

Freedom, Truth, Health: Our 3 founding principles put to the test

Dateline: Melbourne (20 December 2025)

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Narrative: Even long-term and highly regarded relationships end, given time. The most poignant right now of course is the passing of our Executive Editor, Dr Rolf E Peters, OAM, whom I memorialise elsewhere. He was special to me.

On a more pragmatic note, this Journal announces the withdrawal by the World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS) from our agreement for this Journal to publish and support them. Our support was through mentoring of their leadership group to achieve publication. There were no limits or boundaries on what could be published, but it seems a recent paper has upset the WFC, a sponsoring body of the WCCS, and the WCCS may no longer submit papers to us.

As is to be expected, this matter is far bigger than any Director of the WCCS can imagine and in this Editorial I explain what the Editorial Committee of this masthead perceive is really happening. It goes to the heart of the philosophical basis of the program in Clinical Biomechanics at the University of Southern Denmark which has long been accredited as graduating Chiropractors.

The matter also goes to the emergence of what is now called the Majority World as opposed to America and Europe which are very much the Minority World and definitely not the future of Chiropractic education.

Indexing Terms: Chiropractic; subluxation; philosophy; education; Majority world; future of Chiropractic.

Introduction

A year ago it was reported that the World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS) was a Trojan Horse for the Chiropractic Cartel. (1) I must admit I took that personally, as I had been World President of the WCCS in 1988, and even today supported the WCCS through the pages of this Journal. The Editorial Committee felt the WCCS was an honest attempt by students to develop leadership skills. I am wrong, we were wrong. They have become politicised.

On this Journal's inception in 2020, we invited WCCS to submit a piece of writing from one of their team for peer-review, publication, and indexation. In every issue since we published a piece under the WCCS banner, and have even gathered the pieces onto their own WCCS page in our Journal accessed by a quick link from the top of the home page.

Of course there was no cost or obligation, just a simple adult understanding

... it is time to question whose interests are being served by the WFC's active attempt to control the global agenda of Chiropractic education ...'



1. The World Congress of Chiropractic Students (WCCS): A Trojan Horse for the Chiropractic Cartel. McCoy Press. The Chiropractic Chronicle. https://drmatthewmccoy.substack.com/p/the-world-congress-of-chiropractic?utm_source=publication-search

that this Journal would publish them and promote their work in whichever way they thought best. Our actions extended 'Freedom' of expression to students.

As much as each new President at the start of their yearly term undertook to ensure the WCCS papers would flow, they usually needed a gentle reminder that the deadline had arrived. It is not unusual for Editors to do this, and always, until now, a paper would arrive, our reviewers would process it within 24 hours, and it would be set and published.

In December 2025 I wrote to the President to inquire about the submission for this January issue. The reply was

'Thank you very much for your kind note and for offering the extension - much appreciated.'

'There is no need to extend the deadline on our behalf. There will be no article from us for this month's issue. Many thanks again for your understanding.'

(email 17 December 2025)

As you can read, nothing was offered for us to 'understand', thus we went looking to see what might be happening.

In the Journal's 1 October 2025 issue the WCCS piece was critical of the University of Southern Denmark (USD) for its alleged failure to provide a university-based teaching clinic for Chiropractic students. (2) We published it to honour our principle of Truth as we had no reason to doubt what was being said, after all, it was from the WCCS whom we trusted.

In part, the student and WCCS member whose identity we protect, wrote regarding USD:

Without structured clinical training, and in combination with the prism through which Chiropractic is seen here, it's hard not to wonder: what is Chiropractic, really?

I should remind readers that USD does not deliver a Chiropractic program per se in spite of common belief to the contrary. Rather, to study Chiropractic at USD you must enrol in the Bachelor's program in Clinical Biomechanics, which they claim will *'prepare you for a career as a Chiropractor'*. After completing the Bachelor's degree, one can continue with a Master's program in Clinical Biomechanics to further their education and skills in this field. A Bachelor/Master in Clinical Biomechanics? Yes, not in Chiropractic, in spite of the university claiming *'The master's degree programme in Clinical Biomechanics is the clinical part of the chiropractor programme at SDU'*. We still do not understand why USD does not provide a University Teaching Clinic for Chiropractic students.

