



**WCCS**  
WORLD CONGRESS OF CHIROPRACTIC STUDENTS

# QUARTERLY REPORT

March 2024



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day and welcome to the third Quarterly Report of the 2023/2024 term of office! We're thrilled about this edition and hope you find it engaging. We trust that 2024 has treated you well so far!

The first three months of this new year have been bustling with activity as we prepare for Regional Events, welcome new members in our Southern Hemisphere schools, and eagerly anticipate our AGM in Mexico.

We've had the privilege of hosting two exceptional bi-monthly speaker series events in January and February. Dr. Genevieve Gagné delved into "Primitive Reflexes," providing a stimulating review of neurology and neurodevelopmental milestones and challenges in practice. February treated us to a lecture by Dr. Eric Chu on supercharging our SOAP notes, leaving us with plenty of food for thought. April's edition will feature Professor Ylverton from the University of Johannesburg—an event not to be missed. Keep an eye on our social media for the sign-up link.

We are delighted to announce the selection of our Director of Public Relations, Michelle Fontana, for the IFMSA Youth Pre-World Health Assembly. The event will take place a week before the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, and will see a series of youth



**TAMIA ABRAHAMS**  
PRESIDENT

events being hosted before the main conference begins. It is an incredible opportunity to engage with medical students worldwide, and we are so proud that Michelle will be representing our profession at an event of this magnitude

Meanwhile, our collaboration with the Asia Pacific Chiropractic Journal continues to flourish, with our Director of External Affairs, Ammaarah Ebrahim, contributing an insightful piece for the upcoming March issue. This thought-provoking article guides us as we navigate the future of our profession and broader medical landscape.

Regional events signify the uniting of chiropractic schools within each region. The Regional Events calendar began with the American Regional Event, hosted by UQTR over the second last weekend in March. It was a resounding success,

fostering strong bonds between our American chapters. The European Regional event is still to come between the 11th-14th of April. It will be hosted by IFEC, Paris and is sure to be a cracker (every pun intended!) of a weekend. There is still time to sign up, so do not hesitate! The UJ chapter will host the African Regional Event on the same weekend from the 12th to the 14th of April, offering our two African chapters a fantastic opportunity for educational growth and camaraderie. There is still time to put your name down, so do not waste any time!

All the while we have our chapters continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes, showcasing tenacity, passion, and drive to take their chapters to the next level. Keep on working hard—it will pay off. As we enter the final quarter of this term, our focus remains on finishing strong. We eagerly anticipate seeing the fruits of our labor at this year's AGM in Veracruz, Mexico. Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity to learn from each other and create bonds that will last you a lifetime. The registration link is available on all WCCS social media platforms—we hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Looking forward to connecting with many of you soon!





**DANIELLE TONKIN**  
SECRETARY

## SECRETARY

Hello members!

As I reflected on what to share in my section, it dawned on me that this quarter, I didn't have a lengthy list of specific tasks or events to report. Instead, I came to realize the crucial role of support that the Director of Secretariat plays within our team. While other board members juggle multiple responsibilities, the Secretary's role is to provide assistance and support in various endeavors. From creating documents to managing email correspondence, from following up on decisions to recording meetings, and from assisting with editing and formatting to communicating with our chapters and members—there are countless tasks that contribute to the smooth functioning of our organization.

Formerly known as the Vice President position, the Secretary embodies qualities such as availability, adaptability, organization, and efficiency. It's akin to directing traffic — ensuring that everything flows seamlessly. The role may present its challenges, as do all Director positions, yet it's fulfilling and equally important. So, while I may not have additional updates, I wanted to emphasize the significance of each role and its collaborative nature within our team. We operate as a cohesive unit, where everyone pitches in wherever needed. This position, in particular, serves as a safety net, ensuring that nothing falls through the cracks or remains unfinished.

## FINANCE

Hello, WCCS family, here is the financial update of the past quarter:

All active chapters have received an email regarding the chapter membership fee for the upcoming year (\$800 CAD). Detailed payment instructions, due by May 31st, are included. This fee ensures your chapter's eligibility to vote in the AGM and nominate members for positions on the Team of Officials.

You can now register and pay your individual delegate fee for the AGM via the Google Form on our [Linktree](#). Early bird pricing is available until April 10th, regular pricing until May 26th, and late pricing until June 16th. A deposit is required to secure your registration.

