

H.R. 1470 Passes Full House of Representatives

Rep. Bob Filner's legislative initiative, H.R. 1470, to provide program-wide chiropractic staffing at all U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' facilities, passed the full House of Representatives on May 23rd. H.R. 1470 is one of six bills proposed to "expand veterans' health care and benefits," and was passed by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on May 15th.

This important legislation would:

- Extend veterans' access to in-facility chiropractic services by requiring the expansion of chiropractic personnel requirements to "not fewer than 75 medical centers by not later than December 31, 2008, and at all medical centers by not later than December 31, 2011."
- Speed up the expansion of the highly

successful pilot chiropractic services program, and assist in meeting the high demand for chiropractic services by the veteran population.

- Provide better access to veterans for the care of their choice.

This bill is not law yet as it still has to be dealt with in the U.S. Senate. The entire chiropractic profession will need to mobilize to get H.R. 1470 through that august body.

"This important initiative deserves the full and active support of every DC in the nation," said Dr. Michael McLean, Co-Chair of ICA's Legislative Committee. "This bill will need large numbers of co-sponsors if it is going to survive the Senate Conference process, and the time to start making this happen is now!"

Federally Funded Study Seeks Volunteers with Back-Related Leg Pain

Northwestern Health Sciences University's Wolfe-Harris Center for Clinical Studies (WHCCS) is seeking individuals suffering from chronic back-related leg pain, often referred to as sciatica, for a \$2.4 million federally funded study of chiropractic care and exercise.

Volunteers should have suffered from sciatica for at least four weeks.

The WHCCS in Bloomington, Minn., and the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research (PCCR) at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, will be jointly conducting the study. This study

is a two-site, prospective, parallel group, observer-blinded clinical trial. The researchers will compare two interventions: **chiropractic spinal manipulative therapy plus home exercise program to home exercise program only** for patients with sub-acute or chronic back-related leg pain.

A total of 192 study patients will be recruited from the Twin Cities (n=122) and Quad Cities (n=70) metropolitan areas to the research clinics at Northwestern's Wolfe-Harris Center for Clinical Studies and the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, respectively. Data collection measures and study protocols will be standardized across sites. The Office of Data Management at PCCR will serve as Data Coordinating Center with a web-based interface for centralized data handling and treatment assignment. Self-reported outcome measures will be collected at baseline and 3, 12, 26 and 52 weeks post-randomization; objective biomechanical and clinical outcome measures will be assessed by blinded examiners at baseline and 12 weeks. Qualitative patient interviews will also be conducted at 12 weeks. The study is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The proposed multi-site RCT brings together experienced teams of chiropractic and allopathic professionals with established track records in the field of low back pain and chiropractic research. Building upon two previous pilot studies, this RCT is the first to focus on chiropractic care for an important, yet understudied subgroup of LBP: patients

with sub-acute and chronic BPLP. This project addresses the Healthy People 2010 goal of preventing illness and disability related to chronic LBP by identifying effective conservative care options for patients with back-related leg pain.

Co-principal investigators of the study are Maria A. Hondras, DC, MPH at PCCR and Gert Bronfort, DC, PhD at NWHHSU.

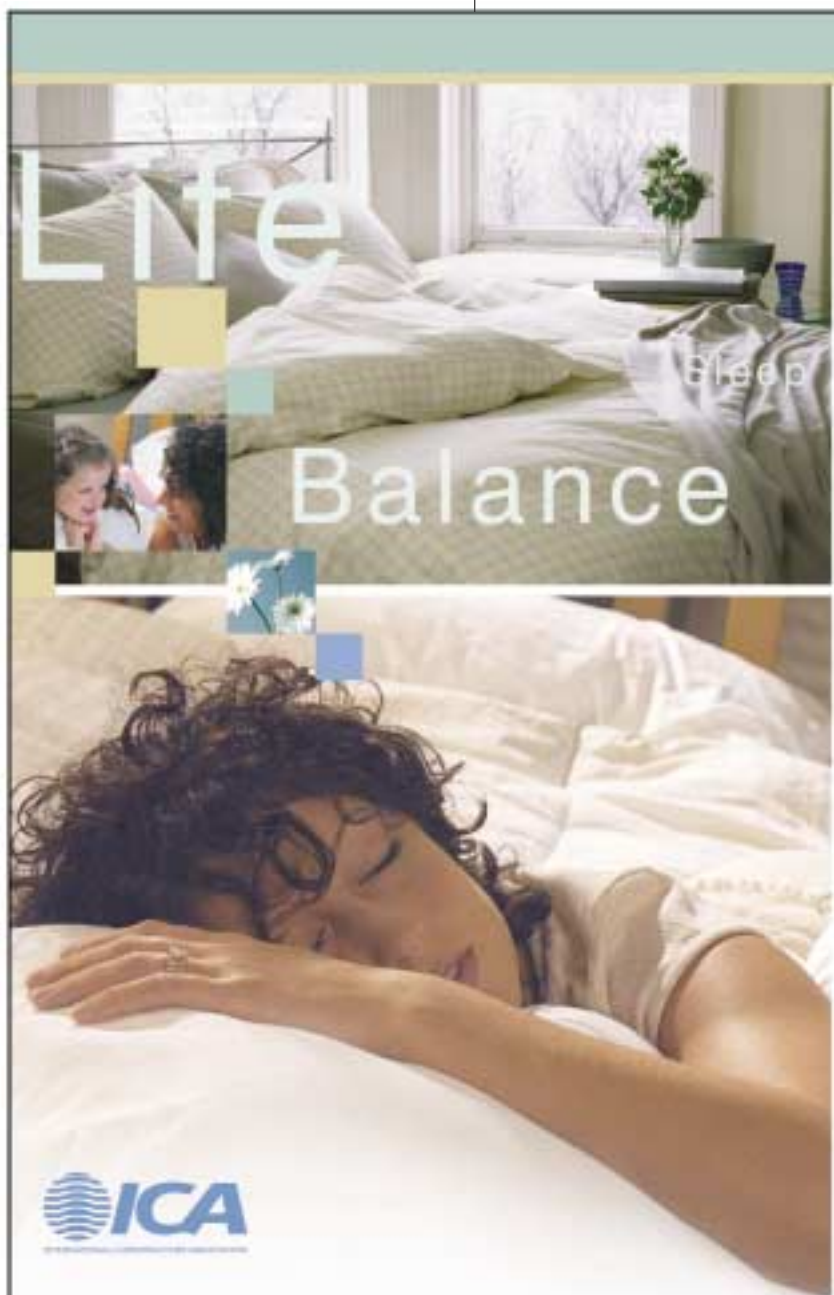
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only to those with aches and pains. The patients in this study did not have aches and pains, but they suffered from hypertension. This study further supports that chiropractic benefits systemic health and wellbeing.

8. This study supports the benefit of chiropractors exposing x-rays on patients for biomechanical reasons.

DAN MURPHY, D.C., D.A.B.C.O. is the vice president of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA). He graduated magna cum laude from Western States Chiropractic College in 1978 and received his Diplomate in Orthopedics in 1998. Internationally recognized for his excellent lectures, Dr. Murphy has been on the postgraduate faculty of Life Chiropractic College West for more than 25 years. He has been named "Postgraduate Educator of the Year" by several different organizations, including the ICA. Very much in demand as a speaker, Dr. Murphy has presented more than 2,000 seminars world-wide.



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