

### CCRF Partnership with CIHR under the SHOPP Program

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The Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF) has been investing in “Partnerships and People” for over 30 years and has supported clinical, biomedical, health services and population health studies and more recently, research capacity-building programs.

The CIHR Small Health Organizations Partnership

Program (SHOPP) has been tremendously successful in providing extraordinary opportunities to small historically under-represented professions, such as the profession of chiropractic. The partnership between the CCRF and the CIHR has fostered a true research culture and provided a mechanism for new knowledge to be integrated into *both*, the health research system and the health care system in Canada.

Now, a consortial network of ten university-based chiropractic researchers actually addresses a research agenda, and provides mentorship to the dramatic rise in chiropractors undertaking masters and PhD studies. This new intellectual capacity is a tremendous return on our Partnership investment and will build on our research strengths to the benefit of Canadians.

The CCRF CIHR partnership creates opportunities for chiropractors to actually pursue a fulltime career in research. The rigorous training received in the universities in both graduate and post-graduate studies, provides the basis for the chiropractic profession to firmly withstand the scrutiny of the scientific community. It also provides the evidentiary basis to support the clinical treatment provided by Canada’s 6,000 chiropractors to 4.5 million Canadians annually.

For example, our first Chiropractic Research Chair was Dr. Greg Kawchuk DC, PhD at the University of Calgary and he is now a Canada Research Chair in Spinal Function at the University of Alberta. Dr. Jean-Sébastien Blouin DC, PhD holds a CCRF Professorship in Spine Biomechanics and Neurophysiology at UBC. Dr. Mark Erwin DC, PhD holds the CCRF Scientist in Disc Biology position at the University of Toronto. All have made

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important discoveries. Dr. Erwin is the first ever to report the nature of the soluble factors produced by notochord cells, specifically including CTGF. This has important discovery implications in the treatment and prevention of degenerative disc disease which is a significant societal burden.

The exemplary quality of work from these researchers and others in the discipline of chiropractic, has been an excellent health investment that will positively impact Canada's economic burdens of health, injury, illness and disability.

The recipients of the CCRF CIHR Partnership Awards bring tremendous value to Canada's health care system and Canada's health research system in terms of intellectual capacity and new discovery research capability. Our most valuable commodity is our researchers. Our profession's capacity to do research is growing. But we need to catalyze even faster growth! Less than 1% of our profession is actively engaged in fulltime health research. CCRF and CIHR address this inequity with the goal of "investing in people" such as Dr. Greg Kawchuk, Dr. Jean-Sébastien Blouin and Dr. Mark Erwin.

However, none of this would have been possible in so short a time without the aligned visions of both the CCRF and CIHR, a true partnership.

### Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation

The Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF), formerly the Chiropractic Foundation of Spinal Research, is Canada's oldest and most established national funding body which has been granting research funds for worthy chiropractic projects since 1976.

The CCRF is a registered charitable organization dedicated to facilitating clinical, biomedical, health services, and population health research, relative to the practice of chiropractic.

In November 1975, The Canadian Chiropractic Association supported the formation of the CFSR/CCRF. In 1978, the CFSR/CCRF became an independent body, incorporated under the Federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The CCRF funding grants have traditionally supported research in Canada's health care system and Canada's health research system, in order to mitigate the economic burdens of illness, disease, health, injury and disability that so many Canadians needlessly endure.

The current Board of Directors and Officers includes:

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In the most recent years, CCRF programming has focused on research capacity development primarily by establishing Professorships in universities across Canada and by partnering with CIHR and universities to invest in collaborative relationships.

### Canadian Institutes of Health Research

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the major federal agency responsible for funding health research in Canada. It aims to excel in the creation of new health knowledge, and to translate that knowledge from the research setting into real world applications. The results are improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) was created under The CIHR Act that came into force on June 7, 2000. CIHR is a Departmental Corporation listed in Schedule II of the Financial Administration Act. As an arms length agency of government, it is accountable to Parliament through the Minister of Health.

CIHR is managed by the President and the Governing Council, who are assisted by various Standing and Advisory Committees. CIHR supports more than 11,000 researchers and researchers in training as part of the federal government's investment in health research. The peer review process is a vital part of CIHR. Review by panels of peers from the research community ensures proposals approved for funding by CIHR meet international accepted standards of scientific excellence.