Additionally, our Director of Public Relations, Michelle Fontana, will attend the Youth PreWHA conference in Geneva, Switzerland, at the end of May 2024. Financial assistance will be provided to facilitate her attendance.

Lastly, I'm honored to have had the opportunity to present and advocate for the benefits of attending the AGM and engaging in ToO activities at this year's American RE.



**CAROLANNE DION**  
FINANCES

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS



**DC ÉDITH SCALABRINI**  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hi everyone,

We are delighted to share the remarkable progress we've achieved internally within the World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS).

With the Annual General Meeting in Veracruz, Mexico, on the horizon, we are thrilled to see a remarkable turnout from our active chapter members, with many already registered to attend. Furthermore, we eagerly anticipate the participation of numerous new members from chapters up for a vote during the Annual General Meeting. Their presence promises to inject fresh perspectives and energy into our congress.

The recent completion of Regional Events, along with those set to take place soon, underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering local engagement and collaboration. These events serve as invaluable platforms for knowledge exchange, networking, and strengthening the bonds within our global community of chiropractic students.

In addition to our in-person events, we have been actively hosting a series of online events. These virtual gatherings provide accessible avenues for learning and professional development, ensuring that our members stay informed about the latest trends, research, and practices in chiropractic care.

To stay informed about all the latest developments and announcements, we encourage everyone to follow the WCCS Instagram account (@wccschiro). Here, you will find real-time updates, event highlights, and glimpses into the vibrant community driving our shared mission forward.

As we look forward with anticipation and enthusiasm, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success and growth of WCCS.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hi WCCS members,

First and foremost, I would like to thank all active chapter members for their unwavering participation during the first half of the year. I'm delighted to announce that the University of Johannesburg chapter has secured first place for their outstanding efforts on World Spine Day. As we step into the latter half of the year, we look forward to many exciting events and collaborations with our external stakeholders.

Looking forward, we are eagerly anticipating the prestigious World Health Assembly, where healthcare organizations and world leaders convene to address global healthcare issues and challenges. The WCCS takes immense pride in our Director of Public Relations, who has been selected to attend the IFMSA Annual Youth PreWHA event. This presents a remarkable opportunity for future collaboration between the WCCS and IFMSA, fostering positive relations with mainstream medical fraternities and advancing educational efforts on the chiropractic profession's scope of practice within the broader healthcare landscape. Such endeavors aim to enhance the integrity of our profession and cultivate a generation of healthcare professionals committed to patient-centered collaborative care.

Additionally, a goal for the new year is to increase our involvement in the UN Global Health Workers Network Youth Hub Steering Committee. As a member of this committee, the WCCS gains invaluable access to leaders of various student healthcare organizations with international representation, offering resources that significantly bolster our capacity.

On another note, I'm thrilled to share that the Chiropractic Association of Ireland (CAI) is generously extending an offer of free membership to all WCCS members. Previously available only to students in the United Kingdom, this opportunity now extends to all WCCS members, granting access to CAI events and professional AGMs.

As the Director of External Affairs, I am particularly excited about the upcoming WCCS AGM and the potential for the organization's internal growth and professional collaboration with external stakeholders. The untapped potential within the WCCS underscores our inherent ability to achieve greatness.



**AMMAARAH EBRAHIM**  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



**MICHELLE FONTANA**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hi everyone, and welcome to the first Quarterly Report of the year!

We're thrilled to announce some exciting developments on the horizon. The website design has been completed, and we're in the final stages of content preparation. Crafting the website has been both challenging and exhilarating, providing valuable insights into what makes for a stellar online presence. Currently, we're on the lookout for a talented web developer to bring our vision to life. Anticipation is high as we look forward to unveiling a fresh and updated experience for our website visitors!

Additionally, over the past few months, I've been collaborating with our RE and AGM convenors on the social media and visual aspect of it. Their dedication has been truly commendable, resulting in not only captivating visuals but also meticulously planned events for our members. With such effort invested, we're optimistic that these events will inspire and motivate attendees. Please ensure you register for these events if you haven't already to not miss out on them!

