

Canadian Researcher Awarded Prestigious Fellowship



Dr. Jeff Quon, DC, FCCS(C), MHSc
CIHR Fellowship Recipient

Dr. Jeffrey Quon DC of Vancouver, British Columbia has been awarded a prestigious 3 year Fellowship funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF) and the British Columbia College of Chiropractors (BCCC). The CCRF/BCCC/CIHR Joint Partnership Initiative is part of an innovative program which to date has provided over \$700,000 to support Canadian chiropractic researchers, and is responsible for the creation of this new research training position at the University of British Columbia.

Over the next 10 years, Canada's population is expected

to grow and age significantly and so will the need for chiropractic health services. Both CIHR and government recognize the large numbers of Canadians who access alternative and complementary approaches to health care, particularly chiropractic. By working together, the Canadian Chiropractic Association, the CCRF and the CIHR are jointly able to undertake their role in helping to shape the Canadian research agenda and translate research findings into practice within Canada's health system. The joint partnership program is a strong commitment which ensures talented investigators are provided with the resources and training needed to address the health challenges faced by Canadians and chiropractic patients. As a result, Canadians will enjoy the health benefits that are created by chiropractic research.

Dr. Quon graduated from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) in 1986. He completed a post-graduate residency program in clinical sciences in 1988 and became a Fellow of the College of Chiropractic Sciences in 1989. He obtained his Masters in Health Science in 1999 from the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology at the University of British Columbia. He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at UBC and is the recipient of numerous other awards.

As part of his PhD training at Vancouver General Hospital and the University of British Columbia, Dr. Quon's research project will focus initially on the clinical and economic outcomes of patients with lumbar disc herniation. In the near future, Dr. Quon plans to conduct a series of randomized controlled trials to compare the effectiveness of various surgical and non surgical protocols for managing patients with lumbar disc herniation. "The immediate goal is to describe the patterns of variation in treatments experienced by patients, and to identify physical, psychosocial and clinical factors that are associated with timely (as well as delayed) recovery. Also, the benefits and economic costs of commonly used *nonsurgical*

(alternative as well as conventional) treatments will be compared, and the most promising of these will be rigorously evaluated within future clinical trials". Studies indicate that 10% of patients with disabling back pain account for more than 80% of total health care and social costs. The 1% of back pain patients who undergo surgery form the most expensive group. Although surgery for lumbar disc herniation is one of the most frequently performed surgical procedures in North America, its benefits in relation to structured nonsurgical care is unclear. Dr. Quon's research will evaluate whether lumbar disc surgery is more beneficial than other nonsurgical treatment (ie chiropractic). This research is consistent with the Manga Report recommendations. As well, there are implications related to the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI).



Dr. Tim St. Denis, DC

President

Canadian Chiropractic Association

Dr. Tim St. Denis, President of the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA), commented that "in receiving this 3 year prestigious Fellowship Award, Dr. Jeff Quon has hurdled a stringent peer review process – the gold standard – utilized by the CIHR. This is significant for chiropractic since the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is Canada's leading premier Federal research agency with an annual budget of \$500 million. Building academic intellectual chiropractic capacity is critical to our profession being a key player in the health care system."



Dr. Dave Peterson, DC

President

Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation

Dr. Dave Peterson, President of the Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF) stated, "having CIHR support chiropractic research and a chiropractic researcher speaks volumes and definitely builds our credibility with the government and the public. We need to accelerate our commitment to fostering a chiropractic research culture with fulltime researchers."



Dr. Don Nixdorf, DC

Executive Director

British Columbia College of Chiropractors

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Dr. Don Nixdorf, Executive Director of the British Columbia College of Chiropractors (BCCC) stated, "this is a wonderful opportunity for BC to support a British Columbia chiropractic researcher who will advance our profession in the years to come. It would benefit the public

and profession to see a Chiropractic Research Chair established at UBC or SFU similar to Canada's 1st Chiropractic Research Chair created at the University of Calgary recently, where Dr. Greg Kawchuk DC, PhD was awarded a 5 year appointment funded by the Federal government, CCA, CCRF, FCER, CCPA and NSERC".



Dr. Allan Gotlib, DC
CCA Research Programs Coordinator

Dr. Quon accepted the award "with the greatest of pride, especially because it is based on the deliberations of particular individuals within our profession for whom I hold the highest regard. Providing these wonderful opportunities for chiropractors to undertake chiropractic research as a full time career will provide the necessary foundation for our profession to grow and are essential to our survival and credibility with government and the public. I wish to express my special appreciation to Dr. Allan Gotlib, who not only directed my attention to the funding competition for the original CIHR/CCRF Partnership Award early last

year, but also (and perhaps more importantly) provided me with the opportunity to reiterate my ongoing dedication and allegiance to the chiropractic profession. I am especially appreciative to the BCCC. In the future, I look forward to participating more directly in the academic growth of our exciting profession".

Dr. Quon is the latest recipient in the next wave of Canadian chiropractic researchers to be funded as part of the CCA's ongoing commitment to supporting and facilitating a chiropractic research agenda designed to improve the health of Canadians. The Joint CCA/CCRF/CIHR Partnership program was made possible in the last several years initially under the past leadership of Dr. Dave Peterson (current CCRF president), Dr. Allan Gotlib (CCA Research Programs Co-ordinator) and our current CCA President, Dr. Tim St. Denis.

It is particularly noteworthy that by partnering with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the CCRF/CCA in this joint venture, the BC College has taken an outstanding leadership role in both protecting and enhancing the public interest. It has taken many years of dedicated effort to create this opportunity. Both the profession and the public will soon come to realize the positive benefits of this ongoing relationship. Dr. Quon's Fellowship provides for \$145,500 and is shared by CIHR, the CCRF and the BCCC.

The profession extends its heartfelt thanks to the British Columbia College of Chiropractors for undertaking this truly remarkable leadership role as a licensing agency for the British Columbia government.

Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation

The vision of the CCRF is to promote research into studies relative to the practice of chiropractic and to assist in the development of chiropractic researchers and the establishment of sustainable quality chiropractic institutional research programs. Integrative health research will be focused on improving both health and quality of life of Canadians that empowers Canadians to be partners in their health.