



# THOUGHTS

## Advancement or Decline? Still Untold, Yet Ever Telling

by Christopher Passalacqua, D.C., D.Ph.C.S.

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "To many philosophers, old age is the choicest season of their lives. A balmier air fans the mariner's cheek as he nears the shore of immortality; fewer waves ruffle his sea, quiet reigns, deep still and solemn. The flashes of fire of youth are gone, but the more real flame of ear-

nest feelings remains." In the grand scheme, we as chiropractic philosophers have but a short time in the space of life to practice our profession, to imbue our patients and friends with the miraculous simplicity of beliefs and the chiropractic principles by which we live.

We don't have the benefits of the sage older practitioner. The short amount of time that one practices this great profession of ours, and deals with people and their lives proves that a man prevails only as he believes. This is in part a great dynamic because we are young and energetic enough to still believe that all is possible so that time and thinking still can change the hardened minds of men. And we are mature enough to realize that time is of the essence. Like the Palestinian Rabbi Hillel said, "If not me, whom? If not now, when?" It might be a cliché to say that Chiropractic is at a "crossroads," but there is an abundance of indicators, both for the advancement and the decline of our beloved profession. How will history record this era of chiropractic?

Chiropractic is defined in Stephenson's seminal Text of 1927 as "... a philosophy, science and art of things natural; a system of adjusting the segments of the spinal column by hand only, for the correction of the cause of disease."<sup>1</sup> Be fond of it or not, it is a

trium of meticulous branches, first and foremost, philosophy. We will deal with the science and art first, then the significance of philosophy. May the wisdom of Innate keep us from the madness of devaluing this triune!

### The Science of Chiropractic

Science as defined in Stephenson's Text is "any branch or department of systematized knowledge considered as a distinct field of investigation or object of study (Webster). Though Chiropractic is young, it is nonetheless, a well developed science with proven facts and plausible theories based upon those facts and precise art."<sup>1</sup> Three articles that deal with chiropractic and its science will be discussed here, all have great implications concerning the consequences and correction of the subluxation.

In 1994 T.N. Lee wrote an instructive paper in *Medical Hypothesis* that gained notoriety among his colleagues. It was entitled, 'Thalamic Neuron Theory: Theoretical Basis for the Role Played by the Central Nervous System in the Causes and Cures of All Diseases.' The abstract states, "The Thalamic Neuron Theory postulates that the central nervous system is involved in all disease processes, as the CNS not only processes incoming physical and chemical information from the periphery, it also sends out physiological commands to the periphery in order to maintain homeostasis for the entire body. Inherent in its capacity to learn and adapt (i.e. to habituate) is the CNS' ability to learn to be sick (pathological habituation) by looking in certain deranged central neural circuitries leading to chronic disease states."<sup>2</sup>

Dr. James Chestnut, in his book, *The 14 Foundational Premises For The Scientific and Philosophical Validation of The Chiropractic Wellness Paradigm* has diagrammed the schematic of how

the subluxation would contribute to the theory that Dr. Lee proposes. "The brain receives 3 trillion bits of information/sec. Only 50 bits reach the conscious brain... Normalized proprioceptive (mechanoreceptive) input leads to homeostatic afferent somatosensory input into the cerebellar-brainstem-cortico loops that coordinate movement, muscle tone, and posture as well as cognition, affect (emotion) and visceral function."<sup>3</sup>

In the *Journal of Vertebral Subluxation Research (JSVR)*, Campell, Kent, Banne, Amiri and Pero offer a superb original research article entitled, "Surrogate Indication of DNA Repair in Serum After Long Term Chiropractic Intervention - A Retrospective Study." They state in the abstract, "Serum thiols are a measure of human health status. It is a surrogate estimate of DNA repair enzyme activity... While it is suggested that chiropractic care improves general health, the effect of chiropractic care on serum thiol levels has not been investigated... Asymptomatic or primary wellness subjects under chiropractic care demonstrated higher mean serum thiol levels than patients with active disease and produced some values that were higher the normal wellness values."<sup>4</sup> This has huge implications in scientifically supporting long term asymptomatic wellness care for our patients.

In 2004 an article out of the *Journal of American Geriatrics Society* entitled "Hyperkyphotic Posture Predicts Mortality in Older Community-Dwelling Men and Woman: A Perspective Study," described some very interesting conclusions; "Hyperkyphosis is associated with restrictive pulmonary disease and poor physical function, suggesting that hyperkyphosis might be associated with other adverse health outcomes... Hyperkyphosis is significantly associated with deaths due to athero-

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