Biographies for nominees of the Guideline Development Group

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Alperovitch-Najenson, Deborah
Institutional affiliation(s): Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Tel-Aviv University
Academic degrees: BSc, M.Occ.H, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Kfar Sava, Israel
Country(ies) of experience: Israel, Sweden

I have been working as a physical therapist for the last 45 years. I have extensive experience in the rehabilitation of occupational and age-related musculoskeletal pain, specifically in spinal pain. During the last 30 years I have been deeply involved in ergonomics, following a 12-year stay in Sweden (1978-1990) where the association between the work environment and pain became clear to me, in particularly lower back pain (LBP) that was already common in those years, especially in the Swedish population. In Sweden we have developed ways of dealing with this challenge. In 1998 we were the first physical therapy institute among the primary care givers in Stockholm to receive basic equipment for strengthening the body muscles following a study I conducted as part of my BSc degree. I have been giving lectures and guiding students in their thesis in ergonomics. I have also been advising companies on product design, with the emphasis on pain prevention for the past 20 years. In conclusion, my experience in LBP is both clinical and in research. I believe that guidelines for prevention of chronic primary LBP in adults, receiving publicity through the WHO, will have a great potential to promote back health over time.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Becker, Annette
Institutional affiliation(s): Department of Family Medicine/General Practice University of Marburg, Germany
Academic degrees: MD, MPH
City and country of primary residence: Marburg, Germany
Country(ies) of experience: UK, Germany

Annette Becker is a professor of General Practice in the Department of Family Medicine/General Practice at Marburg University in Germany, since 2019 she is Dean of the Marburg Medical Faculty, and also, as a general practitioner, she works in a group practice in Wettenberg/Germany. She trained in Medicine, completed her residency in General Practice and holds a Master’s degree in Public Health (University of Ulm, Germany). As a researcher in general practice she focusses on primary health care for chronic pain and back pain and on the implementation of quality improvement strategies. Annette Becker was principal investigator in several granted clinical trials including more than 1000 patients. In her work she cooperates with an established network of approx. 300 practices. She participated in the guideline development of the “European Guideline for the management of acute low back pain” (COST Action B13), the “Back pain” – Guideline of the German Society for General practice and Family medicine, the “Chronic pain” - Guideline of the German Society for General practice and Family medicine, and the German “National Guideline for the management of low back pain”.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Belton, Joletta L
Institutional Affiliations: Global Alliance of Partners for Pain Advocacy, task force of the International Association for the Study of Pain, Washington DC (current); Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy (current); Endless Possibilities Initiative, Fraser CO (ended 2020); RetrainPain Foundation, New York (ended 2018)
Degrees: BA, MSc
Primary Residence: Fraser, CO, United States of America
Countries of experience: USA, collaborations with researchers in Canada, UK, and Australia

Joletta has lived with chronic low back pain since early 2010. Her pain began with a work-related injury after a missed step and a twinge in her back. That twinge led her down an unexpected path of ongoing, worsening pain, years of failed treatments, and a forced medical retirement from the firefighter paramedic career that defined her. Her desire to understand her pain led her back to graduate school, where she earned her MSc in human movement and studied pain science. She is now an advocate for the integration of the lived experience into the study, research, and treatment of pain, which led to her roles as co-chair of the Global Alliance of Partners for Pain Advocacy, a task force of the International Association for the Study of Pain, and as the first Patient and Public Partnerships Editor for the Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy. Joletta is an author of peer-reviewed journal articles and textbook chapters and makes sense of her pain through science and stories on her blog, MyCuppaJo.com. She has given presentations at conferences and in classrooms around the world and has been a patient partner on numerous research studies in the UK, Canada, and Australia.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Buchbinder, Rachelle
Institutional affiliation(s): Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University; Monash Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Cabrini Health.
Academic degrees: MBBS (Hons), MSc, PhD, FRACP, FAHMS
City and country of primary residence: Melbourne, Australia
Country(ies) of experience: Australia

Rachelle Buchbinder AO is a rheumatologist and clinical epidemiologist supported by an Australian NHMRC Investigator Fellowship. She combines clinical practice with a wide array of musculoskeletal research projects. She is recognised as a Highly Cited Researcher (Clarivate Analytics top 1% by citations last decade) since 2018. She was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to epidemiology and rheumatology in 2020. She is past president of the Australian Rheumatology Association (2016-8). Current roles include inaugural Chair, Australia and New Zealand Musculoskeletal (ANZMUSC) Clinical Trials Network (2016-); Coordinating Editor, Cochrane Musculoskeletal (2005-) which has included Cochrane Back and Neck since 2020; and Member Australian Medical Services Advisory Committee (2016-). She has performed >20 trials and >100 systematic reviews and has expertise in outcome measurement, e.g., co-author updated low back pain core set. She has participated in numerous guideline panels, e.g., currently leads the National Living Guidelines for pharmacologic management of inflammatory arthritis. She led the highly acclaimed Lancet
Low Back Pain Series involving 31 authors from 12 countries and the original GBD burden estimates for low back pain, is ANZBACK Centre of Research Excellence (2020-14) investigator and panel member, Australian Clinical Care Standards for low back pain.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Cadmus, Eniola Olubukola
Institutional affiliation(s): 1. College of Medicine University of Ibadan, Nigeria; 2. University College Hospital; Nigeria; 3. Chief Tony Anenih Geriatric Centre University College Hospital, Nigeria.
Academic degrees: Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB; B.S ); Masters in Public Health (MPH Community Medicine) Masters in Public Health (MPH Health Promotion) PhD - In view
City and country of primary residence: Ibadan, Nigeria
Country of experience: Nigeria

Dr Eniola Olubukola Cadmus is an honorary consultant at the first specialized Centre for the Care of Older Persons in Nigeria, the Chief Tony Anenih Geriatric Centre (CTAGC). Dr Cadmus received her medical degree (MB; BS) and Masters degree in Public Health (MPH) in community health from the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. She also has an MPH (Health Promotion) from the University of Pretoria, and she is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians (Community Health). Dr Cadmus is a lecturer in the Rehabilitative and Social Medicine Unit of the Department of Community Medicine, University of Ibadan. Her research and publications span issues related to healthy ageing and its determinants, long term care provisions for older persons and elder abuse. She is the team leader of the Community Geriatrics Unit at the CTAGC. The unit aims to promote the health and well-being of older persons both within the health facility and, more importantly, in the community. Previous relevant experience working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) include membership of the WHO Expert Meeting on Violence Against Older Women and a part-time tutor for the online learning programme on healthy ageing for impact in the 21st century.’

