



Prof Chris G Maher PhD FACP

The George Institute for Global Health,
The University of Sydney
Australia
cmaher@george.org.au

Chris Maher graduated as a physiotherapist in 1982. Chris is a fellow of the Australian College of Physiotherapy and has degrees in physiotherapy, manipulative physiotherapy and exercise science. In the first part of his career, he worked as a clinical physiotherapist in primary care and hospital settings in Australia and the United Kingdom. Subsequently, he has worked in academic and research settings.

Chris is currently Professor of Physiotherapy in Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney and Director of the Musculoskeletal Division at The George Institute for Global Health. He leads a research division focusing on the management of musculoskeletal conditions in primary care and community settings. Prof Maher's research evaluates the primary care management of back pain and he holds an honorary NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship and an ARC Future Fellowship.

Most of Chris's research is conducted in primary care. He has completed clinical trials, diagnostic studies, prognostic studies and risk studies. A good example of a clinical trial is the PACE trial which evaluated the efficacy of different dosing regimens for paracetamol in 1650 patients with acute low back pain. In the TRIGGERS study he used a case-crossover design to investigate risk associated with transient exposure to a range of physical and psychosocial factors in 999 subjects with a new episode of low back pain.

Over the last 15 years he has worked with colleagues to develop and maintain the Physiotherapy Evidence Database or [PEDro](#), the world's most comprehensive database of physiotherapy research (26,000 records, >2million searches in 2013, sponsorship from 42 national physiotherapy associations). He also led the recent development of 'Back Pain Choices' with NPSMedicineWise which is an online decision support tool for GPs managing back pain.

With colleagues, Chris has completed systematic reviews of therapy, economic evaluations, diagnosis and prognosis. He has been an Associate Editorial Board member, Cochrane Back Review Group since 2007, and joined the Editorial Board in 2014.