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# EDITORIAL

## Twenty-Five Years of Service

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This year is the silver anniversary of *The Journal of Chiropractic Education*. The journal has seen enormous growth in its distribution, sophistication, and content over the past 25 years. Certainly, the journal's longevity lends some credence to the need for an organ such as this. *The Journal of Chiropractic Education* is one of only three publications to enjoy a quarter of a century or more of service to the profession, joining the ranks of the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* and the *Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association*. Thus, in this volume we will have some content that reflects upon where the journal came from, what it has accomplished, and where it is going. In this issue, some of the journal's friends and supporters offer their perspectives on the importance of the journal to the field of chiropractic education. In the second issue for the year, we will publish a history of the journal.

This is also the annual issue that contains the abstracts from the Association of Chiropractic Colleges Conference/Research Agenda Conference, now in its 18th year. Considered by many to be the premier conference on chiropractic science and education, this conference presents more than 150 scholarly papers and several workshops and plenary presentations on all facets of chiropractic. Over the past 2 years, the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners has funded awards to the top Association of Chiropractic Colleges Conference/Research Agenda Conference submissions. Three of these awards annually are education research papers and this issue continues the tradition of presenting the prize-winning papers from the 2010 conference. The first paper was published in the fall 2010 issue and the other two papers are published in this issue. The journal is both proud and fortunate to be the organ in which these high-quality education research papers are published and is equally thrilled to assist these authors in making the transition from conference presentation to publication.

The journal continues to recruit Editorial Board members and peer reviewers from around the world, enhancing the richness of the journal and making it relevant to educators everywhere. The Editorial Board is currently represented by 36 colleges or universities from 13 countries, and three independent members, underscoring the effort to obtain broad representation from around the world. Efforts shall continue to be pushed forward to obtain involvement from chiropractic institutions that are not currently involved with the journal, with a goal of having every chiropractic institution around the world represented on the Editorial Board.

I hope that you enjoy our Silver Anniversary issues this year and continue to join us in the growth of chiropractic education globally.

Bart Green, DC, MSED  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Reflections about *The Journal of Chiropractic Education*

The chiropractic profession's only peer-reviewed publication on chiropractic education, *The Journal of Chiropractic Education*, has ably demonstrated its commitment to advance chiropractic academic research and to improve the quality of chiropractic education through heuristic teaching methods, faculty development, continuing education, and the investigation of assorted administrative topics. Initiated by chiropractic faculty member Grace Jacobs, DA, who recognized the need for chiropractic education to "mature," the journal's management was thereafter assumed by the Association of Chiropractic Colleges. Dr. Jacobs continued on as editor for several years and was followed by Reed Phillips, DC, PhD; Robert Ward, DC; and current editor, Bart Green, DC, MSED. The fold-over newsletter furnished to a handful of faculty members soon evolved into a respectable publication valued by academicians throughout the ACC colleges. The journal's Editorial Board now boasts representation from nearly every academic chiropractic program internationally. We acknowledge and thank NCMIC for their generous support of this significant publication.

Within the world of health care, *The Journal of Chiropractic Education* is making its mark while enabling the chiropractic profession to publish articles unique to the profession, maintain a global presence through its website, offer free online content, and merit inclusion in such major indexing systems as CINAHL, ICL, MANTIS, and the National Library of Medicine's PubMed. The profession is extremely fortunate to count among its scholarly assets *The Journal of Chiropractic Education*.

Here's to a happy 25th Anniversary!!!

Frank J. Nicchi, DC, MS  
President, Association of Chiropractic Colleges

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## Congratulations on 25 Years!

Dear Bart:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a few comments regarding the 25th Anniversary of *The Journal of Chiropractic Education*. Unquestionably, education is the single most essential and important element in assuring that chiropractic as a profession has a viable future. Our educational institutions are the keystones that hold the profession together.

Living in Pennsylvania, "the Keystone State," it is easy to understand the significance of that designation to our colleges and to the importance of having *The Journal of Chiropractic Education* as a vital part of the profession. My father was a stone mason and as a child I watched him carefully carve, with hammer and chisel, stones that were made to fit but most impressive was the keystone. This represented in architectural terms the central strength and stability of an arch. Without something as basic in the design, the arch will collapse. The keystone is the last stone laid in the construction of an arch; when it is put into place, everything comes together. My father would say that cement was not necessary to hold the arch when the keystone was placed because the pressure of the two sides of the column pressing inward on the keystone created incredible stability. Recognizing education as the keystone and the two sides of the "arch of chiropractic survival," one being research and the other consisting of the individuals who comprise the profession, it is easy to see why education is key.