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Cardosa, Mary S
Institutional affiliation(s): Selayang Hospital, Selangor, Malaysia; Hospital University Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Academic degrees: MBBS, MMed (Anaes), FANZCA, FFPMANZCA
City and country of primary residence: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Country(ies) of experience: Malaysia, Australia

Dr Mary Suma Cardosa is a Visiting Consultant Pain Specialist at Hospital Selayang, Malaysia and Hospital University Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM). Dr Cardosa obtained her basic medical degree from the University of Malaya, and specialised in Anaesthesiology and Pain Medicine, completing her pain fellowship at the Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, Australia. Dr Cardosa has done pioneering work in Pain Medicine in Malaysia, setting up the Oirst Acute Pain Service and Multidisciplinary Pain clinic in the Ministry of Health (MOH). As Head of Pain Medicine in the MOH, she was responsible for development of pain services and training other pain specialists throughout the country. She was also instrumental in the implementation of the MOH ”Pain as the 5th Vital Sign”, and “Pain Free Hospital” programs, and has been active in pain education in Malaysia and Southeast Asia for the past two decades. Dr Cardosa is
President of the Malaysian Association for the Study of Pain, and Council member of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) since 2014. She has been involved in the development of Malaysian practice guidelines on Neuropathic pain, Low Back Pain, Cancer Pain, Acute Pain and Opioids in Chronic Non-Cancer Pain.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Chaturvedi, Santosh K
Institutional affiliation(s) [current and in the prior four years] Senior Professor of Psychiatry, Former Dean (Behavioural Sciences) National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences, Bangalore, India. Currently, Member, Institute Body, Academic Committee, Hospital management Committee, National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences, Bangalore, India. He is Honorary Tutor, University of Cardiff, UK.
Academic degrees MD (Psychiatry); FRCPsych (UK)
City and country of primary residence Bangalore India
Country(ies) of experience: India, United Kingdom

Dr Santosh K Chaturvedi, MD Psychiatry, FRCPsych [UK] was a Senior Professor of Psychiatry and Former Dean of Behavioural Sciences at the National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences, Bangalore, India. He was the Head of Departments of Psychiatry, Mental Health Education, and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. Currently, he continues as Member of Statutory bodies of the Institute. He is Honorary Tutor, University of Cardiff, UK. He is one of the Editors-in-Chief of the Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Mental Health (Springers). He is Editor of the book, Rural Mental Health (Springers Nature) & Medically Unexplained Symptoms & Chronic Pain (Paras Medical Publishers). He was a Member, WHO’s Working Group on the Classification of Somatic Symptom and Dissociative Disorders 2010-2012.
His areas of interest and research include Consultation Liaison Psychiatry; Chronic Pain & Somatization; Psycho Oncology & Palliative Care. He has more than 600 publications in different International and National journals, of which about 150 are on topics related to chronic pain and somatization. He has edited and / or published 25 books, manuals or journals.
H index 38; i10 index 137; Citations >5500
Website https://santoshchaturvedi.in/
Twitter: @skchatur
Linked-in: sk-chaturvedi

Surname, first name(s) and initial Chou, Roger
Institutional affiliation(s): Oregon Health & Science University, USA
Academic degrees: MD
City and country of primary residence: Portland, USA
Country(ies) of experience: USA

Dr. Chou is a Professor in the School of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). His clinical background is internal medicine and primary care. Dr. Chou is Director of the Evidence-based Practice Center and has conducted numerous systematic reviews in the area of low back pain, including diagnostic testing, pharmacological therapies, nonpharmacological therapies, interventional and surgical therapies, and others. He led the
2008 guideline on evaluation and management of low back pain for the American College of Physicians and American Pain Society and led the systematic review that was used to update the American College of Physician Guidelines in 2018. He served as Coordinating Editor of the Cochrane Back and Neck Group, is currently Senior Editor of the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group, and served on the steering committee for the Global Spine Care Initiative. He has served as a methodologist on numerous World Health Organization guidelines and is currently methodologist for WHO’s infection prevention and control team. Dr. Chou currently serves on the Board of Scientific Counsellors for the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Daitz, Ben
Institutional affiliation(s) Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico
Academic degrees MD
City and country of primary residence: Corrales, NM, USA
Country(ies) of experience: USA, Peru, Bolivia

Ben Daitz, MD is Professor Emeritus of Family and Community Medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, and an attending physician at the University Hospital’s chronic pain clinic and in Project ECHO’s chronic pain and headache clinic. He directs an annual national conference on the diagnosis and treatment of myofascial pain, and has produced multiple series of instructive films on the topic. He has taught seminars on chronic pain and myofascial pain syndromes nationally and internationally.

Ben has a longstanding involvement in rural health issues, including on-going public health and anthropological work among the Machiguenga and Tsimane Indians of the Peruvian and Bolivian Amazon. His many documentary films have been broadcast and honored by, PBS, American Public Television, and numerous film festivals. His latest film, “Project ECHO: A Democracy of Knowledge”, about an extraordinary world health project, was broadcast on NM PBS and affiliates around the country.

Ben is a frequent contributing writer for the New York Times, and his work has also been published in The Atlantic, Eclectica, and Undark. His novel, Delivery, is published by the University of New Mexico Press.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Ferreira, Manuela L
Institutional affiliation(s): The University of Sydney, Australia
Academic degrees: Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy), MSc, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Sydney, Australia
Country(ies) of experience: Brazil and Australia

I am a Physiotherapist (1992-1996) and Clinical Scientist from Brazil, where I also completed my Masters by Research in Morphology (1998-2000). In 2004 I completed a PhD in Physiotherapy at the University of Sydney, Australia after which, I returned to my academic and clinical positions in Brazil. In 2008, I was awarded an international research fellowship and returned to Australia. I am currently a Professor and National Health and Medical Research Council Fellow at the Institute of Bone and Joint Research/Kolling Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, Sydney University, and was Oxford Martin School Visiting Fellow/Oxford University (2016-2017). I am a world leading researcher in the field of back pain (currently rank 2nd
worldwide in research impact in my field). My research expertise includes the design of high
good quality randomised clinical trials - I am conducting the world’s first placebo-controlled trial of
surgery for back pain. I also have a strong track record in the design and conduct of meta-
analyses and risk prediction studies (e.g. case crossover designs). I have authored +245 papers
(H-index of 59) in leading peer-reviewed journals (e.g. Lancet, BMJ, Annals of Internal
Medicine, Pain), and have attracted +$13 million in national and international research
funding.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Hartvigsen, Jan
Institutional affiliation(s): Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, Center for
Muscle and Joint Health, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark;
Nordic Institute of Chiropractic and Clinical Biomechanics, Odense, Denmark
Academic degrees: Chiropractor, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Odense, Denmark
Country(ies) of experience: Denmark, USA

