Editorial

The American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians supports the *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine*

It is with great pleasure that the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians (ACBSP) and our 2000 certificants join in announcing that we have selected the *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine* (*JCM*) as the official journal of the ACBSP. Now, through a collaborative effort with the existing *JCM* partners and societies such as the American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians, the ACBSP certificants will be able to explore and stimulate intellectual discourse through reading and contributing to the peer-reviewed literature. Each of our active certificants will receive a subscription to the *JCM* as a benefit.

For readers who are not familiar with the ACBSP, the ACBSP is a certifying organization for doctors of chiropractic who are interested in the fields of sports medicine and physical fitness. The ACBSP mission statement is “Promoting the highest standards of excellence and clinical competence for chiropractors specializing in sports medicine and physical fitness.” There are 2 levels of certification available through the ACBSP: the Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians and the Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician/Practitioner. Several chiropractic colleges offer programs directed toward these credentials.

The ACBSP stands committed to the expansion and development of scientific literature related to sports chiropractic and physical fitness. This year is a hallmark year for the ACBSP because it received approval for ACBSP certification processes from the National Commission for Competency Assurance (NCCA). This rigid review by the NCCA included a peer review process to recognize the ACBSP’s work in establishing accreditation standards. The NCCA helps ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the

accreditation of a variety of certification programs/organizations that assess professional competency.

Research that investigates the science and art of chiropractic has been a consistent thread woven through the many years of past ACBSP and American Chiropractic Association Sports Council leadership. By banding together with other supporters of *JCM*, we can all work together to carry out the ongoing mission of advancing the discipline of chiropractic through research literature.

There are several reasons the ACBSP board of directors has decided to select *JCM* as the official journal of the ACBSP. The editor and assistant editor are sports chiropractors and proven researchers. Drs Johnson and Green will work diligently toward the goal of advancing the quality and breadth of chiropractic literature.

In the sports medicine arena and in general practice, there is confusion regarding the scope of knowledge and the practice skills of doctors of chiropractic. One method of addressing concerns is to expand the body of work that defines the science of chiropractic. There is a substantial need for doctors of chiropractic from all walks of life to assist in the exploration of what it is that they do. To accomplish this goal, a steady expansion of the literature related to chiropractic is required. When researchers from other professions search for information on a topic, the field of chiropractic is defined for them through the results of their literature search. The *JCM* is not currently incorporated into all search indexes, but work is under way to move *JCM* in the direction needed to accomplish this goal. Others within our profession need to participate if by no other means than becoming lifetime learners of the profession that they practice.

The ACBSP also believes the chiropractic specialties should provide meaningful and thought-provoking scientific discourse related to their specialty field and chiropractic in general. Before a doctor can become a Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians, he or she must produce an original work that contributes to the body of chiropractic literature. Each ACBSP Sports Science Symposium includes abstract and poster presentations from the field of sports chiropractic. We hope to have selected abstracts and papers published in future issues of *JCM*. The ACBSP encourages other chiropractic specialties to make a similar commitment.

A position paper is one type of publication the ACBSP is interested in developing. The goal of a position paper is to provide the reader with an opinion that is both valid and worth reviewing. These documents provide substantiated documentation about an important issue. This is especially important for the sport chiropractic field because few people know what sport chiropractors and doctors of chiropractic are capable of doing. This is why chiropractors need to steadily build a base of information on topics that demonstrate the scope and knowledge of the profession. For example, the ACBSP has 4 original position papers that include information regarding preparticipation examination (athletic physical), weight loss in wrestling, exercise and athletic participation during

pregnancy, and bloodborne pathogens. These positions will be revisited on a regular basis. Although the ACBSP is proud of what we have developed, we also recognize that these are not enough to provide substantial broad-based support to the chiropractic profession as a whole. Therefore, the ACBSP has committed resources that are necessary to develop quality research-based position papers on a variety of essential topics related to sports chiropractic. New projects are already under way, with a projected completion within a year.

It is reasonable to consider that the future direction of chiropractic will be decided in part by the literature related to chiropractic. In an age where immediate electronic access to literature is available, it is imperative that the individuals interested in chiropractic band together. By working together, we can advance the literature that defines chiropractic. The ACBSP invites you to join us in accepting the challenge and resultant opportunity to contribute to the profession through ongoing education, support of research, and expansion of the body of chiropractic literature.

William J. Moreau DC, DACBSP

(ACBSP President)

Estherville, IA 51334

E-mail address: dconline@myclearwave.net