

Do You Find Yourself Saying: "I Wish Chiropractic Had More Credibility"?

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I sat in the Dean's Office at CMCC observing his library while waiting for him to enter. I was a freshman student at the tender age of 17 having recently travelled from Dubbo, New South Wales to Toronto, Canada to study chiropractic.

I had grown up familiar with only one paradigm of health care and that was the allopathic, reductionist approach of orthodox medicine. My sister was a radiologist and in a small country town in those days, the medical doctor was next to God. I was in awe of the medical profession and had intended to study medicine until I discovered chiropractic.

However, I was concerned by the mistrust, scepticism and cynicism that the profession faced from some factions. Even my headmaster tried on many occasions to talk me out of choosing chiropractic as a career. I became preoccupied with the question "what can chiropractic do to gain more credibility?" I was searching for an answer because I was feeling ill at ease about my chosen profession. That was the reason I was in the Dean's Office. I was hoping Dr Himes could give me some answers and confidence.

I could not have asked a better question for my own enlightenment. Although I didn't appreciate it at that time, I got a strong philosophical answer that I could not argue with. After I graduated, my further studies of the philosophy gave me the faith, confidence and belief I needed in chiropractic. Without that confidence and the understanding of the "why", I might not be in chiropractic today.

However, chiropractic is a balance of philosophy, science and art. Having research that substantiates our claims gives us credibility, opens doors and increases our ability to get the attention of opinion makers, the very people we would love to have as patients and adversaries. To date, the Australian Spinal Research Foundation ('Spinal Research') is the only organisation that I know



of that raises funds specifically and solely for this kind of "chiropractic research". The Spinal Research Vision Statement is, "We are the Research Foundation which demonstrates that subluxation-based chiropractic care enhances quality of life and human performance".

Through Spinal Research, I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with chiropractic researchers. I have been impressed by the fact that all the researchers I have met not only love research, but share the passion I have for chiropractic! Their interest and commitment in researching and explaining the subluxation and its effects greatly inspires me.

However, here is our dilemma. The major fundraisers for Spinal Research are DG ('Dynamic Growth') and Parker. Apart from those events, where do our researchers get funding? Your colleagues in research, who are dedicated to advancing this profession, have very little option other than to rely upon philanthropic individuals and organisations.

It's a catch-22, we need the research to get the attention of these people who can fund the research. In addition, we simply don't have the political or economic clout of medicine to raise funds, therefore we must fund research ourselves. In fact, if we don't dig deep into our pockets, our research colleagues cannot do the research we need and we may even lose them to other arenas.

If you want to see chiropractic flourish, you must support it. Every chiropractor in the world shares that responsibility. To this end, I am calling on you to donate a percentage of your income back to this profession that has served us so well. I urge you to join me and dig deeply, every little bit helps.

Pick up the phone now and dial **+61 7 3808 4098**. Have your credit card ready and donate a percentage of your takings this week. Do it every week, you won't miss it. Even if you only do this once, you will be helping the profession, your patients and yourself. You will also help our research colleagues who share the passion for chiropractic and keep them focussed and able to conduct research within our paradigm.

By Dr James Carter, Governor, Australian Spinal Research Foundation