

**CANDIDATE PROFILE****Paul Hodges, Australia**

Physiotherapy, Neuroscience, Basic and Clinical
Researcher

Please provide a brief description of your work and interest in the pain field.

My career has been dedicated to understanding pain mechanisms and improving outcomes for people living with pain through research, education, and translation. As a researcher and physiotherapist, I have led an interdisciplinary program spanning basic science, clinical research, and implementation, with a particular focus on musculoskeletal pain, motor control, pain mechanisms, and the development of more precise approaches to pain assessment and management.

A major theme of my work has been bridging gaps between disciplines and between discovery and practice. This has included studies of the biological and neurophysiological mechanisms underlying pain, clinical trials of interventions for pain and disability, and international collaborative efforts to improve pain classification and assessment. I have a strong interest in advancing precision approaches to pain care, including the identification of pain phenotypes and mechanisms that can guide research, clinical decision-making, and treatment development.

Beyond my own research, I am committed to strengthening the global pain community through collaboration, mentorship, and service. I have contributed to several international initiatives and IASP activities, including leadership of the Terminology Task Force that brings together diverse perspectives to address important challenges in pain science and practice as well as contribution to various committees/special interest groups. I am particularly motivated by opportunities to foster collaboration across disciplines, career stages, and regions of the world.

My enduring interest is in ensuring that advances in pain science lead to meaningful improvements in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life for people affected by pain worldwide.

Please provide a brief statement of why you are interested in running for Councilor—why would someone want to vote for you?

I am seeking election as an IASP Councilor to help advance IASP's mission through strategic leadership, collaboration, and innovation. My experience spans basic science, clinical research, implementation, and international consensus-building, providing a broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing the pain field. I have a strong record of bringing diverse stakeholders together to address complex problems and translate knowledge into impact. I would contribute an inclusive, global outlook, a commitment to scientific excellence, and a passion for strengthening the connections between discovery, clinical care, education, and policy to improve the lives of people affected by pain.

Collaborative Leadership and Teamwork: Collaboration is key to the success of IASP's initiatives and programs. Can you share examples of your experience working collaboratively within diverse teams or committees to achieve common goals? How do you plan to foster collaboration among Council members and committees to drive impactful outcomes?

Collaboration has been central to my career. Much of my work has involved bringing together researchers, clinicians, consumers, and policymakers from diverse disciplines, sectors, and countries to address complex challenges in pain research and care. Through leadership roles in international working groups, consensus

initiatives, and multidisciplinary research collaborations, I have learned the importance of creating environments where diverse perspectives are valued and where disagreement can be used constructively to strengthen outcomes.

A key example is my leadership of international initiatives within IASP that have brought together experts with differing viewpoints to develop shared frameworks and recommendations for the pain field (e.g., Terminology Task Force projects). These experiences required balancing scientific rigor with inclusivity, building consensus around challenging issues, and maintaining focus on common goals while respecting diverse perspectives.

As Director of a multidisciplinary pain research centre, I work with investigators spanning basic science, clinical research, implementation science, and industry and community partners. Developing shared priorities, fostering trust, and creating opportunities for meaningful contribution from all members have been critical to achieving collective success.

If elected to Council, I would seek to foster collaboration by encouraging open communication, active engagement across committees, and connections between IASP's scientific, educational, and advocacy activities. I believe Council is most effective when it leverages the diversity of expertise, geography, and lived experience within the Association. My approach is to listen carefully, build consensus where possible, and help create conditions for productive collaboration that advances IASP's mission and maximizes its impact for the global pain community.

Experience in Financial Oversight and Governance: The Council plays a crucial role in overseeing the financial management and governance of IASP. Can you describe your experience in financial oversight and governance, particularly in reviewing budgets, financial reports, and implementing financial policies? How will you contribute to ensuring the fiscal health and accountability of the association?

Throughout my career, I have held leadership roles that required oversight of substantial research funding, strategic resource allocation, and governance responsibilities. As a research leader and Director of a multidisciplinary pain research centre, I have been responsible for developing budgets, monitoring expenditure, reviewing financial performance, and ensuring resources are aligned with strategic priorities and deliver meaningful impact. My current grants as chief investigator total \$US20million. I have been president/executive committee member of international societies and chaired major international conferences to achieve financial success.

My governance experience extends beyond financial management to participation in committees responsible for setting priorities, reviewing performance, and ensuring accountability to stakeholders. These roles have reinforced the importance of transparency, evidence-informed decision-making, prudent stewardship of resources, and balancing short-term needs with long-term strategic goals.

