

# CELEBRATING THE ICA (AND WHY YOU ARE ASKED TO JOIN)

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Stephen Welsh

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## Introduction

As noted elsewhere in this Journal (*Remembering*) the *International Chiropractic Association* (ICA) is only 6 short years from its 100th anniversary. As the current President I sometimes pause in my daily schedule to think about two things: 'what it is that has led to this extremely long life for a professional body,' and 'what is the Association's ongoing purpose?'

The second question is easy to answer. The purpose of the ICA is very clear and our members have no confusion; it is to represent the best interests of the profession of chiropractic. To guide us we hold to a strong, clear *Vision* with an empowering *Mission*, and apply our *Values* to everything we do in the name of our profession and of our members.

The ICA Vision is to '*Empower humanity to optimal life expression, health and human potential through specific and scientific chiropractic care.*' By holding true to this vision we embrace individual chiropractors globally who practice in many different models and styles of chiropractic but always, and commonly, for the purpose of empowering their patients to achieve their optimal life expression. We think of this as adding '' to our patients to help them reach their potential in all they do within their families and communities.

Our Vision leads to the empowerment of you as an individual chiropractor and this continues through the ICA Mission which is to '*To protect and promote chiropractic throughout the world as a distinct health care profession predicated upon its unique philosophy, science, and art of subluxation detection and correction.*'

I understand that the '*philosophy, science, and art of subluxation detection and correction*' is being very successfully practiced in both the Philippines and Hong Kong, where there are well-structured clinic networks taking quality care to something like 2,000 patients per day, yes, per day. Yet on the other hand the chiropractors in Singapore have been impacted negatively by the pandemic.

The ICA cares deeply for our members and part of my role as President during these difficult times is to provide a short *Daily Update*. All members receive this short message of hope with technical updates and we would be delighted for you to join us and share with your global colleagues.

When BJ Palmer established the ICA in September 1926 he led the members with a commitment we honour today. These founding values have not changed but are now expressed in



... The ICA is the global association for all chiropractors'

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contemporary language to carry the profession into its next 100 years. Let me share these values with you:

**Respect:** We acknowledge and honour the diverse perspectives and approaches in the practice of chiropractic and in promoting health, healing, and well-being. We pledge to conduct ourselves with kindness, compassion, direct and honest communication.

**Equitability:** We advocate for a healthcare system that is just, fair, and free from discrimination. We believe that all people should have equal access to services that promote health and wellbeing, including chiropractic care. We support the inclusion of all licensed health providers that are practicing within the scope and standards of their profession and advocate for compensation that is commensurate and fair for services provided.

**Empowerment:** We advocate for a health care system that gives people control of their own health and health promoting practices. We foster the development of health promoting capacity in individuals, organisations and health professions through education, knowledge and information, advocacy, access, communication, and collaboration.

**Collaboration:** We are dedicated to working in respectful dialogue and supportive partnership with others to address the needs of individuals and society for better health and healthcare systems; and

**Transparency:** We act in a way that is easy for others to see what we are doing and why we are doing it. We make available full information required for collaboration, cooperation, and collective decision making.

I hear you thinking ‘... but I am already a member of my local association ...’ to which I say ‘great, it is critically important for you to support your profession in this way in your “home” town’ but now more than ever the profession we love and practice to bring great results to so many people world-wide is under global threat. You will know there are some folk who either do not get the ‘big idea’ or are out to cripple the profession that employs them as academics or researchers.

An *international* association is the united front against these forces and by being a member of the ICA in addition to your local association you will directly benefit the global profession. In return for the very modest annual membership of US\$180 you receive the full range of resources the ICA already offers and is continually building. You also receive a free subscription to the *Journal of Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics (JCCP)* that includes case studies, interesting articles and latest research relevant to children’s and women’s health.

It is most important to all of us at the ICA to maintain and promote chiropractic’s unique identity as a vitalistic non-therapeutic, non-allopathic, drugless and surgical-free health science, based on its fundamental principles and philosophy.

If this sounds like the model of chiropractic you aspire to, then please consider joining us at the ICA. It is as simple as following this link <http://www.chiropractic.org/join-ica/>. Students are very welcome.

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