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Canadian (CCA) Journal Editor Dr. Allan Gotlib has rightly identified the passion, patience in adversity, outright dedication and defensive, protective isolationism (or is it paranoia?) that characterizes our profession. While I could relate to each of his three author categories, “Academic/Research/Clinical,” “Regulatory/Administrative” and “Political/Historic,” realistically, after thirty years in practice, twenty-seven of which include positions on Provincial or National Boards, ‘historic’ probably suits best!

Chiropractic began for me at Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) from 1966 to 1970. Called a “Mature” student I feel “Older” student more appropriate, as maturity has proved somewhat elusive! My Freshman/Sophomore years at 252 Bloor Street, then the move to 1900 Bayview Avenue a new campus for Junior/Senior years proved a prophetic harbinger of the changes, contrasts and challenges that typify chiropractic.

We have not “arrived” but we have “survived.” I admit

to freely using other peoples’ quotes, for he who takes his material from one source is called a plagiarist whereas he who takes from many sources is called a researcher.

Encumbrances

- 1 The constant bleeding of significant assets to entrepreneurial practice builders. Funds, which could do so much more if, channeled into research or communication/advertising.
- 2 “Dad Chiro” terminology that other professionals and the public don’t relate to. If we can’t prove it don’t use it!
- 3 Theories and dogmas that lack supportive data deserve the same treatment. The success of your therapy is not the proof of your philosophy.
- 4 Well meaning individuals who put their mouth in motion before their brain is in gear.
- 5 The attempts to cater to the shrill minority who will never be satisfied, yet continue to frustrate and embarrass us must give way to the ninety odd percent who share realistic expectancies.
- 6 Lack of pride in being a CHIROPRACTOR.
- 7 Those flat earth thinkers who supposedly support the “Old Ways” yet book never-ending appointments for every patient. Whatever happened to “Find it, Fix it or Leave it Alone”?

Assets

- 1 Hands on, natural care that co-operates with the body’s systems rather than intervening.
- 2 Caring and sharing with the patient in health and lifestyle decisions. No discipline is a panacea but chiropractic improves quality of life for most. We should consolidate our provable scope of practice and work diligently to research and otherwise justify those benefits we all see people experiencing in our practices.
- 3 Working with twenty-two CCA Presidents has shown me that each person contributes in their own unique fashion. There were no weak ones and their diversity is a strength. It was both my privilege and great experiences.

What lies ahead?

The computer driven information explosion, shrinking boundaries, population growth etc. have made us citizens of planet Earth rather than of countries or continents. Eight hour days and five day work weeks are history. Business

operates non-stop ... are we ready?

We have not been able to change the system so we must adjust ourselves to the system. Assuming an important, complementary role in the provision of supportive care towards the individual's improved health and quality of life are long overdue. Patients in turn must assume greater responsibility in their health choices and need a Patients' Bill of Rights.

The isolationism, defensism and paranoia of yesterday must yield to doing what we do better than those who would imitate us.

Intra professional involvement and co-operation are essential, as are the research initiatives we have started. We lack the armamentarium and the finances to fight a war and challenges can be better met from within than from without.

If structure governs function and unity builds strength, we need the combined efforts of each and all of us. Be proud, be involved.

Some memorable events

As British Columbia Chiropractic Association (BCCA) President I attended a formal afternoon meeting and an informal dinner meeting with the New Zealand Royal Commission on Chiropractic. We were treated as fellow professionals whose opinions were both sought and appreciated (still too rare a case).

Then comes the experience of the Glenerin Practice

Guidelines. The months of preparation, the presentations, debates and final accords that transpired showcased the dedication and drive of the profession. Achieved under cramped, exhaustive conditions the document is a credit to those who led, those that attended and further indication of our diverse skills.

Another privilege was filling in for Dr. Paul Carey at a World Federation of Chiropractic Council meeting on Cyprus. Discussion of progress made around the world emphasized the huge gains made as well as the enormous potential awaiting the profession. Never will I forget discussing chiropractic philosophy with Dr. Gerry Clum while standing on the terraces of an ancient Roman amphitheater. David Chapman-Smith took a photo – "three ancient ruins"!

In closing a "wish you were there" memory that written words can never adequately convey. The scene, CCA Centennial Convention 1995, the occasion my presentation of an oil portrait of and to President Dr. Jean Moss of CMCC, our classmate from 1970. As Jean accepted the portrait plus a healthy endowment cheque for the College the applause created an electric energy that engulfed the large room. Truly an emotional expression of collective warmth only generated from common purpose.

For the future

Go out to meet it, live life with gusto, laugh, love, share, care and dare to SEIZE THE DAY.

The Executive Committee of the College of Chiropractic Rehabilitation Sciences

welcomes applications from qualified Field Practitioners for Fellowship to the College.

Qualifications include:

1. Completion of 300 CCE accredited postgraduate classroom hours in rehabilitation, including successful completion of all qualifying examinations as provided by the American Chiropractic Rehabilitation Board or Chiropractic Rehabilitation Association.
2. One case report related to rehabilitation, suitable for publication.
3. Successful completion of an oral/practical examination conducted by the College.
4. Active membership in the Canadian Chiropractic Association.

Application deadline is October 31, 2000

*For additional information and to receive an Application Form,
please contact Dr. Zoltan Szaraz, Registrar, at 416-291-1235*