

Profile – Dr. Connie D'Astolfo DC



Dr. Connie D'Astolfo DC
PhD candidate
York University

Dr. Connie D'Astolfo graduated with her Hons BA from the University of Toronto in 1996 followed by a BSc in Human Biology (summa cum laude) in 1999 and her Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 2001, both from the National University of Health Sciences in Chicago IL. In 2008, she received her Graduate Diploma in Health Administration from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto in clinical epidemiology and outcomes evaluation.

Dr. D'Astolfo is the president of SPINEgroup®, a clinic-

al-research-consulting firm in Vaughan, ON. Currently Dr. D'Astolfo is a PhD candidate in Health Informatics and Decision Making in the Faculty of Health at York University. Her research interests are focused on health services research specifically related to chronic disease prevention and management, spinal disorders and clinical program evaluation, management and outcome evaluation.

The topic of her PhD thesis is: "Spine Care Program Model and Implementation in the Ontario Long Term Care System."

This program initiative is novel in its inclusion and study of the chiropractor in a mainstream interdisciplinary clinical team in the long term care sector. This program is expected to enable long term care institutions, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) and other stakeholders to effectively address several urgent issues including:

- understanding the impact of spinal disorders on quality of life in the senior LTC population,
- recognizing the complex dynamics of the interdisciplinary clinical team that underlies effectiveness and impact on quality of care,
- identifying at risk seniors, reducing pain and impairment and increasing their quality of life, and
- evaluating the clinical and economic impact (cost-effectiveness analysis) of interdisciplinary teams compared to usual care in the prevention, diagnosis and management of spinal disease/disorders in the geriatric population.

Dr. D'Astolfo's PhD thesis supervisor is Dr. Peter Tsasis MBA, PhD, CHE, an Associate Professor in the School of Health Management at York University. His expertise is in health management and his research interests lie in organizational change, performance evaluation and quality improvement.