

INTRODUCING THE ASIA-PACIFIC CHIROPRACTIC JOURNAL

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Welcome

The 'inception of a new scientific/clinical journal usually warrants some discussion of purpose and objectives ...' With these words Dr Roy W Hildebrandt introduced the *American Journal of Chiropractic Medicine* in 1988. (1) The journal lasted for 12 issues over 3 years but his intent remained as he stated, to be 'extremely provocative.' (p. 1, col. 2) *The Journal of the Australian Chiropractic Association* evolved from an occasional newsletter started around 1966. The early issues were irregular but an anchor date is 1974 with Volume 8, (2) in my library. It was thoughtfully prepared by a giant of chiropractic in the region, John Sweaney, and other Australian chiropractic pioneers, Frank Mechler, AOH Kennedy, WV McKenzie, ME Minty, and many others. It became first the *Journal of the Australian Chiropractors' Association* and then the *Chiropractic Journal of Australia* under Drs Rolf E Peters and Mary Ann Chance. These good doctors expressed what I believe is the ideal vision for a chiropractic journal of record. They stated in each issue that the journal was dedicated to 'the advancement of chiropractic principles and practice' and that they sought 'to provide a means of communication within the chiropractic profession and with related disciplines.' (3) I can think of no purpose better than this for the *Asia-Pacific Chiropractic Journal*.

I also point to the journal of the *National Chiropractic Association (of America)* (4) which was published for a few years in the 1940s yet is valued by chiropractic historians for the contemporary story it recorded of the profession's development. I also think of the *Annals of the Swiss Chiropractic Association* (5) which also was short lived yet published papers now considered seminal. There is no intention for this Journal to have a short life, but regardless of longevity it will be remembered for the quality and diversity of the work it publishes.

... this editorial introduces an independent journal for the chiropractic profession that is designed to be a disruptor to the existing cartel and offers rapid peer-review and then indexed publication with DOI for clinicians who write for clinicians to read.'

Quick Tap or Scan:



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1. Hildebrandt RW. The American Journal of Chiropractic Medicine [Editorial]. Am J Chiropr Med. 1988;1(1):1-3.
 2. Australian Chiropractors Association [Journal]. ACA, Indooroopilly Queensland: 1974;8(2):1.
 3. Chance MA, Peters RE. Journal of the Australian Chiropractors Association. Front matter. This quote is taken from J Aust Chiropr Assoc. 1990;20(4): front matter.
 4. Hard copies of the Journal of the National Chiropractic Association are held in the historical collection of RMIT University.
 5. The Annals of the Swiss Chiropractic Association are mostly available on-line. Try <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/176797>

The question must be asked, does chiropractic need another journal that may also have a tenuous life? Of course I am going to say 'yes' and point to the *Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association* for being the longest-lived journal serving chiropractors today (from about 1956). (6) It delivers its abstracts in English and French and is naturally positioned to primarily serve the interests of the Canadian Association that it represents. Beyond this stalwart the profession's journals fall into two philosophical groupings: a few promoting concessional chiropractic and a stable of four journals focussing on conventional chiropractic.

The greatest growth area for chiropractic is the Asia-Pacific region, indeed Asia encompasses nearly 60% of the world's population. By comparison Europe's population is nearly 10% and Northern America just under 5%. (7) Both chiropractic practice and chiropractic education are in a state of growth in the Asia-Pacific region, a fact most appreciated by those of us privileged to live and work throughout the region.

So, what has this journal got to do with it? Asia-Pacific chiropractors and educators deserve a voice and the purpose of this journal is to provide a voice; not just for writers in the Asia-Pacific region but for writers globally who have ideas of value to share with appreciative readers.

I recognise that where you stand on an issue depends on where you sit, and where you sit depends on who has paid for your chair. The establishment of this *Journal* was funded by a small grant from a private family grateful for the way chiropractic has made their lives worth living. The *Journal* has no link to any Association or Institution and is fully independent in all meanings of the idea of independence. We welcome submissions from all voices expressed in courteous terms suitable for general consumption. We live our value of Independence and do not censor ideas.

With Independence comes responsibility and we address this with the Journal's three pillars of Freedom, Truth, and Health.

Freedom encompasses the reader and the writer; our readers have to be able to trust what they read, and our writers have to trust they can speak in the strongest way they can. We are non-aligned so there is no party-line and no political correctness. We publish in an author's first language if they wish; our presence is ubiquitous on mobile devices; our review process takes the form of open dialogue; and our indexing is tight because we use the DOI method with metadata within chiroindex.org.

Truth is lived by our shared experiences and as a science journal we expect full and complete referencing. And it is here that truth and freedom mingle because we accept the writer's own preferred referencing style, a freedom that means much more than readily appears. A specific 'style' must be used but 'what style' is the writer's choice; our insistence is on the writer applying their chosen style correctly and consistently. We also explore truth by publishing reader comments in a more generous manner than any other chiropractic journal, see [Dialogue](#).

Health is, if you will, our underlying pillar on which Freedom and Truth can stand. We accept Kingma's (8) understanding that health is both actualised and potentiated, meaning we embrace the idea of chiropractic care not only correcting particular problems as they arise, but also its greater power of contributing to the potential to optimise an individual's health and potentiate their well-being. To us chiropractic is not a course of pain killers or antibiotics taken to make a

6. Canadian Chiropractic Association. Information: Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association. Accessed 09 April 2. URL <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/293/>

7. Worldometer. Regions in the world by population. Accessed 08 April 2020 at <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-region/>

8. Kingma E. Paracetamol, Poison, and polio: Why Boorse's account of function fails to distinguish health and disease. *Br J Phil Sci.* 2010;61(2):241-64 URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40664348>

problem lessen its interference with activities of daily living; it is our way of living our lives to optimise our potential for continuing well-being.

