

**PHILOSOPHY—BARRETT**

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plained philosophy as “the collection of chiropractic laws or principles under which all subordinate phenomena or facts relating to chiropractic are comprehended.” Doctor F referred to philosophy as “the ‘why?’ behind everything we do as chiropractors.” Doctor A stated that philosophy is our “chiropractic identity.” Doctor G related chiropractic philosophy as “the understanding of chiropractic’s history, beliefs and values.” Still other comments necessitated the importance of chiropractic philosophy because it keeps us separate from other specialties.

When asked if DC’s should prescribe medications, perform minor surgeries, and/or become primary care doctors, four doctors stated “No.” Doctor F said, “If a chiropractor was the only capable person within a hundred miles, then maybe.” Doctor E said, “No,” but he did believe that being able to recommend over the counter meds, if warranted, would be a good idea. Doctor A added, “Minor medicine might help for acute care so we don’t lose the patient to the medical community.” Therefore, in regards to scope of practice, there were differing opinions.

On chiropractic as a profession today and in the future, the doctors offered interesting ideas, Doctor D hoped, “No matter what happens in the future, there will be a semblance of a chiropractic profession devoted to subluxation based care for the lifetime well-ness of patients.” Doctor C suggested, “Chiropractic should be routine for all life, now and forever. To accomplish this, ... the entire profession has to move closer to the hands on, referral and subluxation based chiropractic model.” In regards to chiropractic’s future growth, doctor F said, “Chiropractic should get back to its roots.” Doctor G felt that chiropractic’s growth potential is limitless. He also emphasized chiropractic “for well-ness, not just pain.” Doctor E detailed the need for “unification and sharing” within our profession at present. In the future he wished for greater chiropractic acceptance in hospitals and in medicine. Additionally, he stressed the need for future research. Doctor B desired “less dissension within our profession” and the need to have the “big idea” in order to be successful. Also, she commented on chiropractic’s continued growth potential “with continued research, education and ethical behavior on the part of the doctors.” Additionally, Doctor A was pleased with the state of chiropractic today.

In regards to vertebral subluxations, Doctor C referred to D.D. Palmer’s definition of chiropractic. As previously stated in this paper, D.D. defined chiropractic as “... a philosophy, science and art of things natural: a system of adjusting the segments of the spinal column by hand only, for correction of the cause of dis-ease.” Additionally, Doctor C stated, “If ONE word in this definition was lost, chiropractic would not be chiropractic.” Without question, I believe that D.D. would be honored to have his sentiments echoed with such resolve.

Now that we have examined chiropractic’s past, present, and future, what is the next step for chiropractic and chiropractors? Is it time that we, as a profession split and begin anew? Should we have specialties in our profession? Should the chiropractors who desire to be pseudo-medical doctors go one way,

and the D.C.’s who believe in the principles of our early predecessors go another? So many questions remain unanswered. Regardless, without a sound philosophy and an emphasis on the vertebral subluxation, the difference between these doctors is very clear. Does this sound amazingly similar to the osteopath’s evolution? Of course, it does!

Dr. E.L. Crowder stated, “Our true inheritance lies in our ability to make and shape chiropractic so that it will survive for all time to come. Thus, we become the creators of our professional destiny.” Additionally, Dr. Fred Barge said, “A great profession can only be sustained through the authentic transmission of its principles from generation to generation.” On reflection, perhaps the saying, “To your own self be true” is so appropriate in relation to chiropractic’s destiny. Be true to chiropractic’s philosophy, its beliefs, its principles, and to yourself — a chiropractor.

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