

CHAPTER ONE

An Introduction

In the spring of 2009 more than 1,100 doctors of chiropractic and students representing 40 nations came to Montreal, Canada, for an event that for most was the highlight of their professional lives, the World Federation of Chiropractic's 10th Biennial Congress with a theme of *The Road to Integration*.

From the early 1990s chiropractic had been migrating from a position of relative isolation with respect to mainstream health-care education, research, and practice towards much greater achievement and integration. The World Federation of Chiropractic served a leadership role in this process. The success of the WFC effort was on display at its Congress held in the elegant Hilton Bonaventure Hotel in one of the world's most exciting cities.

Those in attendance heard the profession's most distinguished research scientist, Scott Haldeman, DC, PhD, MD, describe a new model of neck pain, and the evidence supporting the management of headache, neck, and low-back pain through spinal manipulation/adjustment and other interventions. Much of this evidence was generated from the report of the Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 Task Force on Neck Pain and its Associated Disorders, recently published in *Spine*.¹ Haldeman, Chair of the WFC Research Council, had also served as President of that BJD Task Force which featured many of the world's leading clinical scientists in the field of spinal disorders.

¹ Haldeman, SH, Carroll, LJ, Cassidy, JD, A Best Evidence Synthesis on Neck Pain: Findings From The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010 Task Force On Neck Pain and Its Associated Disorders. *Spine*, 2008, Vol. 33, No. 4S.



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Andrew Dunn, DC, MEd, MS, of the US, Deborah Kopansky-Giles, DC, FCCS, of Canada, and Charlotte Leboeuf-Yde, DC, PhD, MPH, of Denmark, described the integration of chiropractic services in military, veteran, community, and spine care hospitals in their respective countries. In two standing-room-only sessions, eight Canadian chiropractic scientists, all holding research chairs at major public universities, explained their research achievements and goals.

David Eisenberg, MD, MPH, of Harvard University reported on the integration of chiropractic, acupuncture, and other complementary services in the medical care system at Harvard. Jack Taunton, MSc, MD, and Robert Armitage, DC, respectively Chief Medical Officer and Coordinator of Chiropractic Services for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, described the ex-

tent of chiropractic integration at Olympic sporting events. Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association (APHA) spoke of the importance of the Chiropractic Health Division in the APHA, established with leadership from Rand Baird, DC, MPH, of Los Angeles, Chair of the WFC's Public Health Committee.

Heiner Biederman, MD, of Belgium and Jeanne Ohm, DC, of the US, lectured and gave a joint workshop on paediatrics. Amy Freedman, MD, and Brian Gleberzon, DC, of Canada, did the same on quality of life for seniors. Sister Brigitte Yengo, DC, MD, of the Congo, inspired all present with a modest account of her work with orphaned children and the Paralympics Team in her country. Gerard Clum, DC, WFC Past-President, ended the Congress with a motivational overview of the recent international advances made by the profession, but also cautioned that our professional values not be lost in this era of rapid growth and integration.

The closing session featured the sudden arrival of drums, rhythm, and flamboyant samba dancers of Brazil, promoting the next Congress to be held in Rio de Janeiro in two years' time. How could the next Congress, to be held in a country where the profession was new and unrecognized, possibly match the success of Montreal, where the profession was thoroughly established?



Dr. David Eisenberg (left) and Canadian chiropractic researcher Dr. John Srbely.



Dr. Jack Taunton (right) and Dr. Robert Armitage at the FICS Symposium held with the Congress.



The WFC Executive at the Assembly.



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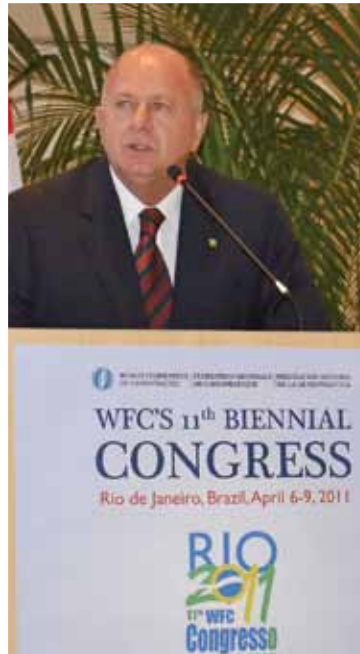
In 2001, there were fewer than 50 doctors of chiropractic in Brazil. Despite an international fundraising campaign organized by the WFC, and the recent opening of two university-based chiropractic educational programs, there was no law recognizing the profession in that country.

