



# WCCS

World Congress of Chiropractic Students

## QUARTERLY REPORT

September 2025



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1246 Yong Street, Suit  
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# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcomer WCCS Community,  
It is with great excitement and deep gratitude that we welcome you to a new chapter of growth, collaboration, and global connection within the World Congress of Chiropractic Students. As we step into the role of Co-Presidents, we do so with confidence and optimism—knowing that we are supported by an incredible team of dedicated student leaders, passionate members, and committed alumni who share in the vision and values of this remarkable organization. We are proud to take this journey with each of you. The WCCS is more than just an international student organization—it is a global community united by a shared mission: to connect, empower, and inspire the next generation of chiropractors.

Whether you're a long-standing chapter leader, a new delegate, or someone just beginning to explore what the WCCS has to offer, we welcome you into a space where your voice matters, your growth is supported, and your contributions can have a lasting impact

During our term, we are committed to strengthening chapter engagement, expanding our global presence, and ensuring that every member has access to the tools, resources, and connections they need to thrive. Among our goals this year are to establish or reactivate at least two to three chapters and to proudly welcome them at our upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in America.

To all members—past, present, and future—thank you for your passion, your ideas, and your commitment to the future of chiropractic. We are honored to serve you, and we look forward to all that we will accomplish together.





We would like to welcome and congratulate all the new members of the ToO

**Board of Directors:**

- **Co-President:**  
Lorry-Anne Croteau & Nikhita Nathoo
- **Director of Secretariat:**  
Léa Caldas (France)
- **Director of Public Relations:**  
Nikhita Nathoo (South Africa)
- **Director of External Affairs:**  
Josephine Price (Denmark)
- **Director of Finance:**  
Lorry-Anne Croteau (Canada)
- **Director of Internal Affairs:**  
Daniela Lamastus (USA)

**Regional Co-ordinators:**

- **Africa:** Zeenat Hoosen (South Africa)
- **America:** Megan Gélinas (Canada)
- **Europe:** Laurine Barbier (France)
- **Western Pacific:** EJ Alter (New Zealand)

**Legislative Committee:**

- **Head:** Mina Marbacher (Switzerland)
- **Secretary:** Nicola Bürgin (Switzerland)
- **Editor:** Camryn Arledge (USA)



**LORRY-ANNE CROTEAU &  
NIKHITA NATHOO**  
PRESIDENTS



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Lorry-Anne Croteau**  
Co-President &  
Finance Director



**Nikhita Nathoo**  
Co-President &  
Public Relations Director



**Léa Caldas**  
Secretary



**Daniela Lamastus**  
Internal Affairs Director



**Josephine Price**  
External Affairs Director

# SECRETARY UPDATE



**LÉA CALDAS**  
SECRETARY

Hi, my name is Léa CALDAS. I'm a fourth-year student in the Institut Franco-Européen de Chiropraxie in Paris.

During my studies, I became involved with the WCCS and am now in my fourth year of active participation. Last year, I had the honor of being named President of our WCCS-IFEC chapter. Together with Laurine Barbier (our current Europe Regional Coordinator), we worked hard to make our chapter as dynamic and engaging as possible. We introduced **new furniture** for our students and organized various events throughout the year to demonstrate our commitment to both our school and the broader chiropractic community.

In July 2025, although we couldn't attend the AGM in Denmark in person, we joined via Zoom on Friday the 11th. During that meeting, the outgoing Board of Directors invited me to join the new BoD.

At first, I was very nervous and unsure if I was ready for such a big responsibility. However, after a long conversation with Laurine, who encouraged me and reminded me that I was capable, I decided to accept the challenge and become part of this exciting journey.

As Director of Secretariat, my goals are to keep our documents well-organized and to ensure our meetings run smoothly with clear communication. I also want to be available to support members with any issues related to their WCCS accounts and do my best to provide answers when I can.

Thank you for your attention—I look forward to connecting with you soon!

Kind regards,



# FINANCE UPDATE

Hello, my name is Lorry-Anne Croteau. I am a third-year student in the Doctor of Chiropractic program at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR). My involvement with the WCCS includes one year as Vice President of External Affairs and one year as President of the UQTR chapter.

When Danyka, the former Director of Finance, informed me of her intention to step down, I initially hesitated to take on the role. This organization is one that I care deeply about, and I wanted to ensure that I could fulfill all the responsibilities associated with the position effectively.

After several discussions and much reflection, I came to the conclusion that I possess the necessary skills to take on the role, given my background in accounting and my experience in management.

My goal is to make the financial management of the organization more efficient and to reduce the deficits that have been present for several years, all while continuing to offer valuable opportunities and affordable rates for our members. I am committed to contributing to the long-term financial stability and growth of the WCCS.

Looking forward to seeing and chatting with you in the future.



**LORRY-ANNE CROTEAU**  
FINANCE & CO-PRESIDENT

# PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE



Hi everyone! My name is Nikhita Nathoo, and I'm excited to serve as the Director of Public Relations for the World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS). My role is all about connecting with you, sharing our achievements, and making sure our collective voice is heard both within our organisation and beyond. WCCS has been such an important part of my journey since my first year of chiropractic, helping me grow personally and professionally while connecting with like-minded peers around the world. Overtime I have had the privilege to serve various roles within the WCCS, from within my chapter to the Team of Officials (ToO) and now on the Board of Directors(BOD).

