

**A parallel between cultural diversity
and Chiropractic diversity:
a look into our future.**

The importance of respecting differences in our
profession

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A parallel between cultural diversity and Chiropractic diversity. A look into our future.

"Culture is a complex ensemble that includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by a human being as a member of a society. »

E. B. TYLOR, in Charlotte SEYMOUR-SMITH, Macmillan Dictionary of Anthropology, London, Macmillan Reference Books, 1986

REFLEXIONS of a chiropractor, member of [the G6](#). Michel Aumont, Dominique Dufour, Richard Dussault, Richard Giguère, André-Marie Gonthier, and Jasmin Pitre, chiropractors.

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Within the chiropractic profession, we can refer to a cultural component, as described above. We are a community of different people; individuals who may have unique ideas and differing opinions about important and even essential elements of our profession. Despite these differences and the diversity of points of view, the very essence of our interprofessional relationship is based on respect for this diversity of opinions and individuals.

Like society, Chiropractic science, by definition, is constantly evolving. Since 1895, the Chiropractic profession is evolving, progressing, experiencing upheavals, and is transforming, all thanks to the acquiring of knowledge, through research (applied and clinical are both fundamental). Science nourishes the profession. It allows it to grow and contribute to its development. It constitutes an entity that is gradually built, step by step, from the acquisition and application of knowledge, experiences, and development of skills. From the framework of reference relative to the current limits

of Chiropractic science and its continuous development, precisely in terms of knowledge and practices, there exists several trends, forms, or positions, all of which together constitute and contribute to the greatness of the Chiropractic profession. As far as I am concerned, there is only ONE Chiropractic ... or at least there should only be one.

According to the report of the Institute for Alternative Futures (IAF) (Chiropractic 2020 – Divergent Futures), <http://www.altfutures.org/pubs/Chiropracticfutures/IAF-Chiropractic2025.pdf>, categorization or fragmentation of the profession into three groups or communities is presented to us.

We are being told that the once recommended efforts for UNITY in our profession have not produced the desired results and we must now recognize and accept our differences and work **respectfully with each other**. We will waste much less time and resources in competition, quarrels or internal attacks, and we can then invest in activities and strategies that will benefit the chiropractors of the three communities.

Essentially, when you read the report carefully, you will notice that the differences between chiropractors are very important. There is a great diversity of styles and philosophies of practice within the Chiropractic profession. Three groups are identified: 1) Focused / Focused or Fundamental (10-15%), 2) Middle-Scope / Medium (75-80%) and 3) Broad / Broad (10-15%).

A very important point, made in the report, should be noted and is as follows: *"While there are differences between each of them, the essential aspects of the future of Chiropractic will be determined by how each community evolves and interacts with the other two. »*

According to this report, about 10 to 15% of "broad spectrum" chiropractors focus on primary care or specialties, treating a range of health problems well beyond the spine. Many of these wish to further expand their practice rights to include prescription rights. They are liberals. They have been trying to do this for many years and since 2013, it seems they could win this battle in a few states and countries. It should be noted that several have been named "Chiropractic Physicians" and that some programs designate themselves as "Chiropractic Medicine (Switzerland, University of Zurich, Chicago, National University of Health Sciences). One of the people who openly identifies with this group is Dr. Reed Phillips, DC, PhD. President Emeritus Southern California University of Health Sciences, Consultant and Writer.

At the other end of the spectrum, 10% to 15% of "focused, fundamentalist or centered" chiropractors correct subluxations of the spine to release the body's ability to self-heal. Some call them "principled chiropractors". They are conservative. They detect and adjust vertebral subluxations to restore normal nerve function, i.e., provides care toward the overall wellbeing of the patient, as opposed to the treatment of a given condition. They are more fundamentalist in their philosophical positions than the other two groups. "Focused / centered or Principled "

chiropractors actively oppose the efforts of liberal chiropractors who want to extend their rights of practice as a violation of the original identity and principles of Chiropractic. Dr. Gerry Clum, DC, Director The Octagon, Life University has identified with this group.

The core of the middle-scope profession represents about 75 to 80% of chiropractors and provides patients with a portal to support the health of the spine and the musculoskeletal system. The practices of these chiropractors can take different forms. Their position is on the World Chiropractic Federation website; <https://www.wfc.org>. Dr. Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research and Health Policy, Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, is a member of this group.

It should be important to note that practitioners of the three groups share a common appreciation of the innate ability of the body to heal, a commitment to conservative and less invasive care, and the use of manual modalities (including adjustments of the spine).

