

CHAPTER TWO

Preparing the Way

Chiropractic originated in the United States, with Kansas and North Dakota passing legislative recognition in 1913.¹ Shortly after, the profession spread to Canada, where legislation to recognize and regulate the profession was passed in the provinces of British Columbia in 1925 and Ontario in 1927.

The profession was next established in Europe where the first chiropractic regional organization, the European Chiropractors' Union (ECU), was formed in 1932. Countries that were prominent in the early years of the ECU included Belgium, Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, where the first legislation to regulate chiropractic in Europe was enacted in the Canton of Zürich in 1939.

Some 30 years after formation of the ECU there were serious thoughts about formation of a worldwide organization to develop and represent the profession. As the ECU Bulletin reported in 1962 "one of the dreams of our ex-president Dr. F. Illi has been for several years now to form a World Chiropractic Federation."²

A First Attempt – the 1960s

Dr. Fred Illi was from Switzerland and, spearheading the movement to form an international organization on behalf of the ECU, he invited delegates to a meeting held in Geneva, home of the United Nations and its health agency, the World Health Organization, in 1963.

Organizations represented at this Geneva Convention were the ECU and national associations from Australia,

Canada, Norway, South Africa, and the United States, both the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) and the International Chiropractors' Association (ICA). Tentative statutes had been prepared in advance of the meeting. These were discussed and elaborated, and the move to form a World Chiropractic Federation (WCF) was accepted in principle. Delegates were asked to return to their associations to further study, elaborate, and approve plans for this new organization.

*Dr. Fred Illi
of Geneva, Switzerland.*



*Dr. Illi at work at National
College of Chiropractic with
Dr. Joseph Janse.*



¹ Wardwell, WI, *Chiropractic: History and Evolution of a New Profession*. Mosby Year Book, St. Louis, 1992, 110-111.

² The World Chiropractic Congress. *Bulletin of the European Chiropractic Union*, 2(2), 14, 1962.

Progress was slow. The next meeting occurred during a World Chiropractic Conference hosted by the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) in 1967, Canada's centennial year, and held in Montreal from July 23-29.

The Conference had numerous educational and social events and was held at the same time as the World Exposition (Expo) and unveiling of a new Canadian flag. However, extension of the deliberations that had taken place at the Geneva Convention was reported by the CCA as the seminal event.³ First there were reports in person on the progress of chiropractic in their countries from:

D. T. Pim, DC, British Chiropractic Association

H. Gillet, DC, (Belgium) for Pierre Jacquet, DC, European Chiropractors' Union

G. A. Curchod, DC, Swiss Chiropractors' Association

A. Pourceaux, DC, French Chiropractic Association

L. C. Mudgway, DC, New Zealand Chiropractic Association

S. C. Birdsley, DC, American Chiropractic Association

L. W. Rutherford, DC, International Chiropractors' Association

L. W. Heard, DC, MLA, Canadian Chiropractic Association

Printed reports were received from:

S. P. Bolton, DC, President, Australian Chiropractors' Association

O. Kaugerud, DC, President, Norwegian Chiropractic Association

H. Lovgren, DC, President, Swedish Chiropractic Association

Next, participants discussed steps to form an international organization. Although some delegates questioned whether the profession was ready to establish a formal international organization, given its present distribution and divisions, the CCA reported:

The assembled delegates unanimously endorsed the formation of a worldwide organization. . . . The suggested name is World Chiropractic Health Organization. The delegates present will act as interim representatives to this new organization until such time as their own national associations confirm that position or select another delegate. The first year will be a period of organization and it is hoped that the next meeting of the delegates will take place in about a year's time.

During this period action will have to be taken with

³ Sutherland, D. *World Chiropractic Organization Formed at Canadian Convention*. Office of the Executive Secretary, Canadian Chiropractic Association, undated. Report is in the WFC Archives, Toronto, Canada.