As PR Director, my focus is on amplifying the incredible work happening across all our regions, highlighting your contributions and ideas, and showcasing the positive difference we are making as the future of chiropractic.

I'm excited to continue building on this journey alongside all of you - listening to your stories, sharing your success and strengthening the sense of unity that defines the WCCS. Together, we can celebrate our progress and inspire lasting change.

I am looking forward to the journey ahead !

**NIKHITA NATHOO**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS & CO-  
PRESIDENT**



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS UPDATE



My name is Daniela Lamastus and I am your new Director of Internal Affairs! I am a 10th quarter student (about 2 years into my program) at Life University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. My chiropractic journey started a bit unusually since I did my undergraduate studies at the University of Florida and majored in Business Administration. I didn't realize I wanted to go to chiropractic school until I was working for a corporation and knew something was wrong. I began going to an office where the focus was on wellness. A light bulb clicked for me and I began working for the office then about 2 years later, I started my program.

I learned about WCCS before I began my program and looked everywhere when I started but they were nowhere to be found. Through thorough research and using my connections, I found out that the chapter went inactive during COVID and began talking to the previous presidents, Dafne and Jose, on how to reactivate the chapter. It took almost a year and a half but this past AGM, with the help of a donation from AMI doctors, I was able to go to Odense, Denmark and get the Life University chapter reinstated since our departure in 2021.

As your new Director of Internal Affairs, I will do my best to connect chapters from all over the world and talk to more chiropractic schools about getting their chapters active or reinstated. I will also be working with the Americas RC and the president of the SCUHS chapter about planning the next AGM in LA. I look forward to seeing you all in Big Brother meetings and other events soon! Don't forget to submit your videos and photos for SDG week and prep your ideas for World Spine Day!

**DANIELA LAMASTA**  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

A Season Full of Highlights and Exciting New Collaborations! We're thrilled to share some fantastic updates with you! This July, our SDU Chapter successfully hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM), welcoming a couple of new chapters into the WCCS family. It was an inspiring event that highlighted the strength of our community and the growth of our network. More recently, we proudly took part in SDG Week, where our chapters came together to raise awareness about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Each chapter contributed its own creative interpretation of different goals and shared them on social media, showcasing our collective commitment to making a positive global impact. WCCS is also proud to strengthen its partnership with the Asia-Pacific Chiropractic Journal, where a student opinion piece has recently been submitted for publication in an upcoming issue. This collaboration marks an important step in amplifying student voices within the chiropractic profession, and we are grateful for the opportunity. Looking ahead, we're preparing for World Spine Day on October 16th! This global celebration of spinal health is the perfect opportunity to engage our chapters, raise awareness, and highlight the importance of spinal care. Just like last year, the organizers have introduced a monetary prize exclusively for chiropractic students—the award will go to the chapter with the most imaginative awareness campaign. Finally, we are excited to announce a brand-new collaboration with IFCO! This partnership will give students—especially those less familiar with chiropractic philosophy—an incredible opportunity to learn, connect, and deepen their understanding of our profession's roots. We believe this will help strengthen bonds within our community and empower the next generation of chiropractors. The momentum is building, and we can't wait to see what comes next. Stay tuned for more updates, and get ready to make your chapter shine this season!



**JOSEPHINE PRICE**  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



# REGIONAL COORDINATORS (RC)



**Megan Gélinas**  
America's RC



**Zeenat Hoosen**  
Africa RC



**Laurine Barbier**  
Europe RC



**EJ Alter**  
West-Pac RC

# AFRICA'S UPDATE



**ZEENAT HOOSEN**  
**AFRICAN RC**

As I step into the role of African Regional Coordinator (RC) for the World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS), I'm honoured and excited to build on the remarkable work done by student leaders before me. My name is Zeenat, and alongside this position, I am currently pursuing my Master's in Chiropractic. This opportunity represents more than just a new role. It's a chance to serve a growing community of African chiropractic students with the purpose, passion, and persistence we've cultivated through our journey at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Chapter.

My goal as African RC is to strengthen the visibility, unity, and influence of the African region within the WCCS. Drawing on the resilience and progress shown at DUT, I aim to amplify African voices and initiatives on the global stage—ensuring that our unique perspectives are not only heard but actively valued. Central to this vision is fostering open communication, inclusive engagement, and collaborative leadership across the region.

I am particularly passionate about creating opportunities for knowledge-sharing and mentorship. By bridging the gap between established and emerging institutions, we can collectively elevate educational standards and empower students to become future leaders in chiropractic. Regional events, community service initiatives, and interdisciplinary collaborations will play a key role in this journey, driven by student leadership and aligned with the WCCS mission.

Sustainability will remain a key focus throughout my term. I am committed to developing clear processes, documentation, and mentorship structures to support smooth leadership transitions and prevent the loss of momentum between terms. With the support of the Chiropractic Association of South Africa, we have already begun building a foundation to ensure continuity and long-term impact.

Ultimately, I envision a connected, empowered, and self-sustaining African region within the WCCS, one that reflects the strength, spirit, and potential of its students. I look forward to working closely with chapters, leaders, and the global WCCS network to turn this vision into reality.



