structured exercise or therapy program.
3. Needling therapies, including dry needling.]
4. Spinal manipulation
5. Massage.
6. Quality, affordable mobility assistive products
7. Operant therapy
8. Cognitive behavioral therapy
9. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAIDs)
10. Topical cayenne pepper (*Capsicum*)
11. Multicomponent biopsychosocial care

communication, a hands-on approach, their use of exercise and lifestyle advice, and their support for interprofessional and collaborative care models. The recommendations in this Guideline provide a strong case for Member States to consider integrating chiropractic within health systems at high-, middle- and low-income levels."

The Guideline Development Group included chiropractors and received evidence commissioned by WHO from sources including WFC Research Committee Chair, Dr Sidney Rubinstein, who led three systematic reviews informing the guideline recommendations.

To access the full Guideline, Executive Summary and recommendations, visit the WHO website [here](#).



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## Public Health Committee hosts workshop at WFC Congress

The WFC Public Health Committee delivered a productive training workshop during the 17th WFC Congress, held on Australia's Gold Coast.

The focus of the workshop was developing skills to integrate public health messaging in chiropractic clinical practice. The session began with PHC Chair Dr. Claire Johnson providing an overview of how chiropractic is well-suited for both individual and public health.

The Chiropractic Public Health model was reviewed and the essential prevention terminology was discussed, including modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors and the five different types of prevention.

Attendees participated in four teams, which focused on a public health topic that chiropractors could implement in their regions. The team leaders

and the target population, then developed an action statement to address the problem. Following this, each group developed a goal that was specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time bound. Based on the goal, they developed a success plan, which included the steps to achieve the goal, who is responsible, and an action timeline. Representatives shared their public health project ideas with the large group, which included:

1. Promotion of spine health through primary and secondary prevention of anterior head posture among teenagers using technology using a mobile app.
2. Creation of a more inclusive healthcare environment for Indigenous populations through the development of an educational program to promote cultural competence.
3. Promotion of healthy weight for obese adults in lower socioeconomic groups through tertiary prevention using education, interactive social support, and feedback.
4. Creation of basic necessity food packs (containing healthy food and recipes) for youth and elders at risk of poor nutrition through collaboration with local dietitians, food producers, and distributors, for distribution at schools and community halls.



*L>R Yi Kai Wong, Dawn Dane, Claire Johnson, Kendrah da Silva and Faye Deane*

were PHC members Dr. Dawn Dane, representing the Pacific region; Dr. Kendrah da Silva representing African region; Dr. Faye Deane representing the European region; and Dr. Yi Kai Wong representing the Asian region.

First, the group members brainstormed about what health need would most help in their communities. They defined the prevention level

Their projects were creative and diverse, addressing significant public health needs that chiropractors could implement. The attendees were thoughtful, engaged, and did a wonderful job developing public health activities that chiropractors could implement in clinical practice.

The WFC Public Health Committee exists to advise the WFC Board on matters of public health and highlight areas of public health relevant to chiropractic practice.

## Secretary-General delivers speech at British Consulate

As part of a visit to Hong Kong in October 2023, WFC Secretary-General Richard Brown was invited to deliver a speech at a reception at the British Consulate, hosted by the Consul-General Brian Davidson CMG.



*L>R Richard Brown, Brian Davidson CMG (Consul-General), Christina Cunliffe, Anne Heung Hoi-Lam, and Eric Chu*

During his presentation, Prof. Brown spoke of the need to expand the health workforce to tackle the burden of spinal pain and disability, particularly as the ageing population continues to expand. He stressed the need for a holistic approach to care, where the maintenance of social interactions was given equal weight as physical aspects of health.

Referring to the launch of the new Hong Kong Chiropractic College, Prof. Brown spoke of the value of high standards of education and training and the importance of ensuring that patients were served by those with specialist knowledge and skills in the delivery of evidence-based spine and joint care.

He also emphasized the need for interprofessional, collaborative approaches and the value of multidisciplinary teams and shared decision-making in health care.

## Three new national association members join WFC

The World Federation of Chiropractic has welcomed three new national associations into full membership.

At its annual Assembly of Members, held at the Sofitel Hotel, Broadbeach, Gold Coast, applications from the nations of Azerbaijan, China and the state of Palestine were considered by delegates and unanimously voted into membership.

The Azerbaijan Chiropractic Association becomes part of the European region, the Chiropractic Association of China joins the Asian region and the Palestine Chiropractic Association becomes part of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

In addressing delegates, Li Peng of the



*Chiropractic Association of China President, Li Peng, addresses the WFC Assembly, Gold Coast, 2023.*

Chiropractic Association of China spoke of his joy at having had the association accepted into membership. He undertook to serve the WFC and undertake the responsibilities of membership and was welcomed by delegates present at the meeting.



## WFC Secretary-General urges whole-person spine care at 2023 BCA Conference

WFC Secretary-General Richard Brown was one of a series of 'Big Think' speakers at the British Chiropractic Association's ChiroLive conference, held Saturday, November 18 in Birmingham, England.

During his presentation, 'Shades of Yellow: Why Psychosocialism is the Key to Spinal Success', he stressed the need to discard the reductionist, biomedical model of spine care and fully embrace a whole-person, biopsychosocial approach. Describing the range of psychosocial factors and encouraging a heightened awareness of yellow



*Richard Brown focused on the biopsychosocial model during his 'Big Think' presentation at the BCA Conference*

flags, Prof. Brown, a past president of the BCA, highlighted the values of person-centered care, championed by the BCA in its landmark Patient Charter.

In setting out strategies to embrace psychosocialism, he spoke of the need to promote patient self-efficacy, develop excellence in

communication and recognize the multitude of non-physical factors that influence the risk of chronicity in back pain patients.

Before a packed audience of UK chiropractors and chiropractic students, other 'Big Think' speakers covered a diverse range of topics, including equity, diversity and inclusion, evidence-based care, integrative care and nutrition, high level performance and innovation, and the interprofessional MSK landscape. Sessions also covered neurology and pregnancy care and featured keynote speakers from the fields of medicine and clinical psychology.

During the event, outgoing BCA President, Catherine Quinn awarded a series of Fellowships before herself receiving a Fellowship from new President, Tim Button. WFC Public Health Committee member Faye Deane received the BCA Chiropractors' Chiropractor award.

Established in 1925, the BCA is the largest national chiropractic association in Europe. It is the WFC member for the United Kingdom and is regarded as a valued contributor to the development of chiropractic worldwide.



*The event was attended by over 300 chiropractors*

## Patient safety for the future: a vision for the future

**Katie Pohlman, Chair WFC Global Patient Safety Task Force**

When synergistic passions come together for a common goal, the energy is palpable.

In Canada, the Chiropractic Association of Alberta (CAA) recognized the tremendous amount of patient safety activity that was being conducted and that escalating these ongoing efforts would ensure chiropractic care is part of the mainstream of healthcare and remains a major contributor to the health and safety of patients.

In June 2023, representatives from 15 organizations gathered, including Dr. Katie Pohlman, who is the chair of the WFC Global Patient Safety Task Force (GPS TF), along with other CEOs and Executive Directors, Board representatives, regulators, educators, researchers, patient safety experts and advocates, to a virtual meeting to discuss patient safety in chiropractic.

At this meeting, these 3 recommendations for a national strategy were identified:

1. Defining patient safety and unintended harm;
2. Creating a patient safety culture; and
3. Enhancing patient safety education.

In October 2023, an expanded group gathered, including Drs. Katie Pohlman and Sidney Rubinstein (vice chair of the WFC GPS TF), for an in-person meeting to discuss recommendations that could be implemented in short-, mid-, and long-term goals to shape a coordinated chiropractic patient safety strategy across Canada. In developing this patient safety strategy, it emerged that four key themes needed to be threaded throughout in order to achieve success. These were:

1. Including the patient voice and the chiropractors' voice
2. Making improvement through evidence, data collection, and application
3. Enhancing communications



*Dr Julie Northam is the new head of research at AECC University College*

### 4. Normalizing patient safety through committed leadership

The interweaving of all four themes ensures practitioners have input, support and education. Nihil de nobis, sine nobis – or “nothing about us without us” is the rallying cry to ensure full engagement with all stakeholders including regulators. Overall, it is clear that the chiropractic profession can expand its approach to include a focus on patient safety. Canada is setting the standard to better leverage resources for a more efficient advancement of patient safety in chiropractic.

This Canadian initiative demonstrates the ever-growing collective effort within the chiropractic profession to normalize patient safety. It will not happen overnight, but together, we have the resolve to ensure a robust approach to patient safety.

The WFC GPS TF is thrilled to learn from and support this Canadian initiative. It will certainly help other countries' patient safety focus become solidified and advance the chiropractic profession.





# WORLD FEDERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC

supports WHO guidelines on  
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## WFC Public Health Committee member recognized for outstanding international work and EDI initiatives.

Faye Deane, a member of the WFC Public Health Committee, was recently recognized as the winner of the BCA's 2023 Chiropractors' Chiropractor Excellence Award.

Philippa Oakley, a BCA member, nominated Faye, a senior lecturer on the chiropractic program at Teesside University, for the award for her work with the GCC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group and for continually championing chiropractic to become a more inclusive, diverse, profession.

Faye was also recognized for her position as a FICS Education Commission co-chair and for the establishment of a public health internship in Chile in 2013 which, after winning a Global Partnership Seed Corn grant this year, has now turned into an international collaboration between Teesside University, the Universidad del Desarrollo and Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile.

This international, interdisciplinary collaboration is remarkable and showcases the many skills and attributes chiropractors can bring to the wider healthcare landscape.

During the presentation of the award, Faye was acknowledged for her insight and initiatives to improve the chiropractic profession, not only at an undergraduate level with chiropractic degree programs, but also on the international stage through FICS and her role as a WFC Public Health Committee member.

On being presented with the award, Faye said, "I feel deeply honored to have been recognized by BCA members for my contribution to the profession.

"This award is testament to the unwavering support I've received from my family, colleagues at Teesside University and the BCA.

"Transitioning to academia after 14 years of clinical practice and helping to establish a new chiropractic



*Faye Deane, center, received the Chiropractor's Chiropractor award at the BCA ChiroLive 2023 event in October.*

degree has had its challenges.

"It's also been the most stimulating and rewarding times of my career.

"I know with absolute certainty that I want to continue adding value and impact to the chiropractic profession, particularly in the field of public health.

"Richard Brown, Secretary-General of the WFC gave me an opportunity to serve on its public health committee in 2021, an appointment which has inspired me more than he'll ever imagine. Thank you, Richard.

"I'd also like to thank fellow academics from the other chiropractic institutions, who have always shown generosity in their time, guidance and willingness to support not only myself but our course at Teesside University.

"Lastly, I would like to thank Philippa Oakley for nominating me for this award. Being acknowledged in this way by someone you respect so highly is the greatest of compliments."

The WFC congratulates Faye on this well-deserved recognition for her outstanding service to the chiropractic profession.



## Logan University honors WFC with new named scholarship

Logan University has honored the World Federation of Chiropractic in the naming of a new global pediatrics scholarship

A 2019 study in *Chiropractic & Manual Therapies* found that the chiropractic profession is represented in over 90 countries, yet the distribution of chiropractors and chiropractic educational institutions, as well as governing legislations and regulations, largely favors high-income countries, in particular North America.

As a consequence, there is a large under-representation of chiropractic in low- and middle-income countries in terms of provision of services, education and legislative and regulatory frameworks.

Elise Hewitt, DC, DICCP, FICC, founding program director for Logan University's Master of Science in Integrative Pediatrics, is trying to change that with the new **Logan University - World Federation of Chiropractic International Scholarship in Chiropractic Pediatrics**.

Funded by Logan University, the scholarship will be awarded annually to one Doctor of Chiropractic from a developing country, pending acceptance into Logan's Master of Science in Integrative Pediatrics. The Doctor of Chiropractic will be selected based on recommendations from local organizations in a given region.

The scholarship will cover the full cost of tuition for the Master of Science in Integrative Pediatrics at Logan, with the exception of textbooks and travel costs associated with two in-person sessions held on Logan's campus.

Recognizing the need for more global access to pediatric chiropractors, especially among low-income populations of the world, Dr. Hewitt said this goodwill scholarship aimed to support the mission of global chiropractic organizations seeking to advance awareness, utilization and integration of

chiropractic care.

"By creating this opportunity, we're helping break down accessibility barriers in developing countries and training more DCs to provide safe and effective chiropractic care to children," Dr. Hewitt said.

"Our hope is that these scholarship recipients will bring the knowledge and skills they gain at Logan back to their home country."

WFC Secretary-General Richard Brown commented, "We're delighted that Logan University has named the WFC as part of this scholarship.

"Developing equity in the international chiropractic workforce is one of the key components of the WFC's vision and mission. By providing opportunities such as this, the scholarship will help children access chiropractic to improve both health and quality of life."

The Master of Science in Integrative Pediatrics is a two-year, online program with two annual in-person weekend sessions on Logan's campus for supervised practice and hands-on learning.

It is the first pediatrics master's program in the U.S. available to Doctors of Chiropractic.



## Japan strengthens chiropractic register with formal incorporation

In a move calculated to increase the robustness of its activities, the Japan Chiropractic Register (JCR) has transitioned into a general incorporated foundation from a voluntary organization.

There are two main outcomes to this move. Firstly, the introduction of a registration renewal system every three years with acquisition of CPD introduces a form of revalidation for registrants.

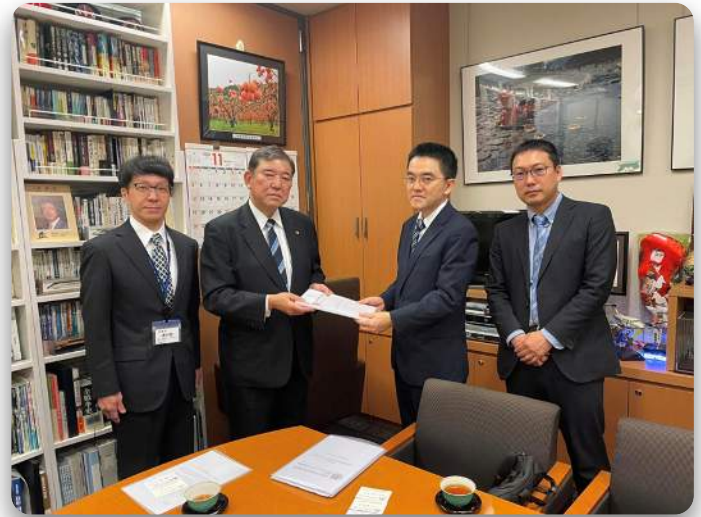
Secondly, the JCR introduces two categories of registration (Type-1 and Type-2). The Type-1 category will be a form of provisional registration, while Type-2 covers registrants who have passed the JCR registration test or any examination deemed to be equivalent.