I recognize that effective governance is not solely about financial oversight but also about ensuring that resources are used in ways that maximize value for members and advance the mission of the organization. Strong governance requires careful review of information, thoughtful consideration of risks/opportunities, and a commitment to accountability.

As a Councilor, I would contribute a strategic and evidence-based approach to financial oversight. I would work collaboratively with Council, committees, and staff to ensure that IASP's resources are managed responsibly, investments align with organizational priorities, and decisions support the long-term sustainability and impact of the Association. My goal would be to help ensure that IASP remains financially strong, accountable to its members, and well-positioned to advance pain research, education, and care globally.

Global Engagement and Representation: Pain is a universal experience, and IASP's reach extends across diverse regions and communities worldwide. As a Councilor, how do you plan to engage with and represent the interests of the global pain community as a Councilor, ensuring inclusivity, diversity, and responsiveness to the needs of various stakeholders?

IASP's strength lies in its global community and the diversity of perspectives, experiences, and expertise that it brings together. As a Councilor, I would be committed to listening to and engaging with members across regions, disciplines, career stages, and sectors to ensure that Council decisions reflect the breadth of the pain community.

My career has been shaped by international collaborations spanning basic science, clinical research, education, and implementation. These experiences have reinforced the importance of understanding local contexts, valuing diverse viewpoints, and recognizing that solutions that work in one setting may not translate directly to another. Effective representation requires active engagement, openness to different perspectives, and a commitment to ensuring all voices have opportunities to contribute.

I am particularly passionate about strengthening connections across disciplines, supporting early- and mid-career researchers and clinicians, and fostering collaboration between researchers, healthcare professionals, people with lived experience, and policymakers. I believe these partnerships are essential for advancing pain science and improving care globally.

If elected, I would work to promote inclusive participation in IASP activities, encourage dialogue across regions and communities, and support initiatives that build capacity and opportunity throughout the global pain community. My goal would be to help ensure that IASP remains a welcoming, responsive, and influential organization that serves and represents the diverse needs of its members while advancing its mission to improve the lives of people affected by pain worldwide.

IASP Involvement

- IASP member since 2005
- Member, IASP Fellowships, Grants and Awards Working Group (2020–present)
- Chair, IASP Terminology Task Force
 - Leading international project to develop clinical criteria for nociceptive pain
 - Leading international project to develop criteria for identification of pain descriptors in clinical practice
- Active contributor to multiple IASP Special Interest Groups

PAUL W. HODGES, PhD, MedDr, DSc, Drhc, FAA, FAHMS, FQA, FACP, FISEK

Professor Paul Hodges is an internationally recognised pain scientist and research leader with extensive experience in governance, strategic planning, international consensus building, and translation of pain research from discovery to implementation.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Paul is an internationally recognised pain scientist, physiotherapist, and research leader whose work spans basic science, clinical research, implementation, and international consensus development. He is Director of the Centre for Innovation in Pain and Health Research (CIPHeR) at The University of Queensland and Director of the NHMRC DISCERN Synergy Program. His research has focused on mechanisms of pain, musculoskeletal pain, motor control, and development of precision approaches to pain assessment and management.

His leadership experience includes directing major international research collaborations, leading multidisciplinary centres and programs, chairing international task forces and consensus initiatives, overseeing substantial research portfolios, and contributing to governance and strategic planning within scientific societies, universities, and funding agencies.

Paul's work has made major contributions to translation from basic science to clinical research, and clinical research to practice. His basic research has led to a new way of understanding movement adaptation in pain. This new knowledge has debunked existing dogma and driven enquiry within and beyond the field in 27 subject areas and 110 countries (88% international citing authors). Paul's research has challenged the focus on ineffective "passive" treatments for symptomatic relief of musculoskeletal pain. His program of work led to the development of effective new back pain treatments (motor control exercise) that has been evaluated in >261 clinical trials in 22 countries and included in 33 systematic reviews. The paradigm shifting exercise approach was a major contributor to the field's change to active management, adopted worldwide in musculoskeletal guidelines used by physiotherapists, doctors and other disciplines (chiropractic, exercise science, etc). The approach has been translated to effective treatments for other conditions. Of his papers, 27 are cited 156 times in 79 patents. His discoveries led to a new ICD code for LBP by WHO and patents for a new medical device shown to be effective in RCTs. Paul has received 46 international, national, and institutional awards, including the premier international prize for research in LBP – the ISSLS Prize – 6 times (more than any other researcher internationally).

