

## LANGUAGE OF PHILOSOPHY

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me more than ten years ago as the basis of Chiropractic, is the identification of God with Life-Force. The Intelligent Life-Force of Creation is God. It is individualized within each of us. It desires to express itself in the best manner possible." (Palmer 1910, 446).

This confusion is widespread. Winterstein, for example, also equates the term "universal intelligence" with "God", (1991, 37).

In summary, the terms innate intelligence and universal intelligence, although representing important foundational concepts in the profession of chiropractic, are fundamentally flawed as descriptors. These flaws have led to misunderstandings, misconceptualizations, and have added to the destructive polemic within the chiropractic profession.

### Steps to a Solution

Given the flaws in the current terminology,

what steps does the profession need to make? It is important, as we move forward, to use a consensus process to make any progress in this area. Any movement by an individual to attempt to rename these terms will fail to be successful. Koch (2004) for example, has made such steps but to date the profession has not moved to adopt the new terminology. The first step is a commitment of the "philosophers" in chiropractic to address the issue. A consensus building symposium will allow the people with scholarly interest and appropriate credentials to resolve the issue for the profession.

The symposium would bring together the scholars with interest and expertise in the subject to develop a series of consensus statements leading to a resolution of these issues. In particular, the objectives of the symposium should be answers to the following questions:

- 1) Should the profession continue to use current terminology, despite the shortcomings identified in this paper?
- 2) Does the profession need to develop and support another term to replace "universal intelligence"? Koch has suggested using the term universal mind or cosmic consciousness (2005 lecture notes on website <http://w3.palmer.edu/koch/powerpoints.htm>)
- 3) In fact, do we need to postulate the existence of what causes organization in the universe? Would it be more efficacious to acknowledge the existence of order without addressing the source of the order? In other words, is universal intelligence the source of that organization or the organization itself?
- 4) Do we need a term to replace the term innate intelligence, in its three forms?
  - a. Vitalistic form: Koch (2005 lecture notes on website <http://w3.palmer.edu/koch/powerpoints.htm>) has suggested using "systemic wisdom" or the "meta-conscious mind" in lieu of innate intelligence.
  - b. Homeostasis form: Koch (2005 lecture notes on website <http://w3.palmer.edu/koch/powerpoints.htm>) has suggested the systems theory term "autopoiesis" to use in innate intelligence's stead for this concept.
  - c. Spiritual form

This paper has posited that two of chiropractic's foundational concepts have been poorly defined; the use of the terms innate intelligence and universal intelligence to describe these notions has been problematic for further understanding of the philosophy of living systems and for creating unity within the profession.

I advocate for the development of consensus in the profession with respect to defining these terms. Using the principles of clarity, simplicity and utility, the philosophy scholars in the profession need to come to an agreement on terms that adequately describe these core chiropractic concepts.

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# Call for Papers

## International Symposium on the Philosophy, Art and Science of Chiropractic Madrid, Spain • October 6-8, 2006

The International Chiropractors Association (ICA) is calling for papers to be presented at its fourth International Symposium on the Philosophy, Art and Science of Chiropractic to be held in Madrid, Spain, October 6-8, 2006.

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