Dr. Donald Sutherland

*respect to bylaws which must be formally approved by all member associations. Donald C. Sutherland, DC, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Chiropractic Association, was appointed chairman of the organization for the first year. These proposals were placed before the convention on Friday morning, July 28, and received enthusiastic acceptance. The World Chiropractic Health Organization has entered its formative year.*⁴

Under the direction of Dr. Sutherland, draft bylaws were prepared and circulated later that year and a further meeting was set for Zurich, Switzerland, on June 5, 1968 to be held in conjunction with the ECU Annual Convention.

In some respects the 1968 meeting in Zurich continued the momentum; however, it was also during this meeting that the first signs of dissent appeared. There were representatives from the ECU and national associations of Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States (ICA). But the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) and associations of Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and South Africa all advised that they would not be coming to Switzerland. At the meeting the name was changed from World Chiropractic Health Organization to the World

⁴ *Ibid.*



Delegates at the Palace Hotel on the Burgenstock in Zurich in 1968. (Front row, left to right) P. Jay, Britain; A. Pourceaux, France; H. Gillet, Belgium; B. Widmann, Switzerland; F. Grillo, Switzerland; P. Jacquet, Switzerland. (Middle row, left to right) F. Hartig, West Germany; D. C. Sutherland, Canada; S. G. Starkey, Britain; F. H. Elliott, United States; J. Haberman, Italy. (Top row, left to right) H. Lovgren, Sweden; A. Olofson, Sweden; O. Kaugerud, Norway, and A. H. Hviid, Denmark.

Chiropractic Organization (WCO), the home office was set for Toronto with Dr. Sutherland being Executive Secretary, and officers elected were Dr. H. Gillet (Belgium), President, Dr. F. H. Elliott (USA-ICA), First Vice President, Dr. D. C. Sutherland (Canada), Secretary, and Dr. A. Pourceaux (France), Treasurer. The position of Second Vice-President was left open for an ACA nominee.

Dues were set at US\$0.50 per capita per annum; however, the ACA would not approve this and instead recommended a flat fee of US\$50 per association. Both the

ACA and ICA, the two largest associations in the world, then withdrew their support. Other issues were pulling the WCO apart as well, such as the ECU wanting to hold voting power for all national associations in Europe rather than individual national associations having this power.

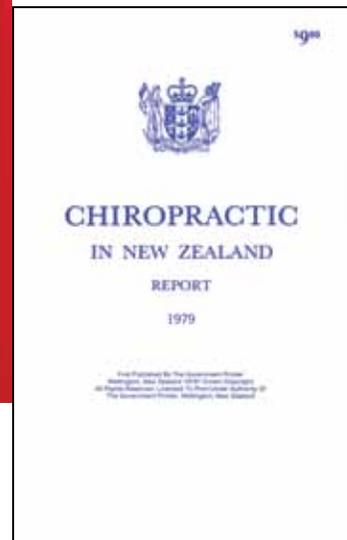
The foundation of the WCO was already cracking before the concrete even had time to cure. Demise became inevitable. There were no further meetings, and an increasingly thin WCO file of correspondence ended in 1975.

International Collaboration Grows – the New Zealand Commission

In 1978-79, the government of New Zealand conducted a comprehensive Commission of Inquiry into Chiropractic, which is still regarded as the most thorough independent investigation of the profession ever undertaken. It arose from a large public petition to the government in 1975 requesting coverage for chiropractic services within the New Zealand national healthcare system. In response the government appointed a commission to make recommendations after considering all aspects of chiropractic education and practice, and the contribution the profession could make to health services in New Zealand

The submissions to the inquiry polarized into two camps. The first camp was headed by the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA), which had a professional ethic against medical referral of patients to chiropractors and was opposed to all spinal manipulation. The NZMA saw this commission as an opportunity to “. . . expose and eliminate the New Zealand chiropractic profession.” Its allies were the physiotherapists, the Department of Health, and the New Zealand Consumer Council.

In the other camp were the New Zealand Chiropractors’ Association (NZCA) and its allies—the thousands of patients who sent in letters of support and groups such as the Federation of Labor who represented workers. These folks obviously hoped for a vindication



and recognition of chiropractic health care with full inclusion into the New Zealand health care system.

