

# The European Centre for Chiropractic Research Excellence

## Bylaws

### 1. Name and office

1.1 The European Centre for Chiropractic Research Excellence (ECCRE)

1.2 For all non-electronic correspondence use NIKKB, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M

1.3 In respect of electronic correspondence, the ECCRE shall utilise the email address of the ECCRE which will be displayed on the website of the ECU, DKF and NIKKB

1.4 The managing director of NIKKB will act as day to day manager of the ECCRE and will be accountable to the ECCRE Board. This person shall make a report twice a year to the ECU General Council and to the NIKKB Board on progress with the Centre.

### 2. Vision and purpose

2.1 The ECCRE is to become a European leader in facilitating research of relevance to the chiropractic profession and principally patients with musculoskeletal conditions.

2.2 The ECCRE is to establish an evidence-based foundation for the development of chiropractic principles and practice in the European Countries

### 3. Strategic Priorities

- To administer and allocate monies held in the ECCRE account for the benefit of the chiropractic profession in Europe
- To identify, nurture and support emerging chiropractic researchers
- To review all grant applications properly submitted to the ECCRE and monitor progress with approved applications taking such action as may be deemed necessary
- Establish an European research stipend
- Establish Ph.D. or post doc scholarships
- To financially support the ECU researchers' day at the yearly ECU conference
- To promote effective networking, training and mobility among chiropractic-related researchers in Europe
- To facilitate collaboration and communication with non-European researchers
- To investigate, attract and procure sources of funding;

# The European Centre for Chiropractic Research Excellence

## 4. Research Area Priorities

4.1. Relevant research subjects and criteria: all research funded by ECCRE should be for the ultimate benefit of patients. PhD or post-doc projects will receive first priority.

4.2 Operating principles with regard to funding. All research proposals will follow a process including evaluation within ECCRE, and could include external review if necessary.

4.2a At least one chiropractor should normally be a member among the applicants of the research team. Proposals which do not include a chiropractor on the team will be considered only if the proposed research is of particularly high quality and importance.

4.2b. Applications will only be considered if it benefits the research capacity within an ECU member country.

4.3 Priority will be given to projects that advance the chiropractic profession; however, research projects originating from non-chiropractic institutes or including a non-chiropractic research team will also be considered.

4.4 Priorities. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to the following areas of research.

4.4a. Basic Sciences Research. Research in this field deals primarily with biomechanics and neurophysiology. It includes the study of: spinal and articular biomechanics and their control; the relation between the spine and body functions; the neurological control of body function; the effects of manipulation.

4.4b Clinical and Epidemiological Sciences Research. Research in this field will be primarily aimed at evaluation of the role of chiropractic in health care. It includes: the evaluation of the validity of chiropractic diagnostic procedures; the evaluation of the outcomes of chiropractic therapy; epidemiological and sociological studies; the role of chiropractic in preventive care; and economic evaluations/cost-effectiveness.

4.4c Chiropractic-related research. Research projects in fields, which do not belong to chiropractic itself, will also be considered if it appears that they can foster the knowledge, the understanding and the practice of chiropractic.

4.4d. The new research priorities identified in the publication from Rubinstein et al. (Establishing a research agenda for chiropractic in Europe, Chiropractic & Manual Therapies 2013), will be used as one of the last deciding factors when all the other criteria are fulfilled.

## 5. Meetings of the ECCRE board

5.1 ECCRE shall be governed by a Board that will comprise 2 representatives appointed by the ECU General Council and 2 representatives appointed by the board of NIKKB.

# The European Centre for Chiropractic Research Excellence

5.2 The board shall appoint one of its members as Chairman for a period of 2 years, which shall be renewable. The chair will rotate between the ECU representative and the NIKKB representative every second year.

5.3 The Board will specify how calls for projects will be made and the process for submitting bids, based on an approved research strategy and specific procedures, based on the evaluation from the Academic Advisory Committee.

5.4 Regular meetings shall be held once a year no later in time to report to the fall meeting of both the NIKKB board and the ECU General Council. Such meetings could be held in person. Additional meetings can be held electronically or by phone.

5.5 Notice of regular Board meetings shall be given at least 8 weeks before the date of the meetings. An agenda shall be circulated at least 14 days prior to the meeting to all members of the committee.

5.6 Meetings of the Board shall be deemed to be quorate when three or more members are present. All decisions may be based upon this quorate.

5.7 The chair has no casting vote.

5.8 Meetings of the Board shall be minuted by the director of NIKKB and the record circulated within one month to the ECU General Council and the NIKKB Board.

## **6. Meetings of the ECCRE's Academic Advisory Committee**

6.1 The ECCRE Board shall appoint an Academic Advisory Committee that will comprise 4 representatives, the one being the director of the NIKKB, and the other members shall consist of the following:

- one researcher with documented interest in musculoskeletal research
- one chiropractor with a PhD degree;
- one chiropractor in full- or part-time practice;

6.2 The Academic Advisory Committee will be evaluated every year by the board.

6.3 The Academic Advisory Committee shall advise the ECCRE board on research strategy and applications. Its members will normally be precluded from benefitting from ECCRE funding for their academic activities and in the exceptional cases where this is not the case shall not be party to the relevant discussions of the Committee.

6.4 The Board will have a list of projects qualified for funding from the yearly call. It is for the Board to decide which of these projects will be funded.

6.5 The Committee will usually work by correspondence and telephone. Meeting in person can be arranged after at the discretion of the board.

6.6 Notice of meetings shall be given at least 8 weeks before the date of the meetings. An agenda shall be circulated at least 14 days prior to the meeting to all members of the committee.

# The European Centre for Chiropractic Research Excellence

6.7 Decisions by the Academic Advisory Committee shall be deemed to be quorate when three or more members are present. All decisions may be based upon this quorate.

## **7. Finances**

7.1 The ECCRE shall ensure sound financial governance and shall submit annual financial statements to the ECU General Council and The Danish Research Fund.

7.2 The monies from the ECU and The Danish Research Fund will be paid/transferred once a year no later the 30 April to a ring-fenced account administrated by the ECU Treasurer

7.3 The ECCRE account is to be administered on a day-to-day basis by NIKKB. The NIKKB shall undertake this and all other tasks pro bono.

7.4 Unspent funds may be carried over from one year to the next.

7.5 Members of the ECCRE board shall not be reimbursed for expenses or be payed honoraria, as this is a matter for the appointing bodies.

7.6 Members of the ECCRE Academic Advisory Committee can be paid honoraria for the work and can be reimbursed for travel expenses after at the discretion of the board.

7.7 The account will be subject to audit by the ECU auditor and the ECCRE managing director shall account to the ECU General Council and the NIKKB Board for the financial activities of the Centre.