

CONFERENCE REPORT

Association of Chiropractic Colleges Educational Conference and Research Agenda Conference 2015

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INTRODUCTION

Collaboration was the theme for the 2015 Association of Chiropractic Colleges Educational Conference and Research Agenda Conference (ACC-RAC). The conference *Interprofessional Collaboration: Working Together for a Better Future* was held March 19 to 21, 2015 at the Planet Hollywood Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

On the first day, the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC) working groups met. These groups are made up of educators, administrators, and researchers from the ACC member institutions. The meetings encourage collaborative efforts among chiropractic college faculty, administrators, and researchers, to improve the profession. The ACC groups that met for the 2015 conference were: Presidents, Admissions/Enrollment, Assessment & Accreditation, Chief Academic Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Clinic Directors, Institutional Advancement/Development, Librarians, Post Grad, and Research Directors. A reception was held on Thursday evening at which Dr. Dennis Marchiori, President of the ACC, welcomed participants. The reception was held in the main foyer that displayed the scientific poster boards and booths from the sponsors and exhibitors.

The Friday morning plenary session focused on interprofessional collaboration (Fig. 1).¹ The keynote speech, *Interprofessional Collaboration: Exploring a New World of Possibilities for the Chiropractic Profession*, was presented by Dr. Josephine P. Briggs, director of the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, an agency of the National Institutes of Health. A following plenary panel was led by Dr. Gary Tarola, the first doctor of chiropractic to obtain staff privileges at Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network and is the Leader of Chiropractic services for the Advanced Spine Center of LVHN. The panelists included Dr. Josephine P. Briggs, Dr. Elizabeth Goldblatt, Chair of the Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC), and Dr. William Moreau, Managing

Director, Sports Medicine Division, United States Olympic Committee, Olympic Training Centers in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The 2015 ACC-RAC had multiple tracks of workshops and scientific presentations to satisfy professional development needs of the wide variety of attendees.^{2–6} The clinical track focused on clinical topics for private practitioners, the education track focused on topics for educators, the research track focused on topics for chiropractic researchers, and a fourth track focused on the theme of the conference. As was done in previous years, an additional leadership track provided a special focus on issues for the ACC administrative groups. A wide variety of workshops was offered including, interprofessional collaboration – exploring a new world of possibilities for the chiropractic profession, faculty and student research literacy techniques for in-classroom and on-line learning programs, enhancing spinal manipulation skills with evidence based innovation; effective and dynamic instructional presentations – best practices in PowerPoint



Figure 1 - Opening Plenary Speakers (left to right) Drs. Gary Tarola, Josephine Briggs, Elizabeth Goldblatt, and William Moreau.



Figure 2 - The Research Agenda workshop is an ongoing team effort by (from left to right): Drs. John Mrozek, Robert Mootz, Mitch Haas, Greg Cramer, Bill Meeker, and Claire Johnson.

slide design, occupational ergonomics for doctors of chiropractic, collaborative learning strategies to develop interprofessional collaboration, essentials of a peer reviewed scientific article, effective and meaningful assessment strategies, active learning and meaningful assessment with large class sizes; and critical appraisal of research information and the literature – enabling the reader, developing IPE opportunities and curricula, interprofessional education using simulation, assessing the quality of

clinical teachers through instrument evaluations, and the fine art of consultative collaboration.

One of the research-focused workshops engaged attendees in a discussion of the future of chiropractic research and scholarship: Revitalizing the North American Chiropractic Research Agenda: Planning for 2020. The participants discussed existing gaps in chiropractic research and the barriers and strategies to overcome these barriers. Teams of participants discussed the process for reporting and disseminating the chiropractic research agenda and a brief presentation introduced next steps in the 4-year plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycle for the chiropractic research agenda, including the preliminary plan for updating the next research agenda cycle (Fig. 2).

