



CHOICE

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ICA
CHIROPRACTIC

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

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CHIROPRACTIC SUMMIT

presented by ICA Council on Chiropractic Philosophy
December 7-8, 2007
Las Vegas, Nevada

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Merger of ICA and ACA Will Not Create One Voice for the Chiropractic Profession

ICA Needed Now More Than Ever

By John K. Maltby, D.C.
ICA President

Recently there has been discussion on the part of a few non-ICA members concerning merger between the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) and the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) touting it as the answer to chiropractic's problems. I feel it is imperative that the profession understand why the unique voice of the ICA is needed now more than ever. Also, it is important for the entire profession to understand that a merger will not only not solve our profession's problems, but talk of merger at this time does not make any sense.

First, I need to point out that ICA belongs to its member and its members only. Those who pay the dues are the only ones to say where ICA goes and doesn't go. When the merger issue first surfaced in the general chiropractic media, ICA refrained from any response for a full month in order to gauge what the sentiment of the ICA membership was to this initiative. I can report that virtually no ICA member expressed interest in a corporate merger. On the



John K. Maltby, D.C.

contrary, however, many expressed their serious concern and opposition because of deep differences in mission, policies and principles between ICA and ACA. ICA is a democratic organization and any time ICA members wish to make a fundamental change, they can do so. It is very clear that they do not wish to do so at this time.

It is also essential to recognize that cooperation and unity of action do not

require corporate amalgamation. ICA stands ready to cooperate on a meaningful and ongoing basis to promote common goals with the ACA and all professional organizations within chiropractic. This is, and has consistently been ICA's position.

ICA has extended the hand of cooperation to the ACA on critical issues facing the profession that all can agree on. So you can see for yourself that ICA is serious about us working together for the future of chiropractic, a copy of the letter sent to ACA on June 22 has been reproduced on page 3. We are still awaiting ACA's response.

Here is another critical fact that cannot be ignored. Merger between the ICA and the ACA will **NOT** create anything resembling one voice in the profession. During the past several years the "voice" of chiropractic in federal proceedings has included the "voices" of the National Association of Chiropractic Medicine (NACM), the American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians (AACP), the World Chiropractic Alliance (WCA), the Federation of

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Medicare Fee Issues Alarm Both Providers And Legislators

The massive pressure to contain runaway Medicare costs, made even more untenable by the recent addition of prescription drug coverage, has resulted in a steady series of reductions and proposed reductions of fees for services paid to Medicare providers, including doctors of chiropractic. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has predicted that without congressional action, Medicare physician payment rates will be reduced 10 percent in 2008. The 2007 Medicare Trustees report predicts needed total cuts of about 40 percent by 2016. The net result of this alarming trend has been an equally significant trend on the part of providers to simply not accept Medicare beneficiaries as patients. Many medical practices have even implemented policies that decline potential patients who will become Medicare eligible within 12 or 24 months.

The federal government's response

to the growing crisis of a Medicare program in which providers are refusing to participate, has been equally alarming, as it consists of all but a refusal to accept this trend even exists.

A Tale of Two Studies

In the face of mounting concern about a Medicare program with fewer and fewer providers participating, the

Government Accountability Office (GAO) was commissioned by Congress to conduct a study of the impact of Medicare fee cuts on the availability of care, and on the numbers of physicians and other providers withdrawing from the program. The government's conclusions, after a review of Medicare data from 2000 to 2005, was that less than four percent of physicians responding indicated that they were not accepting any new Medicare patients as a result of the 5.4% fee reduction in 2002 and the difficulties faced over the same issues in ensuing years. The report also

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