The JCR members of the Advisory Board, the Board of Directors, and the Board of Councilors for the fiscal year 2023 are as follows:

- Chief Advisor: Mr Shigeru Ishiba (Member of the House of Representatives, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan)
- Board of Directors: Dr Masahiro Goto (Chairperson), Dr Miyuki Arataki (Director), Dr Toshitaka Yamada (Director), Dr Norihiro Matsunaga (Auditor)
- Board of Councilors: Dr Toru Kamada (Councilor), Dr Kuichiro Kitozaki (Councilor), Dr Yoshiaki Takeyachi (Councilor)

On November 22, 2023, Shigeru Ishiba, the JCR's Chief Advisor, and Masahiro Goto DC, Chairperson, submitted the 14th Roster of JCR Registered Chiropractors to Shuichiro Hayashi MD MPH, Director of the Medical Affairs Division, Medical Policy Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

There are currently 612 chiropractors listed on the JCR.



*L>R Dr Goto, Mr Ishiba, Dr Hayashi (MHLW) and Mr Nagaoka (MHLW)*

The WFC member for Japan is the Japanese Association of Chiropractors (JAC).

Dr Shimon Takayanagi DC, President of the JAC who was also present at the meeting, submitted a written request to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare regarding updating the government's chiropractic study.

The last inquiry into chiropractic was conducted over 30 years ago. The 1991 study resulted in negative conclusions about chiropractic, which has been a barrier to progress in the intervening years.

The JAC hopes that an updated study, evaluating the current status of the profession, its scope and the scientific evidence supporting common interventions used by chiropractors, will deliver positive outcomes for the profession in Japan.



## Chiropractic shines at 2023 International Korfball Federation (IKF) World Korfball Championships

According to the International Korfball Association, korfball is the world's only mixed team sport. Since its earliest development, korfball teams have consisted equally of male and female players.

In all instances, from korfball's foremost international athletes to children in the playground, this is an activity where both sexes play together on completely even terms.

Korfball is a ball sport played by hand. It takes a few moments to learn, but a lifetime to perfect. By passing and quick movement players must elude their personal opponents to shoot the ball through a korf – the Dutch word for basket. In the standard game, teams consist of eight players – four male and four female. The korf is set in from the end of



L>R Sunshine Lau Siew Qin, Joanna Faria (CEO of the World Korfball Federation), Dr Helen Huang and Dr Judy Tsu.



Dr Sunshine Lau Siew Qin represented the Sports Chiropractic Council Malaysia and FIC at the Championships

the playing area, enabling shots from 360 degrees.

During the recent IKF World Korfball Championship in Taipei, Taiwan underscored the vital role of chiropractic care in sports. This championship, which served as the primary qualification event for the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China, boasted

the participation of 310 athletes from 24 nations.

Representing the Sports Chiropractic Council Malaysia (SCCM), Sunshine Lau Siew Qin made a notable impact at this event. Appointed as the Team Leader by the Federation Internationale de Chiropractique du Sport (FICS), this marked Sunshine's second international engagement as a sports chiropractor.

Collaborating closely with Dr. Hung-Chun Huang, president of the Taiwan Chiropractic Doctors Society, and Dr. Judy Hsu, their collective endeavors ensured unparalleled chiropractic care for the athletes.

With rigorous, 11-hour, daily routines, the korfball championship chiropractors were on hand throughout the event to deliver skilled chiropractic interventions to competitors and

*continued*

## Chiropractic shines at 2023 International Korfball Federation (IKF) World Korfball Championships (continued)

staff. Their services were clearly appreciated, with a regular flow of athletes seeking out the chiropractors for treatment and advice.

Sunshine's holistic care approach, encompassing taping, mobilization, soft tissue therapy, stretching, manipulation, and motivational support, received widespread gratitude from the athletes.

Their trust in her expertise underlined the significance of chiropractic care at premier sports events.

The World Korfball Championship highlighted the pivotal contributions of organizations such as



*Dr Sunshine Lau Siew Qin treating an athlete at the World Korfball Championships*

SCCM and FICS in promoting chiropractic care on a global scale.

As a member of both SCCM and FICS, Sunshine Lau Siew Qin's experiences solidified her role in championing the chiropractic cause within the Malaysian sports community, extending both care and education to athletes at all competitive tiers.

## Chiropractors participate in Brazil multidisciplinary cervical spine safety symposium

Organized by the Institute of Clinical Neuroscience (INAC) under the direction of two chiropractors, Fernando Tieppo Pompermayer and Rael Rosa, the 1st Multidisciplinary Symposium on safety in the clinical management of the cervical spine took place in southern Brazil in the summer of 2023.



*Chiropractic, physiotherapy and medicine were all represented at the multidisciplinary symposium*

The event marked a special moment for the history of the chiropractic profession in Brazil, as for the first time a panel was convened comprising multiple professions discussing patient safety issues.

Among the speakers were chiropractors, a vascular surgeon, a neurologist, a radiologist, an interventional physiatrist, and a physiotherapist.

The objective of the event was to train professionals who perform manual treatment of the cervical spine to identify the risks and side effects of such interventions. Evidence-based practice was strongly endorsed with a focus on patient safety and individualized care.

INAC's motivation for holding this event was to promote debate in the society and medical community in Brazil, which historically has distorted information about chiropractic and complications frequently associated with chiropractic treatments, such as strokes, fractures and other adverse events.



## ICA launches new foundation to advance knowledge base

The Foundation for the Advancement of Chiropractic Tenets and Science (FACTS) is a (501)(C)(3) nonprofit organization and a sister organization to the International Chiropractors Association, one of the two WFC member national associations representing the United States.

FACTS is dedicated to expanding the information resources available to chiropractors, the public and policy makers regarding chiropractic.

The mission of the Foundation is to study, research, correlate, and disseminate information on the spine, nervous system, and spinal subluxations. It also aims to conduct, promote and

support infrastructure plans, FACTS is in the process of establishing an Institutional Review Board (IRB) that will follow all the federally required development and management procedures as provided in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations regarding human subject protections.

The ICA invites anyone interested in being considered for service on the IRB to submit their curriculum vitae via email to [FACTS@chiropractic.org](mailto:FACTS@chiropractic.org).

FACTS has expressed its gratitude to the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) for a grant in support of its research infrastructure development activities. Office and administrative overhead support is being provided by the International Chiropractors Association (ICA), which ensures resources for these projects are dedicated to the project.

The FACTS Board of Directors comprises:

- Joseph Betz (President)
- Selina Sigafoose-Jackson (Vice President)
- Jon Stucky (Treasurer)
- Deed Harrison (Director)
- Leonard Siskin (Director)
- Beth Clay (Executive Director)

For more information, see [factschiro.org](http://factschiro.org).



*Dr Joseph Betz is the President of the FACTS Board of Directors*

finance educational and scientific programs for such purpose, and furnish scholarships, fellowships or grants for students, organizations, or researchers in pursuance of these programs.

FACTS was originally named the International Chiropractors Research Foundation.

FACTS is focused on advancing the knowledge base of chiropractic, of body function as it relates to the spine and neuromuscular system, in particular the role of spinal subluxations and chiropractic adjustments in body function.

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WFC President



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## New president for BCA after longstanding leader steps down

Following a biennial election process, the British Chiropractic Association (BCA) has elected a new Board to steer the association's strategic direction. This democratic process sees former Vice President Tim Button take on the Presidency.

Commenting on his appointment, BCA President, Tim Button, said, "After six years as Vice President, the BCA has become part of my chiropractic DNA and I am ready to take on the responsibility, challenge and opportunity that comes with the honor of being President.

"I have huge hope and ambition for how the BCA will continue to evolve and speak up for members and the profession.

"As President, I now want to lead us forward on the path we've charted over the past few years, advocating and forging stronger partnerships with our peers, wider health professionals, institutions and stakeholders.

Reflecting on what our past presidents have achieved for the BCA, there's no doubt I have big shoes to fill.

"My predecessor Catherine Quinn has created a trailblazing legacy, so in her steps I follow and I appreciate her guidance as immediate past president. I look forward to this exciting journey ahead and to everything that we can achieve together with the rest of the Board, the Staff and, of course, with BCA members."

The BCA celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2025, which also marks over a hundred years of the chiropractic profession in the UK.

Tim commented on his excitement at this milestone celebration falling within his tenure.

"I'm so proud of how far we have come, and I'm also excited to use our knowledge and skills to further build on growth and successes both in the UK and across the globe."



*New BCA President Tim Button with past president Catherine Quinn.*

Catherine Quinn made history as BCA President, serving an unprecedented six years in the role. This included navigating the association during the COVID-19 pandemic at which time the BCA was praised for its leadership and guidance in supporting its membership.

She was also responsible for leading the BCA strategy in emphasizing the critical importance of patient-centered care, introducing a Charter and positioning the BCA as the association whose members put patients first.

Recognized by Parker University for her leadership with an international award honoring women in chiropractic, Catherine was also awarded with a Fellowship of the BCA (FBCA) at its recent ChiroLive conference.

The BCA is the largest WFC member association in the European region and the fifth-largest globally.

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## Chiropractic features strongly in Malaysia drive for TCM standard of care

Malaysia, one of the fastest-developing nations for chiropractic in the WFC's Asia region, has taken yet another step towards elevating standards for patients and the public.

The Malaysian Ministry of Health recently published Guidelines for Traditional and Complementary Medicine Healthcare Facilities and Services in Malaysia.

Chiropractic features strongly in these comprehensive guidelines, highlighting its impact and importance in global healthcare.

Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) services, including chiropractic care, have traditionally operated without stringent oversight in Malaysia.

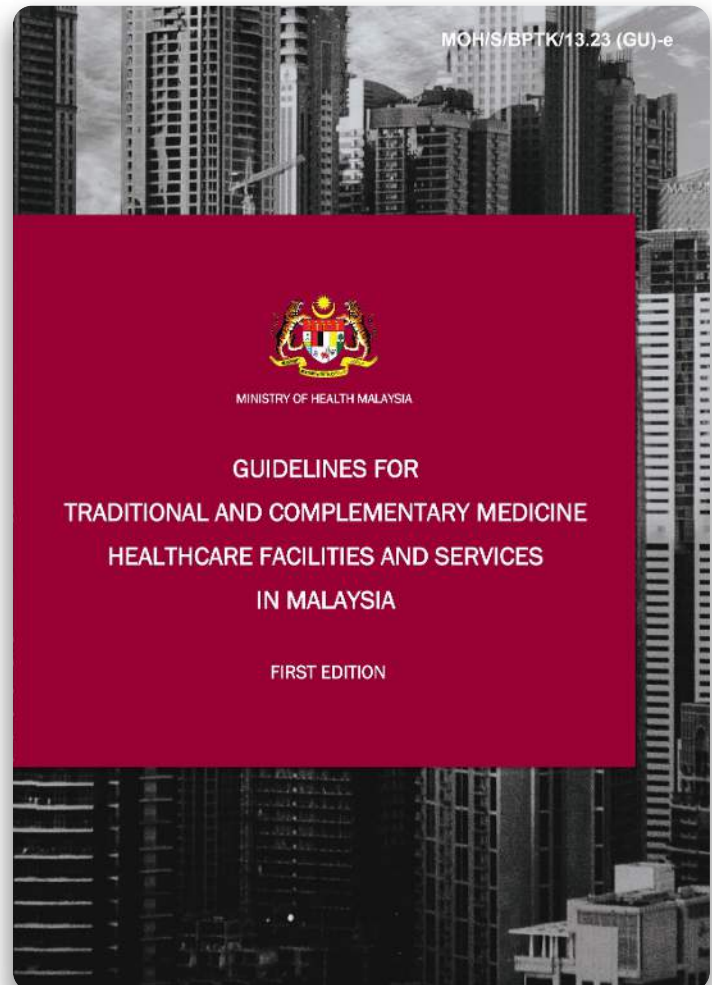
The introduction of these guidelines addresses this gap, ensuring that chiropractic services, along with other T&CM practices, meet uniform quality and safety standards.

The guidelines encompass both mandatory legal requirements and voluntary best practices. This dual approach ensures that chiropractic facilities, alongside other T&CM services, adhere to legal standards while striving for operational excellence.

Key aspects include registration, licensing, medical device standards, patient care protocols, and emergency preparedness.

By including chiropractic services in these guidelines, Malaysia sets an example for the global integration of T&CM into mainstream healthcare. This initiative enhances the credibility and safety of chiropractic care, promoting its wider acceptance and integration.

Malaysia's guidelines for T&CM, including the specific inclusion of chiropractic care, represent a significant advancement in global healthcare. They serve as a model for other nations, demonstrating



*The Guidelines for Traditional and Complementary Medicine Healthcare Facilities and Services in Malaysia include provision for the regulation of chiropractors*

how T&CM can be effectively regulated and integrated into the broader healthcare system.

Speaking after the publication of the guidelines, Association of Chiropractic Malaysia (ACM) President, Dr Yi Kai Wong, commented, "These guidelines are a means of setting and maintaining standards of chiropractic care here in Malaysia.

"High standards of patient care are our priority and effective and robust regulation helps to achieve this."

## World Spine Care Brings Hope to Communities with Limited Access to Spine Care

World Spine Care ([www.worldspinecare.org](http://www.worldspinecare.org)) is a global charity providing affordable, evidence-based spine care in underserved communities worldwide.

Last year, World Spine Care (WSC) founder and president Dr. Scott Haldeman traveled to Botswana with his wife, Joan.

They spent a few days touring the clinics and visiting with Dr. Mufudzi Chihambakwe and Dr. Michael Pretorius, the two chiropractors running the clinics in Gaborone, Mahalapye, and Shoshong Village.

Though these clinics had been partially closed during the pandemic, they are reaching capacity once again, with patients booked two months out. The group returned to the original World Spine Care clinic in the rural village of Shoshong.



*World Spine Care volunteers in the Northern Indigenous Community of Pimicikamak Omikawin*

starting to get reopened again. Coming back now this time, you can see the promise is still there.”

Scott and Joan were also able to tour an amazing new space in Mahalapye with large, modern new rooms for a future WSC clinic. The space can accommodate an additional 2-3 volunteers and is expected to open in early 2024, meaning that now is a great time to apply to volunteer with World Spine Care!

Meanwhile, clinicians at the new World Spine Care clinic in Cross Lake, Manitoba, started treating patients in October.

Housed in the Nursing Station in the Northern Indigenous Community of Pimicikamak Omikawin, the treatment is offered to patients at no cost as part of the Global Spine Care Initiative research project.

Funding is made possible through a grant from the Health Canada Substance Use and Addiction Program, the Canadian Chiropractic Association, the Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation, and the Skoll Foundation.