The Friday luncheon was hosted by sponsor NCMIC. Dr. Louis Sportelli, president, and Mr. Patrick McNerney, chief executive officer, of NCMIC Group, Inc., discussed recent events in the chiropractic profession and shared various examples of the research that the NCMIC Foundation has supported. During the luncheon, a group of researchers were recognized with the Jerome F. McAndrews, DC, Memorial Research Fund Award (Fig. 3). This award was created by the NCMIC Foundation to honor Dr. McAndrews' longtime support of the scientific and practical advancement of the study of chiropractic. This award recognizes an individual or a group that has demonstrated exceptional ability to advance research and



Figure 3 - Dr. Louis Sportelli (far left) congratulates the Jerome F. McAndrews, DC, Memorial Research Fund Award recipients (from left to right): Drs. Michael J. Schneider, Richard C. Armstrong, Shawn Phelan, Eric L. Hurwitz, Eugene A. Lewis, and Reed B. Phillips.



Figure 4 - Mr. David O'Bryon and Drs. Brian McAulay, Frank Nicchi, Arlan Fuhr, Bill Meeker, and Dennis Marchiori.

the exchange of scientific information, promote high ethical standards in research and/or practice, contribute to practical applications to chiropractic practice, and interact professionally with other individuals and groups involved in relevant research and application.

The ACC officers presented several awards during ACC-RAC 2015. Drs. McAulay, Nicchi, Fuhr, and Meeker received awards for their many years of dedicated service to the ACC (Fig. 4). The registration booth was staffed by volunteer students who assisted ACC staff with various supporting duties for the ACC-RAC. Their attendance was made possible through the generous contributions made by Dr. Arlan Fuhr, chief executive officer of Activator Methods International Ltd (Fig. 5).

Peer-reviewed scientific paper sessions in the areas of diagnostic imaging, education, public health, clinical studies, and clinical updates continued on Saturday morning. Foot Levelers, Inc., hosted Saturday's luncheon. Mr. Kent Greenawalt, president of Foot Levelers, spoke to those assembled about Foot Levelers' support of chiropractic education, research, and the dissemination of positive messages pertaining to chiropractic through the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress.

The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) Awards support and promote chiropractic research. Researchers who were accepted to present at the conference were invited to submit to the NBCE Award competition. From those who participated, 10 submissions were selected for awards. The NBCE graciously provided \$1000 for each of the selected award papers (Fig. 6). After going through a full round of external peer review, clinical and basic science papers authored by the award recipients (Fig. 7) are published in the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics (JMPT)* and educational research studies (Fig. 8) are published in the *Journal of Chiropractic Education (JCE)*. The complete set of abstracts for the scientific platform and poster sessions are published in the *JCE*.^{7,8} For more details about presentations included in the platform and poster sessions, please refer to *JCE* volume 29, number 1 (www.JournalChiroEd.com).

The closing plenary panel was titled: *Risks and Rewards: Will Interprofessional Collaboration Save or Destroy the Chiropractic Profession?* This session addressed core issues facing the chiropractic profession, since



Figure 5 - Recognition of the student workers by Dr. Arlan and Ms. Judith Fuhr.

NBCE Award Papers to be published in the *Journal of Chiropractic Education*

Spinal manipulation learning: Is error detection capability correlated to expertise?

Michel Loranger, Julien Treboz, Jean-Alexandre Boucher, Francois Nougrou, Claude Dugas, Martin Descarreaux

Developing training targets for lumbar spine high-velocity, low-amplitude adjustments in a chiropractic program.

Edward Owens, Ronald Hosek, Stephanie Sullivan, Brent Russell, Linda Mullin, Lydia Dever

Learning spinal manipulation: A best-evidence synthesis of teaching methods

Brynne Stainsby, Jade Egonia, Michelle Clarke

Effects of peer instruction-enhanced lectures on student recall and comprehension

Niu Zhang, Charles Henderson

NBCE Award Papers to be published in the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*

The neuromuscular response to spinal manipulation in the presence of pain

Stuart Currie, Alicia Everitt, Brian Enebo, Bradley Davidson

The impact of body position and walking on neurophysiological outcome measures

Steven Passmore, Michael Johnson, Mina Aziz, Jeanmarie Burke, Mary Balliett, Paul Dougherty