Last but certainly not least, after a rigorous application process, I'm delighted to share that I've been selected to participate in this year's Youth PreWHA organised by IFMSA. The program kicked off on March 16th with an engaging online introduction to Global Health. Further online sessions are scheduled to prepare us for the in-person event in Geneva, Switzerland, at the end of May 2024. I'm incredibly excited about the opportunity to collaborate with fellow students from various health professions and eager to explore how we, as chiropractic students and members of the WCCS, can contribute to global health initiatives.

With these exciting endeavours underway, we look forward to the promising months ahead. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to strive for excellence in our pursuits!



# REGION UPDATES

## AFRICA



Hey everyone!

Welcome to our third quarterly report. It's great to have you all back as we kick off the new year and academic term. While things may have started off a bit slow, we're eager to pick up the pace and dive back into action.

We're absolutely thrilled to announce the upcoming African Regional Event, set to take place from the 12th to the 14th of April and hosted by the University of Johannesburg (UJ) chapter. The team is pouring their hearts into planning and preparations to ensure that this event is a roaring success. It's shaping up to be an exciting and unforgettable experience, so be sure to mark your calendars and register early!

## AMERICA



Hello!

I trust this message finds you all in high spirits! There's a whirlwind of organization and fundraising underway in America at the moment.

Recently, UQTR hosted this year's American Regional Event in Trois-Rivières, Canada. It was an impeccably executed affair, featuring captivating speakers and fostering strong bonds among our American chapters.

Looking ahead, we're eagerly counting down the days until the AGM 2024, set to unfold at the end of June in Veracruz, Mexico. We can't wait for the reunion of WCCS members from across the globe, along with the exciting prospect of welcoming new chapters into the organization and for what promises to be an unforgettable week. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity and make sure to register for the 2024 AGM! You can find the registration link in our Linktree on our various social media platforms.

# REGION UPDATES

## EUROPE



Greetings, WCCS family!

It's hard to believe that April is just around the corner, isn't it? Here in the European Region, we're gearing up for an exciting gathering as we prepare to host our Regional Event in Paris from April 11th to 14th! Our IFEC Chapter is putting together an incredible event and we're eagerly anticipating the chance to reconnect with friends from across the region.

In addition to our preparations for the RE, we're also dedicated to supporting and connecting with a new chapter in our region. We're hopeful that they'll be able to join us at the upcoming AGM in Veracruz!

## WESTERN PACIFIC



Hello everyone!

As our Western Pacific Chapters dive back into classes to kick off the New Year, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all embarking on this fresh journey. Here's to a year filled with success and achievements for each and every one of you!

This year marks a significant milestone as we witness the first batch of Bachelor graduates from the Australian Chiropractic College stepping into the professional world. We're rooting for their success and are excited to see where their journey takes them!

While it's been a relatively quiet start to the new year across our chapters, we wanted to provide you with a brief update. Unfortunately, Western Pacific won't be hosting a Regional Event this time around due to time constraints on organizing such an event. However, we remain hopeful for the future and aspire to organize one in the coming years. Stay tuned for more updates!

# COMMITTEES UPDATES

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Proposals are extremely important with regards to the running and continuation of the organisation. Due to the absence of proposals being submitted on the 4th March 2024. The legislative committee has decided to extend the due date to the 15th April 2024.

If you have any enquiries regarding proposals and how it works, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Legislative Committee and they will be more than happy to assist you. You can contact us on the following emails:

Preelan Govender :

[legislativechair@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:legislativechair@wccsworldwide.org)

Jessica Bonthuys :

[legislativesecretary@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:legislativesecretary@wccsworldwide.org)

Danyka Bedard:

[legislativeeditor@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:legislativeeditor@wccsworldwide.org)

### **New Proposal dates**

Draft 1 submission: 15th April 2024

Feedback: 29th April 2024

Draft 2 Submission : 13th May 2024

Feedback: 27th May 2024

Final submission: 3rd June 2024

Feedback: 17th June 2024



## WORK ABROAD COMMITTEE

We are continuously striving to enhance the Work Abroad Committee to ensure our members have easy access to chiropractic practice requirements in various countries. If you are interested in getting involved with this committee and contributing to this vital initiative, please feel free to reach out directly to the Director of Internal Affairs at [internalaffairs@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:internalaffairs@wccsworldwide.org).