# AMERICA'S UPDATE



**MEGAN GÉLINAS**  
AMERICA'S RC

Hi everyone!

My name is Megan Gélinas and I'm a third-year student at UQTR. This is my third year being involved with the WCCS, and last year, I had the privilege of serving as Secretary on the Legislative Committee. I'm truly honored to have been elected as the new Regional Coordinator for the Americas for the 2025–2026 term.

The AGM 2026 will be hosted in the Americas, and I've already begun collaborating with SCUHS to plan what promises to be an incredible event.

September also marks the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week, which runs from September 19th to 28th. In celebration of this, we held a meeting with all the Americas chapters to discuss our region's four key SDG priorities:

- Quality Education (#4)
- Responsible Consumption and Production (#12)
- Climate Action (#13)
- Life Below Water (#14)

Many great ideas were shared during the meeting, and we're excited to bring them to life! We also took this opportunity to remind everyone to prepare for World Spine Day on October 16th.

As your new Regional Coordinator, my main goal is to expand WCCS presence across the Americas. There are so many chiropractic schools in our region, and I believe it's essential to grow our organization and bring in fresh perspectives. I'm also very excited to be involved in organizing the AGM in California, as well as our regional event at Life University.

# EUROPE'S UPDATE



**LAURINE BARBIER**  
EUROPEAN RC

Hello everyone!

My name is Laurine Barbier and I'm in my 4th year of chiropractic studies at the Institut Franco-Européen de Chiropraxie in Paris.

For this year 2025-2026 I am happy to be the regional coordinator for Europe. Unfortunately me and my chapter weren't able to attend the AGM in Odense in person, so we had to zoom in this year.

At last year's AGM in Veracruz, I was appointed LC editor, and I thoroughly enjoyed working as a trio with Camryn and Megan. So I'm delighted to be part of the ToO again this year !

I have been involved with my chapter's WCCS as an active member for 3 years, and last year I was treasurer of WCCS-IFEC Paris.

Our aim is to develop chiropractic in France and, above all, to raise awareness of WCCS and its values.

This association has given me an enormous amount of confidence, communication and leadership, and it's a pleasure to be a member.

As European RC, I'm organizing the European Regional Event with SCC, to be held in Edinburgh from April 9 to 12, 2026.

During the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) week, many of the European chapters did some actions to take part of this project. Our goals were good health and well-being (n°3), gender equality (n°5), affordable and clean energy (n°7) and sustainable cities and communities (n°11). Many thanks to all the chapters involved !

Hope to see you soon,  
Warm regards,



# WEST-PAC'S UPDATE



**Kia ora (Hello),**

My name is EJ Alter, and I'm currently in my fifth and final year at the New Zealand College of Chiropractic. As a senior intern, I'm in the final weeks of completing my clinical requirements at the NZ Chiropractic Centre, which includes seeing over 50 self-recruited new patients and completing over 500 adjusting visits. I've been part of the NZCC WCCS chapter for three years, and most recently served as president. Alongside my vice president, Marcus Christ, I had the privilege of attending the 2025 AGM in Denmark after a full year of event planning, merchandise sales, and fundraising with our incredible team here at NZCC. A new NZCC executive team has recently been voted in, and I've now stepped into the role of past president, as well as serving as the current Regional Coordinator of the Western Pacific.

The NZCC chapter has kicked off the new term inspired and proactive. They've already designed and launched a new merchandise line of chiropractic casual wear, featuring the message "*Chiropractic changes the brain*" — a theme aligned with NZCC's vitalistic philosophy and neuroscience focus. We continue to evolve our communication of the art, science, and philosophy of chiropractic. Their first event of the term is the classic "Dinner with Docs," featuring the legendary Dr. Robin Taylor — former president of the NZCA, founding figure of NZCC, and former NZCC president — over dinner and drinks. The team is off to an amazing start, and I'm incredibly excited to see what the future holds.

**EJ ALTER**  
WESTERN PACIFIC RC

In other exciting news, we've reconnected with Central Queensland University, which previously hosted the largest AGM to date in 2019 with over 120 delegates. Revitalising a chapter can be a challenge, but after our introductory meeting and some powerful conversations about what unites us — chiropractic — anything is possible. Our mission to develop leaders in our profession and spread the message is more alive than ever.

The 2025 AGM Congress sparked so many incredible ideas to improve communication, access to information, and clarity within our profession. A few that particularly inspired me — and that I'm excited to start working on this summer (yes, we have summer over Christmas in New Zealand!) — include:

- Building a global chiropractic database: A platform where students and graduates can learn about the entry requirements for practicing chiropractic in different countries. Thinking of practising in New Zealand but don't know where to start? Head to the WCCS website — that's the dream.
- Creating business tools for new chapters: Fundraising is vital for spreading the message of chiropractic. I've developed skills in business, accounting, marketing, and communication while helping rebuild the NZCC chapter. These opportunities wouldn't have been possible without the support of my college, colleagues, and the NZCC chapter. My goal as Western Pacific Regional Coordinator is to develop resources that empower new chapters to succeed.