The more serious question is, what is the basis for the European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) accrediting the SDU program? Are they correct in describing it as a 'BSc Clinical Biomechanics and MSc Chiropractic'? (3) Is their training really as described in the 2021 SDU Site Report of the ECCE as *'The students on the biomedical science course also have additional lectures relevant to Chiropractic. The integration with the medical students results in qualified chiropractors being able to work within a multidisciplinary environment'* and the master's programme where

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2. Author name withheld. Chiropractic school without a student clinic: Reflections from a student. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2025;6.2. www.apcj.net/papers-issue-6-2/#SchoolWithoutClinic
 3. Syddansk Universitet Odense. Accredited programs. ECCE. 20 December 2025. At <https://www.cce-europe.org/about-us/accredited-programmes/>

'biomedical science students work and study alongside medical students and health care specialists in the Spine Centre. With the exception of the 4-week internship at a private chiropractic practice in the final year, the curriculum does not facilitate everyday Chiropractic encounters. Experience relevant to the Chiropractic setting, including business and administration is not obtained until the postgraduate training year, which is a requirement of the Danish Chiropractic Association and separate to the programme'. (4)

It seems to us the comments we published from a student are truthful, and we too are concerned about this abject lack of university-based training in a Chiropractic clinical environment. As with the inspection team of 2021, we too wonder how international students achieve an entry-level standard on graduation without the 'intern' year for local students which is not a requirement of the program, but of the Danish Chiropractic Association?

Our correspondent also noted:

I lack confidence in core manual skills. And no, it's not just confidence that's lacking, it is actual skill. We are told we become excellent, unparalleled in fact. And perhaps this is true. But it feels almost like educational gaslighting, because when it comes to adjusting, I feel as if I will be using patients as practice.

This Journal has gifted both Freedom and Truth to the WCCS and protected two of their correspondents in exposing what one has termed '*educational gaslighting*' by staff of the USD. The second correspondent to whom I refer earlier raised and published under the banner of WCCS (5) to the effect '*Being a uni student is in no way "easy". Being a chiropractic uni student seems to add even more stress and complexity. The battles that we face are many, both around us and within ourselves, and do not seem to lessen as we get older.*'

Both papers are an indictment on the state of the education process the WFC is working hard to control and regulate as gatekeeper. I address this in detail in Chapter 1 of my third textbook now being written (A Chiropractor Educator's Handbook, XLibris, due April 2026) and it is truly frightening to reveal the evidence that less than 10 people globally are the gate-keepers for what counts as accredited Chiropractic education.

The WFC has done an excellent job at gaslighting the Chiropractic community that the program at USD is a program of Chiropractic education which meets their standards. Jan Hartvigsen, a Professor at USD (6) with the 'biomechanics' program, along with Charlotte Leboeuf-Yde, also a full Professor, (7) supposedly teach Chiropractic to Chiropractic students. Hartvigsen who speaks for the WFC as a Chiropractor (8) and co-wrote the WFC's denial of any role for Chiropractic in immunity in March

4. Evaluation Team Report Clinical Biomechanics - Chiropractic. ECCE. At <https://www.cce-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/sdurep2021final.pdf>

5. Author withheld. Battles of a Chiropractic student. [WCCS]. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2024;4:3 apcj.net/papers-issue-4-3/#BattlesofaStudent

6. Jan Hartvigsen. SDU profiles. 20 December 2024. At <https://portal.findresearcher.sdu.dk/en/persons/jhartvigsen/>

7. Charlotte Leboeuf-Yde. ResearchGate. 20 December 2024. At <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Charlotte-Leboeuf-Yde>

8. News staff. 'Its Absolutely Rubbish' Claims WFC Researcher Jan Hartvigsen on Use of X-rays to Identify Subluxation. The Chronicle of Chiropractic. 21 April 2019. <http://chiropractic.prosepoint.net/163926>

2020 at the time of COVID, (9) does not give 'Chiropractic' as his discipline. His profile on ResearchGate (10) states his fields are Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology, and Physiotherapy.