Jan Hartvigsen is an internationally leading researcher and research leader in musculoskeletal
health. His primary research focus is clinical studies of musculoskeletal pain and disability. He
received his PhD in epidemiology in 2001. He currently is employed as Full Professor and Head
of Research at the Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of
Southern Denmark where he co-leads the Center for Muscle and Joint Health.
Jan Hartvigsen has been member of Danish National Guideline committees for the treatment
of cervical radiculopathy, lumbar radiculopathy, shoulder pain, low back pain and persistent
symptoms after concussion. He was deputy-chair of the landmark Lancet Low Back Pain Series
that was published in The Lancet in 2018. He has authored more than 250 international peer-
reviewed publications including 49 systematic reviews or invited reviews in international
journals, 38 editorials or commentaries published in a range of leading international journals
including The Lancet and British Medical Journal. In 2016 Jan Hartvigsen was rated as the
world’s number one expert in “Musculoskeletal Pain” and he is rated among the world’s top
0.01% experts for “back pain” and “neck pain” by expertscape.com.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Honvo, Germain
Institutional affiliation(s): University of Liège, Division of Public Health, Epidemiology and
Health Economics (Liège, Belgium); WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Aspects of
Musculoskeletal Health and Ageing (Liège, Belgium)
Academic degrees: BSc, MSc, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Cotonou, Benin
Country(ies) of experience: Belgium, Benin

Doctor Germain Honvo is an epidemiologist and a public health specialist. He did his
postgraduate studies in Public Health, Epidemiology and Health Economics at the University of
Liège (Liège, Belgium), from where he graduated with a master’s degree and a PhD,
respectively in 2016 and 2019. He has a background in Biomedical Sciences (BSc).
Germain has been working on the epidemiology and public health aspects of musculoskeletal
disorders for some years now. As a young researcher, he is author of several systematic reviews
and meta-analyses, and of publications on recommendations for clinical practice and clinical
research in the field of osteoarthritis. He is a Collaborator of the University of Liège, at the Division of Public Health, Epidemiology and Health Economics (Liège, Belgium), and at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Aspects of Musculoskeletal Health and Ageing (Liège, Belgium). Beyond his research activities, he is serving as peer reviewer for several scientific Journals, which usually call upon him mainly for his expertise in systematic reviews and meta-analysis, as well as in research methodology and clinical guideline development. Germain Honvo is a member of the WHO Clinical Consortium on Healthy Ageing (CCHA), as well as of several scientific societies.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Lim, Jae-Young
Institutional affiliation(s): Dept. of Rehabilitation Medicine, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea; Bundang Hospital, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Republic of Korea
Academic degrees: MD, PhD.
City and country of primary residence: Seoul, Republic of Korea
Country(ies) of experience: Republic of Korea

Jae-Young Lim graduated from Seoul National University College of Medicine in 1994, and achieved the Korean Board of Rehabilitation Medicine in 1999. Currently, he is a professor at the Seoul National University College of Medicine and serving as the Board of Trustees of the Korean Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (KARM) and the Korean Geriatric Society (KGS). He is also a director of Division of Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation and Aging & Mobility Biophysics Lab, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital. As a specialist in musculoskeletal and geriatric rehabilitation, his major research interest is to investigate the key mechanisms of functional restoration and adaptation after injury, chronic diseases, or aging in humans. He has contributed seminal research findings on the muscle quality to assess frailty and sarcopenia as well as conducted modality-specific intervention studies for old population. He is also interested in the development of integrated rehabilitation methods for fall prevention and fragility fracture care in older adults. Currently, he is an Editor-in-Chief of “Annals of Geriatric Medicine and Research” and an Associate Editor of “PM & R”. He has published over 170 peer reviewed papers in reputed international journals and written 15 book chapters.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Louw, Quinette A
Institutional affiliation(s): Stellenbosch University
Academic degrees: BSc (Physiotherapy); MASP; PhD
City and country of primary residence: South Africa
Country(ies) of experience: South Africa; Australia; Kenya; Zimbabwe, Rwanda

I have skills in evidence syntheses, contextualisation, formulation of recommendations and research methods related to guidelines. I was a co-investigator of a flagship project, “South African Guideline Excellence” (SAGE), a two-country, three-institution project aimed to map SA primary healthcare clinical practice guidelines (CPGs), assess their quality, identify barriers to uptake, and explore ways to improve their application in primary care. Our research team developed new methods for evidence contextualisation, particularly in determining how evidence generated in high-income countries can be adapted for effective implementation in complex, poorly resourced settings. Project SAGE also developed training programs for capacity building in CPG development, updating, adaptation, adoption and/or
contextualisation, implementation and produced innovative guideline development methodology for lower-income countries. Project SAGE findings highlighted the stark reality that no South African CPG included any recommendations for rehabilitation. In 2017-2018, I led a collaborative research project which developed an integrated stroke rehabilitation CPG. It collated recommendations extracted from 16 international CPGs on stroke rehabilitation and was the first-ever evidence-based guidance document for stroke rehabilitation in South Africa. Currently, I am working with a national team to integrate evidence-based rehabilitation recommendations into the Standard Treatment Guidelines of South Africa for priority conditions.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Maher, Christopher G
Institutional affiliation(s): The University of Sydney
Academic degrees: BAppSc (Phty), PhD, DMedSc
City and country of primary residence: Sydney, Australia
Country(ies) of experience: Australia, England

Prof. Maher is a physiotherapist researcher, recognised internationally for his research to improve care and outcomes for people with low back pain. He has degrees in physiotherapy, exercise science, manipulative therapy, a PhD and a higher doctorate. He is an NHMRC Research Fellow, a Fellow of the Australian College of Physiotherapists and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

His clinical research has demonstrated the effectiveness of new treatments (e.g. graded activity, motor control) and established the ineffectiveness of existing treatments (e.g. paracetamol, pregabalin). It has provided vital information on the accuracy of tests to screen for serious diseases such as cancer and identified what interventions prevent low back pain.

Prof Maher’s translation contributions include implementation research, decision support tools, and advice to government agencies, professions and funders to close evidence-practice gaps. He has experience developing, and evaluating the implementation of, guidelines/models of care for low back pain eg the SHaPED implementation trial published in BMJ Qual Saf 2021.