Ngā mihi nui (Many thanks),

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (LC)



**LC Chair**  
Mina Marbacher



**LC Secretary**  
Nicola Bürgin



**LC Editor**  
Camryn Arledge

The responsibilities of the Legislative Committee lies in:

- Maintaining and enforcing the Standard Operating Procedures and Policies (SOPPs), the By-laws and the values of the Corporation.
- Ensuring that the Team of Officials and members of the organisation stay accountable to all legislative matters



# LC CHAIR



Hi everyone!

My name is Mina Marbacher, and I'm a fourth-year chiropractic student at the University of Zurich. This is my first year as a WCCS member, and I'm really honored to have been elected as Chair of the Legislative Committee and to be part of this year's Team of Officials.

Attending the Regional Event and AGM this year was an exciting and unforgettable experience for me. I really enjoyed meeting chiropractic students from all around the world, learning about different schools, exchanging ideas, and simply spending such a great time together. These moments inspired me to become more involved with the WCCS. As LC Chair, I'd like to contribute and support the work that keeps this organization moving forward. My upcoming tasks will be to update and translate the SOPPS and by-laws. I'm especially looking forward to working in collaboration with my colleagues in the committee and ToO – it's a lot of fun being part of such a motivated team, and I'm excited for what's ahead.

**MINA MARBACHER**  
LC CHAIR

# LC SECRETARY

Hi everyone!

I'm Nicola a 4th year chiropractic student at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. I attended my first WCCS Event back in 2023 in Barcelona and I'm thrilled to have the chance to serve as LC Secretary this year.

Looking back at the Regional Events and AGM, I can honestly say it was one of the highlights of my student journey so far. Meeting peers from across the globe, hearing their stories, and exchanging ideas about the profession showed me just how diverse and dynamic our community is. Those conversations gave me a strong sense of belonging and inspired me to get more involved.

In my role as LC Secretary, my focus will be on implementing the new proposals as well as assisting in the creation of new ones.

In addition, I will also be helping out updating and maintaining the Website alongside the Director of Public Relations. What excites me most is collaborating with such a passionate group of colleagues who share the same vision for moving the organization forward. I'm really looking forward to everything we'll accomplish together.

Take care,



**NICOLA BÜRGIN**  
LC SECRETARY

## LC EDITOR



**CAMRYN ARLEDGE**  
LC EDITOR

Hello WCCS!

I'm elated to join our WCCS legislative committee for a second term. My name is Camryn Arledge and I am currently attending Southern California University of Health Sciences and completing my final term this fall! I worked on this committee in 2024/2025 and was honored to have our team really pull through to uphold the structure of our organization while continuing to expand and grow our efforts. Being from the United States, I see the challenges that chiropractors face in the eyes of healthcare and the lack of access to a consistent quality of health which fuels our desires to reach audiences that could benefit from chiropractic or to establish systems that provide information to our people about chiropractic care. I believe connecting with our colleagues under an organization like WCCS will help us reach that goal.

I truly believe we can take the steps now to be exposed to our chiropractic profession from around the world in order to maintain and develop access and exposure to holistic healing. My commitment to health stems from beyond my country and extends into the human race as a whole, WCCS provides an avenue to have a conversation and to ask for support during the professions expansion and development. I hope to work within the legislative committee at WCCS to push our operations and by laws to reflect the impact and importance of this organization







# ORGANISATION UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2025

The World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS) recently held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from July 6-11 2025, at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). The event brought together delegates from across the globe, fostering collaboration, cultural exchange and academic growth within the chiropractic student community.

A highlight of the opening day was the introduction of three new chapters: Scotland College of Chiropractic (SCC), Life University and Barcelona College of Chiropractic (BCC), further expanding the WCCS network and strengthening its international reach.

Delegates participate in a diverse programme of seminars and workshops, with topics ranging from "How to Build your Legacy" and "How Research is Changing Chiropractic" to Sports Chiropractic. These sessions, delivered by an outstanding panel of speakers, provided valuable insights into the future of the profession.

Six proposals were debated and voted upon. Notably, delegates approved a reduction in chapter fees for developing countries and passed a motion requiring chapters to engage in voluntary community service, reinforcing WCCS's commitment to accessibility and social responsibility.

The AGM also marked a new transition of leadership within the Board of Directors and Team of Officials. WCCS extends its congratulations to the newly elected officials for the 2025-2026 term and looks forward to their contributions in the term ahead.

Looking forward, this term offers a unique opportunity to build on the momentum of the AGM. With a renewed leadership team and a growing chapter network, the WCCS is well positioned to strengthen global collaboration, expand research engagement and enhance student participation community initiatives. By fostering leadership and innovation within the student body, the WCCS aims to continue shaping the future of chiropractic on an international scale.

Finally, special recognition is extended to the SDU organizing committee whose hard work and dedication ensured the success of this year's AGM. Their efforts provided delegates with an enriching and memorable experience that strengthened international bonds and advanced the shared mission of the chiropractic profession.





## AGM 2025 PHOTO DUMP





## AGM 2025 PHOTO DUMP







## WCCS COMMITTEES

### **CHAP (CHIROPRACTIC HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

The Chiropractic Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) is a dedicated committee focused on enhancing community service within active chapters of the organization. CHAP plays a vital role in promoting the importance of giving back to the community, highlighting the significance of spinal care education and awareness.

