



# #CHIROPRACTORS MATTER

JC Smith

## A house divided cannot stand

"We must all hang together or most assuredly we will all hang separately." Benjamin Franklin

Chiropractic since its inception in 1895 has always been at the centre of conflict within its own ranks and at conflict with organised medicine due to its different perspective of health, disease, treatment, and healing philosophy. It's past time to address these conflicts if we as a profession are to live in harmony among ourselves and to attain our rightful place as primary conservative spine care providers as the new guidelines suggest.

In our growth as a profession over the last 120+ years, chiropractic has evolved with a greater understanding of spinal mechanics, neurophysiology, and general holistic healthcare, the cornerstone of our science, with over 140 novel clinical techniques, and a growing appreciation of its philosophy of self-healing, aka, vitalism.

Certainly, many people recognise there is more to healthcare than only drugs and surgery, which explains why many Americans are using holistic, complementary, and alternative methods today. In his famous seminal study, [David M Eisenberg, MD](#), wrote of the growth of CAM, *Trends in Alternative Medicine Use in the United States, 1990-1997: Results of a Follow-up National Survey*. Baby Boomers made 427 million office visits to non-MDs in 1990 compared to 388 million visits to MDs; the follow-up survey in 1997 revealed that the numbers to non-MDs rose to 629 million while the numbers to MDs went down to 386 million. (1)

Dr Eisenberg noted how his own view of chiropractic has changed from his early days to the present. He was taught in medical school that chiropractic was 'irrelevant, worthless, a waste of money, and dangerous.' In the 1980s it was 'unproven, unorthodox, and unconventional.' After his study showing the huge usage of CAM, he noted that the terminology has changed from 'complementary and alternative' in the 1990s, to 'integrative' in 2000-05, and 'comprehensive' in

... it is time to stop the internal conflict among chiropractors. Dr. JC Smith explains why.'

Quick Tap or Scan:



1. DM Eisenberg, RC Kessler, C Foster, FE Norlock, DR Calkins, TL Delbanco, Unconventional medicine in the United States: Prevalence, costs, and patterns of use. N Engl J Med. 1993; 328:246-52.

present-day. (2) Upon seeing the huge number of Americans using CAM practitioners, Dr Eisenberg concluded, 'Maybe "alternative" isn't so alternative anymore.' (2)

Although chiropractic care remains at the centre of controversy due to the on-going and illegal medical war against our profession, new research into the opioid crisis and the pandemic of back pain has cast new light on chiropractic care as a leading answer to these worldwide problems.

I urge the advocates pushing divorce to understand what Ben Franklin meant when he said 'we must all hang together or most assuredly we will all hang separately.'

Never before has our profession had the proof our services rank among the top treatments for the pandemic of back pain, the leading disability in the nation, the military and in the world. If we hang together we can become a strong voice for change to capture the market and to change the medical defamation. If we don't, we will certainly hang separately.

We must take this message to the world that was published in *The Lancet* noting there are many 'widespread misconceptions' about back pain in the public sector resulting in an 'Increased use of ineffective potentially unsafe treatments has wasted limited health-care resources and harmed patients...causing a dramatic example of the disastrous effects of damaging medical intervention.'

Let me add there are also many widespread misconceptions about chiropractic within our own profession, especially the policies of Life University that have been attacked by many of our chiropractic colleagues. As well, some within the chiropractic profession now call for a divorce between traditional chiropractic values and those who desire to take a medical approach.

Instead of taking a polarising position in this internal civil war, let me help to bring our profession together by offering a clearer explanation how to ameliorate this divisiveness and misunderstanding.

We need to come together as President Abraham Lincoln said, 'A house divided cannot stand' especially stand against the medical-industrial complex. By breaking our own ranks, we are only abetting the medical war against chiropractic.

JC Smith

MA, DC

Columnist

[jcsmith@smithspinalcare.com](mailto:jcsmith@smithspinalcare.com)

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**Cite:** Smith JC. A house divided cannot stand [Column]. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2020;1:001 DOI <https://doi.org/10.46323/2020C01-001>



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2. DM Eisenberg. Practicing within Mainstream Healthcare. Seminar held at the Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters. Boston: Nov. 18 2006.