Prof Maher has >700 publications and is cited in 86 clinical practice guidelines from 20 countries. Expertscape ranks him the #1 researcher globally in fields of PAIN (of 260,394 authors) and LOW BACK PAIN (of 25,584).

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Mohi Eldin, Mohamed
Institutional affiliation(s): Head of Minimally Invasive Spine Unit, Professor of Neurosurgery, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.
Academic degrees: MD Neurosurgery, Professor of Neurosurgery
City and country of primary residence: Cairo, Egypt
Country(ies) of experience: Egypt

Following completion of his medical degree at Cairo University Medical School in Egypt, he completed his internship, neurosurgery residency at Cairo University Hospital, and in pediatric neurosurgery hospital. Upon completion of his training, he rose to become Ass. Professor, then Professor of neurosurgery at Cairo University Medical School and Chairman of Neurological Surgery at Naser Institute. In 2002, he made the decision to move all his attention to the spine part of his profession and established his current academic & clinical practice.
However, the most formative part of his practice was his introduction of the Minimally Invasive Spine philosophy in the spine practice & decision making in Egypt. He is considered one of the leaders in the field of minimally invasive spinal procedures in the middle east. He is teaching his associates & trainees the philosophy, indications & techniques. In 2021, he established the first minimally invasive spine unite (Cairo University) in the Middle East. He is respected worldwide for his contributions to improving the treatment of patients with spinal disorders. He is an active member of many national and international professional organizations. A prolific researcher and author, Prof. Mohamed has published many articles and has edited two books.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Outerbridge, Geoffrey W
Institutional affiliations: Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, Canada; World Spine Care; University of Ottawa, Canada
Academic degrees: BSc, MSc, DC
City and country of primary residence: Ottawa, Canada
Countries of experience: Canada, Botswana, Dominican Republic, India, Ghana, Tanzania

Dr. Outerbridge received a B.Sc. in Human Kinetics and a M.Sc. in neuroscience from the University of Guelph. He began his career as the coordinator at General Motors for the Ontario Universities Back Pain Study, a research study examining the causes of back pain in industry. In 1996, he started an ergonomics consulting company to offer his knowledge and experience in a wide range of environments including mining, assembly line and office. Dr. Outerbridge attended the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College from which he graduated in 2001. From 2001 to 2011, Dr. Outerbridge owned a multidisciplinary clinic in Ottawa, which integrated Chiropractic, massage therapy, naturopathy, physiotherapy, and medicine. In 2009, Dr. Outerbridge became the clinical director of World Spine Care, an international non-profit organization bringing sustainable, inter-professional, evidence-based spine care to underserved regions around the world. In 2011 he sold his practice and moved his family to Mahalapye, Botswana to open the flagship WSC clinic. He has also developed and opened WSC clinics in India, the Dominican Republic, and Ghana. While Dr. Outerbridge continues as a board member and clinical team member of World Spine Care, he practices full time at Integrate Health Care Collective in Ottawa, Canada.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Ravindran, Sundari T.K.
Academic degrees: PhD
City and country of primary Residence: Trivandrum, India
Country(ies) of experience: Switzerland, South Africa, Sudan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia

I am a researcher and activist working on gender, health and rights issues. Sourcing, evaluating, and synthesising evidence on gender, women and health is one of my strengths. I was the principal consultant to put together a volume on ‘Women in south-east Asia: A health profile’ for (WHO-SEARO 2000), Gender, Women and Primary Health Care Renewal (WHO 2010) published in 2000, and ‘Women and Health: Today’s evidence-tomorrow’s agenda’ (WHO-WPRO, 2011). I work well in teams and have been part of many international projects. One
example of my work in a team is as a member of the manual development team of the training manual ‘Transforming health systems: Gender and rights in reproductive health’ (WHO 2001), and as editor of the manual. I have also worked on health equity issues and is the lead editor of a book ‘Inequities in health in India: A synthesis of recent evidence’ (Springer 2018). I also have a long track record of work with rural women and understanding of their health issues, as a founder-member of a rural Dalit women’s health organisation in 1981 in Tamil Nadu, India (Rural Women’s Social Education Centre – RUWSEC) with which I continue to be actively associated.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Reginster, Jean-Yves
Institutional affiliation(s): Division of Public Health, Epidemiology and Health Economics, University of Liège, Liège, Belgium; Chair for Biomarkers of Chronic Diseases, Biochemistry
Academic degrees: MD, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Clarens, Switzerland
Country(ies) of experience: Belgium, Switzerland, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United States, France

Professor of Epidemiology, Public Health and Health Economics and Professor of Bioethics and Societal Medicine at the University of Liège. Director of the Division of Public Health, Epidemiology and Health Economics at the University of Liège and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Aspects of Musculoskeletal Health and Aging. Author of more than 900 publications, (pathophysiology, epidemiology, health economics, clinical and translational aspects of osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, frailty and sarcopenia). President of the European Society for Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis (ESCEO), Co-Founder and Board member of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF). President of the IOF Committee of National Societies. He previously served as Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA. He was the Belgian alternate member for the Efficacy Working Party at the Committee for Human Proprietary Medicines (CHMP) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) where he acted as rapporteur/co-rapporteur for the guidelines for the registration of drugs to be used in the management of osteoporosis and osteoarthritis.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Rolland, Yves
Institutional affiliation(s): Gérontopôle de Toulouse/UMR 1027 - CHU Toulouse
Academic degrees: MD, PhD
City and country of primary residence: France
Country(ies) of experience: France

Yves Rolland has been a Professor of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics since 2007 at the Gérontopôle and the Department of Geriatrics and Internal Medicine at the Toulouse University Hospital (CHU-Toulouse). He is also a member of the UPS/Inserm UMR1027 research unit. Yves Rolland received the degree of Doctor of Rheumatology in 1998 and a PhD of Biology of Aging in 2005 (including a 1-year mobility period at the Wake Forest University and Saint Louis University (US). His main interests in both clinical research and care are the development of strategies to prevent function loss and quality of care in the long-term care facilities. His research and care initiatives have been supported by multiple national research
grants. The Gérontopôle, the unique center labeled by the French ministry of health in 2007 to promote research and innovation for older adults and recently appointed WHO Collaborative Center, and the unique center worldwide dedicated to Frailty, Geroscience, Clinical Research and Geriatric Training. He is the author/co-author of more than 250 publications in peer review journals and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Nursing Home Research, and member of editorial boards and reviewer for several journals.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Sabzwari, Saniya R.
Institutional affiliation(s): Aga Khan University hospital Karachi, Pakistan
Academic degrees: MD, FAAFP, MHPE, SFHEA
City and country of primary residence: Karachi, Pakistan
Country(ies) of experience: USA, Pakistan

