WORLD FEDERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC | FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DE CHIROPRATIQUE | FEDERACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA QUIROPRÁCTICA

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WFC POLICY STATEMENT

Adoption of the ACC Paradigm

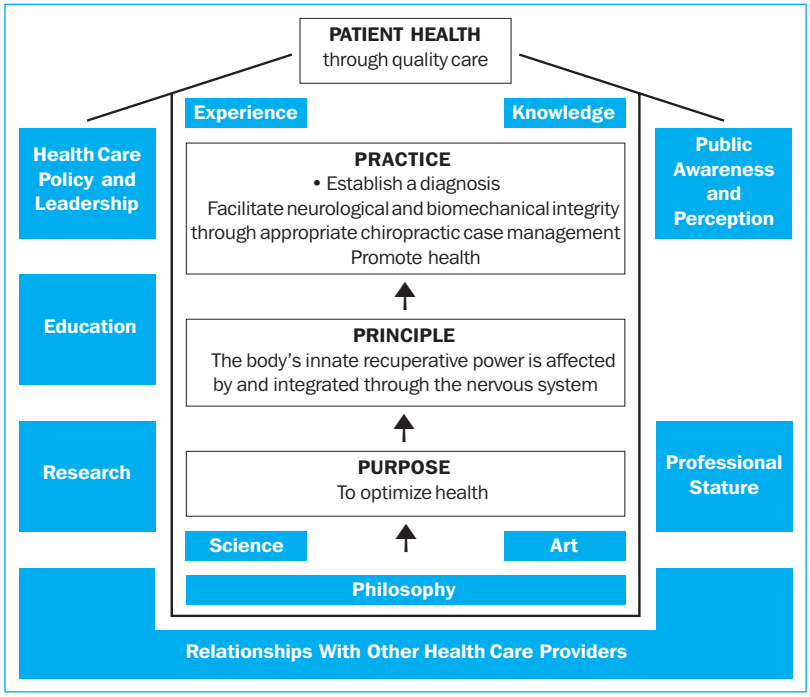
Approved by the Assembly of the World Federation of Chiropractic
Paris, May 23, 2001

Whereas the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) reached unanimous agreement on the Paradigm of Chiropractic in July 1996, as shown in Figure 1 attached hereto;

And whereas the American Chiropractic Association and the International Chiropractors' Association have jointly moved that the ACC Paradigm of Chiropractic be adopted by the World Federation of Chiropractic;

Now therefore be it resolved that the ACC Paradigm of Chiropractic be so adopted.

Figure 1 **The ACC Chiropractic Paradigm**



1.0 Preamble

The Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) is committed to affirming the profession by addressing issues facing chiropractic education. The ACC brings together a wide range of perspectives on chiropractic and is uniquely positioned to help define the chiropractic role within health care.

The ACC is committed to greater public service through reaching consensus on the following issues which are important to the chiropractic profession:

- continued enhancement of educational curricula;
- strengthening chiropractic research,
- participating and providing leadership in the development of health care policy,
- fostering relationships with other health care providers,
- affirming professional confidence and conduct, and
- increasing public awareness regarding the benefits of chiropractic care.

The member Colleges of the ACC represent a broad diversity of institutional missions. The presidents have drafted a consensus statement that includes the following:

- the ACC position on chiropractic,
- a representation of the chiropractic paradigm, and
- clarification regarding the definition and clinical management of the subluxation.

Additional statements will be forthcoming as the ACC continues to provide meaning and substance regarding what is taught in chiropractic colleges and how this information influences the present and future of the profession.

2.0 ACC Position on Chiropractic

Chiropractic is a health care discipline which emphasizes the inherent recuperative power of the body to heal itself without the use of drugs or surgery.

The practice of chiropractic focuses on the relationship between structure (primarily the spine) and function (as coordinated by the nervous system) and how that relationship affects the preservation and restoration of health. In addition, Doctors of Chiropractic recognize the value and responsibility of working in cooperation with other health care practitioners when in the best interest of the patient.

The Association of Chiropractic Colleges continues to foster a unique, distinct chiropractic profession that serves as a health care discipline for all. The ACC advocates a profession that generates, develops, and utilizes the highest level of evidence possible in the provision of effective, prudent, and cost-conscious patient evaluation and care.

3.0 The Chiropractic Paradigm

PURPOSE. The purpose of chiropractic is to optimize health.

PRINCIPLE. The body's innate recuperative power is affected by and integrated through the nervous system.

PRACTICE. The practice of chiropractic includes: establishing a diagnosis, facilitating neurological and biomechanical integrity through appropriate chiropractic case management, and promoting health.

FOUNDATION. The foundation of chiropractic includes philosophy, science, art, knowledge, and clinical experience.

IMPACTS. The chiropractic paradigm directly influences the following: education; research; health care policy and leadership; relationships with other health care providers; professional stature; public awareness and perceptions; and patient health through quality care.

4.0 The Subluxation

Chiropractic is concerned with the preservation and restoration of health, and focuses particular attention on the subluxation.

A subluxation is a complex of functional and/or structural and/or pathological articular changes that compromise neural integrity and may influence organ system function and general health.

A subluxation is evaluated, diagnosed, and managed through the use of chiropractic procedures based on the best available rational and empirical evidence.