

A Call for Fundamental Reforms Within the Council on Chiropractic Education

There continues to grow within the mainstream of chiropractic in the United States a deep concern over the policies, procedures and Standards of the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE). This wave of concern has been fostered by a regular pattern on the part of CCE's decision-makers, of actions, statements and policies that appear to many of thousands within the chiropractic profession as intended to move the chiropractic educational process away from the essentials of chiropractic science and the concept of the human body as a self-healing, self-repairing organism, towards an allopathic model of practice and patient care, to the detriment of the profession and the chiropractic patient population, on a host of levels.

CCE's recent actions regarding the *Standards* which accredited educational institutions are required to follow, minimizing as they do the chiropractic-specific elements required of those institutions and eliminating reference therein to the core element in chiropractic, the subluxation and to the drugless and non-surgical nature of chiropractic science and practice, have ignited a raging controversy within the chiropractic profession. The finding of the US Department of Education that CCE is facing more than 40 violations of the Secretary's criteria and CCE's recent actions have created a situation where the CCE has lost the confidence of the individual practitioner, chiropractic student groups, faculty and a growing host of chiropractic organizations.

It is clear that the decision-makers at the CCE have elected to promote an expansive agenda seeking to use the accreditation process to drive the practice of chiropractic in a non-chiropractic, allopathic direction, through the teaching process, to the benefit of one or two colleges and to the detriment of others. This extra-legislative behavior is inappropriate for any accrediting body, showcases the prejudicial nature of many decisions and procedures on CCE's part and has quite legitimately brought about demands for swift and profound reforms within the CCE which would provide for broad-based and objective policies and *Standards* and restore the confidence of the chiropractic profession at-large in the profession's sole accrediting body.

To be meaningful, CCE reform must include, but not be limited to the following elements:

- 1) Vertebral subluxation detection and reduction in both symptomatic and a-symptomatic patients must be included in the *Standards* as the essential element in a curriculum leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree.
- 2) Chiropractic must be defined as "without drugs and surgery" in the *Standards*.
- 3) Governance must be reformed to include:
 - A. Mechanisms for Councilor appointment/election that eliminate the current self-sustaining and perpetuating nature of the Council and broaden the base of participation in the elections process.
 - B. Reforms in the current elections processes and procedures to allow for greater autonomy in nomination and voting.
 - C. An expansion of the Academy of site team members and the opportunity for the program being reviewed to select one person from the Academy as a site team member visiting the institution.

It is because all within the profession recognize the importance of the accreditation process for chiropractic educational institutions that it becomes absolutely essential that the accreditation activities of the CCE reflect a fair and balanced viewpoint that encompasses the broad and diversified views of stakeholders in the profession and yet, while being inclusive, requires that chiropractic educational standards retain those essential characteristics, definitions and clinical elements that have been central to the profession's identity and success for 116 years.

To restore the credibility of and confidence in the CCE and to strengthen and re-energize the chiropractic educational process, the organizations and individuals represented here join in a call for an immediate process by which profound reforms are undertaken in the governance, policies, procedures, personnel and, above all *Standards* of the CCE. Failure to do so can only lead to a continued erosion of the chiropractic educational system and make unity of spirit and action within the chiropractic profession impossible to attain, at a time when such unity is vital to both the profession and to those who depend on chiropractic's unique healing contribution to the lives of patients of all ages.