



# CHOICE

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## National Medicare Conference Brings New Insights to Major Public Policy Challenges and Opportunities

Representatives from state and national chiropractic associations, chiropractic colleges, allied health professions and consumer organizations joined individual doctors, students and staff on April 24th in Washington, DC for the profession's first National Conference on the Future of Chiropractic in Medicare. In an information-packed day-long session, 17 presenters covered a wide array of subjects including the new Recovery Audit Contractors program Medicare has implemented, documentation challenges, the recently concluded Medicare Demonstration Project and the Medicare Savings Accounts. They also reviewed the national political landscape in a wide-ranging discussion on Medicare's political and economic future.

Hosted by the International Chiropractors Association (ICA), this historic conference focused on the political, economic and social elements surrounding Medicare and the dramatic changes facing this federal program that will ultimately be called upon to address the



ICA President Dr. John Maltby (R) presents Senator Bob Filner (D-CA) with an award at the Medicare Conference in recognition of his services for the U.S. veterans.

health care needs of more than 80 million eligible beneficiaries. Three Members of the US House of Representatives, Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), Rep. Kathy McMorris Rogers (R-WA), Rep. Don Manzullo, (R-IL), and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) offered widely divergent perspectives

- Educating the public
- Promoting the principle
- Adjusting the future

on how national Medicare policy can and should be adjusted to meet the coming new demands in the face of rapidly diminishing financial resources.

The Congressional speakers drove home the point of how limited Medicare's resources will be as more and more seniors enter the program, and how difficult it will be to fairly distribute those resources over such a vast population. Issues such as reducing medical errors, reducing administrative costs, reducing drug costs and prescription abuses and finding ways to control the costs of emerging technologies were common themes among all legislators,

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## Historic Summit Seeks Collective Solutions to Chiropractic's Urgent Challenges

Representatives from 24 chiropractic organizations, including membership organizations, educational institutions, research and public education foundations, gathered in Washington, DC on February 27, 2008 to seek common solutions to the new and daunting challenges looming before the chiropractic profession in the months immediately ahead. This second and expanded Summit gathering took place under the auspices of a broad-based Steering Committee comprised of representatives of the four major participating organizations, including:

- Dr. Carl Cleveland III  
President, Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC)
- Dr. John Maltby  
President, International Chiropractors Association (ICA)
- Dr. Jerry DeGrado  
President, Congress of Chiropractic State Associations (COCSA)
- Dr. Lewis Bazakos  
American Chiropractic Association (ACA), Former Chairman of the Board

The February 27<sup>th</sup> Summit was preceded by seven conference calls involving the Steering Committee and additional participants, with the goal of developing a body of recommendations for consideration of the full group of participants.

Dr. Lewis Bazakos, who serves as Chairman of the Summit, told the group at the very outset of the day's deliberations, "What Summit 1 realized and acknowledged is that as a profession we have limited resources. Folks, we need each other. We must pool our resources, they must cross organizational lines, decisions must be based on what the profession thinks is important and not individuals. As Thomas Huxley said, 'It is not who is right, but what is right, that is of importance. We must look at things as they can be.'"

Out of a commitment to explore all possible ways and means to mobilize the chiropractic profession on behalf of collective action, the representatives of the participating organizations spent a full day in intensive and wide-ranging talks,

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## First Pediatrics Conference and Research Symposium in Australia Receives High Praise for Superior Education and Speaker Excellence

The first Pediatrics Conference and Research Symposium held recently in Australia received excellent reviews from the delegates who attended. The conference was presented by the Pediatrics Council of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) and held at the Sheraton Mirage Resort in the Gold Coast, Queensland. The comments ranged from "outstanding" to "best conference I have ever attended in my 11 years of practice," to "awesome."

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