However, in April 2011, the WFC and the Brazilian Chiropractors' Association (ABQ), with strong support from Feevale University and the University Anhembi Morumbi, hosted a world chiropractic congress in Brazil as impressive as any previously held. ABQ Past-Presidents Eduardo Bracher, DC, MD, PhD, and Sira Borges, DC, MD, and their Congress Planning Committee put together an outstanding academic and social program at the Rio Intercontinental Hotel on the famed beach front in Rio.



Mr. Carlos Alberto Torres receives an award from FICS President Dr. Sheila Wilson (center). Others (from left) are Dr. Eduardo Bracher, Congress Co-Chair, Brazil, Dr. Mike Flynn, WFC President, USA, and Mr. Torres' chiropractor Dr. Elisa Dallegrave.

WFC President Dr. Mike Flynn welcomes delegates.



(Left) Mr. Bernard Rajzman

The 11th Biennial Congress's first morning, devoted to sports chiropractic, was opened by Mr. Bernard Rajzman, a former Olympian and Brazilian Minister of Sports now serving as President of the Athletes' Commission for the Brazilian Olympic Committee.

The 900 registrants then listened to Philip Santiago, DC, on the history of sports chiropractic at the Olympics, and Wagner Castropil, MD, Medical Director of the Brazilian Judo Federation, on the valued place of chiropractic in the sports medicine team. One of Brazil's foremost sports heroes, Mr. Carlos Alberto Torres, captain of the 1970 Brazilian football team that won the World Cup, brought the audience to its feet as he called his chiropractor Elisa Dallegrave, DC, of Rio de Janeiro to the podium. He had just explained how regular chiropractic care kept him free from spinal pain, a disability he had once suffered. He was given a distinguished service award from the profession.

"This is the greatest gathering of speakers we have ever seen. How can we miss any of it?" one Sao Paulo chi-

ropractor was heard to say. The 45 invited faculty included prominent chiropractic speakers from the worlds of technique (Activator Methods, Active Release Therapy, extremity adjusting, kinesiotaping, McKenzie Methods, paediatrics and Trigenics to mention just a few), clinical sciences (Carlos Ayres, DC - Peru, Eduardo Bracher, DC, MD, PhD - Brazil, Simon French, DC, PhD - Australia, Ricardo Fujikawa, DC, MD - Spain, Scott Haldeman, DC, MD, PhD - USA, Gregory Kawchuk, DC, PhD - Canada, Soren O'Neill, DC, MSc - Denmark, Lindsay Rowe, DC, MD, FACCR - Australia, Michael Schneider, DC, PhD - USA), and philosophy (Elizabeth Anderson-Peacock, DC - Canada, Gerard Clum, DC, and Fabrizio Mancini, DC - US).

Guest faculty included Tarcisio Barros, MD, PhD, of Brazil (orthopaedic surgeon), Linda Carroll, PhD, of Canada (physiologist), Mariano Rocobado, PT, PhD, of Chile (manual therapist), and Glenda Wiese, PhD, of the US (health sciences historian). The Saturday Gala Banquet speaker was Marcos Musafir, MD, Past-President of the Brazilian Orthopaedic Society and Brazil's representative on the International Coordinating Committee of the Bone and Joint Decade.

Chiropractic may have been relatively new in Brazil but a partnership between the ABQ, a young but ambitious national association now with over 500 members, and the WFC, who lent international influence and support of the profession, produced a meeting that had a significant impact on influential medical and political leaders in Brazil.

Dr. Musafir pledged his support for legislation to recognize and regulate the profession. He, as with Dr. Eisenberg in Montreal at the previous congress, expressed both surprise and congratulations at the range and quality of original research being presented at the Congress.

One of the most important components of all WFC congresses is the presentation of original research from around the world. "In terms of quality and quantity," said Dr. Haldeman, Chair of the Research Council and Awards Judging Panel, "this Rio Congress has seen the most impressive collection of research presentations yet. There can be no question that a WFC congress is now the foremost venue in the chiropractic profession for the presentation of original research."

From a total of 221 abstracts submitted in response to the call for papers, 32 were chosen for platform presentation and 88 for poster presentation. The four awards for best full papers all went to researchers and research teams presenting high quality controlled trials (see Table

Table 1.1

Major Prizes – WFC's 11th Biennial Congress

First Prize: Scott Haldeman Award: Chiropractic Treatment versus Self-management in Patients with Musculoskeletal Chest Pain. A Randomised Controlled Trial. *Stochkendahl MJ, Christensen HW, Vach W, Flemming Hoiland-Carlsen P, Haghfelt T, Hartvigsen T* – Nordic Institute of Chiropractic and Clinical Biomechanics & University of Southern Denmark.