“We’re really fortunate to be working out of the



*Michael Pretorius, Onkabetse, Joan & Scott Haldeman, Mufudzi Chihambakwe stand in front of the BH3 clinic in Gaborone,*

“It’s extremely exciting being back here in Shoshong again, after 14 years of continuous service to patients through the WSC program,” said Dr. Haldeman.

“This particular clinic is close to our heart as it was the very first clinic we had and it’s now

*continued*



## World Spine Care Brings Hope to Communities with Limited Access to Spine Care (continued)

nursing station and practicing in the emergency department,” said Dr. Melissa Atkinson-Graham, a chiropractor and anthropologist residing in Cross Lake. “We’re already seeing really effective forms of interprofessional collaboration emerging.”

Dr. Atkinson-Graham holds clinic hours 4 days per week and is joined by Dr. Jennifer Ward, an Indigenous Cree-speaking chiropractor, and Ph.D. student at the University of Manitoba who travels to Cross Lake weekly.

The hope is to develop and implement a model of spine care that can reduce opioid usage and improve health outcomes in underserved communities.

Before opening the clinic, Dr. Ward conducted chart reviews, a community health survey, and qualitative interviews with local healthcare providers and members of the Pimicikamak band.

These assessments will help to inform culturally sensitive care. Preliminary results were shared with the Chiropractors’ Association of Saskatchewan during their Chiropractic Rounds in November.

World Spine Care is deeply grateful to their many supporters. To help them say thank you, Walter Moffatt wrote and performed a song called Hope is World Spine Care. A music video can be viewed on the WSC website.

[worldspinecare.org](http://worldspinecare.org)

[info@worldspinecare.org](mailto:info@worldspinecare.org)



## ACA joins National Association of Community Health Centers

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) has joined the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), the leading national advocacy organization in support of community health centers and the expansion of healthcare access for the medically underserved and uninsured.

According to NACHC, more than 1,400 federally funded community health centers nationwide serve more than 30 million people, providing affordable health care and working to eliminate disparities in access. In striving to provide high-quality, integrated primary care, a growing number of community health centers today offer chiropractic services.

“We’re excited to support NACHC’s efforts to increase access to quality, affordable health care in communities across the country,” said John Falardeau, ACA senior vice president of public policy and advocacy.

“Chiropractors offer a patient-centered, non-drug approach for the treatment of common musculoskeletal conditions such as back pain, neck pain and headaches. With the opioid crisis still taking its toll, it’s important for everyone to have access to non-drug therapies that may reduce or eliminate their reliance on prescription pain medications.”

Research and clinical guidelines from groups such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Physicians support the use of non-drug therapies such as spinal manipulation as a first line of defense against common musculoskeletal pain.

As part of its efforts to support diversity and inclusivity in health care, ACA provides information to its members about opportunities to bring chiropractic services to medically underserved communities and populations, including work at community health centers.

## F4CP Celebrates 20th anniversary and concludes season 6 of award-winning podcast

by Sherry McAllister, DC, President, Foundation for Chiropractic Progress

Established in 2003, the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress (F4CP) is proud to celebrate two decades of building public awareness about the benefits of chiropractic care. Check out F4CP's "sizzle reel" about the F4CP at [bit.ly/F4CPSizzle](https://bit.ly/F4CPSizzle)

Looking back on this year, F4CP's highlights include:

- Award-winning FIFA commercial featuring Professional Soccer Player, Olivia Athens' chiropractic story, aired on *ESPN* and *Fox Sports* during the FIFA Women's World Cup
- Five new 'Career in Chiropractic' commercials to promote a chiropractic career
- Positive media exposure through earned article placements across numerous outlets reaching diverse audiences; 100 articles earned in 2023 reached 535m readers
- Significant podcast listenership growth and engagement in 109 countries; *Adjusted Reality* is in the top 25% of all podcasts on Buzzsprout.
- Garnered five new awards from respected media industry organizations for innovative marketing and advertising efforts. These awards include: MarCom Gold Award, 40th Annual Healthcare Advertising Award, Hermes Creative Award, AVA Digital Award and Healthcare Digital Marketing Award.

Speaking of award-winning, F4CP is wrapping up season 6 of its patient-friendly *Adjusted Reality* podcast. Featuring several thought leaders and celebrities, this season's podcast topped the listening charts.

The top-rated episode of the season features the remarkable Dr. Alessandra Colón, an award-winning chiropractor recently highlighted on TLC's TV show, 'Crack Addicts.'

Dr. Colón's story is truly inspiring. Diagnosed with



Dr Sherry McAllister, President, Foundation for Chiropractic Progress

Stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma cancer at the age of 14, she defied the odds and overcame this challenge. Her personal triumph ignited a profound passion for health and wellness, leading her on a journey to become an advocate for natural disease prevention and chiropractic care.

To listen to the episode, [click here](#).

**If you are not already an F4CP member, visit [www.f4cp.org/package](https://www.f4cp.org/package) to access the material mentioned above and so much more. If you're a global leader interested in your organization joining F4CP in global membership, please visit [www.f4cp.org/global](https://www.f4cp.org/global) for more information.**





## Chiropractors convene in Atlanta for American Public Health Association annual meeting

Chiropractors from across the United States gathered in Atlanta, with a turnout of 15,000 attendees, for the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA). The Chiropractic Health Care section took center stage, leading two scientific sessions and conducting a business meeting aimed at reviewing achievements, welcoming new leaders, and strategizing for the future.

The scientific sessions featured diverse presentations from chiropractors, researchers, and medical physicians, covering a broad spectrum of topics. These ranged from insights into Veterans Health Administration data, Medicare, and workers' compensation data, to a comprehensive review of U.S. regulations on informed consent and pharmacotherapy patterns among patients experiencing new

Ph.D., MCHES. Dr. Evans was recognized for his unwavering dedication to the Chiropractic Health Care section and the chiropractic profession. With a rich history of service,



*Dr Dana Madigan*

including research and teaching roles at Parker, Cleveland, and Western States universities, Dr. Evans has held various leadership positions, including CHC section chair. His recent roles include serving as Department Head of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion at Mississippi State University and Assistant Dean of Health Sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi. Currently, Dr. Evans serves as the Dean of the College of Health Sciences at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville.

Outgoing section Chair Dana Madigan, D.C., M.P.H., Ph.D., and former section secretary Krista Ward, D.C., M.P.H., CPH, were both acknowledged for their significant contributions to the Chiropractic Health Care Section.

The new leadership team, led by incoming chair Rob Leach, D.C., M.S., MCHES, outlined exciting plans for the future, including a public health webinar series project currently under consideration.



*Marion "Will" Evans, DC, Ph.D. receives Lifetime Achievement Award from CHC Chair Rob Leach, DC, MS.*

onset neck pain.

A highlight of the business meeting was the presentation of awards, including the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed upon Marion Willard Evans Jr. D.C.,

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\*Based on the total number of New York Medical Group stores and total revenue for the full year of 2021



## ICRS convenes regulatory discussion on global portability in Australia

*Donna Liewer Cohen, Executive Director, International Chiropractic Regulatory Society*

As regulators, one of our responsibilities is to help develop and maintain the legal boundaries that guide chiropractors. By laying out clear expectations designed in the public interest, we do our part to give those we regulate the rules of professional conduct.

We also establish requirements for who can come into our jurisdictions and who cannot.



*Dr. Wayne Minter, President, ICRS*

Times have changed from the days when chiropractors established a practice in one place for a lifetime. Now, doctors may hold multiple licenses or registrations. They may travel with athletic teams or treat athletes they've never met at an event. They go all over the world to teach or learn or provide care during disasters. They may conduct research in various jurisdictions.

### **Have our laws and regulations kept pace with doctor mobility?**

International Chiropractic Regulatory Society members met recently in a work session to

address **temporary mobility**. The meeting was held in October 2023 in conjunction with the WFC's Biennial Congress in Australia.

Two aspects are currently at the forefront of this ICRS effort:

**1. What are the patients' rights and responsibilities regarding chiropractors who treat them?**

**2. How can we build an on-line reference database so that practitioners can understand and abide by the legal requirements in the jurisdiction where they wish to practice temporarily?**

At work session, attendees reviewed two documents:

1. An initial draft Statement of Patients' Rights and Responsibilities
2. First draft of a survey to be sent to those countries, provinces, and states that have independent chiropractic regulation.

Previous discussions at the May 2023 ICRS Forum clearly showed that practitioner mobility is increasing, and indeed a student survey revealed that this trend will only grow.

With the pandemic mostly behind us, travel is once again on the human horizon. Chiropractic will be no different.



## Swiss chiropractors call for less bureaucracy amidst burgeoning admin overload

Chirosuisse is among a number of so-called 'liberal professions' in Switzerland calling for a drastic reduction in time spent in bureaucratic administrative work.

In November 2023, the Swiss Association of Liberal Professions (SVFB) held its biennial general meeting under the leadership of Councillor of States, Pirmin Bischof.

The Association unites 16 organizations with 120,000 members. Every two years, a topic is focused on, and a study is commissioned. During



the meeting, a report on the burden of administrative work on the liberal professions was presented and discussed by a broad political representation. The Swiss Chiropractic Association, ChiroSuisse, was represented.

The results of the new study are explosive: more than half of those working in the liberal professions, including doctors, architects, physiotherapists, notaries, engineers and asset managers suffer from an overload of administrative tasks imposed on them by the state.

On behalf of the Swiss Association of Liberal Professions, the Bureau for Labour and Social Policy Studies BASS quantified this burden in the liberal professions, with those affected spending

full day each working week just on administrative activity.

Respondents from the health and social services sector cited administrative dealings with health insurers (enquiries, rejection of invoices, etc.) and the work involved in applications and reports for cost approvals as the most important additional administrative tasks.

The workload caused by regulations reduces the time available in the healthcare sector for the professional work of healthcare professionals - caring for patients. Apart from inefficiency and declining quality, the regulations also exacerbate the shortage of skilled labor.

Parliamentarians discussed the situation across party lines and there was unanimous agreement: spending a whole day a week on administration is clearly too much. The association will work to improve the framework conditions.





## Top sports chiropractors on hand at Dubai Rugby Sevens

The UAE's best known sports chiropractors were on hand at the recent UAE Dubai Rugby Sevens championships.

The Emirates Dubai Rugby 7's is billed as the UAE's biggest sporting event. Twenty four of the world's best men's and women's rugby sevens teams from across the globe including South Africa, New Zealand, Great Britain, the USA, Brazil, Australia, Spain, Samoa, Ireland, Japan, Argentina, Canada, France, and Fiji, competed for the championship title.

Cheered on by some 80,000 fans, the event reached a thrilling crescendo with massive fixtures in both the women's and men's tournaments. This culminated in an incredible final four games of the night shaping Finals Day on Sunday 3rd December.

Defending champions South Africa continued an outstanding year on the rugby pitch with a 12-7 victory over Argentina in the final, claiming their fifth successive title in the process.

Chiropractors Paul Cheung DC, Ryan Davis DC and Philip Hume DC from the prestigious multidisciplinary Up and Running Medical Centre supported the 3-day event at the Sevens Stadium in Dubai.

Working alongside the Mediclinic Hospital and the Ambulance Service, these sports chiropractors saw many international players, referees and officials in the main medical center for treatment of anything MSK.

The Up and Running team also had a pitch-side taping tent, which kept all the physiotherapists busy. Ultrasound scanning was provided by two of the Up and Running Medical Centre's sports medicine doctors.

Despite a punishing schedule, the attending chiropractors describe having had an unforgettable experience.



*Ryan Davis works on one of the athletes during the championships.*



*The sports chiropractors worked on members of both men's and women's teams at the sevens championships.*

## Influencing public health policy: CDAHK leading the way in government relations with multiple activities

The Chiropractic Doctors Association of Hong Kong (CDAHK) takes pride in setting examples, not just sharing opinions. Its actions speak louder than words, as it continues to lead and shape the chiropractic profession in Hong Kong and beyond.

As an active player in public health policy, CDAHK has made significant contributions to various important discussions. It has submitted recommendations to the Mandatory Reporting Regime for Child Abuse and responded

to the Secretary for Health / Director of Health for the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address.

CDAHK has also provided recommendations for the public consultation on 'Tobacco Control Strategies for a Vibrant, Healthy, and Tobacco-Free Hong Kong', 'Welfare Support for Persons with Disabilities', and the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address Public Consultation.

CDAHK plays a critical role in co-organizing and attending major events with healthcare associations and government bodies in Hong Kong, including

Flag Raising Ceremonies and Parades of the National Day Celebration, as well as Hong Kong's Medical Community Gala Dinner celebrating the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building.

Lastly, CDAHK participated in the gala dinner marking the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, organized by Hong Kong Health Services Sector, and the 75th Anniversary Dinner of the Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong.





## CCA launches first-of-its-kind evidence-based pregnancy course for chiropractors

In December 2023, the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) introduced a new long-format Continuing Education course, *'0 to 9 Months: Evidence-Based Chiropractic Care Throughout Pregnancy,'* exclusively for its members. The course marks a significant step forward in advancing chiropractic education and patient care.

Dr. Crystal Draper, DC, and CCA's Director of Professional Practice, is the visionary behind the course. "I drew a lot of inspiration from chiropractic students and new graduates who expressed a keen interest in pregnancy care. They often inquired about my journey to pregnancy care, the courses I undertook, and the resources I relied on. Unfortunately, the number of research-based courses tailored for chiropractors to enhance their skills and understanding of the management of pregnant patients was very limited."

Overcoming historical challenges stemming from a lack of literature on chiropractic management of pregnant patients has indeed been a challenge. However, recent research strides have significantly broadened the field. "By integrating these breakthroughs into the course's foundational materials, [we] can better address not only the gaps in research and continued education, but also



*The new pregnancy course, designed for CCA members, marks a significant step forward in patient care.*

in meeting the healthcare needs of pregnant patients more effectively."

To support chiropractors at any stage of their career, the course relies on the experience and expertise of a range of healthcare practitioners, including Dr. Ayla Azad, DC, MBA; Dr. Crystal Draper, DC; Dr. Carol Ann Weis, MSc, DC; Dr. Cassandra Laleye, BSc, DC; and Christine Sandor, BSc, RM, MSc, Midwife.

Their collaborative efforts cover essential topics encompassing understanding normal changes during pregnancy, standard testing and screening procedures, common complications and pain presentations, how to perform thorough assessments through health history taking and physical examination, evaluating treatment options and their safety profiles, and fostering inter-professional collaboration with obstetrical healthcare providers.

