

Dr. John J. Riva, DC, MSc, PhD

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District 5

I love this profession - I was one of those miracle stories, limping around the Niagara Region in my teens with a sacroiliac joint subluxation for a few years, bugging my family physician many times, before being easily addressed in one visit by a chiropractor. I have been in continuous interdisciplinary practice for over 20 years, seeing patients around 30 hours per week. For the remaining day per week, my graduate-level advanced training from McMaster University on methods and economics in clinical practice guidelines offers me diverse opportunities to learn. Like all of you, I have reshaped my practice within a global COVID pandemic.



Governance, Quality Improvement and Policy Experience

CCO develops policies through collaborative committee work, addresses quality assurance and sets both standards and guidance for practice. I was a past policy-board director for over 6 years with the Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA), participating in committee work related to governance and nomination, awards, research, and finance. I have not been affiliated with CMCC; but, I have been an Assistant Clinical Professor at McMaster University for over 12 years, with roles related to teaching, accreditation, providing clinical observation opportunities for other health care professions on chiropractic and guiding family medicine residents in quality assurance projects for their practices. In 2015, I was an invited presenter, on practice quality improvement, at the Canadian Chiropractic Association National Convention in Niagara Falls. In 2016, I performed quality assurance as an observer to the Canadian Chiropractic Guideline Initiative. Most recently, I was an advisory committee member for Health Quality Ontario to develop the first provincial low back pain quality standards.

Practice Guidance and Recognition

With respect to experience with public agencies, I was recently appointed by the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Theresa Tam, to the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care and am developing various Public Health Agency of Canada practice guidelines for primary care providers – leading a guideline on falls prevention in older adults. I also have developed many other practice guidelines with a variety of international groups such as: World Health Organization; World Allergy Organization; European Union ARIA (Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma) initiative; and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health. These reflect a diversity of clinical contexts like pediatrics, pregnancy, and obesity. I have been recognized through chiropractic awards, including the OCA Michael Brickman Heart & Hands award and a CCA certificate of appreciation, along with past NCMIC Foundation research scholarships from the United States.

Managing Conflict of Interest

The importance of managing conflict of interest (COI) has been highlighted by CCO communications in the past few years. In these lines, I was an invited participant in 2019 to the first Canadian Institutes of Health Research & Public Health Agency of Canada “Best Brains Exchange” with federal and provincial stakeholders on COI in practice guidelines. From my economics training, I recognize opportunity implications, as any policy can inadvertently impact the public’s access to chiropractic services.

Your Candidate

In summary, I have a diverse history of experiences in governance and am motivated to advance the utilization of chiropractic by the public. I am at a stage in my career where giving back to our great profession, from my collective accomplishments and over 20 years of active clinical practice, would align well with the CCO mandate. Self-regulation is truly a privilege, with CCO noting, “Chiropractors who are elected will reflect their commitment to the public’s right to safe, effective and ethical chiropractic care.” Thanks for considering me for District 5.