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ICA's 89th Annual Meetings Features Positive Energy, Clear Policy Positions, Dynamic Educational Program and Welcomes New Leadership

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Falls Church, Virginia USA, May 8, 2015: The 89th Annual Meeting of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) convened last week in Marietta, Georgia with officers, board members and representatives from across North America and around the world gathering on the campus of Life University for three days of intensive, constructive and creative strategic planning, decision making and powerful educational sessions. Focused on ICA's mission of advancing principled chiropractic and addressing the critical challenges facing the profession and the membership worldwide, ICA's Board of Directors and Representative Assembly heard detailed reports on a wide range of issues, engaged in lively and creative discussions and made key decisions on the association's business, political action and public education plans for the coming year.

The ICA Annual Meetings also marked a significant governance transition with new leaders stepping into service in ICA's top offices. Dr. Michael S. McLean concluded his term as ICA's 17th President, passing the gavel to ICA's incoming president, Dr. George B. Curry of Windsor, Connecticut. Dr. Stephen P. Welsh of Roswell, Georgia took office as ICA Vice President and



Dr. Selina Sigafoose-Jackson from York, Pennsylvania was re-elected as ICA's Secretary-Treasurer. In his inaugural comments to the Annual Meeting, new ICA President Dr. Curry stated that "this continues to be a critical time for clarity and clear-cut communications for the profession, anchored in ICA's timeless and proven principles but applying cutting edge strategies and technologies. We are committed to building on the talent and energy of ICA's leadership corps and membership with innovative programs and benefits, focused on advancing principled chiropractic as the powerful force in health care it must be in order to meet the needs of patients of all ages in communities around the world".

Starting with an intensive strategic planning session, the ICA leadership addressed an array of key issues confronting the profession during the two days of business meetings, from new developments in the federal Medicare program to the ongoing debate over the inclusion of drugs, medical procedures and medical terminology in the scope of chiropractic practice. In this discussion, ICA leaders worked to develop clear and emphatic language so as to make certain that there was no doubt where the association stood on these unfortunate and divisive issues.

ICA members from around the world have been contacting the ICA in unprecedented numbers expressing concern and in many instances outright dismay and opposition to new efforts recently undertaken by the American Chiropractic Association (ACA), to establish a College of Chiropractic Pharmacology and Toxicology, and to promote the term "chiropractic medicine" and prescription drug rights for DCs in the regulatory process. These actions came in the form of

official resolutions adopted through the ACA's governing structure

In response to the expressions of concern from the ICA membership and from other organizations and allied educational institutions, ICA's leadership prepared position statements showcasing ICA's stand on chiropractic as a drugless science and in support of the statement developed and adopted by the 40 organizations – including the ACA as well as the ICA - that comprise The Chiropractic Summit on November 7, 2013. This statement reads:

The drug issue is a non-issue because no chiropractic organization in the Summit promotes the inclusion of prescription drug rights and all chiropractic organizations in the Summit support the drug-free approach to health care.

ICA's leadership actions at the 2015 Annual meeting included a formal and official resolution by the ICA Representative Assembly stating:

...in order to fortify and maintain the unique identity of the chiropractic profession,

- 1. The term "medicine" cannot and should not be used in conjunction with or to describe in any way, the practice of chiropractic.*
- 2. Prescriptive rights for drugs and or injectables falls under the practice of medicine and have not and should not be included in the scope of chiropractic practice for the safeguarding of both the profession and of the practicing doctors, as well as for the safety of the public.*
- 3. The ICA should create a statement to promote a drugless profession and should aggressively oppose the utilization of the term "chiropractic medicine" and "injectable" language in any future legislative and or regulatory efforts on a jurisdiction level.*

This clear and emphatic resolution was later unanimously ratified by ICA's Board of Directors. [See the full text of this resolution here.](#)

As well, out of grave concern for the future of the chiropractic profession and the protection of the public, ICA's leadership also spoke directly to the recent drug-inclusion related actions of the ACA's governing structure and in support of the position adopted by the Chiropractic Summit:

For nearly a century the ICA has advocated clear lines of distinction between the health care professions. Chiropractic is a drugless health care discipline. Adding drugs to our profession would make it simply another branch of medicine, serves no demonstrable public health need and abandons more than a century of branding at a time when public interest in natural, non-pharmaceutical approaches to health and healing are in an historic ascendancy. Unique among chiropractic organizations, ICA has acted on a wide range of fronts, legislative, legal and in the media, maintaining a no-compromise policy on the issue of drugs in chiropractic, to preserve this unique and highly positive aspect of chiropractic. We will do the same here and, urge the ACA members to reconsider this action.

ICA holds that the public is entitled to one truly drug-free system of health care and doctors of chiropractic are fully trained and qualified to fill that role with proven clinical and cost effectiveness. For more than a century, the marketplace has sustained and supported chiropractic on the basis of its unique, drugless approach to health and healing. This is especially crucial at a time when our society at-large is recognizing the alarming complexities, costs and complications of a drug-based approach to treatment and the trend is strongly in the direction of a minimalist approach regarding drugs, and with good reason. ICA's actions at the 2015 Annual Meeting represent a continued commitment to the key principles on which the profession was established and which represent chiropractic's most effective path to public service.

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