Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation

Dr. Isabelle Pagé DC has just been awarded the prestigious CIHR Doctoral Award – the Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship. Dr. Pagé is a Doctoral student at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR). Her supervisor is Dr. Martin Descarreaux DC, PhD Titulaire de la Chaire de Recherche en Chiropratique FRCQ in the Département des Sciences de l'activité physique. Dr. Pagé is also the recipient of the Master's degree Health Professional Scholarship Award from the Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Santé.

Principal Investigator:	Dr. Isabelle Pagé DC
Institution:	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Award:	Doctoral Award - Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships
Primary Institute:	Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis
Supervisor:	Dr. Martin Descarreaux DC, PhD UQTR, Département des sciences de l'activité physique
Project title:	Neuromechanical responses and analgesic processes induced by spinal manipulation therapy: investigation of the dose-response relationship.
Granting Agency:	CIHR IMHA

Funds Awarded: $105,000 ($30,000 stipend and $5000 allowance for 3 years)
Manual therapy, and more specifically spinal manipulation, is a common treatment for low back pain, and scientific evidence of its efficacy and relevance have greatly increased over the past decades. However, the specific mechanisms underlying the clinical effects of spinal manipulation therapy remain uncertain. The main objective of this doctoral project is to determine how different dosages of spinal manipulation can modify physiological and clinical responses in both healthy participants and patients with chronic low back pain. Phase 1 consists of 3 independent studies. In each of the studies, healthy participants, lying down in a prone position, will be randomly subjected to 4 different levels of a same spinal manipulation therapy biomechanical parameters delivered by an innovative tool developed by the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. This tool standardizes the delivery of spinal manipulation while limiting patient-doctor interactions. Phase 2 consists of comparing the responses of healthy control participants and patients presenting chronic low back pain. Participants will be submitted twice to four different levels of spinal manipulation dosage derived from phase one. Several functional and clinical outcomes, such as pain intensity, disability, muscle activity and range of motion will be assessed before and after each experimental session. One of the main contributions of this project will be to study mechanical, neurophysiological, functional and clinical responses to spinal manipulation while assessing the specific contribution of various spinal manipulation mechanical components. From a clinical perspective, it is believed that studying spinal manipulation doseresponse relationship in an experimental paradigm where the treatment parameters are standardized will provide a solid basis for the design of improved clinical trials, and ultimately lead to improved low back pain patients' care.

Congratulations to Dr. Pagé !!!!