

Dear Colleagues:

As you are aware the *Chiropractic* profession is relatively a new addition to the health care system in our country of *Iran*. Despite this, it has managed to gain significant respect and acceptance both among the general public as well as the other health care disciplines alike.

One of the most important reasons for success of the *Chiropractic* profession in *Iran* has been its ability to provide a unique, yet important approach to health care not previously addressed by the pre-existing health care disciplines.

Chiropractic has always emphasized treatment of the cause of the disorder opposes to just symptomatic treatment. This approach seems to have provided the answer for a large category of patients who were previously unsatisfied with their treatment plans, but had no other treatment options available to them.

One of the major disadvantages of the symptomatic oriented approach to health care has been its inability to properly diagnosis the cause of the disorder leading often to inadequate treatment protocols. This is particularly true in cases of biomechanical spinal disorders with neurological manifestations. As the result some of these disorders are allowed to progress into more sever stages requiring more aggressive treatment procedures, often with undesirable long-term consequences.

Therefore; the *Chiropractic* profession has had the unique opportunity to fill in the existing gap in management of these types of spinal disorders. Chiropractic has also introduced a new perspective in preventive care, which in today's advance health care systems takes precedent over the classic view.

Much can be said about the success of the *Chiropractic* profession in *Iran*, the most obvious being the patient treatment results itself. However, it is also important to note that along with this success has come the greater responsibility towards our patients and the profession alike.

The *Iranian Chiropractic Association (IRCA)* since its official recognition back in the year 2003 has taken this responsibility rather seriously. Maintaining the highest possible level of patient care and ethical conduct has always been the most important priority of the *IRCA*. And as such, a great deal of emphasis has been placed upon organizing monthly conferences as well as annual seminars including interdisciplinary seminars, geared towards the needs of a practicing *Doctor of Chiropractic* in *Iran*.

As most of our more experienced colleagues would agree, *Chiropractic* in *Iran* is unique in several ways. The most important distinguishing factor is perhaps the *Chiropractic* patients themselves.

These patients often present with variety of spinal disorders in advance stages with significant neurological manifestations. Therefore, their management requires an accurate diagnostic procedure and a well-planned treatment protocol. This is one of the reasons that only the most competent *Doctors of Chiropractic* with full credentials are eligible for licensure in *Iran*.

The *Iranian Chiropractic Association (IRCA)* has also placed a great deal of emphasis on *Chiropractic* post doctorate programs, which we feel represents the educational future of the profession. It is very important for our profession to recognize the need for more specialized educational standards in order to meet the ever increasing demand faced by our colleagues.

Interdisciplinary cooperation has also been another important policy emphasized by the *IRCA*. We strongly feel it is very important for our colleagues to have a close interdisciplinary communication with other health care disciplines based upon mutual respect. This is certainly necessary for the care of the patient and will also help to increase our understanding of different perspectives involved in today's health care system.

Our main priority at the *IRCA* is not only to work hard to maintain the highest possible *Chiropractic* standards of care but also work to improve these standards. It is important to emphasize that improved interdisciplinary cooperation and better understanding of the future challenges faced by our profession can assist us in achieving this goal.

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