Second Prize: Evaluation of Mechanical Sensitivity in an Animal Model of Immobilization Using the Von Frey Method. *Trierweiler J, Negrini Göttert D, Gehlen G* – University Feevale, Brazil.

Third Prize: Intra-Oral Chiropractic Craniomandibular Technique for Chronic Myogenous TMD: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Kalamir A, Bonello R, Vitiello A* – Macquarie University, Australia.

Private Practice Prize: Effects of Cervical Manipulative Vertebral Therapy on Judo Athletes Grip Strength *Botelho M, Andrade B* - Clinica Internacional da Coluna, Brazil.

(For a list of all Research Award recipients, see Appendix F.)

1.1). There were ten international, regional, and student poster prizes.

Concurrent with the WFC events were other meetings that augmented attendance and enhanced energy at the Congress: the World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS), with delegations from 27 chiropractic colleges and institutions worldwide, the International Federation of Sports Chiropractic (FICS), now a regular companion to the WFC Congress, and an International Forum on Regulatory Issues (ICRF), a growing body with world-wide participation and interest in issues relative to licensure and legislation.



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Not only were the lectures and meetings exemplary—the setting proved to be fantastic as well. For those wanting to enjoy the beautiful sights of Rio, from evening social events and daytime touring and shopping, to sunning on the beach, the concierges at the Rio Intercontinental made it possible for anyone to leave Brazil with exciting memories and a camera full of pictures.

Yes, Rio had matched the high standards, excitement and achievements of Montreal.

Dr. Scott Haldeman with Dr. Mette Jensen Stochkendahl of Denmark, winner of the Scott Haldeman Award (First Prize Original Research).

Dr. Jaqueline Trierweiler of Brazil presents her award-winning research.



How did we get here?

What has transpired over the past quarter century to bring the WFC from embryonic and humble beginnings in the late 1980s to the dominating international presence as illustrated by its two most recent congresses? The saga of a fledgling world organization maturing into a rallying point and foundation for success for the entire profession in the space of a generation is an inspiring one.

By 1997 the WFC was admitted into official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, where, as this history will demonstrate, the WFC has made highly significant advances for the profession. There are now WFC member national associations in 90 countries (see Appendix A) and the WFC has been a motivating force for the introduction of chiropractic education and legislation in many of these countries following the model defined by the Tokyo Charter approved in 1997. The WFC enjoys strong support from the educational, research and vendor communities. Between 2003 and 2005, at the request of its members and with their support as well as that of many other organizations in the profession, the WFC undertook a challenging, international consultation on market identity. The results led to unanimous support at the Sydney Congress in 2005 for an international identity of chiropractors as the spinal health experts within mainstream healthcare.

Success of the WFC has been no small feat. It is a complex story full of politics, intrigue, rivalries, juggling of interests, diplomacy, and dedication to a cause and the profession on an international level. It required careful planning, team work, extensive travel, communications through many language barriers, and an appreciation of cultural variances, educational differences, and the need to respect the authority of each national association in its own country.

One must consider that this new international organization was woefully lacking in financial resources, initially being dependent entirely upon membership dues from less than 30 member countries. Several of these

member countries had associations with very few chiropractors. Some required substantial assistance. There was lack of legal regulation, resulting in a plethora of want-to-be pseudo chiropractors practicing under the guise of fraudulent degrees, not uncommonly given at weekend training seminars by entrepreneurs in the profession that the WFC had to firmly challenge. Internal divisions within the chiropractic profession made collective action even more challenging. Philosophical, ideological, political, and financial issues spawned competing organizations and events calculated to undermine the ability of a new world organization to establish and achieve united goals and to meet the expectations of a worldwide membership.

In many countries where competing professions were well-established, the WFC often had to work with member associations through years of gentle persuasion, academic influence, and political maneuvering to help the profession become established and finally recognized by laws. This was true of large countries, such as France and the UK, and smaller ones such as Botswana, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Israel, and Thailand.

What was played out on the stages of individual countries was assisted by the supporting role of the WFC's efforts at WHO. A landmark achievement was the WHO educational and training guidelines supportive of chiropractic in 2005, translated into 11 languages. Subsequently, WHO invited the WFC to plan and host WHO's first Symposium on Manual Methods of Health Care held in Beijing in November 2008. Success for the WFC would bring success to its member associations in many countries.

In summary, achievements made by the chiropractic profession through the WFC have been little short of miraculous. Documenting these achievements and recounting the experiences and efforts of all involved is the story you are about to encounter; it is a story of passion, motivation, and dedication that will inspire the present and future generations of doctors of chiropractic who come to understand the journey of those who preceded them. It is a tribute to many individuals and the profession as a whole.