



WFC GOLD COAST CONGRESS SEES SCIENTISTS SHINE



L>R: Dr Katie Pohlman, Scott Haldeman Award Winner Dr Martha Funabashi, Dr Sidney Rubinstein and Dr Claire Johnson (NCMIC)

Researchers from around the world saw their work recognized with paper and poster awards at the World Federation of Chiropractic's 17th Biennial Congress in Australia.

During a glittering awards ceremony at the recent WFC Biennial Congress, members of chiropractic's scientific community took to the stage to receive awards for submitted research papers and posters.

This year's call for abstracts generated 204 original submissions, of which 139 were accepted for presentation. Under a separate submission category, a further 30 previously published papers were submitted for consideration.

A global team of over 100 peer reviewers scrutinized the abstracts, resulting in a graded analysis from which members of the WFC

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Research Committee determined which should be invited for platform and poster presentation. As well as an extremely well attended poster exhibition area in the main exhibitor hall, a total of 8 dedicated platform research presentation sessions were offered, with researchers from across the WFC's 7 world regions orally presenting their abstracts and fielding questions from the audience.

US-based NCMIC once again generously sponsored the Research Paper Awards. NCMIC, founded in 1946, is the United States' largest provider of malpractice insurance for chiropractors. Over the years it has expanded to provide a comprehensive portfolio of financial and insurance products and services designed with the unique needs of chiropractors in mind.

The International Board of Chiropractic Examiners (IBCE) were the proud sponsors of the Poster Awards competition. IBCE, a division of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) was established to assist in promoting excellence in chiropractic healthcare and protection of the public by developing test instruments for chiropractic organizations worldwide.

Entry to both the NCMIC Paper Awards and IBCE Poster Awards competitions was optional. A total of 41 full papers were entered from among those whose abstracts were accepted for presentation at the Congress, while the IBCE Award competition saw 62 posters considered for prizes.

Four papers were recognized in three award categories for the NCMIC Research Paper Awards.

The **Scott Haldeman Award for Outstanding Research**, attracting prize money of \$10,000 went to Dr Martha Funabashi and colleagues for their paper *Defining and Classifying Adverse Events Following Joint Manipulation and Mobilization: An International E-Delphi Study*.

This study reported on the establishing of an inter-professional and international standardized definition and severity classification for adverse



Dr Martha Funabashi delivers a summary of her prize winning paper.

events following joint manipulation and mobilization. Dr Funabashi, a clinical research scientist at Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC), co-authored the paper with Lindsay M. Gorrell, Katherine Pohlman, Andrea Bergna, and Nicola R. Heneghan.

The **NCMIC Early Career Researcher Award** (\$3,000) was presented to Dr Zacariah Shannon for his paper *Biopsychosocial Factors as Mechanisms of the Effect of Chiropractic Care in U.S. Active Duty Military Members*. Co-authored with Cynthia Long, Elizabeth Chrischilles, Christine Goertz, Robert Wallace, Carri Casteel and Ryan Carnaham, the paper evaluated biopsychosocial factors as mechanisms of the effect of chiropractic care on low back pain (LBP) interference and intensity for US active-duty military members and found

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biopsychosocial changes mediated 56% of the effect on pain interference and 26.4% of the effect on LBP intensity. Dr Shannon is an assistant professor at the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, Davenport, Iowa.

First Prize in the **JMPT-NCMIC Research Papers Awards** (\$7,500) was presented to Brazilian academic, Dr Paulo Gomes de Oliveira Neto for his paper, *Inside the Painful Mind: Explaining Long-Term Brain Alterations in Fibromyalgia*. His study, co-authored with Marcos DosSantos and Lucas Rego Ramos investigated the long-term impact of chronic pain on the brain by evaluating cortical thickness in FM patients compared to healthy individuals.

Second Prize in the **JMPT-NCMIC Research Paper Awards** (\$5,000) went to Dr Nichole Phillips from Australia for her paper, co-authored with Michael Swain, Benjamin



NCMIC-JMPT Second Prize Award Winner, Dr Nichole Phillips

highlighted the need for increased awareness among clinicians and researchers.

The judging panel of the **IBCE Poster Awards** was chaired by Dr Katherine Pohlman and featured members of the WFC Research Committee. Posters were assessed against established criteria, including the quality of the research, quality of the poster and clarity of the information being presented.

Attracting prize money of \$3,000, First Prize in the **IBCE Poster Award Competition** went to Canadian Dr Nora Bakaa for her poster, *Factors That Influence Surgical Decision Making for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis: A Qualitative Study*.

AECC University College's Dr Amy Miller won Second Prize in the **IBCE Poster Award Competition** for her poster, *Development of A Practice-Based Research Network: The Collaborative Research UK Network for Chiropractic (CRUNCH)*, picking up a check for \$1,750.