*The Journal of Chiropractic Education* is truly a remarkable accomplishment and having survived 25 years is even more impressive. The journal is truly a world journal for chiropractic, as its reach, while limited in numbers, is vast in influence. When economics challenged the viability of the journal a few years ago, NCMIC recognized that *The Journal of Chiropractic Education* was akin to the DNA that makes up the profession. DNA is a nucleic acid that contains the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms. It plays a key role in the long-term storage of information. Isn't that what our colleges do and what *The Journal of Chiropractic Education* does to preserve and transmit vital information to the profession? That is one of the main reasons that NCMIC decided to fund the continuation of the journal in order to advance the educational imperative so vital for the survival of a profession.

Please know that we appreciate the dedication of the many members of the Editorial Board who serve the journal from around the world. They receive no material compensation but rather their reward and motivation come from the pleasure from the task itself and from the personal sense of satisfaction in completing important work. Chiropractic is indeed fortunate to have individuals like this who work tirelessly and often without recognition but perform incredible accomplishments.

The ACC/RAC conferences are the seeds of future advancement by individuals who are truly motivated to ensure that chiropractic remains viable.

Thank you for your efforts as editor.

Louis Sportelli, DC  
President NCMIC Group Inc.

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## 25 Years and Counting

By the mid-1980s, chiropractic education had matured significantly from the acrimonious 1970s where recognition of accreditation agencies created bitter feuding. The Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research was funding grants from "American Chiropractic Association" and "International Chiropractors Association" schools and the Chiropractic Research Commission (CRC) was bringing research minds from across the profession together. While the focus of CRC discussions was on basic and clinical science research needs, this body created a forum for the voice for chiropractic educational research. What was lacking was an organ to carry this voice beyond the CRC. It was also in this era that chiropractic college presidents organized the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) and shortly thereafter began sponsoring an annual conference for college faculty to present their research and academic work. Such conferences shouted for an organ of expression and the ACC assumed responsibilities for *The Journal of Chiropractic Education* (JCE). Few chiropractic scientific journals can boast a longevity of 25 years as does the JCE. Such a record speaks volumes regarding its quality and utility.

Continuing changes in format, style, and design, along with changes of editor-in-chief, have kept the JCE at the forefront of growth and maturation in chiropractic education and its associated research. The JCE has become a beacon of light to chiropractic educators and has opened a door of opportunity to many who would have otherwise never published their work. The JCE has risen above the political and philosophical currents that shift and divide the profession. It has established itself as an organ of expression focused on the needs and growth of chiropractic education across the globe through its website, free access to online content, and by being included in major indexing systems such as PubMed, CINAHL, ICL, and MANTIS. Nearly every chiropractic educational program has representation on

the *JCE* Editorial Board. The future of chiropractic education and related research is heavily reliant upon the continuance and growth of the *JCE*—the voice of chiropractic education.

Reed B. Phillips, DC, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief, *The Journal of Chiropractic Education*, 1999–2007  
President Emeritus of Southern California University of Health Sciences

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### **25 Years and More to Come**

The *Journal of Chiropractic Education* (*JCE*) has certainly improved and matured dramatically over the 25 years of its publication. The first issues of *JCE* were essentially a photocopied newsletter, and from this humble beginning Grace Jacobs led the evolution of the journal into a respectable and professionally produced quarterly publication. The magnitude of the improvements Grace achieved are simply too significant to describe here, but are readily apparent when one directly compares the early issues of *JCE* to those from the end of her tenure as editor. When I began my tenure as editor of *JCE*, I had the luxury of building on that strong foundation. I also had the benefit of important contributions from others. Reed Phillips collaborated with Data Trace to enhance the appearance and publication quality of the journal. The journal switched from quarterly to biannual, with one issue consisting of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges. The quality of the annual proceedings was greatly enhanced by the implementation of a blinded peer review process for the annual meeting, spearheaded by Claire Johnson. Since the editorship of the journal has passed to Bart Green, the efficiency of peer review and preparation of manuscripts has improved markedly, as has the quality of content. This is also reflected in Bart's success in obtaining indexing for *JCE* in PubMed, a meaningful external endorsement of the quality and professional maturity of the publication.

The chiropractic profession, like any other, must choose its future. Efforts can be made to grow and mature the profession, or it can be allowed to gradually wither into stagnation and complacency. Arguably the most important segment of the profession in making the choices between these alternate fates is the educational segment, as it shapes the knowledge base and skill sets of future chiropractors. *The Journal of Chiropractic Education* has served as an important resource for chiropractic educators for a quarter century, and its history serves as an excellent example of the professional maturation that is possible through coupled effort and intention. I hope that the journal continues to serve the profession in this manner for many years to come.

Rob Ward, DC  
Journal Editor, *The Journal of Chiropractic Education*, 1999–2006