

Watchdog Group Organized to Scrutinize Chiropractic Accreditation Decision-Making

An independent watchdog organization comprised of hundreds of doctors of chiropractic from across the United States, representing graduates of Life University as well as almost every other chiropractic institution in North America, has been organized to conduct an objective, third-party study of the chiropractic accreditation process as it has been applied to Life University in Marietta, Georgia.

The first major task this group has undertaken is to conduct a detailed and fact-based review of accreditation procedures and decision-making to insure that the CCE has and continues to act in full compliance with all the rules and regulations governing the accreditation process and to insure that their activi-

ties are in the best interests of the students at Life and all other schools. The Doctors for Excellence for Chiropractic Education sincerely hopes that the CCE will also recognize a responsibility to act in the best interests of the chiropractic profession at large. "Only a third-party group can objectively perform this urgently needed function," said Dr. Donald Hirsh, Doctors for Excellence Steering Committee member from Laurel, Maryland.

The impact of the CCE decision has already had detrimental effects, with some managed care plans dropping Life graduates from provider panels, patients terminating care because of where they went to school, and some jurisdictions making noises about the

eligibility of any Life graduate to seek licensure, especially overseas.

"There are significant issues which demand attention in this unfortunate situation and it is the hope of the Doctors for Excellence group that reasonable resolutions to what ought to be solvable problems might be found that will best serve the interests of all parties. We have a particular concern for the fate of the hundreds of Life students who have been left with no clear procedural path and in a state of great uncertainty," said Doctors for Excellence's local spokesperson, Dr. Debra Porter of Marietta, Georgia.

Doctors for Excellence have retained the highly prestigious firm of Swankin & Turner to support their watchdog efforts in Life University's accreditation crisis. "The wide range of legal and regulatory questions obligated our group to seek out and secure the services of top legal minds," said Dr. Hirsh. Mr. Jim Turner, who heads this legendary law firm and his colleagues are those proven experts."

For more information on this watchdog group see www.DECE.org.

ICA Board of Directors Calls for Objective Review of CCE's Decision on Life

At a special meeting on June 18, 2002, the Board of Directors of the International Chiropractors Association voted unanimously to call on the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) to conduct an immediate and objective review of its decision to deny re-accreditation to Life University's College of Chiropractic.

Expressing grave reservations as to the appropriateness of the CCE action and citing the devastating economic, professional and social damage this step has and will continue to cause tens of thousands of people, the ICA Board adopted the following statement:

The International Chiropractors Association recognizes and acknowledges the contribution to the chiropractic profession, and to the greater health and quality of life for all mankind, made by the Life University's College of Chiropractic and its Founder and President Dr. Sid E. Williams.

The ICA Board of Directors has grave reservations as to the appropriateness of the actions of the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) in their revocation of accreditation status for Life University's College of Chiropractic. The effects of these actions upon the faculty, staff, students, alumni and their families, lacks compassion by causing the innocent, including the patients, to suffer.

The ICA calls for the immediate and objective reevaluation of the accreditation status for Life University's College of Chiropractic and further calls upon the CCE to find other, less collaterally damaging means of correcting any legitimate outstanding academic issues with Life University.

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a massive rate, the drugless, non-surgical option chiropractic offers should be highlighted to policy makers at every opportunity.

While the ACA will not, it seems, be involved in the ICA led cooperative effort, Dr. Richard Plummer, on behalf of the Federation of Straight Chiropractors and Organizations (FSCO), has also responded positively to ICA's invitation. This means that at least three established organizations will be meeting to seek sound strategies and tactics for chiropractic progress in Congress in the coming months.

"The invitation to the ACA remains open and we hope that the leadership of that organization will reconsider their initial decision," said ICA Legislative Committee Chairman Dr. Michael S. McLean. "The recent success in passing a chiropractic veterans bill clearly shows that cooperation is the best way, perhaps the only way, to secure the legislative gains chiropractic and chiropractic patients need and deserve."