



PRESS RELEASE

WFC NAMES NEW DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Katie de Luca appointed by WFC Board of Directors

Toronto, June 1, 2023. The World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Katie de Luca BAppSc, MChiro, PhD as the new chair of its Disability and Rehabilitation Committee (DARC).

Dr de Luca is a senior lecturer at the Brisbane Campus of Central Queensland University (CQU) in Australia. A 2008 graduate of Macquarie University, she is an accomplished researcher, with over 60 peer-reviewed journal publications and over 50 conference presentation, which include several invited keynote presentations on back pain in older adults, women's health conditions and sports chiropractic. She continues in private practice in the seaside town of South West Rocks in New South Wales.

Since obtaining her PhD in 2016 in gerontology, musculoskeletal conditions and women's health from the School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle in Australia, Dr de Luca worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at Macquarie University in Sydney before transferring to CQU, where her teaching includes research literacy. She chairs the Chiropractic Australia Research Foundation and is the Research Chair for Sports Chiropractic Australia.

Dr de Luca has received competitive research funding in excess of AUD\$3.4m. She is the



Dr Katie de Luca is a senior lecturer at Central Queensland University, Brisbane, Australia.

Australian chiropractic lead on the international longitudinal study on Back Care in the Elderly (BACE). She was a lead author in the recently published systematic analysis of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021, examining the global regional and national burden of low back pain.

A member of the editorial board of *Chiropractic and Manual Therapies* and the women's health section editor of the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*, Dr de Luca joins the

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DARC at an important time. Following the unanimous approval of the first resolution on strengthening rehabilitation in health systems at the 76th World Health Assembly, held last month in Geneva, Switzerland, rehabilitation is at the forefront of global healthcare.

The WFC is fully committed to supporting and promoting rehabilitation in order to address the vast global unmet need, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and is a founding member of the World Rehabilitation Alliance, a WHO-led initiative.

The WFC's DARC was established in 2017. The purpose of the committee is to serve as a body of experts to advise the WFC Board in the area of evidence-based disability-prevention and rehabilitation as it relates to the practice of chiropractic. This includes, but is not limited to, the identification of priority areas in the care of persons with disabilities, disability prevention and rehabilitation that are congruent with identified projects of the World Health Organization.

Speaking after her appointment by the WFC Board, Dr de Luca commented, "I am very

excited to Chair the WFC Disability and Rehabilitation Committee. I look forward to working with the new committee, to represent the chiropractic profession globally and to ensure evidence-based care is at the forefront of chiropractic practice.

"We will continue the work of the previous committee, in advocating for chiropractic as a key stakeholder in decreasing the burden of musculoskeletal diseases through the delivery of high value care. For me, being the Chair is a wonderful opportunity to work with new and emerging leaders on matters relating to disability and rehabilitation globally."

WFC Secretary-General, Richard Brown, said, "We are delighted to welcome Dr de Luca as chair of this important committee. We will shortly be issuing a call for applications for membership of the Disability and Rehabilitation Committee and anticipate a strong response from experts both within and outside the chiropractic profession.

"This is a highly relevant area of global health care and we look forward to engaging in both advocacy and knowledge translation as it relates to rehabilitation internationally."
