



TRUSTEES NAME RIEKEMAN NEXT CHANCELLOR OF PALMER COLLEGES

Guy F. Riekeman, D.C. has been named the next chancellor of the Palmer Chiropractic University System by the Palmer Board of Trustees. Dr. Riekeman will succeed retiring Chancellor Michael E. Crawford.

Ms. Vicki Palmer, chairman of the Palmer Board of Trustees, in making the announcement said the Trustees were unanimous in their selection of Dr. Riekeman as he is "superbly qualified to take all entities of Palmer Chiropractic to a successful future. He will be a capable steward of a legacy that began in 1895," she said.



Guy Riekeman, D.C.

Crawford announced his plans to retire last October. On hearing of Dr. Riekeman's selection he said: "Dr. Riekeman is absolutely the best person to lead the Palmer University System and the entire chiropractic profession. I have great respect for him as an individual, as an administrator and as an inspiring leader. Nobody is better prepared for this challenge, and this is the right time for him to undertake it. He has a very strong sense of what it will require to bring this profession together and a clear view of what chiropractic must become to fulfill its rightful role in the health care delivery systems."

Dr. Riekeman said his appointment "means the Board's vision for the University System will continue unchanged. Chancellor Crawford and I have worked closely together so that we are absolutely of one mind with regard to the Palmer Chiropractic vision," he said.

Dr. Riekeman will take office in July of this year.

THE STORY OF VANESSA, "THE MIRACLE GIRL"

Every now and again there is a story about a "miraculous" recovery that warms the heart. This story, titled "Recovery and a Laying On of Hands" written by Ed Lowe and published in the Sunday, December 22, 2002 edition of *Newsday*, is one such "miracle." Though doctors of chiropractic often see dramatic results after adjusting patients who can't move, speak, or are in severe pain, this one is worth sharing and certainly worth reading.

The story is about Vanessa, 25, from Milford, NJ, who got a severe asthma attack one morning and was rushed to the hospital by her boyfriend, Ranford. The hospital was only 20 minutes away but on the way she got a seizure and went into cardiac arrest.

At the hospital Ranford and her parents, Bill and Siobhan Spears were not given much hope. If Vanessa did pull through the chances were that she would have severe brain damage since she had been without oxygen for at

least 10 minutes.

Vanessa went into a coma, but not a peaceful one. She was always agitated, clenching her fists with her legs moving constantly as though she was riding a bicycle. Though her eyes were open, nobody saw any indication that she could see. Doctors speculated that she would probably be blind.

Vanessa's aunt and uncle, Nancy and Bernard Beals, who had been kept informed of Vanessa's condition, happened to mention her condition to their chiropractor, Dr. Andrew Forelli of Huntingdon, New York. He told them that if they wanted he would be willing to go to the hospital and give her an adjustment. "They didn't tell me it was 2 1/2 hours away," Forelli said later, "But it turned out to be all right. It gave me time to think... I'm not the most religious guy in the world, but it gave me time to pray too."

Dr. Forelli was greeted by Vanessa's mother who told him that the doctors had been talking that day about putting Vanessa in a nursing home.

"Dr. Forelli put his hands on Vanessa's face and spoke to her. Then he adjusted her neck. She winced and then she smiled. He went round to the other side of the bed and adjusted her neck on the other side. She smiled, closed her eyes and went to sleep."

Vanessa slept peacefully through the night and into the next morning. When the nurse came to bathe her she saw a difference and said to her, "Do you know who that is? That's your Mom."

"That's Siobhan," said Vanessa.

Siobhan called Dr. Forelli and told him what had happened. He whooped and then he wept.

Vanessa had suffered from asthma since she was 2, used a nebulizer to inhale her medication, and spent many days in hospitals, sometimes as long as two weeks. Once in 1996 she had such a severe attack she was in the ICU on a ventilator for four days.

Dr. Forelli saw Vanessa one more time. She spent five more days in the hospital and 16 days in a Rehab Center. Vanessa has since resumed her old life and is now a regular chiropractic patient of Dr. Forelli's friend, Dr. Jon Mastrobattista, who practices in New Jersey.

According to her mother, Vanessa's "whole health system has done a complete turnaround." She no longer carries her nebulizer with her anymore.