Here is what is recommended in the latest IAF report:

" Rather than recommending a unified vision as we have in the past, we now recommend that each of the three major communities within the profession (focused-scope, middle-scope, and broad-scope) grow and develop authentically. The differences of opinion across these three communities on some issues are pronounced. Because of these differences, efforts to develop and pursue a unified vision have failed and are likely to fail in the foreseeable future. In addition, unity efforts may prevent each of these communities from making its unique contributions to the entire field. Acknowledging and accepting these differences would allow the field to spend less time and resources on self-competition and internal attacks, and more on activities and strategies that are likely to benefit chiropractors across all three communities."

Recommendations from Dr. Richard Scafer, DC, PhD

Now, let us look at what Dr. Schafer, DC recommended, many years ago, in 1971. According to Dr. Schafer, no matter where we are within the range of "cultural diversity" of our profession, he suggested that all members of the Chiropractic profession should adhere to the following three principles: to be noted that these basic principles of Chiropractic are accepted by the scientific community.

1. A disease can be caused by a disturbance of the nervous system.

Although several factors may influence human health, disturbances of the nervous system are recognized as the most important factors in the etiology of disease. The nervous system coordinates cellular activity so that we can adapt to internal and external environmental changes. Environmental agents and conditions that irritate or inhibit the nervous system, and to which the body cannot adapt successfully,

produce fluctuations or changes in the "pattern" of nerve impulses that moves away from normal. Hence the origin of several diseases.

2. Disturbances of the nervous system can be caused by disturbances of the musculoskeletal structure.

Vertebral dysfunctions or vertebral subluxations are a clinical entity frequently encountered in humans. These subluxations can cause irritability to the nervous system and interfere with normal nerve transmission.

3. Disturbances of the nervous system can cause or aggravate diseases in several parts or functions of the body.

Subluxations may be involved in functional disorders of an organ. A human being is a total integrated entity. A disorder in an organ or tissue will influence other organs, tissues or functions. In addition, a combination of several disturbances can have more effects or consequences than the summation of each taken separately. The correction of this subluxation, will therefore be an essential component in a comprehensive health care program.

A serious internal crisis

We cannot ignore a fundamental movement, (which according to my analysis began approximately in 2006, with the implementation of The West-Hartford Group in the United States), a heavy trend that seems to have intensified since 2014-2015. It emerged openly after the joint congress of the European Chiropractic Union (ECU) and the World Chiropractic Federation, held in Durban, South Africa which included a statement on vertebral subluxation; its use, its teaching, and its very essence. An international coalition took shape and shared to the Chiropractic World this statement; that can be read at the following link.

See: <https://www.cmcc.ca/documents/international-chiropractic-education-collaboration-position-statement.pdf>

It appears that a cluster of institutions and programs in North America are in the process of supporting the aforementioned statement.

The question that must be asked is why and why now? In my opinion, this is mainly in response to actions taken by the external bodies against the Chiropractic profession. Certain acts or abuses have been made by journalists and critics of the profession, particularly in Great Britain, following legal proceedings or legal battles such as the one in which the General Council of Chiropractors (GCC) in England was involved. See: <https://www.gcc-uk.org>

Attacks were also launched against the profession in France. See <https://fakemedecine.blogspot.com/2018/01/fakedex-chiopraxie.html>

Recently in Ontario, Canada, an article published in the Globe and Mail has had a big impact. Firm positions have been taken by leading individuals in the field of research by regulators in both Europe and Canada (recently in British Columbia). Several influential people from the world of Chiropractic education, supported by many involved in the profession's political leadership, including the European Chiropractic Union (ECU), the World Chiropractic Federation (FMC), The Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA), the American Chiropractic Association (ACA), and others have come together and have taken an open position, leading several members of the education community to sign this statement.

When you think about it, it's not individuals as such, but institutions. And who initiated this major step that will certainly have a serious impact on the future of things in our profession? This is where things get blurry ... and so far, it is total radio silence from the official bodies of our profession. In 2015, as Director of the Department of Chiropractic, and representative of UQTR on the Board of the ACC (The Association of Chiropractic Colleges), I had personally requested that this be put to order at the ACC's annual summer retreat, and this request went unheeded. The declaration of 10 programs or educational institutions in chiropractic, I find this to be quite disturbing and that it will have serious consequences on the political and local elective as also on the global ... besides the impact at the level of the other programs, including that of UQTR. But here too, for the moment, it's radio silence.

