

## Life University and CCE Reach Accreditation Agreement

Life University of Marietta, Ga., and the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) released a joint statement on June 24th stating they had reached an agreement to resolve the issues surrounding the accreditation status of the University's doctor of chiropractic program. The agreement continues Life's current accredited status and provides for a special accreditation process that is scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2005.

On June 10, 2002, CCE stripped Life of its accreditation for a variety of infractions. Life appealed, but on October 10, 2002, the CCE appeals panel voted to uphold the decision. On January 3, 2003 Life filed a lawsuit against the CCE charging that CCE had denied them due process during the accreditation reaffirmation process, seeking an immediate injunction. On Feb. 10, 2003, Senior US District Court Judge Charles A. Moye,

Jr., granted Life's request for an injunction and restored Life's accreditation retroactive to June 2002. CCE announced that it would appeal the decision.

Details of the agreement between Life and CCE have been kept confidential but the news has put Life back into motion. Between the fall of 2001 and the fall of 2002 Life's student population had dramatically declined with a loss of \$21 million in tuition revenues. The school had to make major cutbacks in faculty, staff and programs. Life's president, Ben DeSpain, however, is optimistic and foresees a substantial increase in student enrollment.

"We will learn a great deal about ourselves and our institution," said DeSpain, about the special accreditation process... "We are determined to work together to succeed in the process and create an improved future for Life University."

## ChiroSecure To Sponsor New Scholarship Program

ICA's exclusive malpractice carrier, ChiroSecure, is sponsoring a scholarship program, offering awards of \$1,000 for the winners of a writing competition. Students are invited to submit essays of no more than 1,500 words on the topic, "The Safety and Effectiveness of Chiropractic Care".

ChiroSecure has established this new program as part of their continuing commitment to a strong and growing chiropractic profession and as a means of giving back to the chiropractic community. The panel of judges for this program includes Dr. Gerry Clum, President of Life Chiropractic College West; Dr. Robert Hoffman, President of The Masters Circle consulting group; and Dr. Elliot Foster, Chairman of ICA's Board of Directors.

This competition is open to all U.S. students currently enrolled in chiropractic college. Essays must be received via e-mail by February 1, 2004 and the win-

ners will be announced at ICA's Annual Meeting in April of 2004. The winning essays will also be published in an official ICA publication and the successful authors will have the opportunity to present their work at the Annual Meeting of the ICA Council on Applied Chiropractic Sciences scheduled for February 20-22, 2004 in California.

Entries are to be submitted on-line to [drhoffman@chirosecure.com](mailto:drhoffman@chirosecure.com).

The ICA is proud to recommend the ChiroSecure program to members and non-members because ChiroSecure coverage meets ICA's high standards and supports ICA's subluxation-based philosophy. Dr. Stuart Hoffman, president of ChiroSecure will be available to assist you directly with all of your malpractice needs. For more information contact ChiroSecure at 1-866-80-CHIRO (1-866-802-4476 Ext. 11) or online at [www.chirosecure.com](http://www.chirosecure.com).

## MEDICARE

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neuromusculoskeletal to subluxation-based. It doesn't prohibit any chiropractic service allowed by state scope laws.

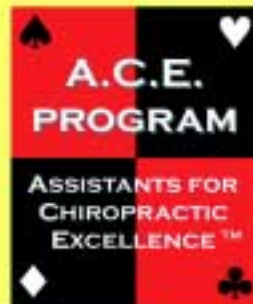
"Medicare is a limited reimbursement program only and HR 2560 would have no impact at all on chiropractic scope of practice, ability to bill for evaluation and management codes, or the status of the DC as a doctor level professional," said ICA Legislative Committee Chairman Dr. Michael S. McLean. "Medicare law only deals with what DCs are paid for under this one program. Presently, the only reimbursable Medicare service is subluxation correction. HR 2560 would significantly expand the list of chiropractic services recognized by the Medicare program."

The bill adds a provision to the Medicare code that states that the term "chiropractic services" means "clinically necessary care by means of adjustment of the spine (to correct a subluxation) performed by a chiropractor legally authorized to perform such adjustment by the State or jurisdiction in which such care is provided."

This wording was carefully chosen to ensure that the bill will protect a DC's right to correct subluxation, and to perform services as specified by his or her state statutes. To avoid the use of the "medically necessary" criteria, the bill further states that services are considered "clinically necessary" when examination by a chiropractor demonstrates objective evidence of a subluxation. The bill, therefore, gives DCs — and only DCs — the authority to determine when chiropractic care is needed.

The bill also states that such examination may include physical examination, radiological examination, and "specialized diagnostic instruments used in the practice of chiropractic." This provision will be used to obtain Medicare reimbursement for a broad range of examination services, including x-rays.

ICA urges all DCs and concerned patients to write to their Members of Congress in support of HR 2560. For model letters, visit ICA's website at [www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org) or call ICA at 1-800-423-4690.



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