

Research Priorities of the Canadian Chiropractic Profession: A Consensus Study using a Modified Delphi Technique

French et al. (2017)

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12998-017-0169-4>

For which topic were research priorities identified?

chiropractic profession

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - Canada

Why was it conducted at all?

Supporting research is an essential activity for contemporary healthcare professions. The Canadian chiropractic profession has demonstrated a commitment to support research through several initiatives, such as the provision of financial and other support to researchers with an interest in chiropractic. As only limited funds are available to undertake research, existing funds may be better utilised if directed to areas of priority.

What was the objective?

to identify research priority areas for the Canadian chiropractic profession and for stakeholders in the chiropractic profession to rank these in order of importance

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 8 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

August 2015 - May 2017

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi; workshop

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to suggest research areas that they considered important, and to provide a rationale for their suggestions, within each of the following broad research themes: 1) Basic science: studies investigating theories or mechanisms; 2) Clinical research: studies investigating patient outcomes; 3) Health systems and services research: Studies investigating access to health care, or the quality and cost of health care; 4) Social, cultural, environmental and population health research: studies investigating the health of the general population; and, 5) Other research areas. Step 2: workshop: discussion of whether initial research areas identified were comprehensive and whether they met the research priority criteria, submissions collated by theme and further categorized into sub-themes, 290 unique research ideas generated, categorized into 31 sub-themes. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate importance of each sub-theme. Step 4: Delphi round 3: participants were asked to re-rate. Step 5: Delphi round 4: participants were asked to rank sub-themes using conjoint analysis methodology: participants were asked to rank pairwise statements by determining which of two randomly selected research sub-themes they considered more important for the Canadian chiropractic profession

Which stakeholders took part?

Canadian chiropractic organizations (e.g., Canadian Chiropractic Association; provincial associations) and chiropractic educational institutions and researchers. Delphi round 1: 85 participants. Delphi round 2: 56 participants. Delphi round 3: 53 participants. Workshop: 28 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Key organizations and groups were identified and invited to participate. Eighty-five individuals representing these chiropractic organizations and groups were invited to participate in the Delphi panel.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.