Your involvement will play a crucial role in facilitating opportunities for our members to explore chiropractic practice options worldwide and navigate the diverse regulatory landscapes effectively. Let's work together to empower our members with the knowledge and resources they need to pursue their chiropractic careers globally.

# COMMITTEES UPDATES

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

Over the past couple of months, the Marketing Committee has been diligently focused on completing the website design, a task that has now been successfully accomplished. Currently, our attention is directed towards finalizing the website's content, particularly by organizing written alumni testimonials and refining the scripting and editing of the video content intended for the site.



Moreover, we've recently developed a comprehensive WCCS brochure containing essential information about our organization. This resource is intended for use by our current chapters to attract prospective members, as well as by new universities and aspiring chiropractic students interested in joining the WCCS community. You can access the brochure [here](#).

As we continue forward, we are actively seeking to expand our Marketing Committee team to accommodate upcoming projects in the pipeline. Do you possess creativity, know your way around social media, have marketing expertise, or simply have the desire to engage? If any of these describe you and you are interested in joining the Marketing Committee, please don't hesitate to contact our Director of Public Relations via email ([publicrelations@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:publicrelations@wccsworldwide.org)).

## CHAP

The Chiropractic Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) serves as a vital subcommittee within WCCS, dedicated to fostering community service initiatives within our active chapters. Our primary objective is to highlight the significance of community outreach while advocating for chiropractic care and educating the public about the importance of spinal health.

As we move forward, we encourage you to mark your calendars for upcoming events such as **World Health Day (April 7th)**, **Earth Day (April 22nd)**, **World Blood Donor Day (June 14th)**, and **World Diabetes Day (June 27th)**. To learn more about how you can contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [chap@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:chap@wccsworldwide.org).

# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## BIG BROTHER PROGRAM

We are excited to offer you another opportunity to connect with members from another chapter online. If you're interested in participating in this activity, please reach out to your regional coordinator to express your interest. Your pairing will be revealed to you shortly after.

Furthermore, we encourage you to take the initiative to contact other chapters independently and arrange online meetings, facilitating valuable exchanges between your members and chiropractic students from diverse backgrounds. Building these connections not only broadens your network but also enriches your learning experience and fosters a sense of camaraderie within the global chiropractic community. Let's seize this chance to forge new bonds and share knowledge across borders.

## BIMONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

### Dr Geneviève Gagné, DC

On January 29th, 2024, we were privileged to host DC Geneviève Gagné for our bimonthly speaker series, where she expertly delved into the topic of "Primitive Reflexes". Her presentation served as an exceptional refresher on neurology, exploring neurodevelopmental milestones, and shedding light on the challenges encountered in practice.

Dr. Gagné earned her chiropractic degree in 2008 from Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. Her extensive qualifications include a fellowship in Childhood Behavioral and Developmental Disorders (2019), certification in the RNR technique (2016-2017), and a diplomate in Applied Kinesiology from the International College of Applied Kinesiology.



Additionally, she is a certified teacher since 2017 and has collaborated with Dr. Joseph P. Smith, D.C. to create a 25-hour course on concussion management. Since 2017, Dr. Gagné has operated her own practice at the multidisciplinary clinic named Centre Effet Papillon in Montreal

# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## **Dr Eric Chun Pu Chu, DC, PhD, FRCC**

On the 28th of February Dr. Eric Chun Pu Chu, DC, PhD, FRCC presented to the WCCS students as part of the bimonthly speaker series. His presentation entitled: "How to supercharge your SOAP notes and create referrals" was an enlightening and refreshing perspective. The main points that were stressed included the optimisation of our objective note-taking while still paying appropriate attention to the patient's subjective statements.



This lecture gave us a renewed sense of importance regarding our note taking. Dr Chu also stressed the need for introspection and making sure what we define our success to be. This is an important aspect of how and why when it comes to patient care. He also fascinated us with all the new technology he utilises and displayed how chiropractic has

indeed advanced and morphed and moved into the 21st century. Overall it was an enjoyable hour spent together and one left with nuggets of wisdom that hopefully will be implemented into our everyday lives with the chiropractic profession.

## **Prof Christopher Yelverton**

Get ready for an enlightening session with our next distinguished guest for the Bimonthly Speaker Series, Prof. Chris Yelverton! While we're still finalizing the date, we anticipate the event to be held towards the end of April. Keep an eye on our social media platforms for updates on the date and time!