Together they are among other authors of this statement made on a professional Chiropractic association's website:

'There is a need to pause and consider if the many reasons for disharmony within the chiropractic profession are, in fact, irreconcilable. It is time to openly debate the issue of a professional split by engaging in formal and courageous discussions. This item should be prioritised on the agendas of national associations, conferences, teaching institutions, and licensing/registration as well as accreditation bodies. However, for this to happen, the middle group of chiropractors will have to become engaged and consider the benefits and risks of respectively staying together or breaking up'. (11)

It is not their intent to unify and advance the discipline. They appear as bone-setting therapists intent on destroying Palmerian principles. They are also among the authors of one of the more destructive, anti-cohesion paper published in the last 50 years. (12) Senzon considers published papers by either or both of these two authors as being flawed due to multiple errors. (13) Yet we know they are favoured authors of the WFC, Hartvigsen was an author of the WFC's condemnation of the profession for daring to think Chiropractic adjustments could help immunity during COVID. (9)

McCoy reports the then Secretary-General of the WFC, who funded the report, gave a complete whitewash in a Podcast Interview. (14)

Mind you, this report was one of the WFC's most controversial acts during the COVID-19 era in that it silenced Chiropractic's role in immunity. Brown said *'There was some controversy, most of that has gone by the wayside, everyone's back on the same page'*. Brown should have added that the very rash position he took on purely political grounds has done lasting damage to the image of the WFC within the profession.

The best scientific evidence at the time (15) concluded *'Although spinal manipulations seem to trigger the activation of the neuroimmunoendocrine system, the evidence supporting a biological account for the application of HVLAT in clinical practice is mixed and conflicting. Further research on subjects with spinal MSK conditions with larger sample sizes are needed to obtain more insights about the biological effects of spinal manipulative therapy'*.

Not only did Brown push the WFC into a political position, he facilitated bad science, ignored good science, and engaged Hartvigsen as a player.

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9. The Effect of Spinal Adjustment /Manipulation on Immunity and the Immune System: A Rapid Review of Relevant Literature. WFC. 19 March 2020. Not shown on the WFC site but available at https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Martin-Descarreaux/publication/340350655_The_Effect_of_Spinal_Adjustment_Manipulation_on_Immunity_and_the_Immune_System_A_Rapid_Review_of_Relevant_Literature_World_Federation_of_Chiropractic/links/5e84992fa6fdcca789e5f824/The-Effect-of-Spinal-Adjustment-Manipulation-on-Immunity-and-the-Immune-System-A-Rapid-Review-of-Relevant-Literature-World-Federation-of-Chiropractic.pdf?_tp=eyJjb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6InByb2ZpbGUiLCJwYWdlIjoicHVibGljYXRpb24ifX0
 10. Jan Hartvigsen. Profile. ResearchGate. December 2025. At <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jan-Hartvigsen>
 11. Chiropractic Australia's post. Facebook. 21 February 2019. <https://www.facebook.com/ChiropracticAustralia/posts/2784924928399616/>
 12. Leboeuf-Yde C, Innes SI, Young KJ, Kawchuk GN, Hartvigsen J. Chiropractic, one big unhappy family: better together or apart? *Chiropr Man Therap*. 2019 Feb 21;27:4. DOI 10.1186/s12998-018-0221-z. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6383283/>
 13. Senzon SA. Truth, lies, and Chiropractic. [Thesis]. Southern Cross University.. 2 September 2022. DOI DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25918/thesis.247>. At <https://researchportal.scu.edu.au/esploro/outputs/doctoral/991013089413302368>
 14. A Conversation Worth Unpacking. McCoy Press. 7 August 2025. <https://drmatthewmccoy.substack.com/p/whitewashing-the-pandemic-how-richard>
 15. Colombi A, Testa M. The Effects Induced by Spinal Manipulative Therapy on the Immune and Endocrine Systems. *Medicina (Kaunas)*. 2019 Aug 7;55(8):448. DOI 10.3390/medicina55080448. At <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31394861/>

Recapping the Danish program

From Dynamic Chiropractic (16):

[in 1996] '... The Danish minister of education announced the establishment of a fully state-funded five-year Chiropractic program leading to a master's degree in clinical biomechanics. The new Danish chiropractic program will accept 50 students a year; half of those students will be coming from the Nordic climes of Norway, Sweden, and Finland.

'After completion of the **five-year course**, which includes a five month internship at a new specialised hospital for back pain patients, **and completion of a one-year postgraduate course**, the graduating DCs will be fully authorised to practice by the Danish health authorities'.

The new research-based chiropractic education at Odense University will strengthen the important co-operation between medical doctors, physiotherapists, and chiropractors, benefitting back pain sufferers,' said Troels Gaard, DC, president of the Danish Chiropractors' Association'. (15)

The total period of study leading to licensure and entry to the profession in Denmark is 6 years, the same standard as those programs emerging in the Majority world. The first model of this was the program introduced by Kleynhans in Melbourne (17) which settled to 4½ extended academic years equal to over 5 full-time academic years of study, and then a 6 month period of 'fieldwork' to deliver a 6-year equivalent program in 5 years. In fact, LeBoeuf studied as a clinician under Kleynhans as Head of School and worked at the then Bulleen Chiropractic Clinic for a short time from 1982. (18)

Chiropractors: we have a problem

The first matter for this Journal to resolve is about our relationship with the WCCS. The Executive Committee have discussed this and it is our decision to accept their withdrawal.

