

DR DAVE RUSSELL



Dr Dave Russell in full flight, ASRF Gathering 2019

‘RUSSELL, Dr David Garrett. Dave, you are already so sadly missed.’

One paper the editors of a journal always hope they never write while knowing they must, is the tribute to the life of a dear colleague. It is harder when it is for a member of the *Journal's* family; for Dr Dave Russell had accepted the assignment to serve as this *Journal's* Section Editor - Research. We deliberately sought Dave because he was a *‘one-of-a-kind’* chiropractic academic, that very rare breed who actually wrote papers and published.

We knew he was yet to commence his PhD and we deemed that to be a trivial detail given he has already published more papers than most chiropractic academics within the chiropractic education environment. To our eyes his 25 or so papers showed his commitment to helping others write and we see this as the measure of the man. He takes first authorship on less than a third of his papers that were indexed at the time of his passing, indicating his mentorship of others to publish.

However he remained modest and considered he simply moved forward by trying to do the best for his profession. We spoke of the time he travelled overseas to present his work at a fund-

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raising function and while offered a Business Class airfare which was totally appropriate for the 20 hours or so of flying it would take to get to the destination, plus the same to return, he declined. As he also declined any suggestion of a speaker's fee. He said he felt it '*kind of defeated the purpose*' of the meeting which was, as noted, to raise funds for a chiropractic cause he believed in.

He declined the attempts of Prof Ebrall to recruit him for the new chiropractic program with CQUniversity, however Dr Ross McDonald won him over for *Scotland Chiropractic College*. Please see [here](#); Ross speaks to this below.

It is appropriate to cite how Dave saw himself, and this par is taken from his profile in [Researchgate](#), a kind of FaceBook for nerdy academics:

"I am a chiropractor, a curious clinician, in private practice with an interest in the assessment of vertebral subluxation, and how the reduction of vertebral subluxation may impact on human function and quality of life. My investigations and publication interests to date includes individual clinical case reports and series, clinical chiropractic assessment, and population studies."

Vale Dr Dave, friend, colleague, teacher, chiropractor; a curious clinician indeed.

Dr Hayden Thomas, President, New Zealand Chiropractors' Association

Dr Russell was a graduate of the New Zealand College of Chiropractic from its early days. He was extremely passionate about chiropractic and devoted much time, energy and love to the profession. He held the principles of chiropractic dear and has helped shape the direction and history of the profession.

He was actively involved in many organisations including the NZCA, The Hamblin Trust, The NZCC (as Clinic Director for eight years), The ASRF, The IFCO, and The Scotland College of Chiropractic to name a few. He was known worldwide for his generous nature, his contributions to research and as a staunch supporter of vitalistic chiropractic. He inspired many students to be the wonderful chiropractors they are today and was a true friend to many of our members.

Our hearts go out to Tanja, and their children Saskia, Oliver and Zara.

His contribution, commitment, larger than life personality and hearty laugh will be sorely missed by the profession here and all around the world.



Dr Pat Patrick Sim, President, Australian Chiropractic College

In practice on a February Wednesday afternoon in 2019, I received a weighty delivery in the post. I enjoy surprise deliveries immensely and so was quite excited to see what this package could be. Eagerly I cut the packaging open to find a copy of Simon Senzon's '*The Green Books*' enclosed. Now, I am a believer in always writing a note inside the cover a book you are gifting to someone. It provides context to the gift as well as marking the gift temporally and imparts a small amount of the giver's essence into the book, almost like adding a few of your own words to the text. So, of course, I thumbed through the first few pages to see if this book contained a note. Of course it did. And of course it was from Dave. It said, '*Dear Pat, Congratulations on gaining TEQSA approval! Love Dave.*'

The point of this is not the message in the book, it is the fact that I say '*of course*', because this was not the first gift Dave had sent to me. He had previously sent CD's, text books, philosophy books, and other chiropractic references to me for the ACC in the hopes that Australian students may one day experience the wisdom contained in them, such was his generosity. And then there were other little gifts like the phone calls, usually brief, just to see how things were going, or to offer his advice or help, such was his caring nature and the love he had for his friends. Dave came to Adelaide a few weeks ago to tour the ACC campus to gain some insight for his efforts in Scotland. He flew in from Auckland and stayed only 3 hours before getting back on a plane home, such was his devotion to chiropractic.

Dave was always just there.

But now he is gone.

And whilst he is still with us in spirit I will not sit in another seminar, nor walk through Melbourne rain searching for a karaoke bar with him again. Each memory is a vignette. Each vignette another Dave gift. Just as his life was.

Dave, you are loved and missed.



Dr Ross McDonald, Chair, Scotland College of Chiropractic Trust

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Scotland College of Chiropractic Charitable Trust (SCCCT) I write with great sadness to acknowledge the passing of our dear friend and fellow board member Dr David Garrett Russell.