L>R Dr Katie Pohlman, Dr Sidney Rubinstein, NCMIC-JMPT First Prize Award Winner, Dr Paulo Gomes de Oliveira Neto and Dr Claire Johnson (NCMIC Board Member)

Brown, Amber Beynon and Natasha Magsan, titled *The Association Between Bullying and Headache, Stomach Ache and Backache in Australian Schoolchildren*. The study found strong positive associations in this subgroup and

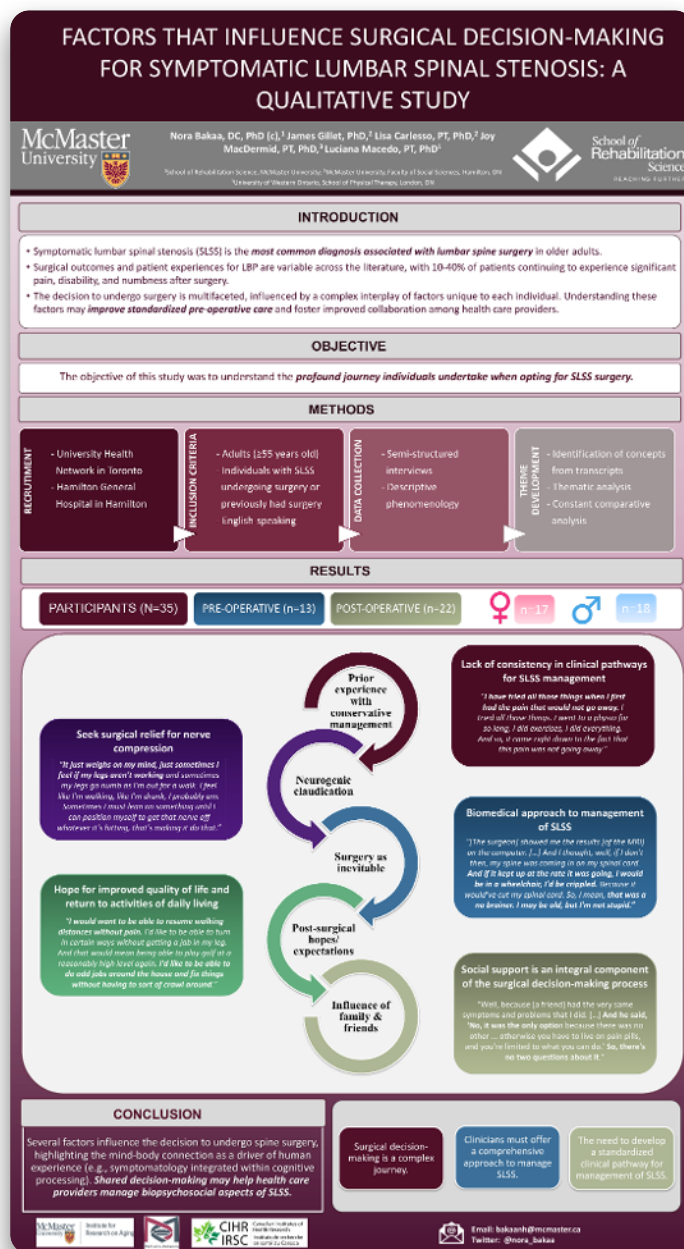
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L>R Dr Katie Pohlman, Best Poster Award Winner Dr Nora Bakaa, Dr Sidney Rubinstein, and Dr Karlos Boghosian (NBCE President)

Poster prizes were also given to presenters in the **IBCE Poster Awards Best in Region** category, with the following authors each collecting \$800 in prize monies:

- WFC Africa region: Dr Christopher Yelverton (*Chiropractic Attitude and Utilisation of Evidence-Based Practice in South Africa: A Secondary Analysis*).
- WFC Asia region: Dr Eric Chun-Pu Chu (*A Retrospective Analysis of the Incidence of Severe Adverse Events Among Recipients of Chiropractic Spinal Manipulative Therapy*).
- WFC Europe region: Dr Luana Nyirö (*Variability, Repeatability, and Variation of Spinal Manipulative Therapy forces in Thoracic Spinal Manipulation on a Manikin*).
- WFC Latin America region: Dr Paulo Gomes de Oliveira Neto (*Comparative Study on the Perception and Practices of Chiropractic Among Healthcare Professionals and Non-Healthcare Professionals*).
- WFC North America region: Dr Peter Emary (*The Association between Initiating*



Dr Nora Bakaa won the IBCE Best Poster Award

Chiropractic Care and Continued Prescription Opioid Use For Chronic Non-Cancer Pain: a Sequential Mixed Methods Study).

- WFC Pacific region: Dr Kathryn Di (*A Mixed Methods Feasibility Study of a Comorbidity-Adapted Exercise Program for Low BACK Pain in Older Adults (COME-BACK)*).

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Speaking after the event, Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee, Dr Sidney Rubinstein (pictured, right, alongside Dr Katie Pohlman) commented,

"We were delighted with the response to our call for abstracts and the quality of the work that was presented at this year's WFC Congress.

"We're proud that our event remains the largest chiropractic scientific event globally and are committed to hosting high quality, peer-reviewed research at our meetings.

"I congratulate all of the deserving winners and look forward to record numbers submitting to our 18th WFC Biennial Congress in 2025 when we meet in Copenhagen."

The WFC thanks both NCMIC and IBCE for their generous sponsorship of the awards, the peer reviewers for their diligence in reviewing the work submitted, and Brighthall for its outstanding coordination of the abstract submission and review process.

The 18th WFC Biennial Congress takes place May 7-10, 2025 in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Thank you to our research award sponsors