Once this declaration was signed and disclosed, a downward spiral set in and several, even our detractors from the outside, (Homola, Barrett, Erzest) cheerfully blew on the coals to rekindle and intensify the breadth of the fire. The issue is not the subluxation as such, but the behaviour of some as pertaining to it.

Instead of working with those who abuse and break the rules (and there are people who do), several influential people are making the rules even more restrictive and severe and have taken a very radical position; to eliminate the term subluxation and its use by claiming this term as a closed chapter of our Chiropractic history. I invite you to follow the World Chiropractic News to get some evidence and draw your own conclusions.

Concerning the controversy on subluxation I also invite the reader to read the preface of the first edition (1995) of the book "Foundations of Chiropractic: Subluxation" and the warning of Dr. Meridel Gatterman, DC about the danger of eliminating the subluxation term because, as she writes, *"it simply evades the issue"*. Wanting to eliminate the term or the word "subluxation" will not solve anything. On the contrary, it destroys the deep core of our profession and generates serious conflict. It has been demonstrated outside of our profession that terminology specific to a discipline is essential to its identity and development, as a language is to a nation. We must therefore work even harder to study, understand and deepen what constitutes the pivot around which everything else is articulated (subluxation).

Then, to further complicate the situation, a large group of chiropractors, members of the "Middle Scope and Broad Scope", try, by all means, to eliminate or restrict the

"vitalistic" members of our profession, the one identified by the IAF, as the "Focused Scope or the fundamentalist". The fate of minorities...

Note: Vitalism: "the theory that the origin and phenomena of life are dependent on a force or principle distinct from purely chemical or physical forces."

The paradigm of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges.

Everyone should agree that it is very important to remember our story. "Lessons from the past, guidance for the future," said Russel Gibbons. This crisis comes after years of effort and hard work, all in spite of the consensus reached by the World Chiropractic Federation, at its congress in Paris in 2001 and the unanimous adoption of the Chiropractic paradigm proposed by the ACC, the Association of Chiropractic Colleges. The Chiropractic community had welcomed the publication of the first edition in 1995, of the book "Foundations of Chiropractic: Subluxation" by Dr. Meridel Gatterman and the second edition in 2005; the book of Dr. Scott Haldeman, DC, MD, PhD, "Principle and Practice of Chiropractic" in 1980, 1992 and 2005 (third edition), as well as the various editions of Dr. Robert Leach's book, "Chiropractic Theories", a Textbook of Scientific Research , in 1980, 1986, 2004.

These publications were based on multiple high-level researches and publications from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australasia. For example, Homewood, AE, (1962), Drum D, (1971), Janse, J. (1975), Dishman R, (1985, 1988), Triano J, (1990), Mootz RD, (1992, 1995), Lantz, CA, 1995, Boone WR, (1996), Budgell BS, (200), Leach, R, (2004), Vernon H, (2005), Ebrall et al. (2007), Rome P. (2013), Hart J. (2016).

NOW, LET'S LOOK AT HOW WE ARE DEFINED

Here are three (3) different (but somewhat similar) definitions of Chiropractic:



FMC definition

World Federation of Chiropractic, 2001

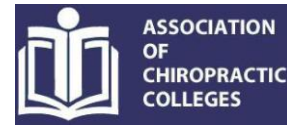
"A health professional interested in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disorders of the musculoskeletal system, as well as the effects of these disorders on the functioning of the nervous system and the general state of health of the individual. Emphasis is placed on manual treatments including vertebral adjustments and other soft tissue manipulation techniques."



WHO definition

World Health Organisation / monograph on Chiropractic, 2005

“A health professional interested in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disorders of the neuromusculoskeletal system, as well as the effects of these disorders on general health. Emphasis is placed on manual treatments including joint adjustments and / or manipulation techniques with special attention to subluxation.”



ACC definition

Association of Chiropractic Colleges, 1996

“Chiropractic is a health discipline that emphasizes the inherent power of the body's recovery to heal itself without the use of medication or surgery. The practice of Chiropractic focuses on the relationship between structure (mainly the spine) and function (as coordinated by the nervous system) and how this relationship influences the preservation and restoration of health. In addition, Chiropractic doctors recognize the value and responsibility of working in cooperation with other care practitioners for the best interest of the patient.”

