

## Dr. Mohsen Kazemi

Corrie Myburgh

Silvano Mior

Alex Lee

Samuel Howarth

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#### Abstract

This proposed project forms the foundation of an international collaboration, which aims to advance the position of chiropractors in the world of elite athletic healthcare and performance management (AHPM).

Interprofessional practice (IPP) has the potential to enhance patient experiences and improve the outcomes of health care. IPP also provides opportunities for various health care provider groups to formalize their status, by demonstrating their value as a service provider. However, chiropractors in general, have found it challenging to be accepted as a viable contributing member of interprofessional health care teams (IHCT). Consequently, their value as service providers is still questioned.

Service provision in athletic contexts, particularly at the elite level, is highly influenced by economic incentives and athletes' needs and experiences. As such organizations are prepared to 'gamble' on service providers with the potential of adding unique contributions to their IHCTs to enhance performance and manage injuries. Therefore, understanding how organizations assess such contributions by health care providers, particularly chiropractors, can inform strategies for their ultimate inclusions in IHCT. As a profession, greater inclusion of chiropractors as part of IHCTs is strategically valuable for enhancing its visibility, image, integration, and scope of practice development in athletic contexts. Moreover, knowledge developed in the AHPM setting may have carry-over effects to chiropractic practice in general.

Our specific aim is to capture the unique international experiences of chiropractors working in elite interdisciplinary AHPM settings, to better understand factors such as essential expert knowledge, key professional competencies, and barriers and facilitators required for their sustained inclusion.

The project findings will allow the research team to identify further gaps in current knowledge and aid in generating strategically meaningful hypotheses informing a global agenda for chiropractic professional practice and education. Our vision is to establish the professional role of the chiropractor as an integral member of the IHCT for effective AHPM. Our international team has the potential of further extending this work globally.

**Mohsen Kazemi**, RN, DC, FRCCSS(C), FCCPORA(C), MSc, PhD ([mkazemi@cmcc.ca](mailto:mkazemi@cmcc.ca)) is a Professor and Sports Sciences Residency Coordinator at CMCC. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Chiropractic Sports Sciences [RCCSS(C)] and the College of Chiropractic Physical and Occupational Rehabilitation (CCPORA). He has published more than 45 peer reviewed articles and five books. Dr. Kazemi's research interests are in chiropractic care, sports performance, concussion, sports epidemiology, manipulative therapies, and soft tissue techniques. His research aspirations are driven by his passion for evidence-based practice and efficiency. His recent study on the concussion Knowledge of North American chiropractors was fuelled by the controversy of who is qualified to diagnose and manage concussion.

Dr. Kazemi has attended several major games as team Chiropractor and has served as team chiropractor and medical chair for Taekwondo Canada and Taekwondo Ontario.

