

## Dr. Melissa Belchos

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### Sheryn Posen Research Funding Grant Award - An international Delphi study to identify sports chiropractic global research priorities

#### Abstract

Background: To date, there is no research agenda published for the sports chiropractic field from any country in the world. Research agendas identify knowledge gaps, prioritize research, promote clinically relevant research and guide the allocation of critical resources. Research agendas have been developed for the chiropractic profession; however, they have not addressed the specific research needs of sports chiropractors.

Objectives:

To determine consensus on research priorities and create a global sports chiropractic research agenda.

Methods: We will use a Delphi study design, a systematic method to integrate expert opinions, to determine consensus on sports chiropractic research priorities. Clinicians, academics and leaders from the sports chiropractic field will be recruited internationally using a purposive sampling method. Participants will contribute as follows: Step #1, a Delphi procedure to determine consensus on research directives; and Step #2, a priority importance ranking survey of the items that reached consensus. All surveys will be conducted using Delphi Manager (Comet Initiative, Liverpool, UK), and research directives in the Delphi procedure will be ranked using a 9-point Likert scale. An a priori consensus level will be set at 75% and a maximum of three Delphi rounds will be conducted.

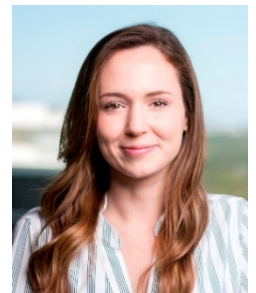
Analysis:

Consensus on a research directive will be determined to be “important” (ranked from 7 to 9 on the Likert scale), of “uncertain importance” (4 to 6) or “unimportant” (1 to 3) if 75% or more of the experts rank the directive within these respective ranking ranges. Participant demographic data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics with Delphi Manager and Microsoft Excel.

Implication:

Current chiropractic research agendas have not included sports-specific research directives and expert panels have had limited sports chiropractic input. Our study will produce the first international research agenda for sports chiropractors to advance evidence informed management of athletes.

*Dr. Melissa Belchos is a second year Sports Sciences Resident at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC). She graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science in 2014. She then completed her Doctor of Chiropractic degree at CMCC in 2019. Her thesis project for the Sports Sciences Residency Program is entitled: An international Delphi study to identify sports chiropractic global research priorities. Her co-investigators are Drs. Alex Lee, Stephen M. Perle, Katie de Luca, and Silvano Mior.*



*The purpose of her study is to determine consensus on research priorities to create a global sports chiropractic research agenda. This will be done using a Delphi study design; a systematic method to integrate expert opinions to determine consensus on sports chiropractic research priorities. Clinicians, academics and leaders from the sports chiropractic field will be recruited internationally. Current chiropractic research agendas have not included sports-specific research directives. This study will aid in the development of such an agenda.*