GRANTS

To participate in today's challenging healthcare environment, ongoing research is necessary to demonstrate the effectiveness, safety and cost efficiency of chiropractic and alternative healthcare. Therefore, the NCMIC Foundation supports research projects that will have a direct impact on these various components of daily practice. Outlined below are samples of projects funded by the NCMIC Foundation that have been recently completed, as well as samples of projects that are currently in progress.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project Title	Purpose
Dartmouth College Medicare Demonstration Project. The Demonstration of Expanded Coverage of Chiropractic Services under Medicare	"The Demonstration Project" was established to assess the direct and indirect costs associated with expanded coverage of chiropractic services under Medicare at demonstration sites with the intent to use those findings to model the expansion of chiropractic nationally. The findings from The Demonstration Project estimated that the national expansion of chiropractic care services would cost Medicare between $582 million and $1.15 billion annually. But because of the variation in costs found across the demonstration areas, concerns were raised that some of the demonstration counties might not have been representative of the nation as a whole and might have unduly and negatively influenced the project results.
North Carolina State Employers Health Plan Comparative Provider Study	This has been a retrospective closed-claim analysis of the State Employers Health Plan in North Carolina covering 664,000 state employees, dependents and retirees from 2000-2009. Assessment of utilization and costs of care patterns for low back pain, neck pain and headaches comparing medical care, chiropractic care and physical therapy care. The results found patterns of care not utilizing referral patterns were the least expensive with "chiropractic only" care being one of the least expensive.
Chiropractic 2025: Divergent Futures	This study conducted by the Institute for Alternative Futures focused on working with more than 60 leading and innovative chiropractic practitioners, educators, and researchers, as well as other experts to develop four scenarios regarding the future of chiropractic in 2025. The goal for the study was to provide clinicians, education institutions, accrediting agencies, licensing boards, professional associations, researchers, and others a preview of expectable, challenging and visionary futures for chiropractic in the U.S. so that they can use these to test their positions in their future-oriented strategies. The formal report, as well as slides for use in a strategy workshop, can be found on the Institute for Alternative Future's website at www.altfutures.org/chiropracticfutures.
Changes In Vertebral Artery Blood Flow Following Various Head Positions And Cervical Spine Manipulation	This study investigated the cerebrovascular hemodynamic response of cervical spine positions including rotation and cervical spine manipulation in vivo using MRI technology on the vertebral artery. No significant changes in blood flow or velocity in the vertebral arteries of healthy young male adults after various head positions and cervical spine manipulations were found.
The Bone and Joint Decade, Neck Pain Task Force Project	Under the World Health Organization, this project has provided extensive evidence to inform clinical practice for management of neck pain and has noted where more research is needed. Completed in 2008, the results were published in 3 peer-reviewed journals, *Spine, European Spine Journal*, and the *JMPT*. A Best Evidence Synthesis on Neck Pain: Findings from the Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 Task Force on Neck Pain and its Associated Disorders Scott Haldeman, Linda J. Carroll, J. David Cassidy and the Scientific Secretariat, Bone and Joint Decade. Published in: *Spine* volume 33, Number 4S, A 220 Page Supplement to February 15, 2008, *Spine* Undoubtedly, the issue of cerebrovascular accidents has been one in which the media, rather than the scientific community, has created significant concern. The results from this project, clearly demonstrated in the Risk of Vetebrobasilar Stroke and Chiropractic Care: Results of a Population-based Case-Control and Case-Crossover Study, (J. David Cassidy et, at.), estimated the association between chiropractic visits, primary care physician visits and vertebrobasilar artery (VBA) stroke. The authors concluded that "... increased risks fo VBA stroke associated with chiropractic ... is likely due to patients with headache and neck pain from VBA dissection seeking care before their stroke. We found no evidence to excess risk of VA stroke associated chiropractic care compared to primary care."