

"ICA CARES" VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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ing to Injuries That Are Keeping Some Troops on the Sidelines," the article's author reported:

"Army leaders and experts say the injuries — linked to the stress of bearing heavy loads during repeated 12- or 15-month combat tours — have increased the number of soldiers categorized as "non-deployable." Army personnel reported 257,000 acute orthopedic injuries in 2007, up from 247,000 the previous year.

As injuries force more soldiers to stay home, the Army is having a harder time filling units for upcoming deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, said Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, the service's vice chief of staff."

Those military personnel bring the consequences of those strains home with them, along with a host of other issues, injuries and concerns, making them all the more appropriate candidates for immediate chiropractic care. These reports also highlight the urgency of commissioning doctors of chiropractic as health care officers in all branches of the US military, so that they will be available in combat zones to provide on-going care "in theatre" where it can be most effective in preventing long term disabilities, as well as keeping service personnel fit for current duty.

Doctors of chiropractic participating in "ICA Cares" program are encouraged to promote the program in their local communities through local veterans' organizations and civic groups like the



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The American Legion and USO. ICA also continues to be in contact with various veterans' organizations and service groups, and is developing the most comprehensive lines of communication possible to make sure that as many veterans as possible know that this initiative is up and running, and how to find a participating doctor of chiropractic in their area. A database of participating doctors is available on the ICA website at www.chiropractic.org, and new participants are added as soon as they sign up.

To help the volunteer doctors ICA has put together a booklet that offers guidance in dealing with these special patients along with a wide range of referral and resource materials. "It is important that the doctor of chiropractic caring for returning veterans understand and make use of the growing network of support and service agencies whose mission is to

assist returning veterans in a wide range of areas, from psychological and health care to personal issues and finances," said Dr. Kelly. "DCs are not expected to deal with issues that go beyond our professional realm of competence, but serve as a sound referral source, steering veteran patients to those personnel and

agencies that are prepared and ready to assist in other areas."

Currently there are 200 doctors enrolled in "ICA Cares" program, but more are needed. Any DC may participate. Those interested in serving can enroll online through ICA's website at www.chiropractic.org.

WHO Beijing Declaration Supports CAM and Chiropractic

Strong new policy support for the continued growth and acceptance of chiropractic and other branches of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in national health systems was given by the World Health Organization and its member nations in Beijing recently.

This was at the WHO Congress on Traditional Medicine, which included a Symposium on Manual Methods of Healthcare organized for WHO by the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC). 'Traditional medicine' is the term used by WHO for both traditional systems of healthcare, such as Chinese traditional medicine, and CAM such as herbal remedies and manual methods of treatment.

In her opening address to the Congress, WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan pointed out that the striking increase in the use of CAM in affluent societies reflected certain weaknesses in modern medical care, including its depersonalized and "assembly line" nature, and a number of strengths in CAM. These strengths included a more compassionate and holistic approach to

healthcare and a focus on prevention as well as cure, strengths that meant that CAM should have a bigger role in primary health care and in national healthcare systems.

Dr. Chan explained that the two systems of traditional and western medicine "need not clash...they can blend together in a beneficial harmony, using the best features of each system." However this was "not something that will happen by itself... deliberate policy decisions have to be made."

The Congress then supported recent WHO policy to promote TM/CAM by approving a Beijing Declaration which recognized the value of TM/CAM, and called upon all governments to provide for effective use of TM/CAM in their health care systems and to "establish systems for the qualification, accreditation or licensing of practitioners."

"This Congress represented a major milestone for chiropractic" says WFC President Dr. Papadopoulos. "Chiropractic was seen by WHO, government

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