



The Rise and Fall of the CCE

By Rob Sinnott, D.C., L.C.P. (Hon.)

In light of the recent Federal Court findings placing an injunction against the CCE (Council on Chiropractic Education), I thought it would be relevant and timely to find out what brought us to this day in chiropractic.

In the 1970's the ICA and ACA sat down together and agreed that neither organization would submit an accrediting body to the Department of Education alone.¹ They agreed to work together until they had a single organization with rules agreeable to both.



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Then ICA President, Leonard Rutherford, DC, stayed true to his word and his commitment to work together with the ACA leadership. Sadly, the ACA leadership went to Washington, DC and submitted the CCE unilaterally, and against their word to ICA and the profession.¹ Dr. Rutherford immediately saw that the CCE had stipulations that would infringe upon other separate and distinct health care professions.¹ He also recognized the destructive force of the CCE to the future of chiropractic's identity.

Evidence shows that in time the CCE strayed from its "Standards" as di-

rected by the Department of Education. For many years after this deviousness of the ACA, Dr. Rutherford and his group, the Association for Chiropractic Education and Standards (ACES) testified against the ACA's CCE on the grounds that they did not follow their own "Standards" as required by the Department of Education. Dr. Rutherford often made the statement that his organization's testimony was not meant to remove the CCE, but to have them follow their "Standards" as the law requires.

As the Vice President of the ACES, in 1998 I had the honor of offering testimony against the CCE before the US Department of Education (USDE) with Dr. Rutherford's team. We sat before the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) of the USDE. When they realized how prepared we were they refused to ask us any questions related to our testimony as they had been pushed into a legal corner they had constructed themselves earlier in the day.² I was dumbfounded. Truth is often subservient to upsetting the applecart in Washington, DC.

Dr. Rutherford and his group had consulted federal lawyers and fraud examiners and found chinks in the ACA's CCE ill-gotten armor. Sadly, there was

no uprising from the profession to raise the funds to question the CCE's actions until thousands of students were in peril recently. Dr. Rutherford, a brilliant and dedicated chiropractor and gentleman, was never afforded the opportunity to make his case to the courts due to apathy in the profession.

In the most recent development in this saga, a Federal Judge has slapped the CCE with an injunction and recommended they construct a legal defense team as they may be facing a myriad of conjoined legal actions from their activities including possible racketeering and other antitrust violations. The Judge's statement referring to "actions which would violate the antitrust laws if incorporated in an accreditation procedure," are certainly very telling.

Make no mistake; the CCE has a chance of living through this onslaught from previously enslaved parties — from students to the schools — without agreeing to break the educational chains with which it has bound our chiropractic institutions.

My point in this historical repartee is simply this: Take a moment to remember those that kept the issue alive so that we may see a day of educational liberation. If it were not for a generation who kept the sometimes-smoldering embers of the chiropractic torch alive, we would have had nothing to fight for in federal court today. I consider myself fortunate to have known some of these dedicated men and women who gave selflessly to fulfill a sacred trust for the betterment of future generations of chiropractors.

There are many individuals who fought this fight for many years and deserve to be remembered. But there are three that I would especially like to remember for they fought valiantly but did not live to see the dawn of this new chiropractic day. They are Dr. Leonard Rutherford (PSC 1939 — A.C.E.S.

founder); Dr. James Young (PSC 1936 — A.C.E.S. Board); and Dr. John Sayers, Sr. (PSC 1955 — A.C.E.S. Board).

This is just the beginning!

I would also like you all to recognize the considerable efforts of the ICA in this battle. They are the only organization to "just say no" to the CCE consistently and they deserve our support. As a matter of fact, ACA recently referred to the Palmer Colleges, the ICA, Life College and others involved in suing the CCE as "SOME ELEMENTS" in a document proclaiming their opposition to these entities and supporting the CCE in their actions.³

Judge for yourself which organizations have *always* protected the 'vertebral subluxation' and our separate and distinct profession. Also consider which rides roughshod over the profession with one leg on either side of the fence for the sake of the membership dollar. Study the patterns of behavior and then cast your vote for membership. Lest you forget, throughout history whenever the interests of chiropractic were at stake, the ICA has *always* been there.

If you are not a member of the ICA as yet, I urge you to join. A membership application is included on page 6. I also invite and look forward to your responses.

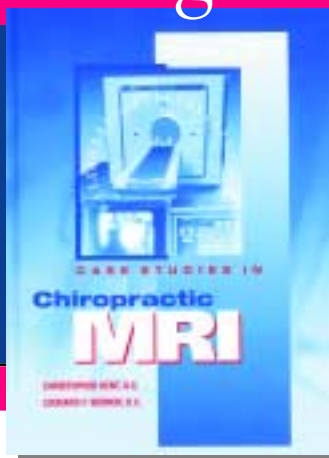
References:

1. Rutherford L. *The Role of Chiropractic*, 1987.
2. CCE Reaccreditation Hearing Minutes, December 1998, United States Department of Education.
3. Email of CCE support, written by Gary Cuneo, Executive Vice President, American Chiropractic Association.

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PACE STUDY GROUP

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ine alarm and strike at the initiative's overall credibility," Dr. Walsemann continued. "At the top of the list of ICA's concerns is an assertion by the PACE proponents that the criteria for approval of continuing education programs were 'developed by the Council on Chiropractic Education' (CCE). We have conclusive evidence to indicate this is simply false." The Study Group has been in direct contact with a CCE Board member who has indicated a similar finding and concern.

There is no basis for the argument that the "PACE" system would in any way enhance chiropractic's political status or positive profile. Also, counter to FCLB claims in support of the proposal, no evidence can be identified that indicates in any way that the quality of clinical practice or other professional elements will be enhanced through this cumbersome and expensive system.

A final report in the form of a detailed "white paper" will be published by the ICA at the conclusion of the work of the Study Group in the near future.