In conclusion, I consider that our profession suffers from an insidious and invasive disease. Historically and socio-professionally, you all know that this stems from the very beginning of our profession. The works of Dr. DD Palmer, DC (1906), Dr. BJ Palmer, DC, (Green Books), Dr. Clarence W. Weiant, DC, PhD (1943), Brian Inglis, PhD (1964), Dr. Russell Gibbons, PhD (1980), Dr. Oswald Hall, Merijoy Kelner, and Ian Coulter (1986), Dr. Pierre-Louis Gaucher-Pelherbe, DC, PhD, (1992), Dr. Walter Warwell, PHD (1992), Dr. Joseph Keating, PhD (2002), Dr. Reed Phillips, Dc, PhD (2015), Dr. Yvonne Villanueva-Russel, PhD (2011), Dr. Holly Folk, PhD (2015), and many other authors have demonstrated this over time since the genesis of our profession. This disease has also spread to the vital organs of our profession and the prognosis is far from bright. Type the following question in a web search engine, *“Chiropractors, do they help?”* and you will be very disappointed with the results.

Our profession needs a major "ADJUSTMENT". Our profession has not yet been able to define itself clearly. There are four (4) ways to look at internal divisions within their respective communities. There are Liberals vs. Conservatives; Pragmatic vs. Philosophical; Mixers vs Straights; and now the Broad-scope, Middle-scope, and Focused-scope, (Principled, or Fundamentalist).

This is not easy at all. I am sure you can agree that we are dealing with a profession with multiple personalities. These different personalities are sneaking around slyly, openly, and publicly fighting against each other, even insulting and openly denigrating each other, thus harming each other. Those who observe us (sociologists, historians, researchers, government agencies, journalists, politicians, etc.) and those who criticize us both internally and externally, rely on these divisions to discredit, weaken, and ultimately destroy us. See:

<https://sciencebasedmedicine.org/the-end-of-Chiropractic/>. And all this is now amplified by social media and the instantaneous globalization of communications.

We all must remain hopeful, continue our efforts, and RESPECT OUR DIFFERENCES. It is the only adjustment to our attitudes and behaviors that will put us back on the road to natural health as a profession. In fact, we can be different and united. "Respect in diversity and union despite differences" summarizes my thinking.

The third and latest report from the Institute for Alternative Future (IAF), is written eloquently about this topic. The writing of this paper was strongly inspired by the reading of this report. I invite everyone interested in the development and the future of our profession to read it carefully. It is a 90-page document, very well constructed and written. See: <http://www.altfutures.org/pubs/Chiropracticfutures/IAF-Chiropractic2025.pdf>

From pages 29 to 32, you will read seven (7) recommendations to the entire Chiropractic community. The fifth is: *"Create greater tolerance and mutual support within the profession. Support Chiropractic colleagues in a good faith pursuit of their visions." In 1998 and 2005, IAF called for unity in the profession. Given the value of diversity within the profession and the improbability of unity in the profession (indeed, few professions can claim to be fully "unified"), IAF now recommends the development of a mature tolerance among chiropractors, and the authentic pursuit of the distinct visions of the focused-scope, middle-scope, and broad-scope wings of the profession. "*

In closing, I also invite you to read and reflect on the following from the IAF report, pages 2 and 3: *"Differences among chiropractors are also important. There is great diversity of practice styles and philosophies within the profession Chiropractic. For this report, we will use the following three-fold strategy: focused-scope, middle-scope, and broad-scope chiropractors. **While there are differences in each of these, the importance of Chiropractic will be shaped by each community evolves and interacts with the other two.** About 10% of chiropractors ("broad-scope") focus on primary care or specialties dealing with a range of conditions beyond the spine. Many in this group want to broaden their practice. They have been trying for years to do so in 2013, it seems they can win this battle in a few states. At the other end of the spectrum, 10-15% of chiropractors ("focused scope") correct subluxations in the spine to free the body's self-healing capacity. Some argue that they do not "treat conditions" but only fix problems with the spine and nervous system. They are more fundamentalist in their philosophical positions than members of the middle-scope or broad-scope communities. Focused-scope chiropractors actively opposes broad-scope chiropractors' efforts to expand their practice as violating Chiropractic identity and principles. The core of the profession ("middle-scope"), about 75-80% of chiropractors, provides patients with a portal of care for spinal and musculoskeletal health providers, though the practices of these chiropractors take many forms. **However, DCs in all three communities share an appreciation for the innate ability of the body to heal, a commitment to***

conservative and less-invasive care, and the use of manual modalities (including spinal adjustments).”

Remaining available for any discussion and dialogue,
On behalf of the Group of 6,

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