

CPRQB COMMISSION REPORT

Sira Borges DC, MD, CPRQB Coordinator
Past President, Brazilian Chiropractors' Associations (ABQ)
siraborges@hotmail.com

August 2008

In September 2006 members of the Brazilian Chiropractors' Association (ABQ) proposed a committee to deal with the now urgent need for legislation of the profession – the Comissão Pró-Regulamentação da Quiropraxia no Brasil (CPRQB). I was chosen as the coordinator for this Committee, a group of 17 chiropractors (DCs) with a representative from each state in Brazil.

For complete background on the situation in Brazil see my first ABQ Commission Report dated January 2007 at www.wfc.org. In summary in Brazil we are facing two challenges:

- Having the draft Chiropractic Act passed into law by the Federal Legislature or Camara, given strong opposition from the physiotherapy (PT) profession.
- Preventing the PT profession from realizing its declared goal of establishing chiropractic as a specialty of PT in Brazil.

During past 18 months, with the generous assistance of the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) and DCs worldwide who have given substantial funds, we have done the following:

- Maintained an ABQ CPRQB Commission office in Brasilia, the capital, with Dr. Evergisto Lopes Souto as our fulltime government relations officer. This has been crucial to the successes of the past year.
- Retained professional government relations and media consultants who have given us successful and productive access to legislators.
- Retained lawyers, led by Antonio Castagna Maia in Brasilia, to file and pursue a complaint with the Public Defense Ministry (Ministerio Publico) with respect to the illegitimate short-term courses in 'chiropractic technique' being given by PTs to PTs as they seek to establish a specialty in chiropractic. Organizations supporting these 100 to 300 hour weekend courses leading to a 'certificate in chiropractic' have been Physion and CREFITO, the Sao Paulo regional representative of the COFFITO, the national authority for PTs in Brazil.

Through the Ministry's prosecutors an injunction was granted in early July against Physion and 'chiropractic' teachers on grounds of lack of qualifications and public safety. This was served on Physion on July 18 by process servers who halted a

weekend course getting underway in the south of Brazil. Physion has now filed an appeal against the injunction.

The ABQ, its Commission and members face major campaign and legal costs over the next 12 months as we continue our fight for chiropractic in Brazil. Unfortunately the funds we have raised within Brazil and internationally are almost exhausted. If we are to continue with our legal and legislative actions, including maintaining Dr. Lopes Souto in Brasilia, which is vital, we urgently need your further support.

Please go to the Newsroom at www.wfc.org to find a donation form and support us and your profession in Brazil. It would be a disastrous setback in Brazil, Latin America and the world if chiropractic was ever declared a part of physiotherapy.