



CHOICE

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ICA's International Symposium in Madrid a Huge Success, DCs from 21 Countries Praise Program's All-Round Excellence

"It was one of the most enjoyable conferences we have attended, when is the next one?" "The sessions were excellent, I was impressed." "A class act...thanks." These were some of the comments and emails sent by doctors from England, Netherlands and Australia about ICA's 4th International Symposium on the Philosophy, Art and Science of Chiropractic held recently at the magnificent Westin Palace in Madrid, Spain.

The camaraderie, the enthusiasm, the feeling of goodwill that pervaded the whole conference from beginning to end was stimulating and exciting.

"We were very pleased to see everyone enjoying the conference," said ICA President Dr. John Maltby. "We were invited to hold our Symposium in Spain by the Asociacion Espanola de Chiropractica (AEQ) and were fortunate to get the complete support of AEQ President Dr. Belan Sunyer who was of great help to us throughout. We were certainly honored to be told that this conference has helped to raise chiropractic's profile in Spain and will be helpful in AEQ's efforts to gain for chiropractors the credibility and status

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Gala banquet speaker Astronaut Pedro Duque from the European Space Agency and a resident of Madrid, gave some interesting insights into the technological and human challenges in space with video clips from his two space flight missions.



- Educating the public
- Promoting the principle
- Adjusting the future

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Scheduled Medicare Cuts, Pending Funding Shortfalls Demand Urgent Chiropractic Response

The federal Medicare program, facing looming financial crisis, has sought to delay for a brief period the collapse that most objective analysts say is inevitable by cutting payment to certain providers, including doctors of chiropractic. Using complex formulas known as the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula (SGR) and the relative value units (RVUs), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is proposing to enact severe cuts in program reimbursements to chiropractors, approximately 5% under the SGR, which combined with the RVU formula reduction, represents an approximate 13% cut of chiropractic services effective January 1, 2007.

Aware of the negative impact these fee reductions are certain to have on consumers and providers alike, Congress has acted in previous years to delay similar proposed cuts. On July 24, 2006, Rep. Nancy Johnson of Connecti-

cut and Rep. Benjamin Cardin of Maryland began circulating a letter calling on the congressional leadership to act to postpone these proposed Medicare cuts. The full text of the Johnson/Cardin letter is available on the ICA website at www.chiropractic.org.

ICA is urging all doctors of chiropractic and chiropractic organizations in the United States to contact their federal legislators and call for a postponement of the scheduled Medicare fee reductions, and co-sign the letter prepared by Rep. Johnson and Rep. Cardin. ICA believes this move is of vital importance to the public health and the financial stability of the Medicare program because:

- Postponing the scheduled cuts will help to preserve Medicare patients' access to urgently needed care.
- Chiropractic offers a highly cost effective, drugless approach to caring

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"This is the time for plain speaking and blunt communication with our Congressional representatives on behalf of our patients, our profession, our nation..."

Michael McLean, D.C.



International Chiropractors Association
1110 N. Glebe Road, Suite 650
Arlington, VA 22201

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