In addition to using a lecture format, there are numerous patient demonstrations on manual procedures and treatment interventions to assist with application in everyday practice. Cultural competency is emphasized as a significant aspect of care provision. Understanding the diverse



*Director of Professional Practice, Dr Crystal Draper and CCA CEO Dr Ayla Azad both present on the program.*

*continued*

## CCA launches first-of-its-kind evidence-based pregnancy course for chiropractors (continued)

cultural backgrounds, beliefs, and preferences of pregnant patients is pivotal for respectful, patient-centered, and comprehensive healthcare delivery. This training focuses on fostering cultural sensitivity by addressing varying norms and values that influence healthcare decisions. Incorporating these cultural considerations into chiropractic care enables practitioners to deliver personalized and culturally competent services, establishing trust and enhancing the overall

pregnancy experience for their patients.

Ultimately, the CCA's vision is to ensure comprehensive, evidence-based healthcare for pregnant individuals across Canada, elevating standards and transforming the approach to chiropractic care during pregnancy. By harnessing the latest scientific research, inter-professional perspectives and clinical experience, and embracing cultural considerations, '0 to 9 Months:

*Evidence-Based Chiropractic Care Throughout Pregnancy'* empowers chiropractors with the most current knowledge necessary for an evidence-based approach in effectively managing pregnant patients.

*Currently, '0 to 9 Months: Evidence-Based Chiropractic Care Throughout Pregnancy' is exclusively available to CCA members; non-members are encouraged to stay tuned for potential future availability.*

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## ECU invites global audience to Valencia for 2024 convention

The European Chiropractors Union (ECU) has announced that its biennial convention will take place May 11-12, 2024, in the city of Valencia, Spain. This landmark event, will draw chiropractors from across Europe and beyond.

Valencia is recognized as the Green Capital of Europe for 2024. It offers beautiful beaches, iconic monuments, and a rich historical tapestry. The ECU Headquarters' hotel, the Sorolla Palace, is strategically located in the same plaza as the convention venue, the Palau de Congressos de València.

With a focus on EPIC (evidence-based, people-centered, interprofessional and collaborative care) the program will cover distinct areas, including patient communication, therapeutic alliances, and education on self-management and lifestyle. Discussions will

also address associations between gut microbiota and low back pain, emphasizing the impact of diet and exercise and a holistic approach to patient care. Speakers will also cover the impact of mental health and burnout on chiropractic practice.

An outstanding speaker faculty, including renowned researchers and clinicians, will present on these topics and propose strategies for meaningful engagement.

The convention provides an unmissable opportunity to explore Valencia's culinary treasures, including Michelin-starred restaurants. From cultural heritage to modern amenities, Valencia offers an immersive experience.

More information can be found at <https://www.ecu2024.com>



## BCA celebrates a day of inspiration at ChiroLive 2023

Chiro Live – the British Chiropractic Association's (BCA) 2023 conference, saw over 300 members, doctors, psychologists and other healthcare professionals coming together to unite behind the BCA's vision, for chiropractic to be integral to UK healthcare and celebrate its mission of being the home for chiropractors who put patients first.

During the event, delegates made meaningful connections, gained a variety of new knowledge and were inspired by what the future holds for the chiropractic profession and integrated healthcare in the UK.

Commenting on the successful event, BCA President, Tim Button, said, "It was truly uplifting to witness such a remarkable turnout at this year's conference, where our dynamic community of like-minded individuals came together to collaborate and share insights.

"I am confident in declaring this year as our best yet, with the inclusion of distinguished healthcare speakers and thought-provoking TED Talk-inspired presentations from our community of experts, sparking inspiration in us all.

"I would like to extend thanks to all who attended, making the day truly special. We look forward to welcoming everyone again next year".

The speaker line-up was truly inspiring and included celebrity doctor Xand van Tulleken who topped the bill with an inspiring presentation on ultra-processed food and how it harms our bodies, the importance of reading the food labels when making food choices and the part that the food industry plays in our health.

Clinical Psychologist, Dr Kirren Schnack, gave practical advice to delegates about dealing with everyday stressors and long-term anxieties, and how they can support their patients in doing the same. Throughout the event, conference speakers covered a wide range of topics, including migraine



*Over 300 BCA members attended the Birmingham event.*

triggers and prevention, steps to achieve true person-centered healthcare, neuroinflammation and oxidative damage, and clinical pearls for treating pregnant patients.

The day finished off with the BCA's new, interactive, TED talk-style sessions, *The Big Think*. Delegates heard from a number of speakers, including the WFC's Richard Brown, on topics including: the importance of embracing diversity in the chiropractic profession, the evolution of integrative chiropractic and innovation, performance and marginal gains and implementation of the biopsychosocial model.



*TV star Dr Xand van Tulleken entertained a packed audience.*



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## WFC cuts ribbon at opening of new Hong Kong Chiropractic College

Dr David Lam, elected Hong Kong Legislative Council member for Health and Medical Services was present at the opening earlier today of the first chiropractic college in the Chinese special administrative region.

Describing the launch of the college as “An important milestone for the whole healthcare sector in Hong Kong,” Dr Lam, a surgeon, congratulated those responsible and commented that he looked forward to visiting the college again in the future.

Hong Kong Chiropractic College is the product of years of planning and is a branch campus of the UK-based McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC). The college, located in the Mong Kok region of Hong Kong, is the fourth campus location for MCC with others centred at Oxford and Manchester in the UK and Madrid, in Spain.

The project, spearheaded by MCC Principal, Professor Christina Cunliffe, involves the delivery of a identical curriculum that is already validated by Ulster University and approved by the UK General Chiropractic Council. It has also been scrutinized and approved by educational and quality assurance authorities in Hong Kong.

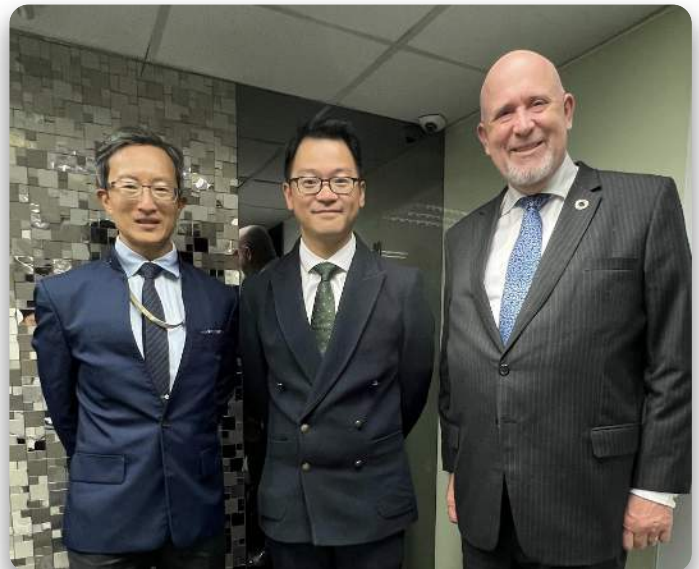
On hand to officially cut the ribbon and open the college, WFC Secretary-General Prof. Richard Brown said, “Today is a historic moment for chiropractic in Hong Kong. I am confident that the launch of this program will act as a springboard for the development and sustainability of the chiropractic workforce in Hong Kong.

“There are many responsible for this project coming to fruition but I'd particularly pay tribute to Prof. Cunliffe and Dr Eric Chu, whose persistence, vision and foresight have brought us to the opening of Hong Kong Chiropractic College today.”

Many of the first cohort of students come from



*WFC Secretary-General Richard Brown and McTimoney College Principal cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Hong*



*L>R David Lam, Eric Chu (Chair, CDAHK) and Richard Brown*

health professions backgrounds. At a time where the World Health Organization has highlighted the vast unmet need for rehabilitation services in the context of ageing populations globally, and spinal pain and disability continue to dominate the burden of disease agenda, the provision of chiropractic education in Hong Kong is an important development for healthcare in the region.

## AECC UC celebrates largest-ever graduation

AECC University College was delighted to celebrate Graduation 2023 with its final year students on 24th November 2023. A total of 312 students graduated this year, from 37 countries. A total of 188 students graduated from the AECC School of Chiropractic.

The ceremony was held at Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre and AECC University College was joined by the internationally-renowned Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for the celebration.

AECC UC conferred a range of degrees from the AECC School of Chiropractic, and School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The Graduation Ceremony also saw the conferral of Honorary Awards by Vice-Chancellor of AECC University College, Professor Lesley Haig.

These included the presentation of Honorary Fellowships to outgoing Chief Executive of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Professor Karen Middleton CBE, Former Chairman & Club Ambassador of AFC Bournemouth, Jeff Mostyn, and AECC alumnus and founder of the Hong Kong Chiropractic College Foundation, Dr Shu Yan Ng.

The Deputy Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor George Farquhar, presented 14 Student Prizes.

These included Academic and Dissertation Awards presented across both schools, the Best Research Dissertation Award (Postgraduate), Leadership Awards, and the Student Clinician of the Year Award.

Vice-Chancellor of AECC University College, Professor Lesley Haig, commented: "Graduation is a very special day when we come together to celebrate our students' achievements. I congratulate everyone on the hard work and commitment that has taken them to this point.

"The skills and knowledge that our students develop during their time at AECC University College gives them an excellent platform for their future careers and as they settle into their professional lives.

"Their hard work comes with the great privilege of knowing that they are making a difference in people's lives in careers that can be so enriching and inspiring. This is something to be proud of and our University



*Dr Shu Yan Ng speaks on receiving Honorary Fellowship*

College community is immensely proud of our graduates.

"We now welcome our graduates into our thriving alumni community, a truly global network of talented individuals who are enjoying successful careers and flourishing lives. You will always be welcome back to AECC University College at any time."



*Over 300 students received awards at the 2023 graduation.*



**AECC**  
**University College**



## Australian regulator issues statement on pediatric chiropractic care



The Chiropractic Board of Australia has issued a key statement on its expectations regarding the care of pediatric patients under 12 by chiropractors.

The statement acknowledges the fact that chiropractors have education and training to provide care across the life course, including pediatric patients. It further recognizes that chiropractors deliver a package of care, including manual therapy such as mobilization, soft tissue therapy, manipulation, and/or advice relating to exercise and other lifestyle factors relevant to the child's age, condition and concern.

In its statement, the CBA stresses the importance of chiropractors caring for children to have the requisite clinical skills and knowledge and to refer pediatric patients to other healthcare practitioners who have the appropriate skills, or to co-manage the patient, when it is appropriate to do so.

The CBA's standards, codes and guidelines set out its expectations of practitioners in delivering effective healthcare within an ethical framework.

While the Statement on pediatric care provides specific reference to relevant regulatory documents, the Board expects chiropractors to read and understand all registration standards, codes, guidelines, fact sheets and statements.

In recognizing that children are far more than simply small adults, the CBA statement reiterates its expectation that chiropractors:

- understand that children have significant anatomical, physiological, developmental and psychological differences and needs from adults and that their healthcare management requires specific skills and expertise;
- modify all care and treatment (including technique and force) to suit the age, presentation and development of the patient

- discuss their proposed management plan with the patient and their parent/guardian
- inform the patient and their parent/guardian about the quality of the acceptable evidence and explain the basis for the proposed treatment
- provide the patient and their parent/guardian with information about the risks and benefits of the proposed treatment and the risks of receiving no treatment
- appropriately document consent, including considering the need for written consent for high-risk procedures
- refer patients when they have conditions or symptoms outside a chiropractor's area of competence, for example 'red flags' such as the presence of possible serious pathology that requires urgent medical referral to the care of other registered health practitioners
- communicate effectively with other health practitioners involved with the care of the patient, such as the patient's general practitioner or pediatrician.

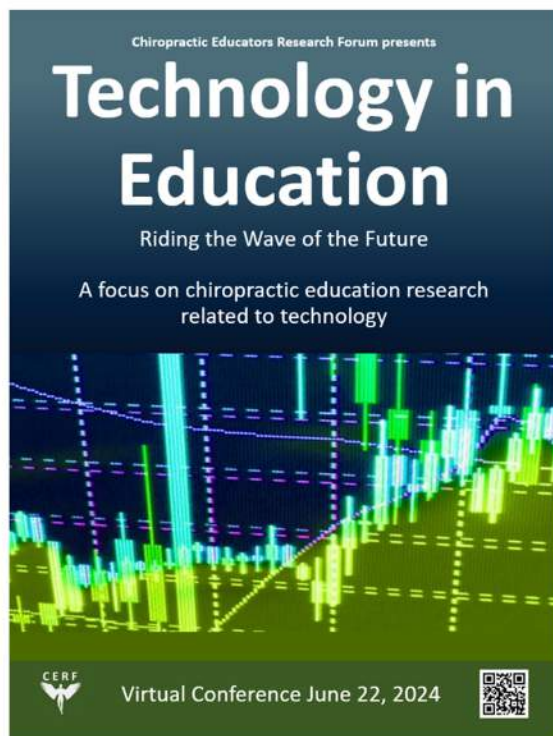
A WFC spokesperson said: "We welcome this statement from the CBA, which recognizes the important role that chiropractors play in the care of children. We echo the need to ensure that care is safe and that parents are properly informed about the quality of evidence supporting proposed treatment when obtaining consent.

"Importantly, this statement provides a pragmatic response to concerns previously raised in Victoria."

The full statement can be read in full on the Chiropractic Board of Australia website.

# Upcoming CERF Conference for Chiropractic Educators

The June 22, 2024 Chiropractic Educators Research Forum (CERF) Conference **Technology in Education: Riding the Wave of the Future** specifically focuses on education research related to technology. Technology is a tool that has the potential to help teachers, learners, and our programs become the best that they can be. As technology continues to evolve, it provides opportunities as well as threats to the learning environment. The purpose of this conference is to take a closer look at how we are using technology and the challenges and benefits it brings to health professions education.



## Call for Abstracts Due March 7, 2024

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CERF2024June>

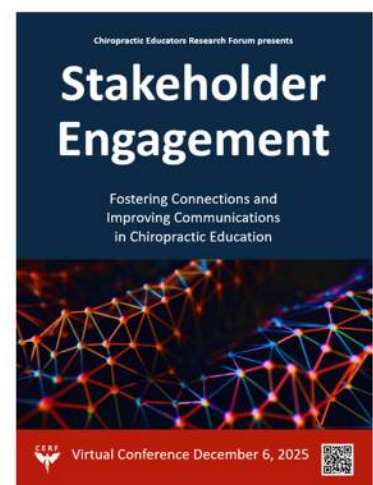


Chiropractic  
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Research  
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### CERFweb.org

The Chiropractic Educators Research Forum (CERF) is an online forum where chiropractic educators share their insights and learn new information about research and scholarship. It is a place for chiropractic educators to engage in research and the scholarship of discovery, integration, application, teaching, and engagement. [www.CERFweb.org](http://www.CERFweb.org) Our Mission: To build scholarship and research capacity for chiropractic educators throughout the world. CERF thanks the World Federation of Chiropractic for being a sponsor.

