

Chiropractic Advocate Int'l

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NOTICE: Online Chiropractic Continuing Education

Finally, an idea whose time has come! An online continuing education website that can help DCs who practice abroad get their CEU credits without having to spend additional expenses on travel... as long as you have access to the Internet. Continuing education credits come through National Chiropractic College, recently known as the National University of Health Sciences. Hope this notice simplifies your life.

Submitted by the CEU.com:

"The Continuing Education University is a leading provider of online distance learning for chiropractors and other healthcare professionals. Now you can continue earning your CE credits with the most convenient and comprehensive course offering available, while saving substantial time and money. With our full range of interactive, affordable courses, the CEU allows you to study anytime, anywhere in total alignment with your lifestyle.

Log on today at www.TheCEU.com."

CE Credits are provided through
National University of Health Sciences

Chiropractic at UNESCO

The chiropractic profession is officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and even well regarded by the WHO staffers. The WHO has co-sponsored several World Federation of Chiropractors (WFC) events and regularly sends representatives to the WFC Congress. The efforts made by a handful of DCs, beginning with Dr. Gary Auerbach in 1982, have successfully placed chiropractic on the WHO map.

Today there is a second United Nations division that has become the focus of the chiropractic profession's International consultants. UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has a much broader venue on the International landscape and its Department of Higher Education has just received its first chiropractic envoys during the October 2003 Assembly in Paris. Dr. Michel Tetrault and Dr. Hugh Fouasse of the Chiropractic Diplomatic Corps met with the Department Head, Komlavi Seddoh, and were subsequently invited to submit a proposal to apply for "Consultatory Relations" with UNESCO.

The profession is finally beginning to see a more rapid increase in new school start-ups.

Correct protocols recognize that the WFC is the appropriate entity that would enter into the official application process on behalf of the chiropractic profession. The Chiropractic Diplomatic Corps will be presenting their findings of this exploratory UNESCO trip sometime in 2004, seeking to support the WFC in this effort.

Why the interest in UNESCO?

The profession is finally beginning to see a more rapid increase in new school start-ups. The most recent school additions on the global terrain are located in the USA, Italy, Mexico, Australia, Brazil and Japan. Each country has very different protocols whereby an institution of higher education obtains accreditation for a new professional course of study but have no impartial source for information on chiropractic studies.

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Chiropractors may still establish private practices in countries without formal legislation regulating the profession; the governments in these countries may seek guidance and information through the WHO when they look into regulating chiropractors. Universities may establish a course of study of chiropractic where there is no chiropractic law in their country but they will need to and wish to obtain formal governmental approval of their degree if they expect to stay in business very long.

At present, it is a lengthy and arduous process to evaluate the credentials of a course of study in chiropractic when there are no official standards, only guidelines offered through the WFC and institutions already engaged in chiropractic education. There are unfortunately several examples found today in Sweden, England, Italy, Denmark and Japan where school start-ups have defied existing training standards.

There are currently over one dozen countries at some stage of progress in starting a chiropractic school in the hopefully near future. Will these schools adhere to existing standards of chiropractic education?

The ongoing work within chiropractic toward setting International education standards makes this the right time to build our relationship with UNESCO's Department of Higher Education.

When the WHO asked for written documentation of the "training" required for chiropractors they were rather surprised at the level of higher education that exists. The intention was to simply document what the "traditional and lay healers" did all over the world to learn their skills. This did however result in the WHO fully recognizing how chiropractic education was in a class of its own and thereby establishing a separate category of classification just for chiropractic.

The WHO will be including chiropractic in its current efforts to prepare a complete listing of all the healthcare teaching institutions that meet the established standards for each respective profession, such as nursing, physical therapy, optometry, etc., much along the existing listing of established medical schools and universities in the world. However, it is not within the WHO's scope to include curriculum details or syllabi, leaving a large gap in demonstrating what the standards are for acquiring an MD or a DC degree.

That task is left up to UNESCO.

In order to present the world with the full detailed descriptions of a chiropractic course of study there is now the need to establish official relations with UNESCO. The ongoing work within chiropractic toward setting International education standards makes this the right time to build our relationship with UNESCO's Department of Higher Education.

In May 2003, Dr. Tetrault met with technical representatives of the WHO in Geneva to discuss the steps that would be required to get chiropractic training documented for the world's governments to access. It was explained that the WHO's concern with education is primarily one that addresses public health issues and has extensive interest and involvement with what is being taught in elementary schools on this subject. University level studies are the concern of UNESCO and so during the meeting a conference call was immediately initiated with Ms. Hoffman, the liaison to UNESCO. It was during this phone conference that an invitation was extended to present this topic to the head of Higher Education.

One major aspect that helped to provide credibility was that there are formal relations that already exist between the chiropractic profession and the WHO.

The meetings at UNESCO revealed how little chiropractic was known. When it was explained that there was a chiropractic school right there in Paris and that there were 37 accredited institutions of higher learning offering this program, one could feel the respect as well as a curiosity about chiropractic. One major aspect that helped to provide credibility was that there are formal relations that already exist between the chiropractic profession and the WHO.

It took a decade to make inroads into the WHO and it will likely take years (3-5 years) to make similar progress at UNESCO. So, the sooner we get started, the better. Until then, interested parties are instructed to work with the WFC and to seek a "twinning" partner from an established DC school to assure the highest standards in chiropractic education are being implemented in new school start-ups.

✓ Read more on [Globalizing Chiropractic Schools](#)

NEWSLETTER POLICY:

This newsletter is intended to inform and encourage the International growth of Chiropractic. If you know someone who may be interested in receiving this newsletter, please have them go to www.ChiropracticDiplomatic.com/register and complete the Foreign Service Registry form, their address will then be added to future mailings. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, simply notify us by replying to the delivery email and your email address will be removed from the list.