This year, through various initiatives, the committee encourages chapters to engage in service projects that not only benefit local communities but also foster a greater understanding of chiropractic care. CHAP often collaborates with World Spine Care, combining resources and expertise to maximize its impact in promoting spinal health globally.

By emphasizing community involvement and public education, CHAP aims to strengthen the relationship between chiropractic professionals and the communities they serve, ultimately advancing the mission of promoting better spinal health for all.

Email: [chap@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:chap@wccsworldwide.org)

### **MARKETING COMMITTEE**

The Marketing Committee is searching for passionate individuals to help shape our marketing strategies and enhance our outreach efforts. Whether you have experience in branding, social media, content creation, or enthusiasm for our mission, your input is invaluable! If you want to make a positive impact on others and be involved in campaigns supported by WCCS, including SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and WSD (World Spine Day). Please reach out at [publicrelations@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:publicrelations@wccsworldwide.org) or Instagram direct message us @wccschiro.

As a team, we can create new campaigns and elevate our exciting brand!

## BIG BROTHER PROGRAM

Dear Members,

We are thrilled to announce that the Big Brother Program will continue its activities in the upcoming term! Our primary goal is to facilitate online meetings among different chapters, both within the same region and globally, allowing participants to share their chiropractic experiences and gain valuable insights.

Through these gatherings, we aim to create a supportive environment where members can discuss challenges, celebrate successes, and exchange innovative ideas. This program fosters the open sharing of knowledge and experiences, ultimately benefiting everyone involved. We are currently finalizing the schedule for these meetings, which are expected to commence later in October. We will keep you updated with specific dates and details as they become available.

We strongly encourage all chapters to seize this unique opportunity to connect, grow, and enhance your chiropractic journey together. Participation in the Big Brother Program not only fosters meaningful relationships but also strengthens our collaborative network, allowing us to support each other in our professional development. Let's make the most of this program and work together to create a vibrant, interconnected community. Your involvement will truly make a significant difference!

## WORK ABROAD COMMITTEE

Dear Team,

The Work Abroad Committee is dedicated to documenting the steps required to become a chiropractor in various countries. This year, we will continue compiling comprehensive information and creating valuable resources for our members.

If you are interested in joining this committee, your participation and insights can significantly enhance our efforts and help us expand our resources even further. Together, we can provide guidance and support to those seeking to navigate the complexities of international chiropractic practice. To join, please contact the Director of Internal Affairs, Gabrielle Nepton, at [internalaffairs@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:internalaffairs@wccsworldwide.org). They will provide you with more information on how to get involved.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute!





## BIMONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES



### **DR.PATRICK FREUD**

Patrick Freud is a Montreal chiropractor in the Freud Clinic with a special interest in helping patients with neurological issues such as concussion, dizziness, movement disorders, childhood neurodevelopmental difficulties and more.

In addition to being in private practice since 1996, Dr. Freud has been an Adjunct professor of anatomy for McGill University'S Faculty of Medicine since 1999. He has been lecturing internationally on functional neurology applications through Adjusting the brain seminar since 2010

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Meet Dr. Dafne Mariem Jimenez Perez. I am Puerto Rican, and graduated from Life University in December 2020 as a Doctor of Chiropractic. Before that, I completed a Bachelor of Integrative Sciences in the University of Puerto Rico. I currently practice in Dublin, Ireland (spoiler alert: WCCS helped make it happen).**

### Why Chiropractic?

Honestly, chiropractic is the most beautiful thing that has dropped on my lap. My path always led to healthcare, and chiropractic allows for it to be true health, from above down, inside out. I have found the beauty of honoring and helping the nervous system heal, so every human that goes through my hands, experiences healing not only for their symptoms, but in their wholeness. I have witnessed healing from pain, and more importantly our profession has allowed me to witness restoration of hope. All the sleepless nights were absolutely worth it.

### Getting involved with WCCS

It all started as a passion and curiosity for cultures, and ended with lifelong friends and family across the globe. I accidentally stumbled upon a meeting happening in chiropractic school, and stayed because of how broadly WCCS was reaching. We had important, meaningful conversations and action plans to bring our profession closer and bridge the healthcare gaps that chiropractic can fill so greatly. I was able to travel to 4 continents with WCCS. Sadly, 2020 came with a halt to a lot of the work we were doing and the organization took a big hit. It is a great joy to see everything flourishing now.

### Leadership roles

I served as President and Media Coordinator of the Life U Chapter, and as Regional Coordinator of the Americas Region from 2018 and 2020 (big shout-out to Sam and Alex whoserved with me as Regional Coordinators). In both the local chapter roles I did my best to continue bringing our people together, and spread the word about WCCS.



### Benefits of WCCS involvement

As a collective, WCCS is one of the best chances to step into leadership, public speaking and connect on a global scale with other chiropractors. On a personal level, you will walk out with lifelong friends and cross oceans to continue to meet them. Overall, I have never met anyone who regrets being involved with WCCS.