## Call for Abstracts for these exciting CERF Conferences





## CERF holds conference on burnout and resilience for chiropractic educators

The Chiropractic Educators Research Forum (CERF) held its seventh conference on December 2, 2023.

Burnout is defined as a “syndrome conceptualized as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed” (WHO) and interferes with daily activities. Resilience is “the process and outcome of successfully adapting to difficult or challenging life experiences, especially through mental, emotional, and behavioral flexibility and adjustment to external and internal demands.”

This virtual conference **“Battling Burnout: Raising Resilience in Education”** focused on research related to how chiropractic programs are addressing issues in mental health of students, faculty, and staff as this relates to burnout and resilience in the chiropractic program and practice. This conference took a closer look at what chiropractic programs are doing to identify burnout and build student, faculty, and staff resilience in the psychosocial domain.

The conference provided a platform for 12 scholarly/research presentations, 2 keynote interviews, 2 tutorials, and 2 panel discussions. Additionally, 118 CERF members registered for this conference. There were 16 presenters, including tutorial presenters, invited panelists, and abstract presenters.

The conference ran for 4 hours and across multiple time zones. Presenters represented various world regions including Canada, South Africa, and United States.

There were 28 members of the December 2023 Scientific Peer Review Committee, who did an excellent job with their peer review of all abstracts submitted to the December 2023 CERF Virtual Conference.

The two keynote presentations each focused on a

portion of the conference theme. The recorded presentations have been posted online so that CERF members and others may continue to learn from these videos.

- **What Chiropractic Educators Need to Know About Burnout** - presented by Sharné Naidoo (University of Johannesburg) and Weston Holzinger (Logan University) <https://youtu.be/mbV4YT24I5E>
- **What Chiropractic Educators Need to Know About Resilience** - presented by Ilija Arar (Northeast College of Health Sciences) <https://youtu.be/mznFHL1qr9g>

The CERF Best Paper Award from the CERF Conference **“Academic Integrity for All: Building Better Professionals”** was announced. *From student to doctor: An analysis of chiropractic oaths as an allegory of the transition from academic integrity to ethical professionalism* by Marshall N. Deltoff. J Chiropr Educ (2023) 37 (2): 171–177. <https://doi.org/10.7899/JCE-22-17>

Chiropractic educators and scholars are invited to submit their chiropractic education related abstracts to the June 2024 conference “Technology in Education: Riding the Wave of the Future” specifically focuses on education research related to technology. Abstracts are due March 7, 2024 and may be submitted here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CERF2024June>



Chiropractic  
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## ACC announces Chiro Match residency initiative

The Board of Directors of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) is pleased to announce it has established a chiropractic residency common application and match service.

The Chiro Match is an application service and matching program that provides an orderly process to help applicants obtain positions of their choice, and to help programs obtain applicants of their choice.

Chiropractic residency programs that are accredited by Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) or have met the eligibility requirements for initial application and are approved by the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) may participate in the Chiro Match.

"We are delighted ACC has the exciting opportunity to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs' and other chiropractic residency programs to provide a residency match service that will elevate and promote the development of residency training in our profession," stated Dr. David Wickes, ACC Chair.



*Anne Marie Munson, Executive Director, Association of Chiropractic Colleges*

The Chiro Match is sponsored by and operating within ACC's structure. ACC is working with National Matching Services Inc. (NMS) to design and administer the Chiro Match with policy guidance and oversight from ACC's Chiro Match Task Force.

Founded in 1985, after developing sophisticated matching algorithms and software for the placement of physicians into residencies in the United States, NMS administers online platforms to simplify and structure resident recruitment and selection for many professions in the U.S. including pharmacy, psychology, dentistry, optometry, and podiatry.

"We are confident the Chiro Match will serve the best interests of all chiropractic stakeholders and look forward to delivering this valuable service for you," stated Jonah Peranson, Vice President, National Matching Services Inc.

Chiropractic residency programs registered to participate in the Chiro Match on December 4th, 2023, and will be open for applications from January 2 to January 24, 2024.



*Dr David Wickes, President, Association of Chiropractic Colleges*



## South African elected president of ECCE

South African academic, Professor Chris Yelverton has been elected as the new president of the European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE). Professor Yelverton takes over the role from Dr Kenneth Vall. He is the first non-European to hold the position

ECCE is an international autonomous organization established by the chiropractic profession in Europe to accredit and re-accredit programs providing first qualification chiropractic education and training. The principal goal of the ECCE is to assure the quality of chiropractic first qualification education and training against a set of educational Standards.

The Standards are intended for use by chiropractic program, both in the public university and private sectors, predominately (but not exclusively) in Europe, as part of program self-evaluation, by the ECCE for external review of programs and by international committees and bodies involved in the recognition and accreditation of chiropractic programs worldwide.

As well as European chiropractic programs, ECCE also accredits two programs in South Africa, at Durban Institute of Technology and the University of Johannesburg, where until recently Professor Yelverton headed the chiropractic department.

Professor Yelverton qualified as a chiropractor from Technikon Witswatersrand (TWR) in 2000, going on to lecture at the institution and serving as head of department until 2005.

He became head of the chiropractic department at the renamed University of Johannesburg in 2005, serving 17 years as head of the chiropractic department.

Professor Yelverton was awarded a PhD in 2022 and in 2023 he was appointed as Associate Professor and Acting Vice-Dean in Research and Internationalization within the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Johannesburg.



*Professor Chris Yelverton*

Professor Yelverton served as the chair of the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa between 2016 and 2023. In 2022, he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Chiropractic Association of South Africa.

Speaking on his appointment as president of ECCE, Professor Yelverton said, "I am thrilled to have been elected to take on the responsibility of this new leadership role within the ECCE.

"It is with great excitement and a deep sense of commitment that I step into this position, and I am eager to contribute to the continued success and growth.

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for the trust and confidence that the council have placed in me, and wish to express my thanks for the outgoing President Dr Ken Vall, who was instrumental in the ECCE achieving what it has to date."

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[www.jmptonline.org](http://www.jmptonline.org)

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## University of Western States earns 2023 Beacon Award for excellence in student achievement and success

The University of Western States (UWS) has received the 2023 Beacon Award for Excellence in student achievement and success from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

The award was given in recognition of the lead role Rachael Pandzik, D.C., and Susan Donoff, Ph.D., of UWS took to create a regional benchmarking



*Rachael Pandzik, D.C., and Susan Donoff, Ph.D.*

program that uses comparative data from a consortium of NWCCU accredited institutions to identify gaps in institutional outcomes and inform student success initiatives.

“Graduate programs do not have ready access to comparative data from like institutions, so this effort greatly helps UWS and our peer institutions implement changes to more effectively champion

student success,” said UWS President Joseph Brimhall, D.C.

“The academic and professional success of our students is the foundational goal of our university, and I’m tremendously proud of the faculty and staff members who have been involved in this effort.”

Today, the consortium consists of six graduate-level health science institutions that track and share retention and graduation rates.

The data gleaned from the first year of the project is publicly available on the UWS website and will continue to grow in value as subsequent years of data are collected and shared.

At UWS, the peer benchmark data is utilized as part of the annual university appraisal process.

A dedicated committee analyzes the data to identify opportunities to improve institutional outcomes and develop strategies to address student needs.

“The Beacon Award recognizes institutional and programmatic accomplishments in student achievement and success. Winners must demonstrate distinctive, measurable and replicable innovations with clear results,” said Sonny Ramaswamy, President of NWCCU.

“The regional benchmarking program and work of UWS is a living embodiment of what the award is meant to celebrate.”

The Beacon Award was announced at the NWCCU Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on November 9, 2023.

In addition to the award, UWS will receive \$2,500 from NWCCU to support the university’s continued efforts to foster student success.

## NWHSU faculty member presents at Mexico's Interdisciplinary Congress of Chiropractic

Assistant professor Alex Sundin, DC represented Northwestern Health Sciences University (NWHSU) at the 22nd International Interdisciplinary Congress of Chiropractic.

"It was an honor to be able to present on the topics I'm passionate about at such a prestigious congress, representing NWHSU in Mexico City" Dr. Sundin shared.

Dr. Sundin was invited to speak to a room full of Mexican chiropractic students and clinicians, discussing topics surrounding the treatment and management of patients experiencing chronic pain; the urgent need for chiropractors to enhance and develop their skills utilizing therapeutic exercise; and the current state of evidence regarding mechanisms of spinal manipulation.

Dr. Sundin's speaking opportunity was a rekindling of a long-standing relationship between NWHSU and the chiropractic universities in Mexico fostered by the late Dr. John Allenberg of NWHSU and Dr. Enrique Benet-Canut, who is a pioneer for the chiropractic profession, not only in Mexico but internationally.

"As I walked into the ornate historic university building, across the street from Aztec ruins, and saw the lunch hall decorated with colorful traditional Mexican fiesta place sittings, I knew this was going to be a special event," said Dr. Sundin.



**NORTHWESTERN  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY**

## Northeast College adds new undergraduate programs commencing 2024

After 100+ years of leadership in graduate healthcare education, Northeast College of Health Sciences will now also offer undergraduate degree programs: two Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees, one in radiologic technology and another in diagnostic medical sonography, and a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in healthcare administration, all beginning Fall 2024.



*The College is now accepting applications for the new programs*

The charter change, approved by the New York State Education department in November 2023, allows Northeast College to add even more in-demand academic programs so students can focus on rewarding career opportunities. In addition to the three new undergraduate degrees beginning in Fall 2024, Northeast also anticipates offering a future M.S. in physician assistant studies.

"We are excited to expand our offerings at the College and continue to educate future healthcare leaders for the increasingly collaborative healthcare environment," said Dr. Anne Killen.

"With our rich experience evolving to meet the growing needs of healthcare education, Northeast College will continue to deliver opportunities that foster academic excellence, leadership and professional best practices."



## Fall 2023 Ceremony Week sees 184 chiropractic students advance at Northeast College

Late 2023, Northeast College of Health Sciences hosted its Fall 2023 Ceremony Week, holding its Commitment to Excellence Pledge event for first-trimester chiropractic students, Transitions Ceremony for seventh-trimester chiropractic students, and the Commencement Ceremony honoring new doctors of chiropractic and Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) graduates.

Kicking off Northeast's Ceremony Week, the Commitment to Excellence pledge was taken by



*66 Northeast College students received their white coats during the transitions ceremony.*

64 Northeast D.C. students. College President Dr. Michael Mestan presented each student with a pin reflecting the College mission that reads: "Excellence. Professionalism. Leadership."

Also at the celebratory event were Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Anne Killen and Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Jean-Nicolas Poirier.

Northeast College's Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony was held on the Seneca Falls campus at the Standard Process Health and Fitness Center and honored 57 doctor of chiropractic (D.C.) graduates and six students receiving BPS



*the Fall 2023 commencement ceremony saw 57 new doctors of chiropractic graduate.*

degrees at the ceremony.

Levittown Health Center Senior Clinician and associate professor Dr. Charles Hemsey was the grand marshal, Northeast Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Rick Rosa (D.C. '96) presented the trustee greeting and Dr James Forster delivered the commencement address.

In addition, awards for excellence in academics, leadership and clinical practice were presented to the new doctors.

Meanwhile, signifying the start of their outpatient clinical education at one of Northeast's community health centers across New York state, 66 seventh-trimester students received their white coats during the Fall 2023 Transitions Ceremony.

To successfully reach this milestone on their academic journey to become doctors, chiropractic students must complete over two years of training in foundational sciences, clinical sciences, integrated chiropractic therapies and principles of chiropractic practice, followed by a clerkship in the campus health center.

## Logan faculty member supports children with motor development, feeding and nutrition



*Dr Amanda Stevens teaches on the MS Integrative Pediatrics program at Logan University*

Amanda Stevens, has dedicated her career to pediatric and perinatal care. She earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of New Brunswick and her master's degree in applied clinical nutrition from Northeastern College of Health Sciences. Since graduating from Palmer West with her Doctor of Chiropractic in 2011, she has worked with children - primarily infants - especially supporting gross motor development and feeding success.

Originally from New Brunswick, she practices in Kelowna, British Columbia, and has found her calling in caring for children and teaching others to do the same.

"In treating children, especially infants, you need a strong foundation in anatomy. You need to know

how their bodies differ from those of adults, which is about a lot more than a size differential. You need to understand what drives early movement patterns and what postural development should look like to ensure they are loading their little bodies in a way that will foster resilience in the years to come." said Dr. Stevens.

Dr. Stevens brings her extensive training in nutrition and pediatrics to Logan University, where she currently teaches a course in pediatric nutrition for students pursuing their Master of Science in Integrative Pediatrics (MS-IP).

"This course is important for students because they all have a manual therapy background but show up with varied levels of experience and knowledge in nutrition and chemistry," she said.

"This course focuses on a broad range of ages and needs, from infancy to adolescence and the nuances that accompany each phase. By offering a multi-modal approach, blending physical care with nutritional support, we tend to see an amplified response in patient wellness."

Dr. Stevens is well-known for her integrated approach to ensuring proper infant feeding, where she combines manual therapy with lactation technique assistance. She has years of extensive training in pediatric NMSK care and a certification in Breastfeeding for Healthcare Professionals, which she uses to help parents with infant latching while feeding.

"Most people don't realize chiropractic care can help infants feed better. Dysfunctions of the neck, tongue, and cranium are common barriers to feeding success in those early months. Chiropractors are perfectly poised to be part of the infant care team and to alleviate structural concerns, ameliorating the growth and feeding experience of our youngest patients." Dr. Stevens said.



## Student Sports Chiropractic Clinic at AECC UC targets injury care and rehabilitation

Late last year, Clinical and Rehabilitation Services at AECC University College launched its new Student Chiropractic Sports Clinic, designed for patients with sports injuries, or those looking to improve their athletic performance.

Patients can book appointments with Placement Student Chiropractors, under the guidance of experienced clinicians, for an initial assessment and then receive follow-up treatment.

Placement Student Chiropractors thoroughly evaluate patients and develop a personalized rehabilitation plan tailored to their specific needs.

The Student Chiropractic Clinic also provides free triage sessions on Friday afternoons, for those who are unsure whether their condition or concerns are right for this service.

Chiropractic Clinic Lead, Daniel Heritage, explains: "Our Student Chiropractic Sports Clinic offers our patients expert care as affordably as possible. Our Placement Students work very closely with our highly experienced Chiropractors, to ensure the highest standards of patient care.

"Patients also benefit from our comprehensive approach to sports injuries and performance here



*The clinic is designed for patients with sports injuries, or those looking to improve their athletic performance*

at AECC University College. Patients can access our other on-site departments, and clinicians from across our multidisciplinary team, offering a wide range of services to enhance their athletic performance.