Saniya R. Sabzwari is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Aga Khan University (AKU), Karachi. She obtained her undergraduate medical degree from the Aga Khan University in 1992 and completed her residency in Family Medicine from St. John Hospital and Medical Center Detroit, Michigan in 1997. She was granted Fellowship of the American Academy of Family Physicians in 2014, and completed her Masters in Health Professions’ Education in 2015 and became Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2021. Her areas of clinical interest include geriatrics, primary care and community mental health. She has established an undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum in geriatrics at the Aga Khan University and conducted several educational activities to enhance understanding of care of older adults for primary care providers, other medical specialties, nurses and pharmacists and general community across Pakistan including an online basic geriatric course for primary care providers. As an educationist she has experience in curriculum development and assessment, program evaluation and student/faculty engagement. Her research interest/output focuses on community geriatrics, mental health, medical education and primary care. Her most recent publication was on burden of musculoskeletal disease in community dwelling older adults in Pakistan.

Surname, First name(s) and initial: Sharma, Sakshi
Institutional Affiliation (s): Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS- An apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda.)
Academic degrees: BAMS, MD (Ayurveda)
City and country of Primary residence: New Delhi, India
Country (ies) of experience: India.

Dr. Sakshi Sharma is MD (Ayurveda) from Mumbai University having 22 Years of academic and research experience out of which 08 years in teaching as Assistant and Associate Professor and 12 years in area of Research specifically in Ayurveda. Dr. Sakshi Sharma has been working as a Research Officer (Ayurveda) in, CCRAS under Ministry of AYUSH. Dr. Sakshi initiated her academic career as Assistant Professor then promoted as Associate Professor in college of Ayurveda further she joined CCRAS in 2009 as Research Officer (Ayurveda) in its clinical unit CARI, New Delhi. Dr. Sharma focused on the patient treatment and re-evaluated several method of classical Ayurvedic treatment based on Panchkarma and treated number of patients.
of chronic ailments such as arthritis, sciatica, paralysis, cervical and lumbar spondylosis etc. She handled 15 research projects based on cervical spondylosis, hypertension, healthy ageing and on fundamental research i.e. Prakriti and health assessment scale and also involved in three collaborative project with Geriatric, Pharmacology and Surgery department of AIIMS, New Delhi. She was nominated among the 22 scientist from all over India for scientific visit to Japan by DST in 2012. She has 20 publications in national and international journal in her credential.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Steyn, Simone, S
Institutional affiliation(s) Samson Institute for Ageing Research (SIFAR)
Academic degrees: Masters in Public Health; PGDip- Interdisciplinary Pain Management; Honours in Psychology
City and country of primary residence: Cape Town, South Africa
Country(ies) of experience: South Africa

I have an interest in chronic pain psychology and wellbeing and the vital role that psychosocial aspects alongside biological factors play in the management of chronic pain. Psychosocial aspects cannot be ignored when developing a guide for chronic pain management. My Masters dissertation analysed the association between pain and poverty among older adults in four low-middle income communities in Cape Town. My Honours dissertation evaluated the wellbeing and life satisfaction among older adults living in a care facility. I have completed a PGDip in interdisciplinary pain management with Prof Romy Parker as my mentor with an emphasis on the psychosocial aspects on pain. I volunteered at the Groote Schuur Hospital Pain Clinic with the psychology department and I also received training in the running/facilitation of the Pain Empowerment Education Programme (PEEP). This is a 6-week educational group developed by Prof Parker and her team for the management of chronic pain. I have been working for SIFAR for approximately the last two years and have gained experience in the field of geriatric research. Additionally, I have my own private practice in chronic pain coaching and counselling, which I started in 2019 with an emphasis on managing pain, dealing with stressors and enhancing wellbeing.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Underwood, Martin
Institutional affiliation(s) Warwick Medical School
Academic degrees MB ChB, MSc, MD, FRCGP
City and country of primary residence: United Kingdom
Country(ies) of experience: United Kingdom, Zambia

I have worked as a general practitioner in Lusaka Zambia, and Manchester, London, and Coventry in the UK. I am now based in Warwick Clinical Trials Unit, Coventry UK, where I work on a portfolio of randomised controlled trials of interventions for musculoskeletal disorders. I have a long-standing research interest in the primary and community care management of low back pain. I have over 60 publications on low back pain including large randomised controlled trials of manual therapy, group exercise, and a cognitive behavioural approach. Current work includes a large randomised controlled trial of opioid withdrawal in people with chronic non-malignant pain (largely low back pain). I have published review articles on the use of different drug treatments for chronic non-malignant pain. I was a member of the steering group for the

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Wu, Darrong
Institutional affiliation(s): The Second Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, China
Academic degrees: MD, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Guangzhou, China
Country(ies) of experience: China, Canada

She is the professor of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), since Dec 2009 she serves as Director of the program for outcome assessment in TCM, at the 2nd Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine in Guangzhou, China. She is trained as traditional Chinese medical doctor and epidemiologist. She was part-time assistant professor of clinical epidemiology from Jan 2013 to June 2019, at the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence & Impact (formerly Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics) of McMaster University in Hamilton, ON, Canada.
She is the Chair of the evidence-based medicine committee of the Chinese Association of Integrative Medicine since Sep 2018, and a board of directors of the Pediatric Tuina committee of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies since June 2015. She was engaged as temporary adviser for four times by the World Health Organization in international conferences or training workshops from Dec 2013 to Sep 2019. In China, she awarded a National Key R&D Program in 2019 and was the principal or co-principal investigator of several projects funded by the Key Projects of the National Science and Technology Pillar Program, or the Science and Technology Planning Project.
Biographies for nominees of the External Review Group

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Al Hamad, Hanadi
Institutional affiliation(s): Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar
Academic degrees: MD, MSC in Health Care Management, FACP
City and country of primary residence: Qatar
Country(ies) of experience: Primarily Qatar

