

August 18, 2008

*For Immediate Release*

*Contact for more information:*

*Linda Sicoli, Director, Communications & Meetings, WFC*

Tel: 416-484 9978 E-mail: [lsicoli@wfc.org](mailto:lsicoli@wfc.org)

## **DCs Fight Back to Protect Chiropractic in Brazil**

PT certificate course in chiropractic stopped by authorities

On June 26 the Federal Police in Brazil, acting on a complaint from physiotherapy leaders, detained visiting doctors of chiropractic and students from Palmer College's Clinics Abroad program on the grounds that they were practicing physiotherapy without a licence.

This was part of the PT profession's aggressive campaign to have chiropractic declared a specialty of physiotherapy by law in Brazil. This campaign is a response to draft chiropractic legislation promoted by the Brazilian Chiropractors' Association (ABQ), representing Brazil's duly qualified 360 DCs. They are challenged by Brazil's 95,000 PTs. Currently there is no law regulating or recognizing the practice of chiropractic.

To support their position some PT leaders and entrepreneurs have established short technique courses of up to 300 hours in chiropractic for PTs, graduating these PTs with a certificate in chiropractic. One such course is being given by the organization Physion, in partnership with the University of Ribeirao Preto.

The ABQ, acting through lawyers, government authorities and legal processes in the capital Brazilia, has now been successful in getting an injunction against Physion and its 'chiropractic' teachers, on grounds of lack of qualifications and public safety. On July 18 process servers armed with this injunction halted a Physion weekend course getting underway at the Novo Hamburgo Business Hotel in Rio Grande do Sul in the south of Brazil.

"It was Friday afternoon when the officials arrived with the injunction", says Dr Juliana Piva of Rio de Janeiro, ABQ President, "and the Physion lecturers resisted at first." However on learning that there was a \$10,000 fine for each teacher daily, and \$5,000 fine for each student daily the course was quickly abandoned.

Physion and CREFITO, a regional representative of the COFFITO, the national authority for PTs in Brazil, have challenged the injunction, but the judge denied this challenge on July 27. An appeal has been filed.

"This battle for an independent chiropractic profession in Brazil is far from over", explains Dr Stathis Papadopoulos of Cyprus, President, World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC). "It would be a disaster not only in Brazil but internationally if chiropractic was ever recognized as a specialty of physiotherapy - and the WFC continues to appeal to its members and all others for funding support for the legal and campaign costs being incurred by the ABQ."

Most DCs in Brazil are young and not well established financially, having graduated in the past 5 years from Brazil's two new university programs in chiropractic. One is at the Feevale Central University in Novo Hamburgo, established in partnership with Palmer College. The other is at the University Anhembi Morumbi in Sao Paulo, established with support from Western States Chiropractic College.

“Funds raised through the WFC – over \$120,000 – have been generously given and a great help,” says former ABQ President and Campaign Leader Dr Sira Borges, “but sadly they have now been exhausted over the past 18 months.”

Please act now to support your colleagues and profession in Brazil – for their benefit and yours wherever you practice. For more details, a donation form and a list of donors so far, go now to the Newsroom at [www.wfc.org](http://www.wfc.org).

“There are presently almost 700 chiropractic students in the two Brazilian schools,” notes Dr Ricardo Fujikawa, WFC Council representative for Latin America and another ABQ past president. “Please help to give them a secure future as chiropractors in Brazil.”



**WFC President  
Dr. Stathis Papadopoulos**

A vertical poster with a light brown background. At the top, the word "Quiropraxia:" is written in a large, yellow, serif font. Below it, in a smaller yellow font, is "Uma especialidade do Fisioterapeuta". The main body of the poster contains several paragraphs of text in a small, black, sans-serif font, discussing the profession of chiropractic in Brazil, its history, and its recognition. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a human back with the spine highlighted in yellow. To the right of the silhouette, the text "Tome cuidado, sua saúde precisa estar em boas mãos!" is written. Below this, the logo for "COFFITO #2" is displayed, along with the text "COMISSÃO OFICIAL DE REGULAÇÃO E DE FUNDAMENTAÇÃO DA PRÁTICA" and the phone number "(11) 2.169-2.182 / www.coffito2.org.br". At the very bottom, there is a small disclaimer: "Materiais educacionais sobre este assunto estão em anexo, com o COFFITO-01".

**COFFITO ad campaign**