

## Commentary

### The Councils on Chiropractic Education International: Looking to the Future

Contributed by Reed Phillips, DC, PhD

At its annual meeting May 19-20 in Amsterdam, the Councils on Chiropractic Education International (CCEI) worked to meet current and upcoming challenges in its second decade of existence.

At the May meeting, it was agreed that CCEI had accomplished several important items that strengthened chiropractic education worldwide. On the other hand, effectiveness had been hampered by board turnover, poor internal communications, perceived conflicts of interest, lack of follow-through, and the need to generate sources of support for future operations.

To reflect the changing needs and expectations of professional chiropractic education, CCEI created the following Vision Statement:

“The CCEI is the recognized international authority on quality chiropractic education for all chiropractic educational programs accredited through member CCEI agencies.”

The current Mission Statement and Goals were modified and approved as follows:

#### **Mission Statement**

“The Councils on Chiropractic Education International (CCEI) is an independent and autonomous consortium of chiropractic accrediting agencies. CCEI defines, promotes, and oversees consistent, high-quality standards for chiropractic education worldwide.”

#### **Goals**

“1. Define and maintain model international educational standards and ensure their utilization by CCEI member accrediting agencies.

#### *Objectives*

a. Assure all standards are based on best educational, judicial, and clinical practices  
b. Work toward making all standards competency-based  
c. Assure standards are also evidence-based.

2. Define the process of accreditation and ensure implementation and administration by CCEI member accrediting agencies.

3. Establish and maintain a process for verifying equivalence of the educational standards and accreditation procedure utilized by CCEI member accrediting agencies.

4. Assist and provide guidance in the development of accrediting agencies.

5. Promote continuous improvement of model international educational standards, while recognizing the existence of educational, cultural, and jurisdictional diversities.

6. Advocate quality chiropractic education.”

CCEI members felt that the continuing expansion of new chiropractic programs, especially outside the United States, and the increasing demand for interjurisdictional

mobility for practitioners fuel the need for a strong CCEI and member agencies. While the responsibility of mobility between jurisdictions rests with regulatory bodies, equivalency of educational standards, a prerequisite to mobility, is recognized as the responsibility of accreditation agencies.

### **Model Standards**

CCEI has designated Model Standards for chiropractic education and a Model Process for Accreditation that each member agency endorses. Participation of CCEI in the International Forum for Chiropractic Regulation (ICRF), an informal body of educators, practitioners, regulators, and accreditors addressing international mobility and licensure issues, as was noted at the CCEI meeting, is for the purpose of ensuring that Model Standards are recognized and appreciated by the ICRF. The board agreed that CCEI should have a significant role in the ICRF, especially as it relates to the standards of chiropractic education and accreditation.

The following are some areas of interest or concern reported on at the meeting:

- The Accreditation Standards, and Policies Committee (ASPC) is reviewing the Council on Chiropractic Education Canada's (CCEC) Standards and will be developing new Standards that will be more outcomes based.
- The inclusion of a Standard on Inter-Professional Education (IPE) has been requested and is being explored. There is increasing emphasis in Canada from all levels of government for a greater level of IPE and Inter-Professional Collaboration (IPC) in health care. The federal government has determined that in the future all

health care will be delivered through teams.

- The Canadian government has developed the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), which allows workers and professionals to move freely from one province to another without unnecessary barriers. Governments both at the federal and provincial levels are looking at artificial barriers that currently keep immigrants from practicing their profession.
- The Australasian accrediting body, or Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA), is discussing policies that relate to the exchange of clinic students between accredited and non-accredited programs, as well as a possible "staged" approach to accreditation of new programs.
- The European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) is evaluating programs in Norway and Sweden, as well as possible programs in Romania, Turkey, and Italy. A new program in Germany has begun at the International University of Dresden.
- The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) in the United Kingdom has expressed interest in moving into the accrediting arena in the United Kingdom and in Europe, although language differences present challenges.
- The United States accrediting body, CCE-US, reported closure of Cleveland CC/Los Angeles. Changes in the Higher Education Act have required CCE-US to change some policies and revise the language used to describe them. The process for comment resulted in six hours of active participation by the public. As

a result of those discussions, CCE-US has one year to come into compliance. The demonstration of wide acceptance of standards from the U.S. government was removed. At the ACC-RAC meeting, input was allowed from all national associations, all state associations, state regulators, and others. It was decided that this kind of input will be sought two to three times per year.

### **Changing of the Guard**

The CCEI Board is composed of two representatives from each of the regional Councils on Chiropractic Education (CCEs) from around the world. The current board consists of:

Council on Chiropractic Education  
Australasia (CCEA)  
Peter Drake, PhD  
Michael Shobbrook, Chiropractor

Canadian Federation of Chiropractic  
Regulatory and Educational Accrediting  
Boards (CFCREAB)  
C. Lesley Biggs, PhD  
Jean Moss, DC, MBA

European Council on Chiropractic  
Education  
Ken Vall, DC, FCC, MA(Ed), FHEA  
Charmaine Korporaal, MChiro

Council on Chiropractic Education – US  
Kathleen Linaker, DC, PhD  
Craig Little, DC

Secretariat  
Reed B. Phillips, DC, PhD

At the conclusion of the meeting, elections of new officers resulted in the following:

C. Lesley Biggs, PhD, was elected president of the CCEI.

Ken Vall, DC, FCC, MA(Ed), FHEA, was elected vice president.

Chiropractors Michael Shobbrook and Craig Little were appointed as members-at-large on the Executive Committee.

Joe Brimhall, DC, president of Western States University (WSU), concluded his service as president of CCEI on July 1, 2012. A search for his successor has begun.

For additional information, contact the executive director of CCEI, Dr. Reed Phillips, at [rpb1963@gmail.com](mailto:rpb1963@gmail.com).

### **CCEI, Defined**

CCEI is an independent and autonomous consortium of chiropractic accrediting agencies composed of representatives from each of the world's regional Councils on Chiropractic Education. The organization's work focuses on quality, as set forth in its International Chiropractic Accreditation Standards. CCEI works with international chiropractic programs to ensure their continuing improvement while respecting educational, cultural, and legislative diversity. CCEI also works with new chiropractic accrediting bodies in locations where they are not currently recognized.