Dr. Hanadi Al Hamad is a Board-Certified Senior Consultant in Internal Medicine specialized in Geriatrics. Dr. Alhamad has worked in HMC in various roles; currently she is the Medical Director of Rumaillah and Qatar Rehabilitation Institute (QRI) and chair of geriatrics and long term care department and Medical director of Rumaillah hospital and Qatar Rehab Institute. As a senior Qatari physician and the Chairperson of the geriatrics department in Hamad Medical Corporation, she has played crucial role in establishing new and innovative services like memory clinic, Falls Clinic and Acute Care Unit in Qatar. As part of the National Health Strategy 2017-2022 of the Ministry of Public Health, she has been nominated to be the National Lead for the ‘Healthy Ageing’ priority area. In this capacity, she shall oversee the nation-wide efforts for improving the health of the above 65-year-old population. This project will have a huge impact on healthcare in Qatar, and over a time of five years, aims to promote active healthy ageing, and improved provision of healthcare services, including preventive, curative, and rehabilitative and end of life care services for the elderly. She is also a Clinical Associate Professor in College of Medicine at Qatar University and Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in Weill Cornell Medical College – Qatar.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Cooper, Cyrus
Institutional affiliation(s): MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK; NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre, University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton, UK; NHS Foundation Trust, Southampton, UK; NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.
Academic degrees: BA (Hons); MA; MBBS; MRCP (U.K.); DM; FRCP (U.K.); FMedSci; FFPH.
City and country of primary residence: Southampton, UK
Country(ies) of experience: Primarily: USA, UK

Cyrus Cooper is Professor of Rheumatology and Director of the MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit; Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Southampton; and Professor of Epidemiology at the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, University of Oxford.
He leads an internationally competitive programme of research into the epidemiology of musculoskeletal disorders, most notably osteoporosis.
He is President of the International Osteoporosis Foundation; Chair of the BHF Project Grants Committee; an emeritus NIHR Senior Investigator; and Associate Editor of Osteoporosis International. He has previously served as Chairman of the Scientific Advisors Committee, International Osteoporosis Foundation; Chairman, MRC Population Health Sciences Research Network; Chairman of the National Osteoporosis Society of Great Britain; past-President of the
Bone Research Society of Great Britain; and has worked on numerous Department of Health, European Community and World Health Organisation committees and working groups. He has published extensively (over 1200 research papers; h-index=213) on osteoporosis and rheumatic disorders and pioneered clinical studies on the developmental origins of peak bone mass. In 2015, he was awarded an OBE for services to medical research.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Côté, Pierre
Institutional affiliation(s): Faculty of Health Sciences, Ontario Tech University, Canada
Academic degrees: PhD
City and country of primary residence: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Country(ies) of experience: Canada

Pierre Côté is an epidemiologist and Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Ontario Tech University where he is the director of the Centre for the Study of Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation. He holds the Canada Research Chair in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation from the Government of Canada. He is appointed as Professor of Epidemiology at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Côté obtained his PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto in 2002. Professor Côté was a member of the scientific secretariat of the 2000-2010 Bone and Joint Task Force on Neck Pain and its Associated Disorders. More recently he developed evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the management of low back and neck pain for the Government of Ontario, Canada. Professor Côté was a member of the WHO Development Group for programs of rehabilitation for low back pain. He is currently the Chair of the Methodological Working group for Cochrane Rehabilitation.

His research focuses on the epidemiology of low back and neck pain. Côté has published more than 275 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals (Scopus h-index: 56) including studies of the burden of low back pain in low- and middle-income countries.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Coumé, Mamadou
Institutional affiliation(s): Faculty of Medicine of Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal; Head of Geriatric Service of National Teaching Hospital of FANN, Dakar Senegal
Academic degrees: PhD
City and country of primary residence: Dakar, Senegal
Country(ies) of experience: Senegal

After his doctorate in general medicine (1993) in Senegal he obtained his post graduate training in surgery (1997) in internal medicine (2002). He completed post graduate training in geriatrics in France (2004) in geriatrics and medical gerontology from the European Academy for Medicine of Ageing (EAMA Switzerland 2006). He obtains his Post Graduate Diploma (Diploma of Specialized Studies) in Geriatrics of Dakar in 2012. He was admitted as the first Lecturer in geriatrics of the African Malagasy Council for Higher Education in Yaoundé (Cameroun) in 2014. His publications deal mainly with cognitive impairment, de-nutrition, health care and social needs for the elderly. He is a member of the French Geriatric and Gerontology Society, the European Academy for Medicine of Ageing. Vice President of the African Academy for Geriatric Medicine. Key research interest: dementias, nutrition, health care systems improvement for the elderly.
Surname, first name(s) and initial: Foster, Helen E
Institutional affiliation(s)
  o Strategic Research Advisor, Newcastle University, UK November 2020 – current
  o Chair Paediatric Global Musculoskeletal Task Force 2017- current
  o Professor of Paediatric Rheumatology, Newcastle University, UK 2007-current
  o Honorary Consultant, Great North Children’s Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK 1995- current
Academic degrees: MBBS (Hons), MD, Diploma Child Health, FRCPCH, FRCP, Certificate Medical Education Newcastle University
City and country of primary residence: Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
Country(ies) of experience: UK, Malaysia and South East Asia

Helen Foster has worked as a National Health Service (NHS) consultant paediatric rheumatologist in the UK since 1995. In various national roles she led change in clinical care delivery and training across the UK, led NHS England Specialist Commissioning in paediatric rheumatology and led development of European Recommendations for Transitional care. She contributed to NICE guidance on biologics in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, NICE guidance with ‘Rightpath’ ([http://www.rightpath.solutions](http://www.rightpath.solutions)) as a validated community based model of musculoskeletal (MSK) triage in the community and has contributed to WHO guidance (Chronic pain 2020) and proposals to change the WHO Essentials Medicine List for Joint Diseases (2020). Her academic work to improve access to ‘right care’ focuses on working with stakeholders to address the challenges in an evidence based way. Key achievements include novel clinical tools embedded in clinical education and e-resources ([http://www.pmmonline.org](http://www.pmmonline.org)) targeting medical students, community care and general paediatricians around the world.

Helen worked at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia 2018-2020 and set up the Paediatric Global MSK Task Force with a ‘call to action’ to promote better MSK health for all children. She was appointed Strategic Research Advisor in 2020, focuses on advocacy and working with charities to lobby for change.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Gunderson, Janet, R
Institutional affiliation(s): The Arthritis Society, The Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance, SPOR Chronic Pain Network, The Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research, Cochrane Collaboration
Academic degrees: BEd
City and country of primary residence: Glaslyn, Saskatchewan, Canada
Country(ies) of experience: Canada

In 1998 I had slipped on ice and needed a laminectomy at L5/S1. The surgery did not heal properly and I was left with drop foot, I had to wear a custom leg brace for a year. I was left with some permanent damage in my left leg. I continue to have chronic back pain to this day. At that time, I was being investigated for an autoimmune disease. I was diagnosed with vasculitis in 1999. I ended up having to leave my job as an elementary teacher and went on permanent disability due to the vasculitis. Vasculitis is a rare autoimmune disease of the blood vessels. I have gone on to develop other autoimmune diseases.
I began volunteering for The Arthritis Society and The Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance. I eventually became involved in Patient-Oriented Research. I joined the SPOR Chronic Pain Network as well as The Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research. I am also a member of the SPOR Evidence Alliance. Since 2003, I have been a consumer collaborator with The Cochrane Collaboration. I review medical grants as a patient reviewer for several of these organizations.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Haldeman, Scott