Dave was a Founding Trustee of the SCCCT and was a key member of the Board. He was the Vice-Chairman but his tireless efforts went much further and the value of his input cannot be overestimated. With his unique blend of practice experience, research knowledge and understanding of the principles of Chiropractic, it was through his efforts and enthusiasm that many academic and practical hurdles were overcome and strong foundations established for the Edinburgh program. Because of his academic achievements, his love and knowledge of chiropractic and his unswerving integrity, he was our logical and unanimous choice from an outstanding field of candidates to be the first President of the Scotland College of Chiropractic in 2021. As Dave said '*Chiropractic is beautiful! The bigger picture things that I'm involved with are to ensure the longevity of the profession and the principles of the profession, respect within that profession and choice for humanity.*'

We were excited to see where his leadership would have taken the Scotland College of Chiropractic in the next few years.

The chiropractic profession and the Scotland College was enriched by his many contributions. We will miss his wisdom, his diligence, his commitment to chiropractic, his sense of humour and his absolutely distinctive laugh.

As a Board we send our sincere condolences to his family in New Zealand and Australia and to all those who knew and loved him. This is a most untimely shock and a great loss.



Dr Craig Foote, Chair, Australian Spinal Research Foundation

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Australian Spinal Research Foundation, it is with great sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of our past Board member and friend, Dr. David Garrett Russell.

Dave served on the Board between 2014-2017, following many years of volunteering in different aspects of the Foundation. He had a unique skill set - he understood chiropractic principles, the scientific landscape and the research that was required to investigate Subluxation. He also easily built meaningful relationships in a professional capacity. All of these qualities combined to see Dave's achievements and abilities recognised across the world.

He played a critical part in the development and evolution of our two-panel review for Research Expressions of Interest. Being politically aware and always looking to the future, he was one of the Executive who steered the Foundation towards the development of our acclaimed Research Agenda. He continued to support the Foundation, through his ongoing roles in both the Research Agenda Working Committee and Research Committee.

Dave worked tirelessly in representing the Foundation at events in speaking capacities, whether it be fundraising or attracting supporters. Dave last year presented at The Gathering in Melbourne on *'Vertebral Subluxation in Contemporary Practice.'* We were lucky enough to capture this presentation on video and this is now available to access for our current financial Members.

Dave was often the conduit between ASRF and the Hamlin Trust (The NZ Research Fund) in co-funding studies, and also a key person in the development of relations between the UCA and ASRF. In fact, he was pivotal in the Foundation reviewing research (out of cycle) for the Board of the UCA, in their decision to fund the study *'Investigating the Effects of Chiropractic Spinal Manipulation on EEG in Stroke Patients.'* (Soon to be published)

Dave loved to teach, and this became very evident during his time at NZCC. In recent years he had stepped up and was a founding Member of the Board of Trustees of the Scotland College of Chiropractic Charitable Trust (SCCCT). He was positioned to become the first President of the Scotland College of Chiropractic in 2021.

Dave was a prolific researcher with many publications to his name. He was always saying that *'If all chiropractors did just one case study in their career, it would help guide the bigger research projects.'* I for one will be endeavouring to do just that.

There are so many other facets of Dave that we will miss - too many to list here. He was a big presence in Chiropractic and a big presence in life. Dave's gift to us all is the wonderful memories, incredible research, and special relationships he developed. The Foundation, and myself personally, greatly mourn his passing.

Our sincere thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to his family, his children and close friends and colleagues.



'Funeral for a friend': Hayden Thomas

It is my honour as President of the New Zealand Chiropractors' Association to offer some words of tribute to our colleague Dr David Russell on behalf of the entire profession.

Dave was also one of my best mates. I first met him at chiropractic college 25 years ago and our friendship and brotherly love grew from there.

My first memory of him - tall, lanky, cowboy boots, long hair, that bum chin, and large thick glasses. The confident and brash Australian that you couldn't help but laugh with, and at. We all know someone who's laugh is funnier than the joke. Dave was that person.

As well as his infectious laugh, he was always the life of the party and he taught me how to party well. I can remember Dave in drag, Dave with a wig, rockstar Dave, Dave at the raves. So many fun times.

Yes, he was loud, he was passionate to the point of being opinionated, he was Australian - but I loved him. So many, many people loved him.

He was practically blind without his glasses, but he had an incredible vision for the world to be a better place, and I share that with him. I promise to honour his memory and continue the legacy he leaves the profession.

He has been an inspiration to me and a generation of students. One of his treasured Green books by BJ Palmer is entitled '*The Bigness of the Fellow Within*' ... Dave was that fellow. So much heart, so much to give, so vitalistic, so big within.

He was generous of spirit and with his time. I will remember his passion and devotion. His love of research and the principles of chiropractic. His contributions to the literature, to the College, to the Association, and to the wider chiropractic profession around the globe.

There was also Dave with the beard, D-Russ the DJ and the street artist. I will fondly remember the love we both shared for art and design, for music, and for subversion.

Dave mate, you were a legend.

I can't imagine what pain must have been inside you. I wish I could have lightened that load more and helped make it bearable. Dave, you helped me through hard times in my life and were always there for me. A true friend.

To Tanja and Dave's family - I share your hurt and your loss. I can't express my sadness enough.

To Sassy, Oli, and little Zara - you are part of my family. Hayley and I will be there for you whenever you feel you need us, in any way we can. It's the least we can do for our treasured friend.

Dave, we will miss you but you live on ...

[Post a tribute here](#)

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Dr Dave Russell
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