The principles of this Journal are Freedom, Truth, and Health. Under our auspices some individual members of WCCS have been speaking a truth that became too uncomfortable for a favoured institution of the WFC.

The Executive of the WCCS have failed all Chiropractic students by surrendering to an likely implied threat to withdraw funding should they continue publishing with this Journal. This is not an act of Freedom, rather it is an act of academic terrorism.

As adults we can understand why this may have happened. We can understand Hartvigsen and/or LeBoeuf being cross that their institution was called-out as substandard. We suspect this quickly made its way to the WFC where it would have been an easy decision to react, given their need to defend their ground over the growing support within global Chiropractic against the WFC's overt hatred of the idea of subluxation.

16. Denmark University Establishes 5-Year Chiropractic Program Master's Program at Odense University is Fully State-Funded. [News]. Staff. Dynamic Chiropractic. April 1997. At <https://dynamicchiropractic.com/article/38199-denmark-university-establishes-5-year-chiropractic-program>

17. Ebrall P. The establishment of the International College of Chiropractic (ICC) Melbourne. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2022;3:2. apcj.net/Papers-Issue-3-2/#ICC

18. Bryce M. Ed. Pictorial history of the School of Chiropractic now at Phillip Institute of Technology. Melbourne. Globe Press. 1987:pp. 52-3.

Readers can be assured that the Journal will act as intended, which is to be a repository of student papers and will retain the WCCS page in good faith. In this issue we also republish both the papers mentioned above to ensure transparency so that everyone knows what we are talking about. They are:

Author name withheld. Chiropractic school without a student clinic: Reflections from a student. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2025;6.2. www.apcj.net/papers-issue-6-2/#SchoolWithoutClinic

Author withheld. Battles of a Chiropractic student. [WCCS]. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2024;4.3 apcj.net/papers-issue-4-3/#BattlesofaStudent

We are unable to accept any future contribution from the WCCS which we now see to be as reported in my opening par, a tool being played by the North American Chiropractic Cartel.

We do not play political games. We are Chiropractors, wanting nothing more to advance our discipline and our profession. We continue to warmly welcome student contributions, as we have always done.

Keating's Clinician-Scientist model (19) emphasises publication as an important part of scholarship within the discipline, in fact it is a mandatory requirement for graduation in the emerging programs in the Majority World for each student to have published at least one peer-reviewed report in the literature, a little like the practice of Chiropractic programs in South Africa which require a minor thesis.

The WFC's mistake

The WFC believe they are the only body speaking on behalf of the world's Chiropractors, they are not and this will become more evident as this year rolls out.

After all, the WFC has failed by 2 decades to meet the required deadlines of the WHO for new Benchmarks in Chiropractic Training. (20) The group which is bringing Chiropractic Education to the Majority World could provide the WHO with these benchmarks within 2 weeks of request. Why has the WFC dropped the ball so badly over 20 years for Chiropractic Education? Why have they involved the WCCS in their current power-play?

The grip on the control of the global Chiropractic agenda is no longer held firmly by the WFC, especially in the field of education. There is extensive argument that the WFC is representing the Minority World, and not the new, emerging programs within the Majority World. The WFC can not bridge this gap because it is unprepared, disorganised, and unable to even manage a change of Secretary-General to any lasting effect, (21) and also because their education agenda has been farmed out to bland but convenient stooges.

The terms Minority World and Majority World are new to our lexicon and deserve to be understood by all critics. (22)

19. Keating Jr, JC. Toward a Philosophy of the Science of Chiropractic: A Primer for Clinicians. Stockton Foundation; 1992.

20. WHO Benchmarks for training in Chiropractic. WFC. At <https://www.wfc.org/whobenchmarkfortraininginchiropractic>

21. New WFC Secretary General Leaving; Interim Named, News staff. Dynamic Chiropractic. n.d. At <https://dynamicchiropractic.com/article/102937-new-wfc-secretary-general-leaving-interim-named>

22. Silver M. If You Shouldn't Call It The Third World, What Should You Call It? npr. 4 January 2015. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/01/04/372684438/if-you-shouldnt-call-it-the-third-world-what-should-you-call-it>

Chiropractic students: we have a future

This year (2026) there will be new programs of Chiropractic education in places beyond the reach of the WFC, and every student in each emerging university-based program will form the membership of a new Global Congress of Chiropractic Students, GCCS.