Though it was taking place in a distant nation, this judicial inquiry quickly became truly international. The NZMA brought medical and consumer association experts from Canada and the United States to denigrate the chiropractic profession. With there being no school of chiropractic in New Zealand the NZCA called chiropractic educational and scientific experts from Australia and North America. As a part of its gathering of evidence, the Commission visited chiropractic schools, workers’ compensation boards, and government authorities in Australia, Canada, England, and the US.

After sworn testimony from 136 witnesses heard over 78 days and recorded in 3,658 pages of transcript, along with its various other interviews and investigations, the Commission presented a report broadly supportive of chiropractic and with a principal finding that:

*Chiropractors should, in the public interest, be accepted as partners in the general healthcare system. No other health professional is as well-qualified by his general training to carry out a diagnosis for spinal mechanical dysfunction or to perform spinal manual therapy.*⁵

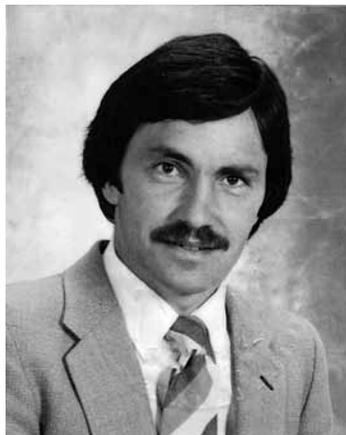
The Commission found that “in the public interest and in the interests of patients there must be no impediment to full professional cooperation between chiro-



Members of the New Zealand Commission (from left) Judge Donald Inglis, Ms Betty Fraser and Professor Bruce Penfold photographed in 1999 at the WFC’s Fifth Biennial Congress in Auckland, New Zealand.

⁵ Commission of Inquiry into Chiropractic. (1979) *Chiropractic in New Zealand: Report of the Commission of Inquiry*. Wellington: Government Printer.

Dr. Scott Haldeman



Mr. David Chapman-Smith

practitioners and medical doctors” and recommended that there should be government funding for chiropractic services.

The New Zealand Commission has no direct link to the formation of the WFC one decade later in 1988, but was a significant precursor in several ways:

It demonstrated to the profession that international collaboration was both beneficial and necessary. In New Zealand the profession could not have defended itself without Dr. Scott Haldeman from the US providing his expert testimony on the scientific basis of chiropractic, or without Dr. Andries Kleynhans and Dr. Terry Yochum from the Philip Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, giving their testimony on chiropractic education and use of skeletal imaging. The assistance of the Ontario Chiropractic Association in Canada was vital in giving NZCA legal counsel the information they needed to persuade the Commission to reject the credibility and evidence of Canadian chiropractic critic, Murray Katz, MD, a Montreal pediatrician.

International collaboration and the resulting outcome of the New Zealand Inquiry brought benefits to chiropractors everywhere. For example, the New Zealand Report was so positive that Mr. George McAndrews, lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the *Wilk vs. American Medical Association et al.* antitrust suit in the US, required the attorneys for the AMA and other defendants to read it before he would continue settlement negotiations.

The New Zealand Commission also developed individual relationships that would be of fundamental importance to the successful emergence of the WFC. Toronto lawyer David Chapman-Smith’s experience as legal counsel for the NZCA, along with his lecture tour in North America and the UK, opened his mind to a new career based in North America that would eventually lead to him become Secretary-General of the newly-formed WFC. Dr. Scott Haldeman’s convincing and pivotal role as an expert witness before the Commission, and the bond then formed with Chapman-Smith, laid the foundation for him to become the inaugural chair of the WFC Research Council and won the WFC strong support from the chiropractic research community from its beginnings.

Dr. Gary Auerbach, the ICA, and WHO⁶

The developments in New Zealand were being watched closely by Dr. Gary Auerbach of Arizona. Auerbach, who would become first president of the WFC, corresponded with David Chapman-Smith in 1980 to learn more about evidence that had been given to the Commission and to obtain documents for the ICA commencing a partnership between these two men that would become vital to the formation of the WFC.

