

# THE CHIROPRACTIC CHOICE

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## ICA Honors Dr. Donald D. Harrison as 2006 Chiropractor of the Year

The International Chiropractors Association has honored Dr. Donald D. Harrison as the Association's 2006 Chiropractor of the Year. Dr. Harrison was presented the Association's highest honor at ICA's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in



Washington, DC on May 6, 2006. This award, which was created by ICA's Founder Dr. BJ Palmer in 1950, is presented annually to one exceptional individual who has distinguished themselves throughout their career through extraordinary service to the ICA and the chiropractic profession.

An active ICA member since his student days, Dr. Harrison served for many years as the ICA Assembly Representative for Wyoming and on many ICA committees and working groups.

"Dr. Harrison has earned this historic recognition many times over through his tireless efforts in research and the authorship of sound, compelling papers and articles validating chiropractic effectiveness," said ICA President Dr. John K. Maltby. "The chiropractic profession owes a great deal to his dedi-

cation, innovative thinking, his commitment to principle and his sheer effectiveness as an analyst and researcher," Dr. Maltby said. "ICA is very proud of Dr. Harrison and we all can learn and benefit from the powerful example of service and integrity he has provided over the years he has been involved with the ICA."

Dr. Harrison graduated from Western States Chiropractic College in 1979; he received his M.S.E. (Mechanical Engineering) in 1997 and his Ph.D. (Mathematics) in 1998, both from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He has taught mathematics in junior high, high school, two community colleges in Washington and Oregon, and at WSU. He was in private practice in Sunnyvale, Calif., and Evanston, Wyo., from 1979-1993, and holds chiropractic licenses in Washington, California, Wyoming and Alabama.

Dr. Harrison is the originator of the Chiropractic Bio-Physics (CBP<sup>®</sup>) Technique and the author of three CBP<sup>®</sup> text books, and a CBP<sup>®</sup> x-ray workbook. Dr. Harrison spends most of his time supervising chiropractic research that appears in a wide variety of scientific journals. He has authored more than 65 original research papers which are catalogued and listed in the prestigious *Index Medicus*, along with countless other articles and commentaries on a wide range of chiropractic topics.

Dr. Harrison is also the Publisher of the *American Journal of Clinical Chiropractic*, and serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*. He is a Past President of the Wyoming Chiropractic Society, and a Distinguished Fellow of the International Chiropractors Association.

## Michigan Associations Close On Merger

The Michigan Chiropractic Association (MCA) and the Michigan Chiropractic Society (MCS) recently announced they have taken a major step forward to unify the two associations. MCS President Dr. Christophe Dean and MCA President Dr. Sam Caruso announced recently that the two organizations have an agreement in principle to merge.

The two associations are preparing documents for each board to consider, which include financial and membership information. Board votes will be taken on

June 1, at a special joint board meeting. The merger will become effective upon member ratification.

MCA and MCS have collaborated successfully in the past, most notably on the recent scope of practice legislation and in legal actions against discriminatory insurance practices. Both associations feel a merger will create a single, more influential association that better serves chiropractic doctors, patients and the profession as a whole. Progress of the merger will be reported as it occurs.

## Study Reveals Preventable Medical Errors Caused 250,000 Medicare Patient Deaths

A new study released by HealthGrades on Patient Safety in American Hospitals, shows that between 2002 and 2004 medical errors resulted in the deaths of 304,702 Medicare patients. Of these deaths 250,246 were preventable.

The study also shows patient safety incidents grew from 1.18 to 1.24 million among the 40 million hospitalizations covered under Medicare during that period.

"Overall we see the number of patient safety incidents in American hospitals continuing to increase at an enormous cost, and we still see a large gap between

the incidence rates at the nation's top performing and worse performing hospitals," said Samantha Colter, HealthGrades vice president of medical affairs.

The cost of these medical errors to Medicare and the taxpayers amounted to \$9.3 million.

HealthGrades had earlier estimated that within the entire population, not just Medicare, in a three-year period, there were 575,000 preventable deaths caused by medical errors.

Health Grades is the leading health-care ratings organization in the U.S.

## CCE UNDER FIRE

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Commission on Accreditation at the same time. ICA also expressed grave concern over the lack of conservative representation on the all-important CCE "site visitation teams" through which the operations of accredited schools are reviewed and recommendations for changes made.

ICA also expressed concern over the apparent failure of the CCE to follow its own rules over the years, resulting in a storm of controversy within the chiropractic profession, litigation and the erosion of confidence in the CCE.

Dr. Maltby and Dr. Welsh emphasized ICA's position that the CCE was in urgent need of real reform. It must meticulously follow its own rules, must provide for fair and balanced representation in all phases of its operations, and that the historic imbalance and bias against the conservative schools who represent the majority of chiropractic students, must be corrected.

## ICA Pediatric Council's Concerns:

Dr. Joan Fallon appeared on behalf of the ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics to address concerns over the very limited and insufficient pediatric educational component in current CCE standards. In her presentation, Dr. Fallon told the USDE Committee, "The CCE has tried in some ways to define chiropractic by what it deems important for the schools to teach. By ignoring pediatrics in the DC's education, the CCE has failed to meet the essential needs of the practicing doctor of chiropractic. As a consequence there is an extremely large hole in the educational fabric of the newly graduated doctor of chiropractic. It is critical that this hole be filled for the benefit of the doctor of chiropractic as well as the pediatric population."

## Other Groups' Concerns:

Also expressing concerns about the CCE's accountability, fairness and apparent conflict of interest issues were the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors, the World Chiropractic Alliance (WCA), the watchdog group, Doctors for Excellence in Chiropractic Education (DECE), the Federation of Straight Chiropractors and Organizations (FSCO), and a number of individuals including former Life University President Dr. Ben DeSpain and a former Life University student speaking on the damage done to that community by CCE's actions in 2002 revoking Life's accreditation. While presentations were highly detailed, specific, well-documented and at times emotional, all of the speakers critical of CCE called for greater federal oversight of the accrediting body, but not for the complete withdrawal of federal recognition.

Dr. Donald Hirsh of Laurel, Md., speaking on behalf of Doctors for Excellence on Chiropractic Education (DECE), presented a series of points again focusing on fairness and apparent conflict of interest issues, as well as a strong emphasis for new attention to be paid on the activities of "site visitation teams." Dr. Hirsh, on behalf of DECE, recommended "...that the USDE interview senior management personnel at each program regarding any evidence of site visitation teams pressuring the programs to make

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