We welcome well-written contributions by writers with something to say that chiropractors need to read and hear. We write in the style of chiropractic clinicians who want to read in the style of chiropractic clinicians. We are an evidence-based clinician's journal where clinicians and patients are our evidence.

We want to be a living street market of multi-lingual dialogue not just in the Asia-Pacific region, our home, but for chiropractors in all countries who are ready to be energised by a journal designed to slip in your pocket on your phone and travel with you.

As editor it is my job to make this happen and as a reader we need you to make the journal alive. Please share our website among your connections: <https://www.apcj.net> Talk with us by email to journal@apcj.net

As a writer, please try us once and discover the magic that can happen to your ideas when they come to life in a warm, receptive journal that is youthful and imperative. And mobile.

Freedom, Truth and Health. May all three bring you a journal that you come to value.

Addendum

Since the above was written many changes have occurred to impact our profession, not the least being the global pandemic of COVID-19. We have noticed divergent views in the profession with one extreme being the denial of the *WFC Research Council* (9) of any relationship between immunity and chiropractic. On the other hand we are yet to see any serious claim there is proof of a relationship but we do see a lot of pieces of evidence that needs to be connected and tested.

As clinical observers we must note the evidence of a relationship between a low overall level of an individual's well-being and their susceptibility; this has been manifest with the aggressive spread of the virus within compromised communities such as homes that care for the frail and aged. We express our condolences for all who have suffered personal loss at this time.

As chiropractic observers we note the clarity of the position taken by the *International Chiropractors' Association* which through daily messaging by its President, Dr Stephen Welsh, has consistently been sane and sensible to the effect that the health of the host has a part to play in the complex process of immunity and the associated degree of illness-impact.

We can't help but wonder at the fact Dr DD Palmer pointed to this over a Century ago by writing '*It explains why and how one person becomes affected with disease while his associate or neighbor (sic), apparently living under the same conditions, remains well.*' (10)

It is well past the time that chiropractic went back to the future in terms of the founding precepts of the profession. It is one thing to ignore these, as to do so is a matter of personal choice reflecting inadequate education; it is another to wantonly debase them under the influence of pharmaceutical medicine and in the name of the god of evidence-based practice.

We specifically call for the WFC to direct its *Research Council* to broaden its agenda of inquiry beyond the narrow perspective of what is already known about mechanical low back pain, neck pain and headache. The profession is crying out to do better than straight-forward mechanical

9. World Federation of Chiropractic. The Effect of Spinal Adjustment / Manipulation on Immunity and the Immune System: A Rapid Review of the Relevant Literature. Retrieved 3 June 2020 from https://www.wfc.org/website/images/wfc/Latest_News_and_Features/Spinal_Manipulation_Immunity_Review_2020_03_19.pdf

10. Palmer DD. The moral and religious duty of a chiropractor. In: Palmer DD. The chiropractor. Los Angeles: Press of Beacon Light Printing Company 1914: p. 3 par 1.

pain management which has, after all, been part of health care since the times of **ancient Egyptians**, 1,600BC and earlier.

At this time the leadership of the profession at global, national, and jurisdictional levels must, in our view, advocate and implement research strategies that actually address the common daily practice of chiropractic which is consistently reported as being to improve the years of quality life of individual patients.

We consider that a solid evidence-based biomechanical foundation for subluxation has been laid by Suh and his colleagues (11) with the neurological implications reported by Sato et al (12, 13) and we urge responsible bodies to examine the research agenda of *Spinal Research*, **published in these pages**, and to re-align their resources and activity towards bettering our common good.

How to 'read' the Journal

The *Journal* is based on its landing page at <https://www.apcj.net> There are three main gatherings of content: the *Articles* which shows all peer-reviewed content, *Practice Wisdom* which is a mix including peer-reviewed, and *About the Journal* which is the detail for writers who wish to submit.

Articles and some content can be accessed quickly through the drop-down menu at the top of the landing page. On desktops and laptops just click the down arrow, and on iPad and phones just slow tap and hold for the drop down.

All navigation is by icon or button; this means other content such as *Patient Handouts*, *Continuing Professional Learning*, *Clinical Quizzes*, and *Bonus* documents are accessed by 'tap and follow'.

All content is free to access and fast to download as PDFs

Readers who have submitted their email address are notified each time new content is loaded.

The *search* function is continually optimised for the *Journal's* contents and most important, your search stays within the *Journal* and does not take you to other sites and pay-walls. Communication with the *Journal* is by email and the link is at the bottom of every web page.

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.46323/2021001>

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11. Suh C-H. Recollections of the Biomechanics Research Project at the University of Colorado and Recommendations for Future Research. Retrieved 3 June 2020 from <https://chiro.org/LINKS/FULL/subcon10.html#suh>
 12. Sato A, Sato Y, Schmidt RF. The impact of somatosensory input on autonomic functions. *Reviews of Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology*, vol 130. Berlin: Springer-Verlag 1997.
 13. Sato A, Swenson RS. Sympathetic nervous system response to mechanical stress of the spinal column in rats. *J Manipulative Physiol Ther* 1984;7:141-7.