"Patients can take advantage of the performance testing that we offer on campus to assess their current abilities, and work with our experienced strength and conditioning specialists to improve their physical fitness and measure endurance."

## Parker Performance Institute celebrates prestigious Accolades Awarded for Design Excellence

The new Parker Performance Institute (PPI), an independent sports and rehabilitation clinic, located at The Star in Frisco, Texas, is proud to announce that it has recently been recognized with two prestigious accolades for its design excellence.

On November 10, 2023, IIDA's Texas Oklahoma Chapter

recognized the creativity and innovation of the region's best interior designers. Judges noted PPI for the Design Excellence Award in the Healthcare Small category.

For additional information about PPI, go to [parkerperformanceinstitute.com](https://parkerperformanceinstitute.com).



# Equestrian-Related Musculoskeletal Injuries Presenting to a Chiropractic Practice: A Retrospective Chart Review of 19 Patients

The authors describe various types of equestrian-related musculoskeletal injuries that presented to a chiropractic practice and their chiropractic management. The authors retrospectively reviewed charts from 19 patients who presented with injuries from equestrian activities at a chiropractic practice from December 2000 to December 2020.

Deidentified data were extracted from the charts and summarized. Of the 19 patients, 42.3% presented with acute trauma, 38.5% had overuse injuries, and 19.2% had chronic injuries as a result of previous trauma. We found that 90% of overuse injuries and 18.2% of acute injuries led to chronic conditions that needed ongoing management.

The authors concluded that equestrian injuries may stem from both trauma and overuse, which may potentially lead to chronic conditions. Patients with musculoskeletal complaints resulting from injuries resulting from equestrian activities seek care in chiropractic settings. The results suggest that early detection and management of equestrian injuries may guide proper diagnosis and intervention and may help to prevent chronicity.



This article was published in the

JOURNAL of  
CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE



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Equestrian-related musculoskeletal injuries presenting to a chiropractic practice: a retrospective chart review of 19 patients. Wang TJ, Ward T, Nguyen HT, Hurwitz EL. *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine*. 2023 Jun 1;22(2):103-6. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10280082/>

**The Journal of Chiropractic Medicine** is a peer-reviewed journal devoted to providing a forum for the chiropractic profession to disseminate information dedicated to the developing primary care emphasis within the profession. The journal focuses on providing practical and applicable information for practicing chiropractors and other healthcare practitioners. Content is devoted to the presentation of cases from a wide variety of conditions, reviews of literature, and original data reports, all of which help keep the practitioner in the field up to date with the latest trends and interests in patient care. It is important to document the full scope of practice activities within chiropractic and adjunct therapies. There is an increasing emphasis upon scientific evidence with respect to treatment protocols, for reimbursement and, most importantly, for better patient care. The JCM provides a place for the profession to share and disseminate this information.



## Parker University becomes first in United States to incorporate STEM into Health Information Management program

Health Information Management (HIM) professionals must constantly master, evolve, and understand the innovative regulations and technologies requiring a mindset of lifelong learning and continued professional development. As healthcare advances, health information provides essential patient needs to navigate critical changes successfully. HIM professionals are in high demand.

Industries with an increased demand for health information professionals include healthcare organizations, academic institutions, consulting agencies, government agencies, healthcare software companies, and more. HIM practitioners are critical components of the electronic health record workforce.

Parker University is proud to offer the first HIM program in the nation to incorporate STEM into its HIM program. An education around science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM learning) helps promote critical thinking, curiosity, persistence, decision-making, leadership, entrepreneurship, and more. The current healthcare industry relies on the pertinent

knowledge and skills acquired through a STEM education. STEM-related skills are essential for students, from medical research and diagnostics to patient care and health administration. STEM influences are apparent in the goals and roles of healthcare sectors such as:

- Health Information Technology: Health information professionals manage and maintain electronic health records, which requires an understanding of database management, data analytics, and computer programming.
- Data Analysis: Health information professionals analyze and interpret large amounts of health information data, which requires a background in statistics, data visualization, and other science, technology, engineering, and math-related disciplines.
- Health Information Exchange: Health information professionals are familiar with health information exchanges that allow the sensitive sharing of patient health information, which requires an understanding of data interoperability and standards.
- Emerging Technologies: Health

information professionals stay updated with emerging technologies in healthcare, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and telehealth, which all require a strong understanding of STEM principles.

Parker University's Bachelor of Science with a Major in the HIM program is integrated with existing programs to provide a leading health and wellness education resource.

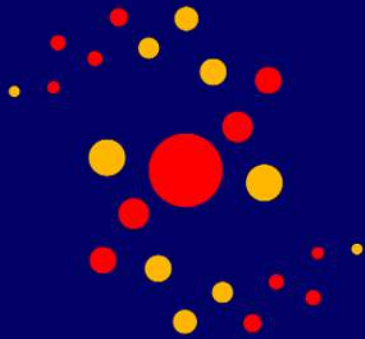
Healthcare information is an ever changing profession that addresses the nature, structure, and translation of data into usable forms of information, including the electronic health record for advancing the health and healthcare of individuals and populations.

HIM professionals collect, integrate, and analyze primary and secondary healthcare data, disseminate information, and manage information resources related to the research, planning, provision, and evaluation of healthcare services.

HIM professionals are also integral to the planning, implementation, and utilization of electronic health record systems.

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## Parker University announces partnership with VictoryXR to build Parker Metaversity digital twin campus

Parker University has announced a partnership with VictoryXR, a leading provider of virtual classrooms and campuses through virtual reality, to create the Parker Metaversity.

The Parker Metaversity will be a “digital twin” replica of the Parker University campus in Dallas, Texas. VictoryXR will recreate the University’s campus grounds, building exteriors, and interior student spaces in a hyper-realistic 3D environment.

Parker University students can take courses, including labs, in virtual classrooms in the metaversity using virtual reality headsets, such as the Meta Quest 2 or 3, or via desktop access on their personal computers.

Remote students can work “hands-on” on projects while interacting with instructors and classmates, which is generally impossible with most LMS systems or Zoom, and other 2D webinar tools. Realistic simulations and explorations of rich, immersive content will be available to remote students to a degree impossible before.

Other universities that have created digital twin metaversities have reported increased student engagement, better test scores, and overall greater student achievement compared to both traditional on-campus and online courses.

“Parker University is advancing its chiropractic and other healthcare programs through cutting-edge simulation in the metaverse,” said Steve Grubbs, CEO of VictoryXR. “Just as airlines train their pilots in a simulator, Parker University will take the same advanced technology to their students, leading to better-prepared practitioners.”

Using hundreds of 3D photographs shot on the grounds and in the buildings of Parker University’s campus, VictoryXR will create a fully immersive 3D space that students, faculty, and administrators



will be able to use to conduct classes and labs, provide both formal and informal student meeting spaces, perform research projects, provide campus tours, and more.

Dr. William E. Morgan, the President of Parker University, said, “Parker University remains at the forefront of educational innovation, steadfast in our commitment to harnessing pertinent technological advancements to enrich the learning journey of our students. By establishing our own metaversity and the availability of thousands of 3D Virtual Reality assets, we proudly extend an unparalleled and immersive learning experience. This extraordinary platform will undoubtedly continue our commitment to innovation in teaching and learning.”

The Parker Metaversity is expected to be completed in December. Parker University students in the chiropractic blended program will have access to the VictoryXR Academy in 2024.



## WFC Gold Coast Congress sees scientists shine



*L>R Dr Katie Pohlman, NCMIC Scott Haldeman Award winner Dr Martha Funabashi, Dr Sidney Rubinstein and Dr Claire Johnson (NCMIC)*

**Researchers from around the world saw their work recognized with paper and poster awards at the World Federation of Chiropractic's 17th Biennial Congress in Australia.**

During a glittering awards ceremony at the recent WFC Biennial Congress, members of chiropractic's scientific community took to the stage to receive awards for submitted research papers and posters.

This year's call for abstracts generated 204 original submissions, of which 139 were

accepted for presentation. Under a separate submission category, a further 30 previously published papers were submitted for consideration.

A global team of over 100 peer reviewers scrutinized the abstracts, resulting in a graded analysis from which members of the WFC Research Committee determined which should be invited for platform and poster presentation. As well as an extremely well attended poster exhibition area in the main exhibitor hall, a total of 8 dedicated platform

*continued*



## WFC Gold Coast Congress sees scientists shine (continued)

research presentation sessions were offered, with researchers from across the WFC's 7 world regions orally presenting their abstracts and fielding questions from the audience.

US-based NCMIC once again generously sponsored the Research Paper Awards. NCMIC, founded in 1946, is the United States' largest provider of malpractice insurance for chiropractors. Over the years it has expanded to provide a comprehensive portfolio of financial and insurance products and services designed with the unique needs of chiropractors in mind.

The International Board of Chiropractic Examiners (IBCE) were the proud sponsors of the Poster Awards competition. IBCE, a division of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) was established to assist in promoting excellence in chiropractic healthcare and protection of the public by developing test instruments for chiropractic organizations worldwide.

Entry to both the NCMIC Paper Awards and IBCE Poster Awards competitions was optional. A total of 41 full papers were entered from among those whose abstracts were accepted for presentation at the Congress, while the IBCE Award competition saw 62 posters considered for prizes.

Four papers were recognized in three award categories for the NCMIC Research Paper Awards.

The **Scott Haldeman Award for Outstanding Research**, attracting prize money of \$10,000 went to Dr Martha Funabashi and colleagues for their paper *Defining and Classifying Adverse Events Following Joint Manipulation and*



Dr Martha Funabashi delivers a summary of her prize-winning paper

### *Mobilization: An International E-Delphi Study.*

This study reported on the establishing of an inter-professional and international standardized definition and severity classification for adverse events following joint manipulation and mobilization. Dr Funabashi, a clinical research scientist at Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC), co-authored the paper with Lindsay M. Gorrell, Katherine Pohlman, Andrea Bergna, and Nicola R. Heneghan.

The **NCMIC Early Career Researcher Award** (\$3,000) was presented to Dr Zacariah Shannon for his paper *Biopsychosocial Factors as Mechanisms of the Effect of Chiropractic Care in U.S. Active Duty Military Members*. Co-authored with Cynthia Long, Elizabeth Chrischilles, Christine Goertz, Robert Wallace, Carri Casteel and Ryan Carnaham, the paper evaluated biopsychosocial factors as mechanisms of the effect of chiropractic care

*continued*

## WFC Gold Coast Congress sees scientists shine (continued)

on low back pain (LBP) interference and intensity for US active-duty military members and found biopsychosocial changes mediated 56% of the effect on pain interference and 26.4% of the effect on LBP intensity. Dr Shannon is an assistant professor at the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, Davenport, Iowa.

First Prize in the **JMPT-NCMIC Research Papers Awards** (\$7,500) was presented to Brazilian academic, Dr Paulo Gomes de Oliveira Neto for his paper, *Inside the Painful Mind: Explaining Long-Term Brain Alterations in Fibromyalgia*. His study, co-authored with Marcos DosSantos and Lucas Rego Ramos investigated the long-term impact of chronic pain on the brain by evaluating cortical thickness in FM patients compared to healthy individuals.

Second Prize in the **JMPT-NCMIC Research Paper Awards** (\$5,000) went to Dr Nichole Phillips from Australia for her paper, co-authored with Michael Swain, Benjamin



NCMIC-JMPT Second Prize Award winner, Dr Nichole Phillips

Brown, Amber Beynon and Natasha Magsan, titled *The Association Between Bullying and Headache, Stomach Ache and Backache in Australian Schoolchildren*. The study found strong positive associations in this subgroup and highlighted the need for increased awareness among clinicians and researchers.

The judging panel of the **IBCE Poster Awards** was chaired by Dr Katherine Pohlman and featured members of the WFC Research Committee. Posters were assessed against established criteria, including the quality of the research, quality of the poster and clarity of the information being presented.

Attracting prize money of \$3,000, First Prize in the **IBCE Poster Award Competition** went to Canadian Dr Nora Bakaa for her poster, *Factors That Influence Surgical Decision Making for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis: A Qualitative Study*.

AECC University College's Dr Amy Miller won



L>R Dr Katie Pohlman, Dr Sidney Rubinstein, Dr Paulo Gomes de Oliveira Neto (NCMIC-JMPT) First Prize winner

*continued*



## WFC Gold Coast Congress sees scientists shine (continued)

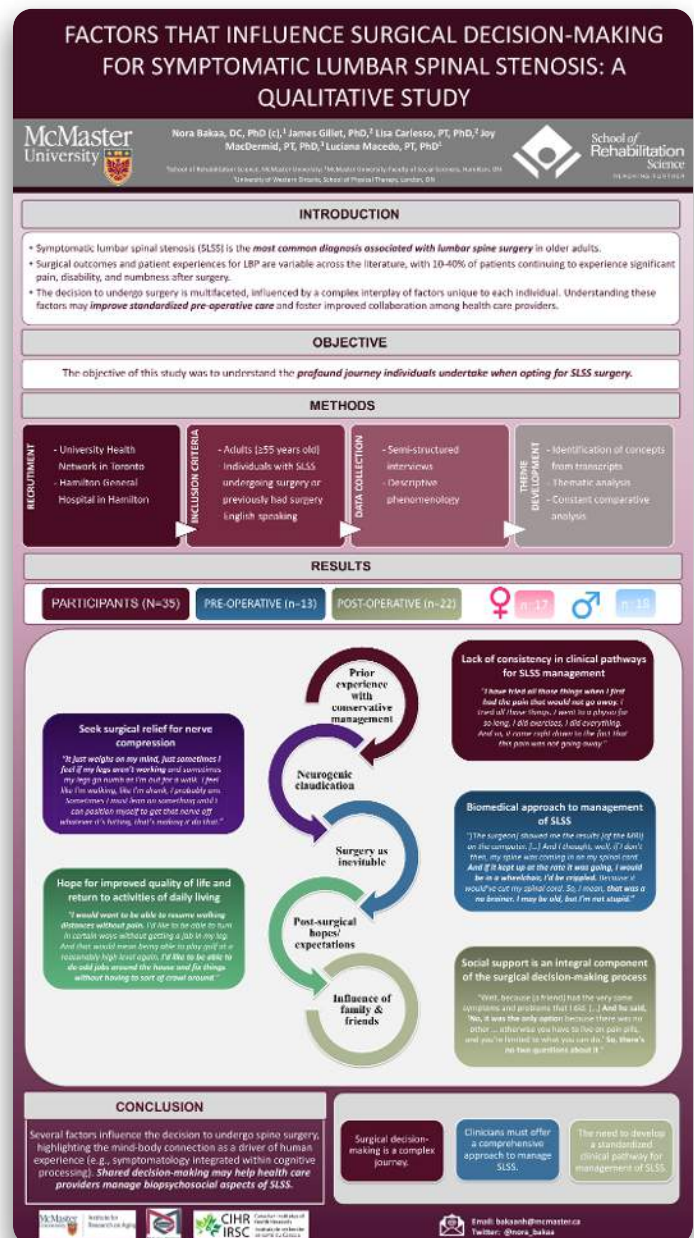
Second Prize in the **IBCE Poster Award Competition** for her poster, *Development of A Practice-Based Research Network: The Collaborative Research UK Network for Chiropractic (CRUNCH)*, picking up a check for \$1,750.

