



## Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF)

### Perpetually Funding Research to Improve Musculoskeletal Health and Related Areas of Wellbeing

CCRF is a registered charity supporting Canadian-led research projects that respond to the needs of patients and the chiropractic profession. Major areas of focus are grant administration, partnership development and fundraising. CCRF investments help to improve health outcomes for the over 11 million Canadians living with musculoskeletal (MSK) pain and disability.

CCRF embodies an entrepreneurial spirit to seek out opportunities that create value for patients, professional practices, policymakers, payors (e.g., insurers) and partners as summarized in this model:



### Approach: How CCRF Works

Based on formal local and national consultations, CCRF is committed to funding projects supporting four national priorities: Basic Science, Clinical Science, Health Systems and Population Health.

The organization engages with various health care disciplines including nurse practitioners, system navigators, and Indigenous health specialists. These ties support interdisciplinary work in various areas, such as mental health, rehabilitation, community service, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). All opportunities must highlight the useful social and economic improvements resulting from good science or “Research Impact.”

CCRF projects apply the scientific method to ensure valid data dissemination. Support is provided by 24 volunteers serving on the board and four committees. CCRF partners include the Chronic Pain Centre of Excellence for Canadian Veterans (CPCoE), Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), Acadia University, and La Fondation Chiropratique du Québec (FCQ).

Today, CCRF remains a world leader in chiropractic research, changing the trajectory of public health care by investing in projects that make a difference. The organization helps provide answers to today’s most pressing health care questions by assisting a dedicated research community.

### Funding and Integrity

CCRF receives funding from provincial associations, such as the Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA) and national bodies, including the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) and the Canadian Chiropractic Protective Association (CCPA). Other sources of revenue include private donations and investments through collaborations. Committee and board approvals drive CCRF’s decision-making, which is independent of all funders. Its Annual Member Meeting includes a professional audit conducted by a licensed public accountant.



## Achievements

- Founded in 1978 and celebrating over forty (40) years of service
- Provided \$2.5 million to fund 18 research Chairs in universities throughout Canada
- Issued 34 project grants of more than \$1.3 million since 2019
- Future Forward endowment contains over \$250,000 in assets

## Highlights of Strategic Plan Goals (2023-2025)

- Co-ordinate with stakeholders to launch at least three major research initiatives
- Sign 12 new partners related to key categories (e.g., sports, seniors, and opioid use reduction)
- Issue two RFP calls per annum and provide a minimum of \$250,000 in new grant awards
- Grow endowment to over \$500,000 in addition to estate planning pledges of over \$200,000
- Build governance capacity, including expanding leadership representation from diverse communities

## High Impact Project Examples

Thanks to the generosity of its funders, clinicians, and private supporters, CCRF is proud to have invested in numerous high-impact research projects that include:

### ***The Association of Chiropractic Integration with Opioid Use for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain in an Ontario Health Care Centre: A Mixed Methods Study***

**Lead:** Dr. Peter Emary, McMaster University, Department of Health Research Methodology; Michael J. DeGroot, Institute for Pain Research and Care

**Highlights/Goal(s):** First study of its kind to examine the relationship between chiropractic integration and opioid use among vulnerable patients in a Community Health Centre (CHC). Study will track whether the receipt of chiropractic services can reduce opioid use among patients already using prescription opioids. It also seeks to identify improvements in quality of life and other qualitative areas that may prove unique to chiropractic intervention and help validate outcomes seen in practice.

### ***Reducing wait times, opioid prescriptions and imaging rates for acute and chronic spine pain patients: A university-hospital based chiropractic clinic implementation project***

**Lead:** Dr. Steven Passmore, Hons BKin, MS, DC, PhD

**Highlights/Goal(s):** 1) Determine potential barriers to managing spine pain patients without opioid medication and spine imaging prescriptions; 2) the factors related to referring these patients to hospital-based chiropractic care; and 3) to evaluate the impact of knowledge translation (KT) interventions combined with guideline informed chiropractic care on reducing ED and SAC opioid medication and diagnostic imaging prescriptions, ED wait time, and patient health outcomes.

### ***Identifying spine care needs, and perceived barriers to accessing evidence-based spine care in northern Manitoba: A Global Spine Care Initiative implementation project***

**Lead:** Dr. André Bussi eres, Universit  du Qu bec   Trois-Rivi eres (UQTR)

**Highlights/Goal(s):** Pimicikamak, Manitoba (Cross Lake First Nation) has a largely Indigenous population with underserved spine care needs. This project will determine the nature and impact of spinal disorders in the community and identify factors which may impact the community's ability to adopt health care approaches intended to improve the health of its residents.

### ***Exploring pain-related disabilities among First Nations, Inuit and M tis in Canada***

**Lead:** Dr. Pierre C t , Faculty of Health Sciences, Ontario Tech University and the Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research

**Highlights/Goal(s):** Among Indigenous peoples in Canada, conditions related to pain are the leading causes of disabilities, but too little research exists to understand their burden and impact. Working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples, this project aims to provide essential information to assist chiropractors and health care partners in understanding pain-related disabilities within these communities to develop evidence-informed, culturally agile care and interventions that respect Indigenous ways of knowing.

For more information on the CCRF, contact Robert Harris at [RHarris@chiroresearch.ca](mailto:RHarris@chiroresearch.ca) or visit [canadianchiropracticresearchfoundation.ca](http://canadianchiropracticresearchfoundation.ca).