Institutional affiliation(s)
President, World Spine Care, Santa Ana, California, USA
Clinical Professor, Department of Neurology, University of California, Irvine, USA.
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ontario Tech University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Academic degrees: B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., DC, MD, FRCP(C), FAAN

City and country of primary residence: Santa Ana, California, USA
Country(ies) of experience: USA, Canada, South Africa, Botswana, Dominican Republic, India

Past President of the North American Spine Society, the American Back Society, and the North American Academy of Manipulative Therapy. Appointed International Ambassador for the Decade of the Bone and Joint. Founder of World Spine Care, a non-profit organization with the goal of helping people in underserved regions of the world who suffer from spinal disorders. Chairman of the Global Spine Care Initiative to develop evidence-informed, practical, and sustainable, spine health care models for communities around the world. Served on the editorial boards of eight professional and scientific journals. Published over 240 articles or book chapters and authored or edited 8 textbooks including “Evidence-Based Management of Low Back Pain”. Certified by the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada and Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology. Served on the US department of Health AHCPR Clinical Guidelines Committee on Acute Low Back Problems in Adults and 4 other Clinical Guidelines Committees. Presided over The Bone and Joint Decade 2000 to 2010 Task Force on Neck Pain and Its Associated Disorders. Served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the US NIH National Center for Complimentary and Integrative Health.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Karppinen, Jaro

Institutional affiliation(s): Center for Life Course Health Research, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland; Rehabilitation Services of South Karelia Social and Health Care District, Lappeenranta, Finland; Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Oulu, Finland; Medical Research Center Oulu, Oulu University Hospital and University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland.

Academic degrees Professor of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

City and country of primary residence: Oulu, Finland

Country(ies) of experience: Finland

Jaro Karppinen, MD, is a specialist of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (PRM). Professorship of PRM at the University of Oulu has lasted 14 years. He has started as Director of Rehabilitation Services of South Karelia Social and Health Care District one year ago. He has also an academic degree in Biochemistry. Prof. Karppinen has been an investigator in many
clinical studies related to low back pain (LBP) and other musculoskeletal disorders. His current research interests focus on environmental, metabolic and genetic risk factors of various spinal health problems, and on implementation of evidence-based treatment pathways to primary health care for patients with LBP. Latest field of interest in research is artificial intelligence-based evaluation of lumbar imaging. He has published 248 peer-reviewed scientific publications in international journals (Scopus H-index 54). He is a member of the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine and AOSpine Research Network. He was invited as a Member of the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine in 2012. He is the Co-director of the International Spine and Pain Consortium (http://www.spine-consortium.org/) and Honorary Professor at the University of Hong Kong.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Koes, Bart W
Institutional affiliation(s): Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; University of Southern Denmark. Odense, Denmark
Academic degrees: MSc, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Country(ies) of experience: The Netherlands, Denmark

Prof Bart Koes is Professor of General Practice at the Department of General Practice, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He has been the research director at the same department since 1999 leading a group of about 40 researchers in primary care research focusing on areas such as back pain, osteoarthritis and paediatric conditions. Since April 2018 he has a part-time position as Professor of Musculoskeletal Disorders in Primary Care at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark. Prof Koes has been an active researcher in the field of musculoskeletal disorders for about 30 years. His focus was mainly on clinical research questions with high relevance for patients and clinicians. He is a strong promoter of the principles of evidence based medicine and initiated and supervised large scale randomised clinical trials, cohort studies, systematic reviews and meta-analyses as well as clinical guidelines in the field of musculoskeletal disorders.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: McLachlan, Andrew J
Institutional affiliation(s): Sydney Pharmacy School, The University of Sydney, Australia
Academic degrees: BPharm(Hons), PhD
City and country of primary residence: Sydney, Australia
Country(ies) of experience: Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom

Andrew McLachlan is a pharmacist and researcher with experience in the quality use of medicines especially related to musculoskeletal pain and older people. Andrew has been involved in evidence generation through large scale clinical trials (especially in the area of low back pain), evidence synthesis in systematic reviews and guideline development related to medicines and older people. His research has been published in leading medical, pain and pharmacology journals (with over 300 international peer review publications) supported by competitive research funding. Andrew has served on different human research ethics committees for the past 15 year and currently serves on Australian government expert committees related to medicines policy, regulation and safety as well as medical review grant review panels. He is a current member of the WADA Health and Medical Research Committee.
related to international antidoping. Andrew is proud to have mentored and supervised 25 early career researchers during their research training.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Menezes Costa, Lucíola da Cunha
Institutional affiliation(s): Masters and Doctoral Programs in Physical Therapy, Universidade Cidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Academic degrees: PhD (University of Sydney), Honours degree in Physiotherapy (The Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais)
City and country of primary residence: Atibaia, São Paulo
Country(ies) of experience: Brazil and Australia

Lucíola Menezes Costa is a Brazilian physiotherapist with a PhD from the University of Sydney – Australia. She is an Associate Professor of the Masters and Doctoral Programs in Physical Therapy at Universidade Cidade de São Paulo – Brazil. She is also a former associate editor of Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy and is an associate editor of the Brazilian Journal of Physical Therapy. Most of Lucíola’s research is conducted in primary care. She has completed clinical trials, prognostic studies and systematic reviews in the low back pain field. Lucíola has 75 articles published in international peer-reviewed journals, including publications in the Lancet, BMJ and in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. She has received research funding from the main Brazilian Funding Agencies and she holds as honorary CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) Fellowship. Her research interests involve studies on the prognosis of low back pain, studies related to non-pharmacological interventions for patients with back pain and research methodology in general. Lucíola has extensive experience in running evidence-based practice courses and workshops in Brazil.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Nagendra, Hongasandra Rama Rao
Institutional affiliation(s): Chairman, IUC-YS, Inter-University Center of Yoga Sciences, MHRD, Govt of India; Secretary-General, International Yogasana Sports Federation, New Delhi, India; Chancellor, S- Vyasa deemed to be university, Bengaluru, India; Chairman, VAYU, Vivekananda Yoga University, Los Angeles, USA; President, Vyasa, Bengaluru, India; Chairman, Yoga Certification Board, Ministry of AYUSH, New Delhi, India; Chairman, Yoga and naturopathy development committee, New Delhi; India’ Chairman of SAC of CCAY, Ministry of AYUSH, New Delhi; India; Chairman, National Committee of for the development of Yoga Courses, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, New Delhi; India; Member, General Assembly of ICCR, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, India; Expert, Development of benchmarks for training in Yoga’ WHO, Geneva, Switzerland.
Academic degrees: ME, PhD (Mech. Eng.)
City and country of primary residence: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
Country(ies) of experience: India, USA.

