

Thirteen Chiropractors Down Under Get Board Certified in Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics

Thirteen doctors of chiropractic down under that passed the Diplomate in Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics (DICCP) Board Examination held in Auckland, New Zealand, are now the first chiropractors to be board certified in chiropractic pediatrics in Australia and New Zealand.

The new Diplomates are Dr. Alice Cade (NZ), Dr. Roberto De Souza (Aus), Dr. Marina Fox (NZ), Dr. Kim Harpur (NZ), Dr. Simon Kelly (NZ), Dr. Annica Larsdotter (Aus), Dr. Hamish MacMillan, (NZ), Dr. Janette McCormick (NZ), Dr. Christopher Morgan (Aus), Dr. Nicola Pope (NZ), Dr. Emma Rampton (NZ), Dr. Eon Scott (Aus), and Dr. Belinda Siddle (Aus).

The doctors completed the 3-year postgraduate program through the New Zealand College of Chiropractic. Board eligible candidates then sat for the Pediatric Council's Board Examination held in Auckland, New Zealand. Examiners were sent by the ICA Pediatric Council's Testing Board in the US to administer the written and oral exams.

The new DICCPs received their credentials at a graduation ceremony on April 19, 2008 during the ICA Pediatric Council's first Conference and Research Symposium held on the Gold Coast, from well-known pediatrics instructor and practitioner, Maxine McMullen, DC, FICCP. Dr. McMullen, internationally recognized as one of the "pioneers" of chiropractic pediatrics, served as Professor of Pediatrics (retired) at Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa and is a former vice president of the International Chiropractors Association. She is one of the original developers of the DICCP program. In her address to the graduates, Dr. McMullen told them this was not the end of the road for them but just the beginning. She warned them that with this credential comes a host of new responsibilities and expectations but was confident they would come through with flying colors.

Dr. Brian Kelly, president of the New Zealand Chiropractic College has announced that NZCC will offer the DICCP program again starting in January 2009. NZCC Vice President Dr. Pennacchio informed delegates at the conference that Dr. Kelly decided to offer the ICA Pediatric Council's DICCP program because when he asked his colleagues in the US about different postgraduate specialty programs, several told him that ICA's pediatrics program was the best one out there.

"The Council was very encouraged to hear this," said Joan Fallon, DC, FICCP, member of the Pediatric Council's Education Committee. "The Education Committee worked hard to put together a syllabus that could meet high academic standards of any postgraduate program but was also clinically relevant and enhanced practical skills. It is also constantly vigilant about maintaining and enforcing high standards. We are very glad that Dr. Kelly decided to give doctors interested in pediatrics the opportunity to get this advanced education. We are confident that these new graduates will use their advanced clinical skills and knowledge to serve their young patients well and above all what is best for the patient at all times."



Dr. Maxine McMullen, commencement speaker, with DICCP class valedictorian Dr. Alice Cade of New Zealand.

"The DICCP program is meant for doctors of chiropractic who are serious about postgraduate education," said Dr. Peter Fysh, one of the lead instructors and Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Palmer College of Chiropractic West, San Jose, California. "Unlike other programs, the DICCP syllabus is very structured so the doctors get a solid foundation starting from pre-natal care to adolescence. The goal is that by the time they finish the 3-year course they have the knowledge and skills to be able to handle any pediatric case in their office with confidence. They will know what to do and just as important, know what not to do."

The New Zealand College of Chiropractic will start the DICCP program again in January 2009 in New Zealand and Australia.

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After a long day in the classroom delegates relax at the reception.



Leaders of the three co-sponsoring organizations: Dr. David Cahill, President, Australian Spinal Research Foundation; Dr. Valerie Pennacchio, Vice President, New Zealand College of Chiropractic and Dr. Dennis Richards, President, Chiropractors' Association of Australia.

AUSTRALIA SYMPOSIUM

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The doctors also praised the speakers for providing a "feast of clinical information" which they said was "far superior" to anything they had experienced before.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Chiropractors' Association of Australia (CAA), the Australian Spinal Research Foundation (ASRF) and the New Zealand College of Chiropractic (NZCC). Dr. Dennis Richards, president of CAA, Dr. David Cahill, president of ASRF and Dr. Valeria Pennacchio, vice president of NZCC, opened the proceedings with ICA Pediatrics Council Chair Dr. Lora Tanis. The presidents of the co-sponsoring organizations applauded the initiative of the ICA Council for presenting a conference focused just on chiropractic and pediatrics, and for taking a leadership role in providing a forum for research discussion and presentation of papers.

The ICA Pediatrics Council is the only organization to date that has discussed pediatrics research in an open forum and given faculty and practitioners a platform to present papers. Dr. Joan Fallon, who headed up the research committee, was assisted by Dr. Henry Pollard and Dr. Heidi Haavik-Taylor, research directors from Macquarie University and NZCC respectively and AECC faculty member, Dr. Joyce Miller.

"It is encouraging to know we have a common goal and that is to pursue and encourage pediatrics research that is both ethical and objective," said Dr. Joan Fallon. Selected papers were presented by field practitioners as well as faculty from Palmer College Davenport, Palmer College Florida and Macquarie University.

The conference included clinical lectures and technique sessions taught by Dr. Lora Tanis, Dr. Laura Hanson, Dr. Joyce Miller, Dr. Sharon Vallone, Dr. Joan Fallon and Dr. Lindsay Rowe. Doctors also heard about humanitarian projects for

children in Australia and the US in which Pediatric Council Diplomates serve as volunteer leaders. To help these projects the Council raised nearly \$5,000 with a live and silent auction. "We are very grateful to the Council for doing this, it will help us enormously," said Navine Haworth, DC, DICCP a volunteer with RMIT's humanitarian project for children at risk in Thailand.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the graduation of the first group of Pediatric Diplomates (DICCPs) in Australia/New Zealand. The new DICCPs were presented with their diplomas by Dr. Maxine McMullen, a native of New Zealand and now retired Professor of Pediatrics from Palmer College. Dr. McMullen reminded the graduates that receiving the DICCP credential was not the culmination of their work and dreams but just the beginning.

"We are very pleased with the feedback we've been getting from the Australian doctors," said ICA Pediatrics Council Chair Dr. Lora Tanis. "We teach as a team and coordinate with one another so there is continuity in the lectures and the information presented. This is a somewhat novel way of teaching at a conference, but it works for us and it obviously worked in Australia. We thank the CAA, the ASRF and NZCC for supporting our first symposium in Australia and hope we will be able to work together again in the future."

The ICA Pediatrics Council's Annual Super Conference, one of chiropractic's premier educational events, is scheduled for the Bahamas, December 12-14, 2008. This year the Conference will be held in conjunction with the ICA/Facts International Symposium on the Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic, so attendees will actually get the benefit of two conferences for the price of one. (See pages 12-13 for more information).

The ICA Pediatrics Council is a specialty council of the International Chiropractors Association and should not be confused with the ICPA, which is a completely separate organization and has no affiliation with the ICA.



Three of the Symposium speakers L to R: Navine Haworth, DC, DICCP (RMIT), ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics Chair Lora Tanis, DC, DICCP and Vice Chair Sharon Vallone, DC, FICCP.



New DICCPs, Dr. Chris Morgan (front left) and Dr. Eon Scott (center), both from Australia, show off their little ones at the graduation dinner.



Doctors enjoy the dinner and meeting old and new colleagues.



Dr. Maxine McMullen gets a hug from former student and current President of the Chiropractors' Association of Australia, Dr. Dennis Richards.



Doctors and guests applaud the new DICCPs.



Dr. Hamish MacMillan hams it up after receiving his DICCP credentials.