Dr. Gary Auerbach decided to become a chiropractor after suffering a neck and left shoulder injury playing tennis while completing a degree in accounting at the University of Arizona.

Unable to raise his arm despite two months of treatment from the Hospital for Joint Diseases in New York City, and unwilling to accept exploratory surgery on his neck to find the cause of his problem, he consulted a chiropractor. Within three weeks he had 80% use of his arm again. The potential of chiropractic was clear to him. After two years as an accountant, he enrolled at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

Through his college years at Palmer College, Auerbach became close friends with students from all over the world (e.g. French, Italian, Mexican), and he was introduced to the International Chiropractors’ Association (ICA) and its international work. Auerbach graduated from Palmer in 1975, and within five years he was president of the state association in Arizona. In 1980, he was the ICA’s special envoy to the Middle East

⁶ Based, in part, on personal interviews with Dr. Gary Auerbach by Dr. Alana Callender and Dr. Reed Phillips, as well as the article by Dr. Callender “*With No Funding . . . The Story of Gary Auerbach, DC, and the Founding of the World Federation of Chiropractic.*” *Chiropractic History* (Winter 2010/2011), Vol. 30, No. 2, 25-30.

on a visit to Israel and Egypt. It was during meetings with Ministry of Health officials in both these countries that he heard of the World Health Organization (WHO) and how the status of chiropractic at WHO was critical to the international development of the profession.

On his return, he was appointed chairman of a newly created ICA WHO Development Committee, international members of which included Dr. Arne Christensen of Denmark, then principal of the Anglo-European College of Chiropractic in England, and Dr. Carol Elder-Birnbaum of Singapore. From this point, his priority became the international growth of the profession in general, and specifically the creation of a formal partnership between the profession and WHO to promote that goal.

In 1982, Dr. Auerbach met with WHO officials in Geneva to learn how the profession could enter into official relations with WHO. Dr. Guru Raj Mutalik, External Relations Officer, told him that there needed to be an organization that fit WHO's criteria. These criteria included a true federation of national organizations, with voting rights for member countries, and with global representation on the board of directors. WHO knew about the ACA and ICA, and how they had some international interests and members. However, they were both quasi-American organizations that did not fulfill WHO criteria.

The WHO gave Dr. Auerbach other recommendations. There should be a study to determine the status of the profession in countries throughout the world. They needed evidence that meetings were being held locally in the individual six WHO world regions, not formulated or controlled from Washington, DC. For the rest of the 1980s, Dr. Auerbach set about fulfilling these recommendations and criteria.

On behalf of the ICA and its affiliated Foundation for the Advancement of Chiropractic Tenets and Science (FACTS), he organized meetings in Cancun, Mexico, for the Americas, in Athens, Greece, for the Middle East, and in Seoul, South Korea, for Asia. He also worked to publish a *FACTS Bulletin*. The first issue of the *Bulletin* was published in 1983 and was a modest 13 pages. Four subsequent issues during the 1980s grew to 35 pages in length.

In May, 1986, Dr. Auerbach attended WHO's annual meeting in Geneva, the World Health Assembly (WHA), becoming the first chiropractor in official attendance as a delegate at a general assembly. This was possible thanks to his membership in the National Council for International Health (NCIH), a Washington, DC, organization in official relations with WHO as a nongovernmental organization or NGO.

The experience was both exciting and overwhelming. Dr. Auerbach realized the chiropractic profession needed wider representation and expertise there, so he invited David Chapman-Smith to join him for the next meeting in May of 1987. By then Chapman-Smith was in Canada and, funded by the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA), he was able to attend the WHA with Dr. Auerbach on the NCIH delegation. Together they presented a comprehensive report to the CCA and ICA explaining how important it was for the profession to have an ongoing presence at WHO, the primary source of health policy for national ministries of health throughout the world.