The writer concludes his story with this perspective: "Nobody knows what to think or believe about her recovery. Siobhan leans heavily on the combined effects of prayer and chiropractic. Forelli says he has adjusted six people under similar conditions and never before gotten such a dramatic result. He confesses to being uncomfortable thinking about Vanessa's turnaround. Doctors shrug and suggest it might just have been good timing. Nurses at the medical center call Vanessa "the miracle girl."

(Dr. Andrew Forelli is an ICA member as is Dr. Jon Mastrobattista, his friend, who is now Vanessa's chiropractor) For a complete copy of the story you can contact the ICA at 1-800-423-4690.)



THANK YOU ICA PEDIATRICS COUNCIL

The ICA has always supported charitable causes, donating thousands of dollars to non-profit organizations working to help those in need. The ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics has made significant donations over the years to Kentuckiana, the Children's Center for special needs children in Louisville, Kentucky, founded by Palmer graduate and ICA Distinguished Fellow, Dr. Lorraine Golden. In 2002 the Council held an auction at its Annual Conference in New Orleans and divided the proceeds equally between Kentuckiana and the National Vaccine Information Center, giving each a check for \$4,379. Below is the response from Kentuckiana.

Dear Joan, Peter, Lora:

Thank you all for the wonderful auction and generous check we've received at KCC. Your enthusiasm and hard work for the children are a tribute to all you have done to make the Pediatrics Diplomate Program and the Pediatrics Conference something more than just "fluff." Your commitment each year to support and promote worthy causes that provide care for children and support to the individuals that dare to stand up and do the work required to make this world a better place for our children, set you way above those that are just in the field for economics. I am proud to consider myself a colleague and humbled by the work I witness you all doing.

Thank you.

Sharon A. Vallone, DC, DICCP
Board Chairman
Kentuckiana Children's Center
Louisville, Kentucky

* Dr. Joan Fallon, Dr. Peter Fysh and, Dr. Lora Tanis are ICA Pediatrics Council's officers.

ATTORNEY, 90, WINS \$19 MILLION JUDGMENT FOR VACCINE INJURED CHILD

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 gives drug manufacturers the right to produce vaccines but it also gives those hurt by vaccines the right to file a claim. Over the years one attorney in Canton, Ohio, quietly made it his life's mission to help parents obtain compensation for their children injured by vaccines. His name is William S. Georges and he is 90 years old.

The Akron-Beacon Journal recently featured Georges in their paper under a story titled, "Vaccine Law becomes his life mission." Georges, who has been in practice for 65 years was one of the first few lawyers to accept vaccine injury cases, and he started long before there was even a compensation law. He soon became known as an expert in this area and his phone at home and in his office would ring round the clock with clients seeking his services from all over the country.

Georges has stacks and stacks of case studies that would probably be of great interest and use to clinical researchers. He has also managed to win significant settlements for his clients. One year he won \$8 million for a mother whose son has been hurt from vaccinations. Early this year he won an unprecedented \$19 million, the largest ever awarded under the law.

This particular case involved Pam Pavelka and her son, Brandon. Brandon started having seizures after he had his third DPT shot when he was five months old. He is now 14 years old and needs total care. He wears diapers, has to sleep in a bed with rails and does not interact with his surroundings. His medical diagnosis is unretractable seizures with severe psycho-motor retardation.

Mrs. Pavelka found out about Georges after she read the newsletter *Dissatisfied Parents Together* (DPT). She called him 16 days before the deadline to file for children who had been injured before 1988. It took seven years to get it into the courts and another two years to settle. Georges has spent as many as 15 years on a case. But he is persistent.

This judgment which is unappealable, is, according to the *Akron-Beacon*, Georges' "swan song." He has decided to slow down and though he intends to offer his advice and counsel to other lawyers he does not intend to be going to court anymore. The question many ask is what was Georges' cut of the \$19 million settlement. The same it's always been — a flat fee of \$30,000.

Mrs. Pavelka is more than grateful. She said Mr. Georges and his wife were "so wonderful to us...he didn't just fight for Brandon, but for all children injured by this vaccine...he took these cases because he cares about children, not about the money."

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATES WITH NYCC TO OFFER CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

The Monroe Community Hospital (MCH), a teaching nursing home, has recently established a chiropractic clinic to serve patients with chronic disabilities. Dr. Paul Katz, Medical Director at MCH and Professor of Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine has been working with New York Chiropractic College for the past year in order to offer frail nursing home residents services traditionally not accessible to them. Donald Dishman, DC, clinician and researcher at New York Chiropractic College got the ball rolling with