Prof. Yelverton brings a wealth of experience to the table as the former Head of Department of Chiropractic and current Vice Dean of Research and Internationalization at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. His contributions extend beyond academia, having served on various executive committees including the Chiropractic Association of South Africa (CASA) and as the Chair of the Professional Board for Chiropractic and Osteopathy (PBCO) from 2007-2016. Notably, he currently holds the esteemed position of Chairman at the Allied Health Professions Council

# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES



of South Africa (AHPSCSA) since 2016. Additionally, his leadership extends internationally, as evidenced by his role as Vice President of the European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) since 2018. Prof. Yelverton is a Fellow of the Royal College of Chiropractors (FRCC) and holds a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand.

## Dr Elise Hewitt, DC

Save the date for an extraordinary Speaker Series event featuring Dr. Elise Hewitt, DC, on **Tuesday, June 4th, 2024, at 8 pm GMT!** [Registrations](#) are open!

Dr. Hewitt, a board-certified pediatric Doctor of Chiropractic, is renowned for her expertise in chiropractic pediatrics. An alumnus of the University of Colorado and a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Western States Chiropractic College

(now UWS), she has served as President of the Pediatrics Council of the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) for 10 years. Currently, Dr Hewitt directs Logan University's Master of Science in Chiropractic Pediatrics program.

In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. Hewitt is a distinguished member of the NCMIC Speakers Bureau, serves on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Chiropractic Medicine (JCM), and contributes as a peer reviewer for various scientific journals. Her accolades include being named the 2023 Academician of the Year by the ACA and the 2019 Pediatric Chiropractor of the Year by the ACA Pediatrics Council. She was also honored with the Rising Star Award from the American Public Health Association's Chiropractic Health Care Section in 2017 and named Oregon State's 2016 Chiropractor of the Year.



# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AFRICAN REGIONAL EVENT

The WCCS University of Johannesburg Chapter is delighted to invite Durban University of Technology members to join us for the upcoming African Regional Event from April 12th to 14th, 2024! An illustrious lineup of speakers has been meticulously curated to explore the multifaceted applications of chiropractic practices across diverse domains, encompassing diverse sports, pediatrics, equine therapy, as well as the inclusion of practitioners in different fields. This event promises to be an intellectually stimulating forum where participants can delve into the intricate nuances of chiropractic care, fostering an environment conducive to the exchange of invaluable insights and experiences.

Amidst the academic discourse, there is an opportunity for networking and camaraderie-building among students as we go out into the vibrant nightlife of Johannesburg.

We look forward to your presence as this event fosters friendships and professional affiliations that will resonate for years to come.



**African Regional Event  
2024**  
Johannesburg



### EUROPEAN REGIONAL EVENT

We are thrilled to give you a sneak peek into our upcoming Regional Event, and we promise it's going to be absolutely fantastic! We've lined up incredible speakers and presentations for you, covering a diverse array of topics. From sports management (perfect timing with the upcoming Olympic Games!), to the importance of sleep, directional preference for adjustments, and even a fascinating exploration of postural control from a neuro-embryonic perspective - there's something for everyone! These enlightening sessions will take place right here on our Paris campus,

providing us with the perfect opportunity to delve into the heart of our vibrant city.

And let's not forget about the incredible experiences awaiting you outside of the event venue. Make sure to carve out some time to explore the enchanting City of Light, indulge in some mouthwatering croissants, and immerse yourself in the vibrant nightlife that Paris has to offer. Get ready for an unforgettable adventure!



# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

We are delighted to extend a warm invitation to the Annual General Meeting of the World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS), scheduled from June 30th to July 6th, 2024. This prestigious event presents an unparalleled opportunity to connect with chiropractic students and recent graduates from around the world.

Amidst a backdrop of camaraderie and professional development, our congress offers a diverse range of activities, including sports and aquatic events, fostering connections that transcend geographical boundaries. Attendees can also engage in enlightening conferences led by esteemed chiropractors, providing invaluable insights into the latest advancements and practices in the field.

We cordially invite you to [join](#) us for this enriching experience, where knowledge converges with friendship in an atmosphere of shared passion and dedication. Mark your calendars and prepare to embark on a journey of learning, networking, and unforgettable memories.