All students of Chiropractic regardless of their institution will be welcome to join and be part of a true, collegial family of Chiropractic students not beholden to funding from the WFC, and thus free of their political agenda. It will be subluxation-centric, reflecting the curriculums they are studying.

We will announce details as each becomes appropriate to be publicised. Concomitant with these is the emergence of a new model of Chiropractic research, where academics and students actively publish.

We believe that publication is a benchmark of scholarship, not a wish-list.

Our optimism is challenged but remains well placed

In Australia we see university-based Chiropractic programs being diluted through leadership by physical therapists and osteopaths and of course, we note the closure of the program at RMIT University. While at the same time we see the philosophy-based Australian Chiropractic College (ACC) going from strength to strength and this year delivering for the second year from a beautiful new campus in Central Melbourne, in addition to their established college in Adelaide.

I am also warmly awaiting what I predict will be a dramatic announcement from the philosophy-based New Zealand College of Chiropractic (NZCC) and I am closely watching fascinating developments in real-time in Europe. The old 4,200 hour Nugent curriculum to which the North Americans are beholden is long dead, and the continuing disgraceful professional behaviours of the Chiropractic Cartel are diminishing the standard of our discipline in the world's eyes. The American-centric tone of this video makes my point. (23) I thought CBP was a technique, not a political group.

The CCE, NBCE, & FCLB, with tacit approval from the WFC, are also forcing despair on students as US Colleges rush towards the USD\$300,000 degree with all competency assessment to be outsourced to a private provider in Hicksville CO.

Conclusion

The effectiveness of the WFC has been eroded by their desire to control every aspect of Chiropractic at every level in every country. In my view it started with the Identity Consultation in 2005 (24) to deliberately start the WFC's erasure of Chiropractic's foundational premise of subluxation and adjustment. It erased the direction set from the first Education Conference held by the WFC in 2000.

Since then the WFC has worked at every level to erase subluxation from the discipline, perhaps culminating in 2010 with the GCC censoring the topic from the few curriculums it accredits in the UK. Censorship on what can be taught? You betcha. (25, p 7)

23. Big changes to NBCE exams: What chiropractors need to know. Chiropractic BioPhysics Podcast. Podcast. At <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/chiropractic-biophysics-podcast/id1638770416>

24. World Federation of Chiropractic. Identity Consultation. At <https://www.wfc.org/identity-consultation>

25. How the education standards are used. General Chiropractic Council. p. 7, col 1, par 3. Accessed 20 April 2025 at https://www.gcc-uk.org/assets/downloads/GCC_How_the_Education_Standards_are_used_guide_2024.pdf

We note the emergence and rise of the Canadian National Alliance for Chiropractic, (26) and the continued growth of McCoy Press (27) which is dedicated to publishing progressive, health related content that is helping to push the needed paradigm shift in health care in the right direction. We see the positive effect of visionaries like Travis Corcoran, Adrian Wenban, Kelly Holt, Patrick Sim, and Ryan Seaman.

As McCoy says, Chiropractic *'today must be all about rational, thoughtful and progressive discussions on the current health care crisis'*. As BJ Palmer said, *'When you're ripe you begin to rot'*.

Sadly the WFC is a casualty of the rotting old world order because they are on a power-trip to centralise control, instead of representing the profession's diversity.

The real question for each of us has to do with our own value propositions and what we can do about them.

As Editor, I am humbled to note the extraordinary intellectual depth contributed by many authors and published in this issue. Only two other Chiropractic journals (28, 29) are publishing papers at this level of *'Chiropractors speaking Chiropractic with Chiropractors'* and none of us charge authors any fees to do so.

Thank you, we *are* the future of Chiropractic, with Freedom and Truth in Health.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

26. Canadian National Alliance for Chiropractic. Home. At <https://www.mycnac.ca/en/>

27. McCoy Press. Home. At <https://mccoypress.com/>

28. Journal of Contemporary Chiropractic. Home. At <https://journal.parker.edu/>

29. Chiropractic History - The Journal. Home. At <https://www.historyofchiropractic.org/the-journal/>