KEY LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE ROLES

Current

- Director, Centre for Innovation in Pain and Health Research (CIPHeR), The University of Queensland (2024–present)
- Director, NHMRC DISCERN Synergy Program (2024–present)
- NHMRC Leadership Fellow (Level 3) (2011–present)
- Research Director, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland
- Chair, Diversity panel (Medicine), Australian Academy of Science

Previous

- Director, NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Spinal Pain, Injury and Health (2007–2024)
- Chair and member of multiple university, national and international governance, strategy, and research committees
- Chair and member of NHMRC grant review and fellowship panels

IASP LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Chair, IASP Terminology Task Force
 - Leading international project to develop clinical criteria for nociceptive pain
 - Leading international project to develop criteria for identification of pain descriptors in clinical practice
- Member, IASP Fellowships, Grants and Awards Working Group (2020–present)
- IASP member since 2005
- Active contributor to multiple IASP Special Interest Groups

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PAIN FIELD

- More than three decades of research focused on pain mechanisms, musculoskeletal pain, and translation of research into clinical practice
- International leader in understanding motor, neural, inflammatory, and psychosocial contributors to persistent pain
- Leadership of major international collaborative programs investigating mechanisms, prevention, and treatment of chronic pain
- Development and evaluation of innovative approaches to pain classification and precision pain care
- Leadership of consumer-focused initiatives including MyBackPain.org.au
- Extensive engagement with clinicians, consumers, policymakers, and researchers globally

INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION & LEADERSHIP

- Collaborations spanning North America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South America, Africa, and Oceania
- Keynote/Invited speaker at 320 conferences in more than 55 countries
- Leadership roles in multiple international societies and consensus initiatives
- Conference Chair or Scientific Chair for major international scientific meetings (e.g., World Congress of Low Back and Pelvic Pain [2020, 2023], International Society for Electrophysiology and Kinesiology [2012], International Society for Biomechanics [2015])
- Supervisor and mentor to researchers who now hold leadership positions internationally

OTHER INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

International Society for Electrophysiology and Kinesiology

- President (2014–2016)
- President-Elect (2012–2014)
- Past President (2016–2018)
- Chair, Consensus in Experimental Design for Electromyography international consensus project, 2018-

International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine

- Executive Committee Member (2003–2005; 2012–2014; 2020–2025)

International Continence Society

- Physiotherapy Committee Member (2020–present)
- ICS Pain Committee Member (2026-present)

SELECTED HONOURS AND RECOGNITION

- Robert G. Addison Award, American Academy of Pain Medicine (2026)
- Fellow, Australian Academy of Science (2019)
- Fellow, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (2019)
- Doctor Honoris Causa, Ghent University (2024)

- ISSLS Prize for Lumbar Spine Research (2006, 2011, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2025)
- Young Australian of the Year for Science and Technology (1997)

SELECTED INDICATORS OF IMPACT

- More than \$AUS84 million in competitive research funding
- Author of 631 academic works (4 books, 39 book chapters, 588 peer reviewed papers) cited more than 84,000 times (H-index 143)
- Director of major national and international multidisciplinary pain research programs
- Supervision and mentorship of 55 PhD graduates and 35 postdoctoral fellows
- Extensive contributions to consensus statements , education, and implementation activities
- Research translated into clinical practice, consumer resources, and international pain initiatives

VISION FOR IASP

To strengthen IASP's role as the leading global voice for pain by fostering scientific excellence, supporting collaboration across disciplines and regions, advancing precision approaches to pain, strengthening translation from discovery to implementation, and ensuring meaningful engagement with the diverse global pain community.

IASP Councilor Responsibility	Evidence from my Experience
Help set strategic direction of the Association	Director of the Centre for Innovation in Pain and Health Research (CIPHeR), development of centre-wide strategic plans, research prioritisation, international initiatives, and long-term program leadership
Governance and business affairs	Service on monitoring committees, grant review panels, committee chair roles, editorial boards, research governance committees, and management of large multidisciplinary programs
Leadership of committees, task forces, working groups	Leadership of IASP task forces, including chairing the Terminology Task Force responsible for the IASP definition of pain; leadership of international consensus projects
International representation and collaboration	Extensive international collaborations (nearly half of publications with international co-authors), leadership of global initiatives, and recognition through the 2026 Robert G. Addison Award for promoting international cooperation
Review of scientific programs	Experience organising international meetings, leading consensus conferences, editorial roles, and broad expertise spanning basic science, clinical research, rehabilitation, and translation
Stewardship of resources and budgets	Leadership of a major research centre with substantial funding portfolio and experience overseeing large grants and research programs
Timely engagement and responsiveness	Leadership of multiple international collaborations, grant review activities, task forces, and committees requiring ongoing participation and decision-making
Supporting the mission of IASP	Career-long commitment to advancing pain science from mechanism through implementation, improving outcomes for people living with pain, and fostering international collaboration