We eagerly anticipate your presence at WCCS 2024!



<b>EARLY BIRD:</b>	1000\$ CAD
(5TH MARCH - 10TH APRIL 2024)	
<b>REGULAR BIRD:</b>	1200\$ CAD
(11TH APRIL - 26TH MAY 2024)	
<b>LATE BIRD:</b>	1350\$ CAD
(27TH MAY - 16TH JUNE 2024)	
<b>ALUMNI:</b>	1400\$ CAD
(5TH MARCH - 16TH JUNE 2024)	



# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## PAST EVENTS

### AMERICAN REGIONAL EVENT

The America's Regional Event (ARE) 2024, hosted by the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) in Canada, was a resounding success, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the UQTR convenor team. Representatives from various chiropractic schools, such as the University of Veracruz (UV) and the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC), along with online attendees from institutions like Cleveland University - Kansas City, joined in enriching discussions and lectures covering a wide array of chiropractic topics.

speakers further broadened the scope of discussions.



The event was divided into two parts: business events and social gatherings. The business segment comprised six enlightening lectures on topics ranging from headache management to leadership and the implications of chiropractic structure with the WCCS. Special guest

On the social front, attendees enjoyed the annual talent show night and an arcade night, fostering connections in a relaxed atmosphere. Shared meals provided additional opportunities for networking and idea exchange, reflecting the essence of the WCCS motto: unity through diversity.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, including Auberge Godefroy, the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA), and others, whose support was instrumental in the event's success. In conclusion, ARE 2024 was a testament to the WCCS's commitment to fostering connections among international students and unifying the chiropractic profession.

# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

My name is Florian Allix, and I'm currently in my fifth year at IFEC in France. Choosing chiropractic was a calling for me. From a young age, I've been drawn to the healthcare field, initially considering careers as a vet or a medical doctor. To make an informed decision, I immersed myself in experiences, volunteering at a veterinary practice and observing surgeries in high school. It was during my medical studies that I stumbled upon chiropractic through a flyer in my university cafeteria. Conversations with students and chiropractors solidified my belief that chiropractic embodied my vision of medicine: a direct connection with my patients and witnessing the immediate impact of treatment. This realization led me to join IFEC.

Joining WCCS in my third year was a natural progression for me. Inspired by the experiences and growth of my fifth-year friends, I was eager to explore what WCCS had to offer. I'm passionate about sharing ideas, embracing diverse perspectives, and connecting with new people, making WCCS a perfect fit for my curious and sociable nature. In my third year, I became a member of WCCS, and in my fourth year, I took on the role of secretary in the chapter office. My participation in the AGM 2023 in Quebec marked my first international experience. Currently, I'm actively involved in organizing this year's Regional Event in Paris with our chapter, and I'm open to further engagement with WCCS even as I approach my final year.

Looking ahead to my professional journey post-graduation, I envision a hybrid practice. As possibly the only chiropractor with a university diploma in pain treatment and management, I aspire to establish a specialized practice within a hospital setting. Additionally, I aim to pursue training in pediatrics to gain expertise in private practice. While my future in the voluntary sector is less defined, it remains an area of interest for me as I continue to shape my career path.



**FLORIAN ALLIX**  
INSTITUT FRANCO-  
EUROPÉEN DE  
CHIROPRACTIE  
(FRANCE)

# WCCS UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Hi, my name is Dr Alex Naquin, DC. I graduated from Parker University in 2020 and I am currently working as an associate chiropractor in Orange County, California, USA.

### **Why I choose to study chiropractic:**

During my high school years, I struggled with severe migraines, exhausting every conventional Western medical remedy available to me. Despite numerous migraine medications, I continued to experience blackout headaches accompanied by auras. This left me desperate for relief until a family friend leaving me desperate for relief. Then, a family friend recommended chiropractic care, a path previously unexplored by my family. During my initial chiropractic visit two profound statements altered my perspective: firstly, "I can help you with your migraines," and secondly, "You will become a chiropractor one day." Remarkably, several months later, my headaches began to dissipate and my career path began to shift towards chiropractic.