Dr. H R Nagendra born on Jan 1, 1943 completed PhD in Mechanical Engineering in 1968 from IISc, Bangalore. After serving for a short stint as a faculty at IISc, joined University of British
Columbia as Post-Doctoral Research Fellow. Moved to NASA Marshall Space Flight Centre as Post-Doctoral Research Associate, and to Imperial College of Science and Technology, as a Consultant in 1972 and Visiting Staff.

Joined Vivekananda Kendra during 1975 as a whole-time Honorary Director of Training and served as all India of Yoga and later as Vice president. Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari. From 1986 to 2000, he was the Secretary of Vivekananda Kendra Yoga Research Foundation, Bangalore and the Director of Indian Yoga Institute. From 2000 till date, he is the President of Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samasthana. Served as Vice Chancellor of S-VYASA (Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samasthana), the premier Yoga University from 2002 to 2013, and currently serving as Chancellor from 2013.

Published 30 Research Papers in Engineering and authored 150 papers on Yoga and co-authored 35 books on Yoga. Guided and co-guided nearly 50 PhD students. Coveted with innumerable number of national and international awards, citations in recognition of the extemporary contribution in the field of Yoga. During 2016 Government of India honoured him with Padmashree Award.

Recently recognized by Stanford University under Complimentary & Alternative Medicine ranked at 158th world ranking of top 2% Indian scientists.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Okada, Seiji
Institutional affiliation(s): Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan
Academic degrees: MD, PhD, Full Professor
City and country of primary residence: Osaka, Japan
Country(ies) of experience: Japan

Dr Seiji Okada is a professor and chairman at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Osaka University. He graduated from the medical school of Kyushu University (Fukuoka, Japan) in 1999 and worked at the Spinal Injuries Center as a clinical fellow for 3 years. After completed his PhD thesis on spinal cord regeneration in Keio University (Tokyo, Japan) at 2006, he became a principal investigator in Kyushu University and focused on basic research in spine and spinal cord diseases. He worked at Kyushu University hospital as an attending spine surgeon from 2011 to 2020. He specializes in spine and spinal cord surgery as well as stem cell biology, especially regenerative medicine for spinal cord injury. He has published more than 120 peer-reviewed journal articles, cited more than 4300 times.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Puljak, Livia
Institutional affiliation(s): Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia (current), University of Split School of Medicine, Split, Croatia (2006-2018)
Academic degrees: MD, PhD, Full Professor
City and country of primary residence: Zagreb, Croatia
Country(ies) of experience: Croatia, The Netherlands, USA, Canada

Livia Puljak is a full professor at the Catholic University of Croatia and Head of its Center for Evidence-Based Medicine and Health Care. She holds MD and PhD degrees from the University of Split School of Medicine. Her research interests are evidence-based medicine, research methodology, clinical epidemiology, and pain. Published more than 200 manuscripts;
mentored more than 50 defended diploma, MSc, and PhD theses; peer reviewer for more than 100 scholarly journals and multiple funding agencies.

Prof. Puljak was the founder and inaugural director of Cochrane Croatia. In 2017, she received Chris Silagy Prize for the extraordinary contribution to Cochrane, and in 2020 the Bill Silverman Prize for the best research criticizing Cochrane. She is actively promoting evidence-based medicine concepts to healthcare professionals and lay audiences.

Her experience related to the guideline under development includes expertise in conducting various types of research on pain – preclinical, translational and clinical, including large European projects on low back pain; proficiency in Cochrane and non-Cochrane reviews, and other types of evidence syntheses; multiple lines of methodological research on healthcare evidence, including assessment of certainty and methods that enable making decisions from evidence when making recommendations in guidelines. Works on improving the communication of evidence.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Speerin, Robyn
Institutional affiliation(s): 
Academic degrees: Master of Nursing; Master of Nursing (Hons)
City and country of primary residence: Sydney, Australia
Country(ies) of experience: Australia

Robyn Speerin is a registered nurse with many decades experience of working in and supporting healthcare in New South Wales (NSW), Australia. Most of this experience has focussed on the needs of people with chronic conditions. The past 13 years her work has centred on people living with musculoskeletal conditions including low back pain. This work has seen Robyn as a lead in NSW Australia, along with colleagues from the disciplines of medicine, nursing, and allied health, and consumer representatives; to make sure the development, implementation, and evaluation of models of care are evidence-informed but delivered in consideration of the resources and local geography of the various areas of our jurisdiction.

In recent years, her research agenda has focussed on qualitative studies with people who live with back pain and other musculoskeletal conditions; to gain their perceptions of what is required in a model of care that would enhance their ability to self-manage their pain and disability. Her current inquiries have centred on healthcare for people with vertebral fragility fractures.

Since 2018 Robyn has provided pro bono support of a variety of international and local state-based musculoskeletal initiatives that aim to deliver better healthcare for people with these chronic conditions.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Vogel, Steven
Institutional affiliation(s): University College of Osteopathy, United Kingdom
Academic degrees: DO(Hons)
City and country of primary residence: London, United Kingdom
Country(ies) of experience: Primarily United Kingdom, some experience of France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal
Steven Vogel is Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University College of Osteopathy in London. He practiced as an osteopath in the UK National Health Service in primary care for over 20 years and now sees some private patients alongside working in research, educational and clinical management. His main research interests focus on back pain, clinicians’ beliefs and attitudes and more recently, reassurance, communication, consent, psychologically informed practice, safety and manual therapy. As an educator, Steven has supervised doctoral students and is a member of the Eurospine EDisc faculty delivering evidence based back pain education to multi-professional groups.

Steven has been a member of the Guideline Development Group for two National Institute for Health and Clinical Care Excellence clinical guidelines on back pain and a member of the team for the National Clinical Pathway for Back Pain in the UK. Currently, Steven is a member of The International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists’ team who developed an international framework for assessing the neck and Steven has recently contributed to a primary care framework for cauda equina syndrome.

He is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine and promotes research, professional knowledge dissemination and evidence informed practice.

2 Disclaimer

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