

On January 17, 1998 at the University of Calgary, members of the CCA Research Committee met to advance the initiatives identified by a previous consultative process involving several workshops and in excess of 50 chiropractic representatives from across Canada. Those initiatives included enhancing the Committee to assume a stronger role of coordinating, organizing and setting research priorities. The organization of a Consortium of Canadian Chiropractic Research Centres (CCCCRC) had also been identified. As well, the transition of the Chiropractic Foundation for Spinal Research into two separate divisions and the naming of a national research director were also identified.

The CCA Research Committee has been duly constituted for 1998 and currently is composed of the following individuals:

1. CCA Governor/Chair  
Dr. Dave Peterson, Calgary, Alberta
2. CCA Governor  
Dr. Graydon Bridge, Lethbridge, Alberta
3. CCA Governor  
Dr. Zoltan Szaraz, Agincourt, Ontario
4. Chair, Consortium of Canadian Chiropractic Research Centers (CCCCRC)  
Dr. Howard Vernon, Toronto, Ontario
5. President, Canadian Foundation for Spinal Research (CFSR)  
Dr. Martin Gurvey, Winnipeg, Manitoba
6. Editor, Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association (JCCA)  
Dr. Allan Gotlib, Toronto, Ontario
7. Research Programs Co-ordinator  
Dr. Allan Gotlib, Toronto, Ontario
8. Public member  
Dr. Benno Nigg, Calgary, Alberta
9. Manager, Professional Affairs/Health Policy  
Costa Papadopoulos, Toronto, Ontario
10. Field practitioner  
Dr. Ron Carter, Calgary, Alberta

Dr. Benno Nigg serves as the public representative on the Committee and will add significant credibility to the agenda and the programs. Dr. Nigg currently serves as Chair Selection Committee, International Olympic Committee (IOC) Olympic Prize and is a member of the IOC Medical Commission. His research activities include human locomotion with emphasis on mobility and longevity, and on forces in the locomotor system. He has authored more than 200 journal publications and nine books. Dr. Nigg is Director of the Human Performance Laboratory at the University of Calgary, whose staff includes 75 full time equivalents. The lab is internationally well recognized and worldwide is one of the largest and best equipped research centres for musculoskeletal research. It attracts about \$3 million dollars annually in research funding.

The CCCCCRC is now functional and will begin the process of developing a communication network and collaborative linkages. The initial members of the consortium have met, and planning for the first scientific research symposium is well underway. It will be held at the University of Calgary on November 14-15, 1998 and the program includes heritage and plenary speakers.

The CFSR, under the leadership of Dr. Martin Gurvey, has begun the process of transition which will eventually see the CFSR divided into two separate sections. One will be a fundraising body with a board comprised of highly visible business leaders, government officials, insurance industry representatives and chiropractic patients. The second group will be a grants allocation board which will be enhanced by the addition of multidisciplinary and academic individuals who will adjudicate the applications according to the research agenda set by the profession through the CCA Research Committee. The proposed transition plan will be tabled at the next Committee meeting in July, 1998.

The position of National Research Director is undergoing further study prior to any potential implementation. In the interim, Dr. Allan Gotlib, editor of the JCCA, has

undertaken the task of facilitating many of the initiatives identified by the Committee.

The CCA Research Committee will endeavour to:

- Define and set a research agenda
  - Increase linkages between research and capital markets
  - Promote and support young researchers
  - Disseminate information on research activities
  - Transform results of research into health policy
  - Enhance project collaboration
  - Maintain an inventory of research activities
  - Centralize funding opportunities via databases
  - Establish networks within the academic community
  - Create funding opportunities
- Support research by way of specific program announcements, requests for applications(RFA's), investigator initiated research projects and collaborative/cooperative agreements
  - Facilitate the activities of the CCCRC, particularly the Canadian Chiropractic Scientific Research Symposium
  - Explore all options of funding

Exciting challenges lay ahead and the CCA Research Committee is preparing to aggressively meet those challenges in a manner consistent with the profession's expectations. The success of this group in implementing its initiatives will have far reaching and tremendous impact on the profession.