### **Why I joined the WCCS:**

My mentor, Dr. Eric Russell, along with my close friend, Dr. Natalie Rosenzweig, invited me to join the WCCS Parker Chapter during my Tri 3. Their dedication to the mission of WCCS deeply inspired me, and I am immensely grateful to them. Thanks to their guidance, WCCS has played a pivotal role in shaping me into the chiropractor I am today.



**DC ALEX NAQUIN**  
ALUMNI, PARKER  
UNIVERSITY, USA

### **How I benefited being part of WCCS:**

WCCS has been instrumental in my growth, particularly in nurturing my skills as a diplomatic leader within the chiropractic community. It has broadened my perspective beyond my immediate chiropractic circle, exposing me to diverse values and viewpoints worldwide, in line with our mission to "achieve unity with respect to diversity." Through WCCS, I've forged lasting friendships and connections with chiropractors from around the globe, that I continue to cherish and maintain.

### **My advice to current/ prospect members/ new graduates:**

Continue to expand your views of the Chiropractic profession around the world. Seek to understand how we can be uniquely different although trying to achieve similar goals for our patients.

Also, do not be afraid to connect with alumni on social media! We would love to connect with the next generation!

# EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

## APC JOURNAL

The January issue of the Asia Pacific Chiropractic Journal had a very powerful submission from one of our members who wishes to remain anonymous. Be sure to access the article on the APCJ website and enjoy your reading!



Their article hit a hard chord with addressing the perceived “battles” of being a Chiropractic Student in this current professional environment. Being a Chiropractic student is one of the hardest things we’ll have to do in our lifetimes. With so many conflicting views within the chiropractic profession many challenges arise both within our educational experience and out in the “real world” where we can be made to feel as if we’re not only battling those who oppose chiropractic, but also those within our own profession. This article gives a heart-felt view on the difficulties of students and new graduates finding their own identity within the chiropractic community due to the ever-growing health politics.

## Battles of a Chiropractic student

Author name withheld

**Narrative:** Higher education can be a battle, and being a chiropractic student brings many.

Here I share my thoughts on the difficulties of students and new graduates finding their own identity within the chiropractic community due to the ever-growing health politics.

**Indexing terms:** Chiropractic; World Congress of Chiropractic Students, WCCS; Leadership; new graduate; student perspective.

### Exposition

**W**hen starting my journey into chiropractic I was excited, amazed and enthralled. I felt with every cell in my body that I had finally found my true path, and couldn’t wait to get started.

It was my first time going to a proper university, as my first degree was from a private art school and did not stand up to the massive scale of a university campus. I was eager to learn and devour as much information as I could get, as this was a tremendous career and life change for myself and I wanted to be the best student and future practitioner I could be.

... Allow us the room and the freedom to explore our options and develop our own truths. We should be allowed to decide how we want ourselves and the future of the profession to be, not our forebears ...'

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Little did I know just how many battles I'd have to navigate over the course of my education in order to keep that enthusiasm and joy alive.

As a mature-aged student going back into the educational system, I wasn't naive enough to think that university would give me all the knowledge I required. I knew that, similar to martial arts, once you get your black belt, you've merely begun. Thus, I knew I had to get involved and navigate this new world as best I could through these early years.



Having been in the working class for many years I had a unique and broader scope of *'the real world'* than most of my student cohort, and also had a realistic view of Chiropractic and how the general public viewed it. I knew that I was going into a profession where I would have to battle to continually rebut old slander, inherited bias and uneducated comments.

*'what I didn't realise was that I would have to battle against my own profession'*

Being a student gives you a unique perspective from what you could call *'ground zero'*, where we haven't yet decided who or how we want to be as this new entity. We're initially just along for the ride and only just start to pull ourselves together (hopefully) within the last year or so of our education. So effectively, we're unbiased towards one way of thinking or practising, and we allow our experiences and our education to help direct and influence us.

But when you start to recognise all the infighting and heavily biased ends of the spectrum that exist within the Chiropractic profession, it becomes confusing and disheartening. Vitalistic or mechanistic, mixers or straights, left, right or in the middle. It makes you feel lost and adrift and at the same time one is ridiculed if one does have a solid opinion either way. It's as though we all missed the memo of whose side we're meant to be on and why we're fighting against each other, rather than banding together to change the rumours and global inaccuracies about chiropractic.