Poster prizes were also given to presenters in the **IBCE Poster Awards Best in Region** category, with the following authors each collecting \$800 in prize monies:

- WFC Africa region: Dr Christopher Yelverton (*Chiropractic Attitude and Utilisation of Evidence-Based Practice in South Africa: A Secondary Analysis*).
- WFC Asia region: Dr Eric Chun-Pu Chu (*A Retrospective Analysis of the Incidence of Severe Adverse Events Among Recipients of Chiropractic Spinal Manipulative Therapy*).
- WFC Europe region: Dr Luana Nyirö (*Variability, Repeatability, and Variation of Spinal Manipulative Therapy forces in Thoracic Spinal Manipulation on a Manikin*).
- WFC Latin America region: Dr Paulo



L>R Dr Katie Pohlman, Dr Nora Bakaa (IBCE Overall Best Poster winner) Dr Sidney Rubinstein, Dr Karlos Boghosian (IBCE)



Dr Nora Bakaa won the Overall Best Poster award with the above poster

Gomes de Oliveira Neto (*Comparative Study on the Perception and Practices of Chiropractic Among Healthcare Professionals and Non-Healthcare Professionals*).

- WFC North America region: Dr Peter Emary (*The Association between*

continued

## WFC Gold Coast Congress sees scientists shine (continued)

*Initiating Chiropractic Care and Continued Prescription Opioid Use For Chronic Non-Cancer Pain: a Sequential Mixed Methods Study).*

- WFC Pacific region: Dr Kathryn Di (A *Mixed Methods Feasibility Study of a Comorbidity-Adapted Exercise Program for Low BACK Pain in Older Adults (COME-BACK)*).

Speaking after the event, Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee, Dr Sidney Rubinstein commented, “We were delighted with the response to our call for abstracts and the quality of the work that was presented at this year’s WFC Congress. We’re proud that our event remains the largest chiropractic scientific event globally and are committed to hosting high quality, peer-reviewed research at our meetings. I congratulate all of the deserving winners and look forward to record numbers submitting to our 18th WFC Biennial Congress in 2025 when we meet in Copenhagen.”



Dr Katie Pohlman and Dr Sidney Rubinstein presented the IBCE Poster Awards

The WFC thanks both NCMIC and IBCE for their generous sponsorship of the awards, the peer reviewers for their diligence in reviewing the work submitted, and Brighthall for its outstanding coordination of the abstract submission and review process.



L>R Dr Katie Pohlman, Dr Amy Miller (IBCE Poster Awards Second Prize winner, Dr Sidney Rubinstein, Dr Karlos Boghosian (IBCE)

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# Let The Fairytale Begin!

Set a mark in your calendar and be ready to join a real Fairytale. WFC's 18<sup>th</sup> biennial congress will take place in Copenhagen in 2025 and It's not just an event; it's an experience you will remember forever.

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## CCRF Partnership Delivers Innovative Funding



Generated by a collaboration between the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto (Temerty Medicine), the Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF) is pleased to announce the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation (Rotary) has approved a \$50,000 grant in support of **'Improving clinical outcomes and psychosocial impact of patients**

CMCC + \$10,000 Temerty Medicine).

### Professorship Extension

Thanks to the visionary work of prior CCRF leaders, Dr. Carlo Ammendolia was granted a Professorship in Spine at the University of Toronto more than a decade ago. We're now seeing Dr. Ammendolia's exciting and highly respected work continue as project lead.

### Relationship Extension

A grant approved by one of the largest Rotary organizations establishes ties that have the potential to strengthen over time. Canada is home to 728 clubs with more than 27,000 members; while internationally, 1.4 million business, professional, and community leaders are represented in 200 countries.

### Community Health Traction

This care-focused study will set the stage for future Population Health ideas, as the aim is to assist three traditionally underserved groups: people experiencing homelessness, the LGBTQI+ community, and newcomers to Canada.

"I'd like to add none of this work would have been possible without the active engagement of the fantastic volunteers from the CCRF Partnership Committee (PC)" adds Robert.

"PC chair Dr. Sasha Hamid and I would especially like to recognize Dr. Andrew Sulatycki, who graciously introduced CCRF to the Rotary team."

Combining strategic vision with a pragmatic approach, CCRF is experiencing excellent growth by signing numerous Collaboration Agreements. To learn more, please contact Robert Harris at [rharris@chiroresearch.ca](mailto:rharris@chiroresearch.ca)



**with degenerative lumbar spine stenosis (LSS) at an inner city community clinic.'**

"This successful acquisition of funding from outside the chiropractic profession is a major step forward for both our foundation and our valued partners" says Robert Harris, Executive Director, CCRF.

"It's also another clear demonstration that well developed, evidence-based projects will attract the interest of sophisticated and dynamic grantors, such as Rotary, who wish to support improved access to health care for historically marginalized communities."

These are the positive developments that will be realized via this important LSS initiative:

### Financial Leverage

A starting investment of \$10,000 from each partner will result in an initial revenue pool of \$80,000 (\$50,000 Rotary + \$10,000 CCRF + \$10,000



## Case report notes positive response to chiropractic for SIRVA injury

Shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (SIRVA) is a preventable occurrence caused by the injection of a vaccine into the shoulder capsule rather than the deltoid muscle. Resulting inflammation leads to short and long term disabling pain and a reduction in the range of movement. Symptoms typically begin within 48 hours of administration of vaccine administration and are characterized by injury to tendons, ligaments and bursae. It is recognized by the U.S. Vaccine Injury Compensation Table of Injuries but is believed to be under-reported as symptoms often mimic other, more common disorders of the shoulder.

A recent case report, authored by Harrison et al and published in the *Journal of the Society of Physical Therapy Science*, reported on the successful care of a SIRVA injury.

The case involved a male patient in his fifties presenting with severe left shoulder pain, limitation of movement and related loss of sleep three weeks after having received a COVID-19 vaccination. The authors reported a severe loss of cervical spine extension, with limitations in lateral bending and rotation. Cervical axial compression also exacerbated the shoulder pain.

Radiographic assessment of the cervical spine demonstrated postural anomalies, including marked forward carriage of the head.

Treatment addressed the positive biomechanical findings associated with both the left shoulder and cervical spine.

Authors reported a marked improvement in both the neck and shoulder pain and dysfunction following the application of chiropractic techniques. Improvements were maintained at two-year follow up.

Reporting on 16 similar cases of SIRVA in Hong Kong in 2019, Eric Chu stressed the importance of considering SIRVA as a differential diagnosis in acute onset shoulder pain following vaccination administration.

Submitting this report to the *QWR*, the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) commented that it is important that chiropractors are aware of vaccine adverse reactions that may present in clinics and offices around the world.

## Risk of escalation in LBP cases reduced with SMT, study reports

Chronicity in low back pain is associated with protracted, often unsuccessful treatment that is often escalated beyond conservative measures, including imaging, injections, emergency department visits, surgery and opioid prescription.

A recently published paper in *PLoS One* reported on the impact of spinal manipulative therapy (SMT) delivered in low (one treatment), moderate (2-12 treatments) and high (13+ treatments) doses when compared to no SMT.

Examining over 11,000 unique episodes of low back pain resulting in insurance claims in the U.S., investigators subdivided them into zero SMT, low dose, medium dose and high dose cases depending on volumes of SMT treatment delivered.

For claims associated with initial episodes of low back pain, low and moderate dose spinal manipulative therapy groups were found to be associated with a 55% and 42% reduction, respectively, in the relative risk of any escalated spine care. Outcomes for high dose SMT interventions were mixed.

Authors concluded that the association between use of SMT and reduction in spine related healthcare utilization is dose dependent.

**Reference:** Anderson BR, Whedon JM, Herman PM. Dosing of lumbar spinal manipulative therapy and its association with escalated spine care: A cohort study of insurance claims. *PLoS One*. 2024 Jan 5;19(1):e0283252.

## CCRF awards C\$200,000 to six exciting new research projects

The Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF) is proud to announce \$200,000 in new musculoskeletal (MSK) research grants to six Canadian-based research teams.

"This is our eighth Request for Proposals (RFP) and we're pleased to see the strength and caliber of submissions continue to be very impressive," says Dr. Richard McIlmoyle, Research Committee chair.

"This brings our total number of funded projects to forty in the past three years, representing \$1.5 million in grant awards."

Through the visionary generosity of its donors and partners, CCRF issues semi-annual Requests for Proposals (RFPs) - a general call in the spring, followed by a more focused opportunity in the fall.

This year, the fall RFP is dedicated to Healthy Aging. With up to \$150,000 in funding available, all eligible MSK research teams are invited to apply.

"We look at research through two lenses," explains Dr. Nadine Ellul, CCRF board chair.

"Impact and value. Impact means supporting research which directly affects patient care, professional practice, partnerships and provides insights for payors and policy makers."

"We also have a duty to our supporters," she continues, "to invest in meaningful projects with well-reasoned budgets, by encouraging collaborations, in-kind institutional participation and supplementary funding."

"We're confident this new series of grants will provide excellent value for all CCRF stakeholders."

### CCRF is proud to fund these new projects:

**Title:** *Neurophysiological mechanisms underlying pain relief by spinal manipulative therapy in patients with chronic primary low back pain*

**Award:** \$60,000

**Lead:** Dr. Mathieu Piché, Université du Québec à

Trois-Rivières (UQTR)

**Impact:** This project will provide groundbreaking data on the neurophysiological mechanisms of pain relief by spinal manipulative therapy (SMT). Identifying the physical and psychological factors of SMT that contribute to the relief of chronic primary lower back pain can position chiropractic as high-value care for this widespread debilitating issue.

**Title:** *An IDEAL-Rehab Framework to guide study design and conduct of rehabilitation interventions*

**Award:** \$7,500

**Leads:** Dr. Heather Shearer/Dr. Pierre Coté, Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College

**Impact:** Chiropractors are ideally positioned to provide clinical/rehabilitative care to minimize pain and its chronicity, as well as improve function and health using these interventions. This project will adapt the IDEAL Framework – which assesses the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions – into a publicly accessible IDEAL-Rehab Framework for researchers, clinicians and policy makers to facilitate evidence-based rehabilitation delivered by chiropractors and other Canadian providers.

**Title:** *A community-based knowledge translation project to move current pain theory to practice*

**Award:** \$15,000

**Leads:** Dr. Peter Stilwell / Dr. Sabrina Coninx, McGill University, University of Southern Denmark, and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

**Impact:** This multi-site collaboration builds on previously funded studies and will produce a high-impact paper and resources (e.g., information sheet, infographic, educational video) for MSK-based clinicians, including chiropractors, on the *enactive approach to pain*. To do this, the team will define and describe key ideas and concepts so they are clear and clinically accessible. They will

*continued*



## CCRF awards C\$200,000 to six exciting new research projects (continued)

also create a robust research agenda for future theoretical and empirical research.

**Title:** *Untangling the association between burden of chronic back pain problems, current utilization of chiropractic care, and availability of chiropractors at the health region level: ecological study*

**Award:** \$65,000

**Leads:** Dr. Dan Wang/Dr. Pierre Côté, Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College

**Impact:** This study will inform chiropractic policy-makers, government and payers about the role chiropractors can play in Canadian healthcare systems. Designed in collaboration with CCA and provincial associations and using high-quality regional data sets, this project will determine and map the prevalence of chronic back pain, chiropractic utilization and chiropractic availability across the country.

**Title:** *Symptom change, including*

*adverse events following chiropractic care during pregnancy: a feasibility study*

**Award:** \$30,000

**Leads:** Dr. Carol Ann Weis/Dr. Katherine Pohlman, Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, and Parker University

**Impact:** While many pregnant women seek chiropractic treatment, they are underrepresented in research. This observational cohort study aims to describe 1) the conditions with which pregnant patients present to chiropractic offices; 2) the type of treatments used in real time to treat the pregnant population; 3) the change in symptoms experienced by these patients after a chiropractic visit; and 4) the frequency and severity of worsening/new symptoms following a chiropractic treatment.

**Title:** *Do methodological trade-offs used to conduct rapid reviews of the literature lead to biased results and conclusions*

*compared to systematic reviews?*

**Award:** \$22,500

**Leads:** Dr. Melissa Macmillan/Dr. Pierre Côté, University of Ontario Institute Of Technology

**Impact:** The use of rapid reviews within an evidence-informed policy framework places the chiropractic profession as leaders and can improve the practice of chiropractic and the safety of patients. This project is the first to investigate methodological trade-offs of rapid reviews related to rehabilitation and lead to a greater understanding of the evidence syntheses generated by them and their use by health policy decision makers with the aim of helping to improve MSK health by clinicians and organizations, including chiropractic associations and Colleges.

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## RESEARCH CORNER: Randomized controlled trials: How do I interpret the results and where do potential problems lie?

In the previous edition of this Research Column, I presented the various forms of study design. In this edition, I want to zoom in on a simple design, randomized controlled trials (RCTs). In figure 1, you see the typical flow of a RCT (adapted from the 2010 Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) statement)<sup>[i][ii]</sup>. We all know RCTs are the gold standard when examining effectiveness, but where should you (the clinician) pay particular attention to when reading these studies?

### **Methodological quality**

**External vs. internal validity.** Methodological quality can generally be subdivided into external and internal validity. The former refers to the generalizability of findings, while the latter refers to the inherent quality. For example, a study which examines the effects of spinal manipulative therapy (SMT) for acute LBP or lumbosacral radicular syndrome will have poor external validity if you want to extrapolate those findings to those with chronic low-back pain (LBP). Internal validity refers to the actual conduct of the study; therefore, studies, which are intrinsically flawed (or biased) cannot answer the question at-hand. Typically, studies with poor internal validity overestimate the treatment effect, meaning these studies suggest that a therapy (or intervention) work better than in reality.

Two specific aspects of internal validity which are arguably the most important forms of bias in a RCT are selection bias and performance bias.