### Advice for Members and New Graduates

Be hands on! (pun totally intended) Join event planning, get things done, bring forth passion projects that the organization can back up, and show up as our most authentic help. In a world of media and AI, authenticity sells among the chaos. If you're a new graduate, put yourself out there, connect with seasoned doctors, reach out to people who have walked the path you want for yourself and learn from their successes and failures. Most importantly, stay connected. Help the new students carrying out WCCS and imparting fresh wisdom to them. Leaving the chiropractic bubble can be harsh, and your sanity will remain by maintaining genuine connections with your peers in conferences, seminars and staying well-adjusted.



## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### DANYKA BÉDARD, PAST DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, WCCS, UQTR

From July 16 to August 2, twenty-two fifth-year chiropractic students from the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières traveled to the Philippines to provide chiropractic care to a population with limited access to healthcare services. During this mission, we treated a total of 2,667 patients and approximately 5,902 conditions across six different communities, including the Philippine Marine Corps in Taguig as well as inmates at the Medium Security Camp in Muntinlupa.

The impact on the local community was significant: we helped improve the immediate well-being of the patients treated, actively promoted health in environments with restricted services, and alleviated chronic pain conditions that had never been addressed before.

This experience was profoundly enriching, not only on a professional level but also on a personal one. We deeply valued the opportunity to provide care, share our knowledge, and connect with people of great generosity, whose gratitude and warm welcome will remain unforgettable memories for us



## PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

The WCCS continues to maintain relationships with other organisations such as the GHWN youth hub, the International Federation of Sports Chiropractic and World Spine Care through the World Federation of Chiropractic and the International Chiropractic Regulatory Society.



We appreciate the support and recognition that this partnership has given us. It has enabled us to contribute to important conversations about key issues in our field by highlighting the unique perspectives and insights of chiropractic students through collaboration with this journal. Our ongoing collaboration is deeply valued as it allows us to share our knowledge and expertise with a broader audience and engage in meaningful discussions with thought leaders in the field.



Fédération Internationale de Chiropratique du Sport, known as (FICS) is an organisation with a worldwide membership. As the leaders in Sports Chiropractic, they strive to provide equitable access to sports chiropractic care, education, mentoring, and research to all athletes and sports chiropractors regionally, nationally, and internationally. FICS has developed student clubs at chiropractic schools across the globe and allows for student development in the field of sports chiropractic through their mentorship and scholarship projects.



The Global Health Workforce Network (GHWN) Youth Hub is an interprofessional community of practice, hosted by the Health Workforce Department at the WHO. The focus of the hub is to systematically include youth issues related to employment, practice and the work environment in the health and social care sector. Through advocacy, research and capacity building, efforts, the The Global Health Workforce Network (GHWN) Youth Hub is an interprofessional community of practice, hosted by the Health Workforce Department at the WHO. The focus of the hub is to systematically include youth issues related to employment, practice and the work environment in the health and social care sector. Through advocacy, research and capacity building, efforts, the



The World Federation of Chiropractic is an international consulting body representing chiropractic to the international health care community. The WFC is a non-state actor in official relations with the World Health Organisation. The relationship between the WCCS and the WFC allows for the student chiropractic body to be represented on a greater global platform and to a wider healthcare network.



# ASIA PACIFIC CHIROPRACTIC (APC) JOURNAL

Ethical principles lie at the heart of the chiropractic profession, shaping how future practitioners interact with patients, colleagues, and society. This article explores the profound journey chiropractic students embark on to understand and embody these values. It emphasizes respect, kindness, and humanity as pillars that guide both clinical decisions and patient care. The article also highlights the lifelong commitment Chiropractors must make to uphold ethical standards, not only through mastering techniques but by critical thinking and continuous reflection. This approach ensures that patient autonomy and well-being remain at the forefront of chiropractic practice.



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## Chiropractic school without a student clinic: Reflections from a student

Author name withheld

**Narrative:** Institutions offering a program of Chiropractic education are required to attain and hold programmatic accreditation by an agency approved for this purpose in the jurisdiction of the institution.

It is reasonable for the profession to expect that graduates have attained clinical capability with entry-level competency in the unique psychomotor skills of the discipline, namely spinal adjusting, as the highest order manipulative skill.

In this reflection I question from first-hand experience whether this expectation meets reality at the University of Southern Denmark.

**Indexing terms:** Chiropractic; World Congress of Chiropractic Students, WCCS; clinical training; professional identity; student perspective.

**Editor's note:** Our correspondent raises serious issues which the profession must promptly address in full.

### Introduction

As I near the end of my chiropractic studies at the University of Southern Denmark, I find myself reflecting on what it means to study at a school without a student clinic, and how its absence might be a deciding factor in shaping how we learn, what we learn, and how we feel about our future profession.

Our curriculum is shaped around making us strong in differential diagnosis. We spend countless hours on cases, red flags, and symptoms, and we are trained to know when to treat and when not to treat. This is fundamental to delivering safe chiropractic care, and I value it deeply.

But I find the scales are unbalanced. As graduation approaches, my greatest worry is not whether I can recognise a malignancy, but whether I can confidently deliver a Chiropractic adjustment. Without a student clinic, we lack the safety of repeated, supervised hands-on practice. Graduates from our programme are excellent at diagnostics and at applying evidence-based knowledge, but manually we are less prepared.