Without fully understanding one perspective versus the other, it's challenging for students to have an opinion. Yet, we find ourselves behaving similarly as we did when we were children, passing off what we've heard from others as gospel. We don't take the time to question the *'truths'* we hear from the people around us. Instead we battle each other over who's right or wrong without knowing much about what we're talking about.

We hear comments from the public, mentors, teachers, tutors, other practitioners, about what chiropractic is and should be, but no one really ever asks us what we think.

*'We're considered non-entities because we don't yet have the experience or exposure that they have and therefore should congregate to their side of thinking because "that's the right way"'*

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I really didn't want to come across as a *'negative Nelly'* but the reality is, it's not all cupcakes and roses at the ground level. It's hard, very hard, and the difficulties of what students have to contend with goes way beyond just the curriculum.

- ▶ How are we meant to gain a constructive, unbiased perspective of the profession, and allow ourselves to decide for ourselves what, who and how we wish to be within Chiropractic?
- ▶ How are we supposed to obtain our own individuality when our exposures are limited and our philosophical and theological discussions are diminished?

True, we don't have the experience and we don't have the understanding, yet. So, HELP US! Show us the variety. Give us the view of the vast diversity that we have within this amazing profession, instead of pointing us to what you believe we should do/be, or at least encourage us to seek that knowledge ourselves.

*'Allow us the room and the freedom to explore our options and develop our own truths. We should be allowed to decide how we want ourselves and the future of the profession to be, not our forebears'*

Being a uni student is in no way 'easy'. Being a *Chiropractic* uni student seems to add even more stress and complexity. The battles that we face are many, both around us and within ourselves, and do not seem to lessen as we get older.

But, one of my mentors thankfully blessed me with the statement *'Chiropractic is family'*. That statement has guided me and kept me mindful through whatever challenges I've encountered along the way, and I'll always be grateful.

That passion to be of service to our patients, that drive to help heal and give people a better way of life is engrained in all of us, regardless of viewpoint or background. That is our foundation as a profession in my opinion. The patient. As long as all of us keep that in our minds and our hearts, it doesn't matter the battles we face, we can always come back to our true purpose, and hopefully find a way to come together and balance the scales.

## Editor's note

This article continues the regular publication of the point-of-view of students learning to become Chiropractors. For reasons that may be discussed at a future date, the author has been granted anonymity. The Editorial Board appreciates and respects the author's request.

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## PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS



We encourage you to explore our latest editorial titled "Battles of a Chiropractic Student." This thought-provoking article delves into the perceived challenges faced by chiropractic students in today's professional landscape. It offers invaluable insights and advice on navigating the transition from student to practicing chiropractor, shedding light on the journey ahead.



The WCCS is in discussions with FICS to establish a long-term partnership aimed at mutual advocacy and support. This collaboration would entail the WCCS's participation in the biannual FICS symposium, while FICS would have the opportunity to present at WCCS AGMs and regional events. We are excited about the potential of this partnership to yield fruitful outcomes in the future.



The GHWN Youth Hub continues to spearhead impactful initiatives, including the Model WHO event, which offers participants a hands-on experience in policy drafting, mirroring the complexities encountered at the WHA. Additionally, the recent GHWN Youth Hub Online Conference, "UHC Global YouthMap: Health for All," provided a platform to address key global health topics, including health-tech innovation, planetary health action, and healthcare worker management. Moving forward, the WCCS is eager to contribute to the strategic goals of the GHWN Youth Hub for 2024-2025, driving positive change and fostering a healthier, more inclusive world.



The WCCS thanks Dr Richard Brown and the WFC for their continued support in growing our organisation and working to reinvigorate our chapters all over the world. May 2024 see the WCCS grow and may the attendees of our AGM be abundant.



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## OTHER NEWS



PreWHA: We are thrilled to announce that our Director of Public Relations has been chosen to participate in the prestigious preWHA event hosted by the IFMSA in Geneva, Switzerland. This gathering serves as a unique platform for students across various healthcare disciplines to network, collaborate, and delve into critical topics such as global health governance, universal health coverage, and health emergencies. It fosters invaluable interprofessional collaboration, setting the stage for meaningful dialogue and action.



World Spine Day: We officially have a theme for world spine day 2025. The theme is "support your spine". We are extremely excited about the great initiatives and campaigns brought forward by our chapters relating to supporting the spine!!