



Robert Harris is the founder, director, and senior instructor of the Dr. Vodder School International based in Victoria, BC. Since 1983 he has dedicated many years to the practice of the Dr. Vodder method of manual lymph drainage (MLD) and the treatment of patients with lymphedema. His primary focus has been clinical practice, teaching, and direction of the Dr. Vodder School program. Robert continues to provide support and consulting services to therapists, colleagues, and patients on a daily basis. His 160-hour MLD and combined decongestive therapy (CDT) training was completed at the Dr. Vodder Academy in Austria. Robert has translated and edited MLD textbooks and has authored many articles on the Dr. Vodder method of MLD.

As the first teacher certified by the Dr. Vodder School in North America in 1986, Robert has taught and lectured on MLD throughout the continent; he introduced the Vodder technique to New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan, and has taught in the United Kingdom.

Robert is certified to teach all levels of the Dr. Vodder School training program including advanced updating classes. In 1994 Robert established the Dr. Vodder School in North America, in association with the Dr. Vodder School in Europe and the Dr. Vodder Center in Copenhagen.

In 2002 and 2003 Robert conducted research with Professor Neil Piller at Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia. This research was published and presented at an International Society of Lymphology conference in 2003. Robert has lectured extensively on the Dr. Vodder method of MLD and CDT at conferences in the United States, Australia, Holland, Germany, Austria and Canada.

Robert was elected as first president of the North American Vodder Association for Lymphatic Therapy and served from 1992 to 1994. He is a founding and current board member of the Lymphology Association of North America and member of the International Society of Lymphology. He volunteers on the advisory board of the Lymphedema Association of Ontario and the Lymphedema Associations British Columbia. Robert also serves on the advisory board and education committee of the Canadian Lymphedema Framework Project and on the advisory board of the American Lymphedema Framework Project.

His background is in immunologic research at the Max Planck Institute in Germany and he holds a Higher National Diploma in Applied Biology from the United Kingdom. He has been a Registered Massage Therapist with the College of Massage Therapists in Ontario since 1980 and in British Columbia since 1990.