A message from the College on Forensic Sciences

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The College on Forensic Sciences (CFS), a not-for-profit organization and an American Chiropractic Association (ACA) affiliate, is pleased to offer the *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine (JCM)* as part of its membership benefits.

The *JCM* focuses on providing practical and applicable information for the practicing doctor of chiropractic. This publication's focus will assist the CFS in fulfilling one of its objectives, which is "to provide, deliver and conduct educational and training opportunities for professionals seeking training in forensics, disability, impairment rating and federal programs." The CFS endorses the Objective Scientists Model for forensic examination, expert evidence based on the Reference Manual of Scientific Evidence,¹ the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners' and American Medical Association's proposed protocols² for IMEs, the American Medical Association *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* 4th to 6th editions³⁻⁵ for impairment ratings, the National Association for Disability Evaluating Professionals' protocol⁶ for functional capacity evaluation, and the professional policies of the American College of Medical Quality⁷ and the ACA.⁸

Many chiropractic diplomates may agree that within their diplomate core requirements, there was and continues to be a paucity of education in the forensic (application of medical facts to legal issues and/or proceedings) aspects of their primary area of specialization. In addition, as a diplomate, I found that there was not any substantial continuing (medicolegal) education for the chiropractic orthopedist or sports physician within the chiropractic profession. With this in mind, I went on to receive a master degree (MPS) concentrating in biomechanical trauma, became certified (CICE)⁹ by the

American Board of Independent Medical Examiners and American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Physicians,¹⁰ and helped to formulate the forensics syllabus for the CFS. A concerted effort was made not to reinvent educational core requirements that had been transcribed through diplomate programs but rather to utilize and supplement them when appropriate. This led to the core requirements and the forensic specific courses for a forensic diplomate (http://www.forensic-sciences.org/abfp/abfp-cert_req.htm).

As a chiropractic forensic professional making the time to read and absorb information (evidenced-informed) is not easy. The executive board of the CFS realized that staying abreast of what is happening in chiropractic and our forensic subspecialty is an important part of what we do and affects our practice future. The partnership with *JCM* will provide a conduit for the dissemination of forensic information to our profession and membership.

Our goal for joining as a society of this publication is to explore forensic-related topics that enhance and add a vertical subspecialty dimension for chiropractic providers who are acting as forensic examiners. This is accomplished through knowledge, training, skill, and experience in Federal Rules of Evidence; disability determination systems, impairment rating systems; independent medical examinations; functional (work) capacity, physical assessment (federal) systems; return-to-work and fitness-for-duty assessment; and fraud and abuse investigation.

This journal will take the place of the CFS previously published eZine. You will receive CFS news, convention announcements, national and/or state issues, case studies, medicolegal comment, court decisions, exchange views, and practice experiences

relating to the forensic subspecialty. The *JCM* is an indexed and peer-reviewed journal; therefore, CSF members are encouraged to submit their manuscripts for peer review and consideration of publication in the *JCM*.

The CFS board encourages membership with the ACA and CFS. The CFS is making a concerted effort to move to full Council status within the ACA. A resolution is planned to be introduced at the September 2009 House of Delegates meeting in Dallas. Applications can be found at <http://www.forensic-sciences.org/member/membership.htm>.

We welcome all readers to join the CFS in making reading the forensic topics offered within the *JCM* a part of your professional endeavors.

References

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