

For Immediate Release

Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation Awards \$249,000 Grant for Groundbreaking Study on Cervical Manipulation and Stroke Risk

TORONTO, October 7, 2024 – The Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF) is proud to announce the awarding of its first-ever Request for Tender (RFT) to a distinguished research team led by the Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (IDRR) at Ontario Tech University.

Backed by a \$249,000 grant, this important study — *Association between cervical manipulation or mobilization and ischemic stroke in individuals who seek care for neck pain or headaches* — will conduct a comprehensive systematic review and causal analysis to shed light on the potential risks associated with cervical spine treatments. A new review of cervical manipulation and ischemic stroke literature is crucial to provide robust data reflecting the very latest evidence, improve understanding of risk mechanisms and develop best-practices. This will improve patient safety and assist in resolving conflicting findings from past research.

“The safety of cervical spine manipulation for the treatment of neck pain and headache remains controversial,” says Dr. Pierre Côté, Project Lead and Director, IDRR. “Our study brings together an international multidisciplinary team of experts who will investigate whether cervical spine manipulation causes stroke. This knowledge is necessary to ensure that patients are provided with safe treatment.”

“We’re especially pleased to be funding this crucial research, which includes ten outstanding experts from Canada and the United States, as well as Europe and South America,” adds Dr. Nadine Ellul, Board Chair, CCRF. “This investment demonstrates the chiropractic profession is dedicated to completing evidence-based work that advances patient safety, while also providing strong knowledge transfer to over 8,000 licensed chiropractors across Canada.”

CCRF intends to regularly issue RFTs, as this unique granting approach allows our partners to bring forward timely research topics. This provides CCRF with effective information to raise high-impact questions to our researcher community — all in the interest of improving patient care and supporting good public policy.

Fast facts:

Ontario Tech’s Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (IDRR) is a partnership between the university’s Faculty of Health Sciences, its Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, and the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC). Researchers in the IDRR work with the public, clinicians, community partners and government to develop, evaluate and conduct policy-relevant research to inform patient care and community-based rehabilitation services. The IDRR evolved from the previous Centre for Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (CDPR) that had operated under a successful joint governance model between Ontario Tech and the CMCC since 2012.

The Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation is a registered Canadian charity that perpetually funds high-impact, peer-reviewed research to improve musculoskeletal health and related areas of well-being.

Media Contact

Keishiya Balendran

Marketing Specialist, CCRF

416-585-7902 Ext. 220