Marietta, Georgia, September 26, 2018 – Life University’s (LIFE) Stephanie Sullivan, D.C., has just been awarded a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute at the University of Georgia.

Sullivan, a graduate of Life University’s College of Chiropractic in 2008, serves as the Director of the Life University Dr. Sid E. Williams Center for Chiropractic Research (CCR). Sullivan’s responsibilities include mission driven leadership and advancement of the CCR, research compliance, and conduct of chiropractic research. Utilizing her background in banking, marketing and management, she has worked to increase the number of research projects conducted at Life University while raising the rigor of studies to include high-impact clinical trials.

Sullivan’s research focus at the CCR includes investigating attention, sensory gating, cognitive efficiency and the effect of Chiropractic and applied clinical neuroscience care on brain-body neuroplasticity.

The CCR was created in the fall of 2014 to expand Life University’s commitment to Chiropractic through research. Their mission is to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the individual by advancing the clinical science of brain-body neuroplasticity through clinical research, basic science research designed specifically to improve clinical care and knowledge translation.

Previously, Sullivan and the CCR team worked on a project (VitalLogic software) submitted for journal publication, with LIFE alumnus Dr. Joe Esposito, that analyzes the large amounts of information contained in a patient’s records in order to give the chiropractor a more robust picture of the patient’s progress through care.

Currently, Sullivan and the CCR team have more than 30 research projects, in varying stages of progress, being conducted. Just one of which is work being done with Dr. Eric Plasker, another LIFE alumnus, through the 100 Year Lifestyle, assessing changes in patients who have been under chiropractic care for an extended time.

Sullivan states, “Recently, our main focus in the CCR has shifted to more brain body neuroplasticity research focusing on Chiropractic and chiropractic clinical neuroscience – what is practiced at Life University’s NeuroLIFE Institute. The reason for this shift is that we want to be able to do research that can quickly be translated into useful practices for individuals in the field and can help inform the wider...
community. To that end, we have thoughtfully compiled a formidable team at the CCR comprised of a neuroscientist, biomechanists, mechanical engineers and biostatisticians.”

Sullivan says that the reason she pursued her doctorate was to more fully use her knowledge to expand the field of Chiropractic. She adds, “There are a lot of phenomenal chiropractors out there, and the way that I can contribute daily to our amazing profession is through research, thus telling the chiropractic story through the language of research. By obtaining my Ph.D., I was able to learn the tools and skills necessary not only to be able to do my own research, but to share that with others and raise up Chiropractic as a whole.”

Sullivan notes that the CCR mentors a large number of students, and as it helps those students understand the research process, it also helps them to conduct their own research, thus expanding the chiropractic body of knowledge.

For more information on Life University’s Center for Chiropractic Research, visit www.CCR.LIFE.edu/.

About Life University
Founded in Marietta, Georgia in 1974, Life University is a health sciences institution most known for its chiropractic program, the largest single campus chiropractic program in the world. Life University is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, master’s and Doctor of Chiropractic degrees, and also has programmatic accreditation through the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE), the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The mission of Life University is to empower students with the education, skills and values necessary for career success and life fulfillment, based on a vitalistic philosophy.

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