*... Grateful for the strength in diagnostics, but yearning for the guidance, the skills, and the identity that make us truly Chiropractors ...'*



At times, it feels as if we are trained to be 'knowledge workers' more than chiropractors with equal strength in heart, head, and hands.

At other schools, students spend hours each week in clubs and clinics practising adjustments. At SDU, we do not have clubs nor a clinic, and in official training we are not allowed to deliver actual adjustments, only 'mock impulses'. We receive very little supervised manual training across the programme, a total of 128 hours in five years to be exact, and when completed are told that the responsibility of keeping and perfecting those skills falls on us.

Although it's undoubtedly meant to be empowering, that responsibility more often than not feels overwhelming. This is because practising and critiquing each other without having mastered the skills ourselves often feels frustrating and like the blind leading the blind.

### **The lack of structured clinical training**

Many students actually end up finishing their degree without having performed adjustments for years. I believe there are multiple reasons for this. One being the aforementioned frustration when practising techniques, as it is often neither constructive nor productive. And secondly, and perhaps most importantly, the fire is missing.

This leaves me to wonder why this is, why has our ethos been lost? A factor could be that the expectations and the student experience do not fully align. Some enrol with the vision of becoming skilled manual practitioners but find that the structure makes this difficult. The result can be low morale, disappointment, and perhaps even the high drop-out rate our programme experiences.

Without structured clinical training, and in combination with the prism through which Chiropractic is seen here, it's hard not to wonder: what is Chiropractic, really? The focus is so strongly on diagnostics and referrals that the profession itself feels as if it is shifting. With our strong diagnostic foundation, maybe we are evolving into a new kind of health care professional, someone between a doctor and a nurse. Someone who can lighten the burden in the primary sector, a filter if you will, who is able to send patients in the right directions treatment-wise and time-wise, e.g. deciding who needs to be seen urgently by an oncologist, and who needs a fixated joint manipulated and rehabilitation with a physiotherapist.

Perhaps there is a need for a new kind of healthcare worker whose job this is. And perhaps it is the job of this new version of a Chiropractor. I do not know. But without open discussion and clear expectation-setting, I find it might be blindsiding students and leaving them with a professional identity question of: who am I becoming, and why?

We are experiencing an evolution of Chiropractic in real time, and I believe that the combination of zero reference to chiropractic philosophy, the why, and the absence of a student clinic is a factor in this professional identity crisis because it means we are low not only on practice, but also on something less tangible: mentorship, guidance, and the 'Chiropractic spirit'.

These elements create professional identity, and without them, it is easy to feel adrift and left with the questions of: 'who are we? why are we? and how do we?'

Our concern about lack of manual skills has been raised with the school, and the response is that our 'turnus year', a mandatory postgraduate clinical internship, is the time to practise this and really become proficient adjusters. I understand this; however, for me it creates a real dilemma.



Evidence-based practice is our lighthouse here, the principle guiding us towards patient-centred care. It is grounded in the wish to give patients the very best treatment. And yet, I struggle to feel as if I will really be able to do that when I lack confidence in core manual skills. And no, it's not just confidence that's lacking, it is actual skill.

We are told we become excellent, unparalleled in fact. And perhaps this is true. But it feels almost like educational gaslighting, because when it comes to adjusting, I feel as if I will be using patients as practice. Reconciling this contradiction, the desire to give my best and at the same time knowing that it's not good, is something I grapple with.

Told we are the best, yet feeling like the worst, is confusing and disheartening.

I recognise that this mismatch is because we have different viewpoints on what it means to be an excellent Chiropractor and therefore are not referencing the same aspect of skill. But I still find it difficult to navigate.

I want to be a Chiropractor, proud and secure in both knowledge and skill. I want to detect red flags, refer patients when needed, and provide the safest, most effective care possible. But I also want to be confident in delivering adjustments when they are indicated. I want to be able to 'find it, fix it, and leave it alone'. For this, books and theory are not enough. We need practice, mentorship, and a sense of belonging to a profession.

Whether this direction for Chiropractic in this country is right or wrong, good or bad, is way bigger than me, and not the question I want to raise with this piece. My aim is simply to reflect on how it is experienced to be a student in what feels a little like no man's land. Grateful for the strength in diagnostics, but yearning for the guidance, the skills, and the identity that make us truly Chiropractors.

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### Editor's note

This article continues the regular publication of the point-of-view of students learning to become Chiropractors. For reasons known to the Journal the author has been granted anonymity. The Editorial Board honours and respects the author's request.

We note the SDU program was last accredited in 2021 and a recommendation was to 'Formalise the relationship with the private clinics involved in the programme to provide equal and sufficient experience for students', thus recognising a weakness in the area of clinical training. [Read the ECCE Report here](#). This weakness was duly noted at the previous accreditation assessment, in 2013. It seems little has changed.

We must appreciate that students are now informed and critical consumers of an expensive education product. A student's concerns about the discipline's politics were published in Issue 4.3, 2024. [You can read that report here](#)

Note: All contributions from the WCCS are gathered at [apcj.net/WCCS](http://apcj.net/WCCS)  
Email to [president@wccsworldwide.org](mailto:president@wccsworldwide.org)





## PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### SDG WEEK 2025

(19TH TO 28TH OF SEPTEMBER 2024)

Based on the most recent data, the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 highlights the major obstacles that the world must overcome in order to make real progress toward the SDGs. It draws attention to both failures in some areas and successes, such as declines in the world's child mortality rate, increases in HIV prevention, and expansions in the availability of energy and mobile broadband. The research highlights the urgent need for faster action, especially in areas like climate change, peace and security, and global inequality that are crucial to the SDGs' advancement.