It was during this trip that Auerbach and Chapman-Smith, sharing a hotel room, day-long meetings, and evening government receptions for a week, sketched a plan for a new world federation of chiropractic that might in time become a nongovernmental organization in official relations with WHO. They resolved to present their plan to the national presidents at the next ECU Annual Convention, which was to be held in London in four months.



Dr. Gary Auerbach at the Assembly of the World Health Organization.



Dr. Gary Auerbach and other members of the ICA delegation to Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt in 1983. The five members of the delegation (from left) Dr. Carl Cleveland III, Dr. Ronald Maples, Dr. Ronald Rupert, Dr. Auerbach, and Dr. Ronald Hash. Leading their Egyptian hosts is Dr. Talaat Ezzeldin (second row, center left).

1987 World Chiropractic Summit – London

“I have spoken of unity on a national level in the US and perhaps on a regional level with the ECU. May I be so bold as to suggest something even more important, and that is the formation of an INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC representing chiropractic physicians worldwide. . . . The time is now ripe for a WORLD FEDERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC.”⁷

Twenty five years after Dr. Fred Illi, then President of the European Chiropractors’ Union (ECU), had issued his call to consider a world chiropractic organization, the ECU convened a World Chiropractic Summit during its 1987 annual convention in London from September 24-27. Presidents of all major national chiropractic associations and a number of other leaders and observers attended the Summit, held at the Kensington Council Chamber on Thursday, September 24 (see Table 2.1).

This time there were many more nations represented—twenty-two—and it was the North Americans and the Australians who led the call for the formation of a world federation of chiropractic. David Chapman-Smith and Gary Auerbach reported on the absence of and need for a voice for chiropractic at the World Health Organization. Other proponents of this federation also knew that thanks to increasingly rapid international growth of the profession since the 1970s, a representative international organization was now vital; it was needed to maintain consistent standards of education and legal scope of practice, and to ensure a continuing distinct identity. International collaboration was increasingly important if the profession was to exploit opportunities and address common problems and fulfill its potential.

Dr. Louis Sportelli, Past Chairman of the Board of Governors of the American Chiropractic Association, suggested to the ECU that “the time is now ripe for a World Federation of Chiropractic.” He was invited to open the Summit and explained:

“What . . . I do in my office in Palmerton, Pennsylvania, and what you do in your office wherever it may be, affects the chiropractic profession not only in our communities but worldwide. What is said or written or researched by chiropractors in Denmark, Norway, or Switzerland, has immediate relevance in the US and Australia.”⁸

⁷ Address by Dr. Louis Sportelli to the ECU Convention, London, September 1987.

⁸ Opening address given by Dr. Louis Sportelli to the World Chiropractic Summit held in conjunction with the ECU Convention, London, September 24, 1987.