### **Bias in RCTs**

**Selection bias:** Randomization is the most important element of a RCT (hence the name), and represents an important way to prevent selection bias. The goal of randomization is to ensure that subjects are equal at baseline with respect to the most important prognostic factors, such as gender, age and co-morbidity because these

factors can influence the effects. Selection bias occurs when systematic error is introduced whereby participants are more likely to receive one form of therapy than another, resulting in an unequally-balanced sample. This is prevented through the randomization process, which may consist of various methods, such as throwing dice, or include more sophisticated techniques, such as using a random number table generated by the computer and administered by an independent examiner.

**Performance bias:** Performance bias is prevented by 'blinding' (or 'masking') the patient and/or practitioner. For purposes of brevity, I limit the discussion to the patient. The underlying premise is that the expectations of the patient influence the findings. This is particularly the case when subjective measures, such as pain or disability, are being assessed, and the participants have a strong belief regarding a given therapy. For the investigation of physical treatments, such as SMT, blinding might not be feasible or possible, and studies which include blinding may themselves be flawed (because it was not properly applied).

While RCTs may be the gold standard for effectiveness research, they also have drawbacks, which includes the intensive use of personnel and resources; problems with generalizability (i.e. participants might not be representative of the broader population of interest); and attrition bias (i.e. loss to follow up).

**Sidney Rubinstein**

[i] <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/consort/>

[ii] [CONSORT 2010 Explanation and Elaboration: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomised trials - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)



## RESEARCH CORNER: Randomized controlled trials: How do I interpret the results and where do potential problems lie? (continued)

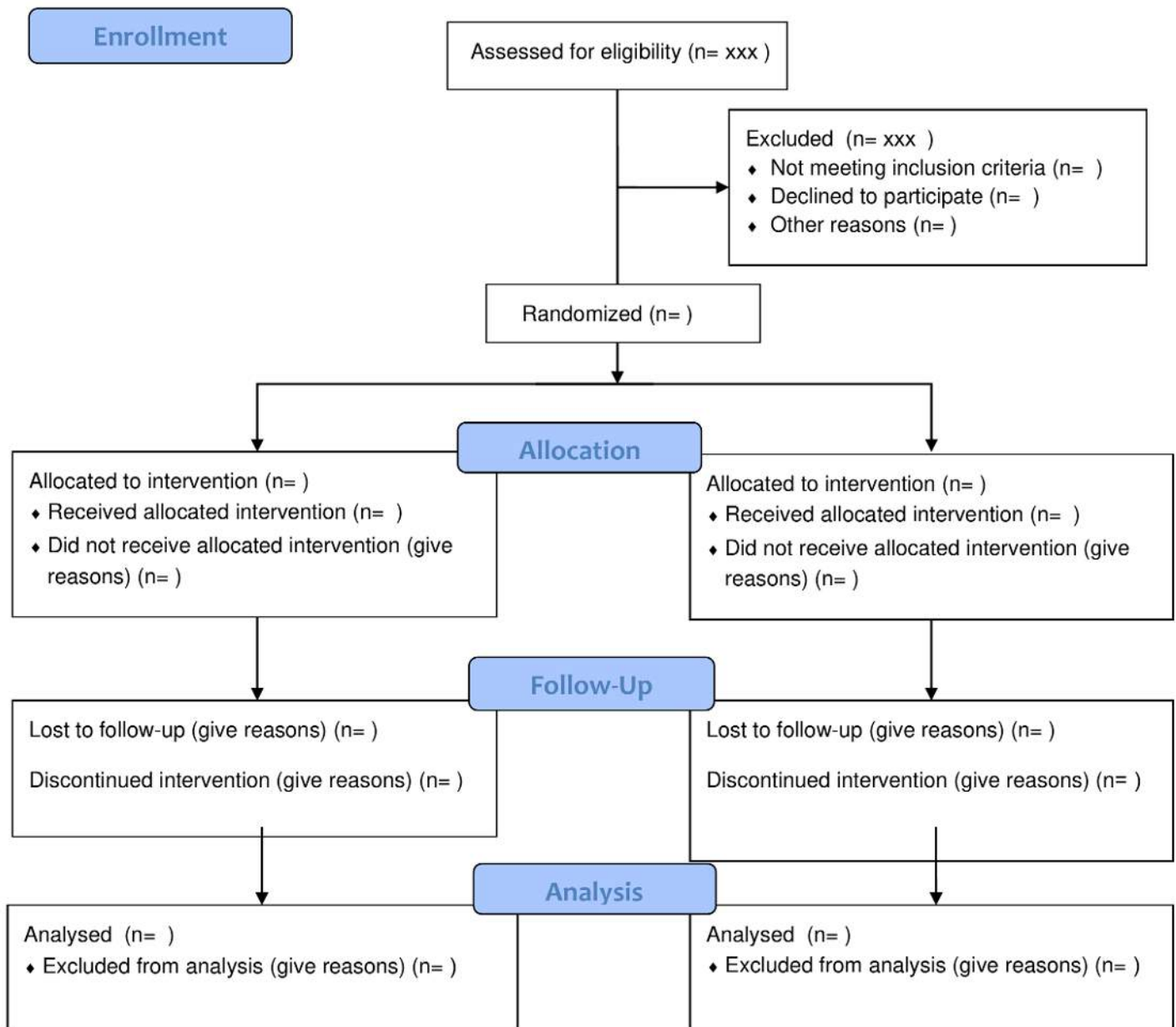


Fig.1 Flow Diagram Randomized Controlled Trial. Adapted from the 2010 CONSORT Statement

# Implementing An External Student Placement Strategy Into an Undergraduate Chiropractic Curriculum in the United Kingdom: An Education Descriptive Report

This study describes the development and implementation of placements, which are educational experiences during which students can observe or apply theory in real practice situations, into an entry-level chiropractic course within the United Kingdom.

This placement strategy was developed for the chiropractic program at Teesside University through an initial working group that generated its aims, objectives, and philosophy. Evaluation surveys were completed for each module containing placement hours. This report includes information from 42 students who participated.

Placement hours were divided across all taught years (Academic Year 1: 11%; Year 2: 11%; Year 3: 26%; Year 4: 52%). Data were evaluated 2 years post-launch, with 40 students reporting to be satisfied overall with Year 1 (median 1, IQR 1-2) and Year 2 (1, IQR 1-2) placement modules. Participants perceived that placement experiences were applicable to the workplace and their future careers across modules in both Year 1 (1, IQR 1-2) and Year 2 (1, IQR 1-1.5) and that continuous feedback improved their clinical learning (Year 1 [1, IQR 1-2]; Year 2 [1, IQR 1-2]).



This paper includes the strategy and student evaluation findings for the placement strategy. The authors explore the principles of interprofessional learning, reflective practice, and authentic assessment. The authors conclude that the placement strategy was implemented successfully. As well, student feedback reported overall satisfaction with the strategy, which was associated with graduate-ready skills.



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Implementing An External Student Placement Strategy Into an Undergraduate Chiropractic Curriculum in the United Kingdom: An Education Descriptive Report. Chesterton P, Deane F, Moore D. Journal of Chiropractic Humanities. 2023 Dec 1;30:1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.echu.2023.01.001>

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## Danish chiropractic x-ray utilization halves 2010-2020

A recent study, published in *Chiropractic and Manual Therapies* [1], found that the utilization of plain film x-rays by chiropractors in Denmark dropped from 15.4% in 2010 to 8.0% in 2020. This corresponds to a drop in utilization of approximately 1% per year.

Using figures obtained from the Danish Regions, the utilization of x-rays by chiropractors was also contrasted with the utilization by Danish chiropractors of advanced diagnostic imaging. The Danish healthcare system provides for partial reimbursement of costs for all types of imaging.

The presence of guidelines and policy statements regarding x-ray utilization did not have a significant impact, although workshops organized by the Chiropractic Knowledge Hub and quality assurance reports focusing on the evidence-based management of spinal pain and disability were found to be effective.

The figures represent a continuing decline in the utilization of x-rays by chiropractors in Denmark. In 2002, the corresponding figure was 27%.

With the prevalence of serious pathology estimated to be between 0.9% and 4.5%, the authors caution that if the utilization of x-rays becomes too low, relevant pathology may be missed. However, they stress that decision-making



is based on patient symptoms and clinical findings in order to ensure evidence-based justification of imaging.

What the study indicates is that, in Denmark at least, chiropractic plain film radiography is no longer a routine part of the investigation of each patient. With a more judicious approach being taken, it is foreseeable that x-ray usage among chiropractors will continue to fall.

**Reference:** [1] Reibke, P.S., Godskesen, H., Jensen, R.K. et al. The effect of clinical guidelines on the utilisation of radiographs in chiropractic clinics in Denmark - an interrupted time series analysis. *Chiropr Man Therap* 31, 47 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12998-023-00518-9>.



## Memorandum of Understanding signed between Parker University and the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

In December, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was formally drafted between the Research Center at Parker University (Parker) and the Department of Health Science at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (VU-Amsterdam), represented by Drs. Katherine (Katie) A Pohlman and Sidney Rubinstein, respectively. The goal of the MoU is to accelerate research projects and joint funding opportunities, through resource sharing, including opportunities for graduate and undergraduate student with a range of research interest.



*Dr Sidney Rubinstein, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam*

Both Parker and VU-Amsterdam have strong track records in high-quality chiropractic research. Parker has been continuously raising the bar in important topics, such as patient safety, neuroscience, and person-centered musculoskeletal (MSK) research; while VU-Amsterdam focuses on effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of MSK complaints, as well as



*Dr Katie Pohlman, Parker University, Dallas.*

expertise in conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

"Katie and I already work on various projects together as she is the vice chair for the WFC Research Committee that I chair. This is a logical step to take in cementing our working relationship. However, it is more than just signatures on a piece of paper, it helps me to fulfill a personal mission, exploring new lines of research and stimulating knowledge translation by clinicians." stated Sidney after the MoU was complete.

Katie added, "I am most grateful for the mentorship from Dr. Rubinstein. Each of our institutions has unique skills and opportunities to offer. The MoU will offer a spotlight to showcase these skills and opportunities to those affiliated with our institutions and beyond. The chiropractic profession will certainly benefit from this opportunity."



## AECC University College appoints new Head of Research to strengthen research profile

AECC University College (AECC UC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Julie Northam as Head of Research.

In this new role, Julie will lead the University College's research strategy and will work to build and develop infrastructure to support research and knowledge exchange across the institution. She is supported by the University College's new Research and Knowledge Exchange Manager, Lisa Andrews.

Julie joins AECC UC from Bournemouth University, where she worked for almost 20 years – most recently as Head of Research, Development and Support. Her department at the University supported up to 800 researchers with their research and knowledge exchange activity.

At AECC UC, Julie is responsible for leading the development of an institutional research culture that enables staff and students to reach their research potential, developing strategic research themes, and chairing the University College's Research and Innovation Committee.

The new research team recently led a research strategy event, which sought to identify and develop a shared set of research priorities and themes for chiropractic that will advance the profession and research in the AECC School of Chiropractic.

Commenting on the role, Julie explained: "It's fantastic to have the opportunity to build on and develop the existing research culture and profile at AECC University College, enabling researchers to flourish.

"We're building on the research that staff have been doing at AECC UC for many years by creating a research culture that stretches across the University. Research comes from a place of passion and creativity, and wanting to do things differently,



*Dr Julie Northam is the new head of research at AECC University College*

and we want to nurture and enable that."

Earlier this year, Research England published the results of the third Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF). This was the first time that AECC UC had made a submission to the KEF. The University College was included in the STEM Specialists Cluster, along with ten other institutions.

AECC UC's performance highlighted strengths in the following areas: local growth and regeneration, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provision, and working with the public and third sector.

Professor Lesley Haig, Vice-Chancellor of AECC UC, said: "We are delighted to welcome Julie to AECC UC as we look to develop and expand our research and knowledge exchange infrastructure and culture. We have reached an exciting period in our development as a University and increasing our research capacity is closely aligned with this.

"We are committed to developing and growing the knowledge exchange and research areas that we are active in."

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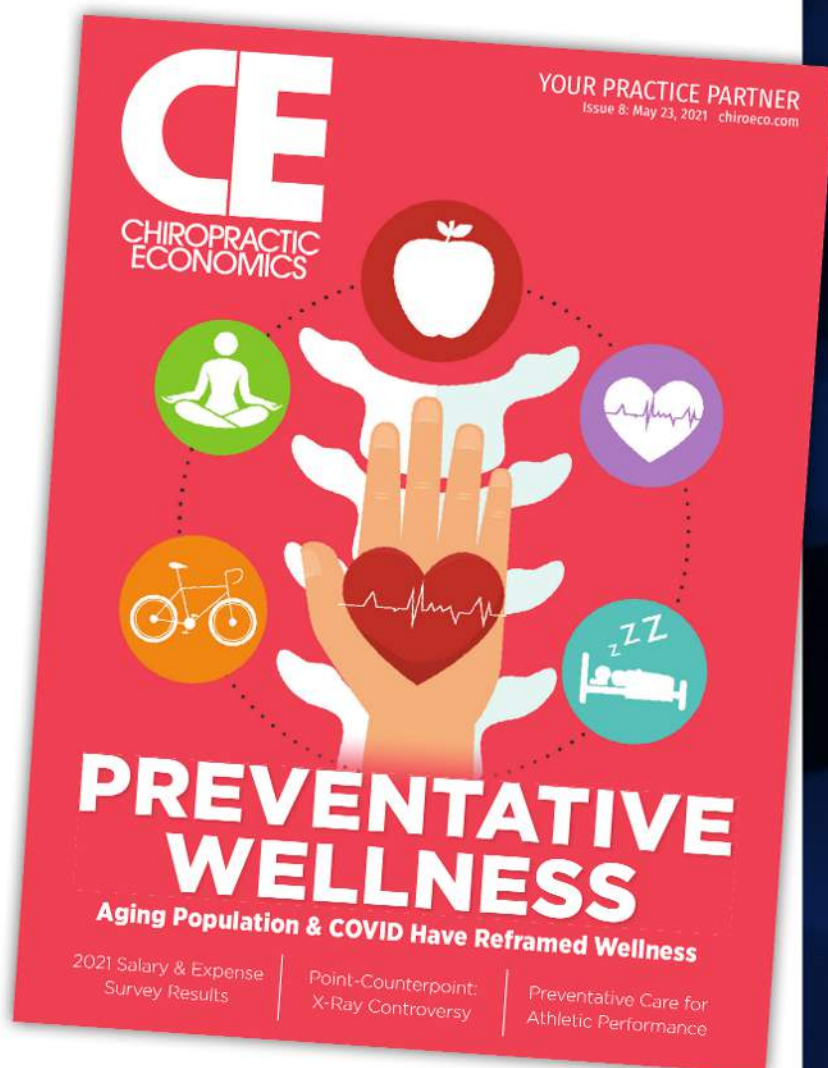
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