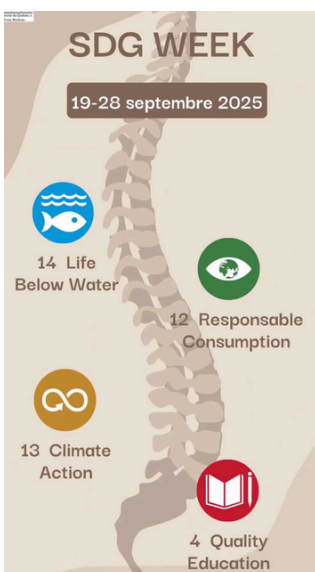
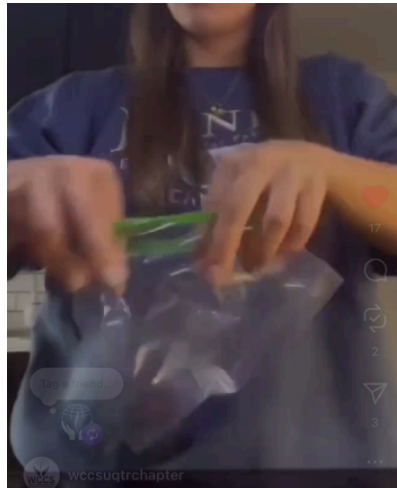
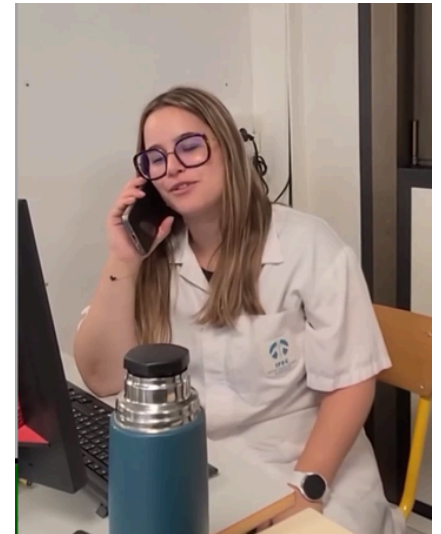
The analysis shows that current efforts are far from sufficient to accomplish the SDGs, with only six years remaining. A significant investment and increased action are needed to achieve these goals, which are crucial for creating a more resilient and prosperous future. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic's continuing impacts.



Established in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) came to an end in 2015. The SDGs go beyond these objectives. The SDGs, on the other hand, aim to include the social, economic, and environmental facets of sustainability. They are also more expansive and ambitious.

Nations and a variety of stakeholders—including governments, business sector, civil society, and international organizations—are working together to implement and achieve the SDGs. For each goal, milestones and indicators are set in order to track performance and evaluate the success of international efforts to promote sustainable development.





The World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS) takes part in SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Week by supporting initiatives that align with global efforts to build a healthier, more sustainable future. As an international student organization, WCCS uses this week to raise awareness about the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals and encourages its members to engage in activities that promote positive change—both within the chiropractic profession and the wider community.

During SDG Week, WCCS chapters around the world may host events, share educational content, and participate in local outreach efforts focused on themes such as health, education, equality, and sustainability. By promoting collaboration, advocacy, and student leadership, WCCS helps empower future healthcare professionals to be part of a global movement toward long-term, meaningful progress.



## UPCOMING EVENT

### WORLD SPINE DAY

16TH OCTOBER 2025

World Spine Day is an annual celebration on October 16th. It is acknowledged as the biggest public health campaign which aims to increase awareness of the prevalence spine pain and impairment has worldwide.

On World Spine Day, people from all walks of life come together, including educators, government officials, public health advocates, fitness and rehabilitation specialists, and medical professionals. This ceremony highlights the importance of spinal health everywhere and spans all continents.

World Spine Day highlights the urgent need for global action to tackle spinal pain and disability, calling on governments, communities, and public health organizations to step up. For professionals in spinal health, this day serves as a valuable chance to engage with their communities and make a positive impact.

World Spine Day is a global reminder of the importance of spinal health and overall well-being. This year's theme, "Invest in Your Spine," encourages individuals to take proactive steps toward maintaining a healthy spine through movement, posture, and self-care.

Your spine supports every aspect of daily life—from standing and walking to working and exercising. By investing in your spinal health through regular physical activity, good ergonomics, and mindful habits, you can prevent many common issues like back pain and stiffness. Whether it's improving your workspace, staying active, or seeking professional care when needed, small changes can lead to long-term benefits.

This World Spine Day, take the time to prioritize your spine—it's one investment that pays off every day.

#### HOW TO CELEBRATE WORLD SPINE

- Get Active & Stretch
- Public Awareness Campaigns
- Group stretching or exercise
- Share spine care tips on social media with the theme hashtag
- Free screening / consultation day for back health

For more ideas, use the [WSD ToolKit](#)