



Principle No. 32

By John K. Maltby, D.C.

"No. 32, The Principle of Coordination. Coordination is the principle of harmonious action of all parts of an organism, in fulfilling their offices and purposes."

The Chiropractic Textbook, Stephenson, pg. xxxiii

Recent events have shown me how important it is for us as a profession, and equally important, for the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) to get back to the basics. Principle No. 32 highlights one of the most basic elements ICA must provide for the profession in these times of intense pressure.

I believe that ICA's role must be to speak out in defense of the freedom of the doctor of chiropractic on all fronts. This is the "office and purpose" we need to fulfill for our profession to most effectively provide for harmonious action. Is it not a bit of a contradiction that ICA will provide for greater harmony by speaking in opposition to a number of the profession's current high-profile programs and trends? Not if ICA's opposition keeps the profession from self-de-

struction! Coordination does not mean surrender, or even compromise, especially when fundamental values are at stake.

Freedom for the chiropractic profession is a status we have fought hard to attain over the past century and more. We have the freedom to apply our unique science, art and philosophy in the delivery of patient care, based on our best professional judgment, within the law and our respective scopes of practice. Chiropractic freedom, balanced with professional obligations has been established in the law of the states, provinces and many nations around the globe, and the rest is up to the consumer to decide whether or not they want to follow a chiropractic care pathway for their individual health needs. This is the way it has been. In light of recent trends, any objective observer has every right to wonder whether this is the way it will be in the future.

Private organizations are aggressively seeking to redefine the terms of practice, both within the profession itself and in the commercial market-

place, especially in the insurance industry. Managed care groups are rejecting claims on the basis of "guidelines" developed to meet their economic needs, and seeking to wrap those economic equations in the guise of "evidence." Sadly, there are far too many doctors of chiropractic willing to argue and defend those otherwise unsupportable economic parameters for money.

In order to correct a destructive trend, ICA has and will continue to speak out, mobilize action and offer sound alternatives.

DANGER SIGNS: CCGPP! The "low back" initiative currently being promoted by the Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters (CCGPP) is potentially the most dangerous document ever to be published within or from outside the chiropractic profession. The Board of Directors of the ICA has called for the withdrawal of the current CCGPP "Best Practices" document. At their meeting of July 11, 2006, the ICA Board adopted an emphatic position of opposition to this divisive and highly charged issue out of a strong sense of responsibility to the doctor in the field, and out of a deep sense of concern over the methodological and procedural flaws in the CCGPP process. In order to fulfill our responsibilities to our membership and to the future of the chiropractic profession, ICA's Board of Directors had no choice but to act to oppose this latest CCGPP initiative.

ICA's Board acted on the basis of a massive, detailed and highly objective

and sophisticated analysis of the "Low Back" document developed by a special committee commissioned at the ICA's 2006 Annual Board of Directors Meeting in May. This unique 32-page, heavily referenced analysis document addressed the issue of the CCGPP's current initiative from every possible viewpoint, including the many issues of procedure and methodology that raised concern on the part of the ICA committee, to the all-important matters of conflict of interest. The full text of this ICA analysis is available on the ICA website at www.chiropractic.org. **NO ONE CAN SAY THAT ICA TOOK ITS STAND IN OPPOSITION TO THIS DOCUMENT BECAUSE WE DID NOT UNDERSTAND IT. YES WE DO!**

ICA's greatest concern with the CCGPP document is that it can only serve to restrict, hinder and complicate the provision of necessary patient care at a time when all of health care is under massive negative pressure. The overwhelming third-party payment orientation of this document is terribly misplaced, to the point that one may legitimately ask where is the evidence that such a document is needed at all. ICA has no doubt that this latest document can and will do little to enhance the quality, timeliness or availability of patient care.

ICA's action to call for the withdrawal of the document took place in the context of a nationwide ground-swell of concern and similar actions on the part of many if not most state chiropractic associations. ICA is encouraged by the

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City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____		First year after graduation	
Country _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Former Student ICA member (\$50 transfer fee) \$ _____	
Office Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Student ICA member (\$85 yr.) \$ _____	
Home Address _____ City _____		Second year after graduation	
State/Province _____ Zip _____ Country _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Former Student ICA member (\$85 yr.) \$ _____	
Home Phone (____) _____ Email Address _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Student ICA member (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ _____	
Chiropractic College Attended _____ Grad. Date _____ / _____		Third year after graduation	
Chiropractic licenses held in: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Fmr Student ICA member (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ _____	
In active practice? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Former SICA member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Former Field member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Student ICA member (\$150 qtr./\$600 yr.) \$ _____	
I hereby apply for membership in the International Chiropractors Association, agreeing to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Ethics, all amendments and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Association under the provisions of the Constitution, and amendments hereafter legally adopted. I also understand that failure to remit dues will result in loss of membership, and all rights and privileges thereof.		Fourth year or more after graduation	
Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____		<input type="checkbox"/> (\$150 qtr./\$600 yr.) \$ _____	
Please charge my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a check/money order		INTERNATIONAL — OUTSIDE U.S.	
Account # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____		<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 yr. (U.S.) Payment may be made by MasterCard/Visa/American Express or International Money Order. Checks drawn on Canadian Banks must have "In US Funds" written after amount. \$ _____	
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1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 650 • Arlington, VA 22201		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting* (\$110 yr.) \$ _____	
1-800-423-4690 or 1-703-528-5000 • Fax: 703-528-5023		Teaching at (school): _____	
* Unless otherwise requested, correspondence will be sent to your office address.		LAY** (must be sponsored by two ICA members)	
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