Table 2.1

World Chiropractic Summit – List of Attendees*

- Dr. Kenneth Luedtke**,
President, American Chiropractic Association
- Dr. Miriam Minty**,
President, Australian Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Michel Fosse**,
President, Belgian Chiropractors’ Union
- Dr. Michael Copland-Griffiths**,
President, British Chiropractic Association
- Dr. Michael Davidson**,
Vice-President, British Chiropractic Association
- Dr. Susan Moore**,
Executive Secretary, British Chiropractic Association
- Dr. Paul Carey**,
President, Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Dr. James Watkins**,
Executive Director, Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Dr. Jens Jacobson**,
President, Danish Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Socrates Christodoularis**,
President, Ellenic Chiropractors’ Association (Greece)
- Dr. Fleming Teilmann Nielsen**,
Treasurer, European Chiropractors’ Union
- Dr. Jussi Jaakonmaki**,
President, Finnish Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Claude Archambault**,
President, French Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Michael Pedigo**,
President, International Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Daniele Bertamini**,
President, Italian Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Kazuyoshi Takeyachi**,
President, Japanese Chiropractic Association
- Dr. Roland Blaauw**,
President, Netherlands Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Bruce Adam**,
2nd Vice-President, New Zealand Chiropractors’ Association
- Mr. Alan Dale**,
Secretary, New Zealand Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Kyrre Myhrvold**,
President, Norwegian Chiropractors’ Association
- Dr. Robert Haig**,
President, Ontario Chiropractic Association (Canada)
- Dr. Enrique Benet Canut**,
President, Mexican Scientific Chiropractors’ Society
- Dr. Asa Sundberg**,
President, Swedish Chiropractors’ Society
- Dr. John Naef**,
President, Swiss Association of Chiropractors
- Dr. John Martin**,
President, Texas Chiropractic Association
- Mr. David Chapman-Smith**, Canada
- Dr. Luc Bouchard**, Canada (Quebec)
- Dr. Donald Henderson**, Canada (Ontario)
- Dr. Efstathios Papadopoulos**, Cyprus
- Dr. Pierre Gruny**, France
- Dr. Arne Christensen**, Great Britain
- Dr. Anthony Metcalfe**, Great Britain
- Dr. Yousef Meshki**, Jordan
- Dr. Dietiker**, Netherlands
- Dr. Oivind Stokke**, Norway
- Dr. Carol Elder-Birnbaum**, Singapore
- Dr. Michael Stroh**, Sweden
- Dr. Christoph Diem**, Switzerland (ECU President)
- Mr. Heinrich Buchbinder**, Switzerland
- Dr. Gary Auerbach**, USA
- Dr. Simon Leyson**, Wales (Glamorgan)

* From the minutes of the meeting, held in the WFC archives, Toronto, Canada.



Attendees at the World Chiropractic Summit, a meeting of national association presidents held, together with the ECU Annual Convention, in London in September, 1987. The resolution to form a World Federation of Chiropractic was moved by Dr. Miriam Minty, President, Australian Chiropractors' Association (third row, second from left), and seconded by Dr. Paul Carey, President, Canadian Chiropractic Association (fourth row, second from right).

At the Summit, Dr. Miriam Minty, President of the Australian Chiropractors' Association, proposed a resolution to form a Presidents' Committee to inquire into and report upon the formation of a world federation of chiropractic representing national chiropractic associations. Dr. Paul Carey, President of the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA), seconded the motion. It further provided that the presidents of national associations should meet again in one year's time—in October 1988—at a World Chiropractic Congress to be hosted by the Australian Chiropractors' Association (AustrCA) in Sydney, Australia. The motion was passed unanimously.⁹

At this auspicious 1987 gathering, leaders of the

profession discussed common issues and significant concerns confronting chiropractors everywhere, such as the importance of common standards in chiropractic education. As recorded in the minutes of the meeting, Dr. Susan Moore, Executive Secretary of the British Chiropractic Association, saw an important role for a new world federation in addressing three problems:



Dr. Miriam Minty

⁹ Chapman-Smith, D. (2009) *World Federation of Chiropractic: The First Twenty Years*. Chiropractic History, Vol. 29, No. 2, 38.

1) unqualified persons adopting the title of chiropractor in many countries without legal regulation of chiropractic practice, 2) chiropractors from one country teaching technique to non-chiropractors in other countries, and 3) other professionals without adequate education practicing spinal manipulation.

Concurrent with this World Chiropractic Summit, the European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) held its inaugural meeting, creating on the European continent a body responsible for the establishment and enforcement of educational standards similar to those created by equivalent accrediting agencies already functioning in Australia (ACCE) and America (CCE).¹⁰

Conclusion

The time had come for a single, unified, international organization. The chiropractic profession was ready to embrace colleagues of the same ilk, regardless of philosophical divisions, educational differences, legal and legislative variations, and personal political ambitions. Without a world voice in an increasingly interconnected world, the growth of the profession would be stunted. But through a new World Federation of Chiropractic, the roots of chiropractic worldwide would be strong, nurturing the growing profession in a challenging and abrasive healthcare world.

¹⁰ Wilson, F. J. H. (2007) *Chiropractic in Europe*. Troubador Publishing, Leicester, UK, 39.