A new model to derive patient low back loads during high-velocity low-amplitude spinal manipulation

Samuel Howarth, Kevin D'Angelo, John Triano

Correction of abnormal flexion-relaxation phenomenon in chronic low back pain: The benefit associated with biofeedback training

Isabelle Page, Andree-Anne Marchand, Francois Nougrou, Julie O'Shaughnessy, Martin Descarreaux

Test-retest reliability of trunk motor variability measured by large-array surface electromyography

Jacques Abboud, Francois Nougrou, Michel Loranger, Martin Descarreaux

Changes in manipulative peak force modulation and time to peak thrust among 1st-year chiropractic students following a 12-week detraining period: A pilot study

Brett Guist, David Starmer, Taylor Tuff, Sarah Warren, Matthew Williams

Figure 6 - The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners 2015 Awards

there are now more opportunities to work with other professions in the health care system. Panelists discussed if working in collaborative relationships would result in chiropractic losing its unique essence or if working in collaborative relationships was required for the chiropractic profession to survive (Fig. 9).

The ACC-RAC 2015 closing comments were provided by Drs. Dennis Marchiori and Todd Knudsen. They provided a summary of the 2015 conference and invited the audience to attend the 2016 ACC-RAC conference, which

will be held in Orlando, Florida. For more information about the ACC-RAC, please visit www.chirocolleges.org/accrac.

This was the 17th and final year that Dr. Claire Johnson chaired the peer review process for the ACC Educational Conference and ACC-RAC. Over the years, she shaped the scientific aspects of the conference through developing the peer review process and implementing standard procedures for the scientific and academic presentations. In the 1990s, when the conference was called the ACC Educational Research Conference, she received feedback from authors and reviewers that a short abstract did not allow enough content for peer reviewers to properly judge the completeness or the quality of the work. Therefore, the word maximum was expanded, similar to other health professions' educational and research conferences, allowing authors to provide more meaningful content to the peer review committee. Since the word count was offered as a maximum (not a minimum), authors still could submit a short submission if they wished to but were provided an option for a more complete submission. In addition to satisfying the requests of authors and reviewers, and since there is a low rate of publication of presented conference works that plagues the chiropractic profession,⁹ the extended word count maximum stimulated authors to further develop their manuscripts.

Dr. Johnson dedicated herself to continually improving the conference peer review process. In the early years of the conference the peer review process was not blinded and many authors complained about apparent biases of reviewers. Therefore, she created a blinded review process and also transformed the process from paper-based system to a faster and more efficient electronic format. Each year she took great effort to match submissions to reviewers so that they were paired fairly. This resulted in only the highest quality and completed research studies being accepted and presented at the conference. Another of her contributions was the ACC-RAC Conference Planning Guide that documented procedures and processes necessary to administer the conference, thus providing standard operating procedures for others to use in the future. The guide included the long-range goals of the ACC Peer Review Committee: (1) Maintain the scholarship of the presentations and integrity of the conference, (2) Increase quality of conference presentations, (3) Increase number of published papers as a result of the conference, (4) Increase number of experienced peer reviewers, (5) Provide scholarship opportunities for new peer reviewers, and (6) Provide mentorship and feedback to peer reviewers and authors.

In the spirit of accountability and transparency, each year Dr. Johnson provided an annual report to the Chief Academic Officers and Presidents that included the statistics of the peer review process and scholarly activity associated with the conference and chiropractic profession. Some of her other contributions to the ACC included the development of the first website for the conference, creating processes for handling ethical issues, developing a peer review process for selection of workshop proposals, improvements in author reporting of ethics board approv-



Figure 7 - Dr. Claire Johnson (JMPT Editor) and Dr. Donna Craft (NBCE Chair) (far left), and Mr. David O'Bryon (far right) with the NBCE paper award recipients.



Figure 8 - Dr. Bart Green (JCE Editor) and Dr. Donna Craft (NBCE Chair) (far left), and Mr. David O'Bryon (far right) with the NBCE paper award recipients.



Figure 9 - Closing plenary presenters (from left to right): Drs. Kat Linaker, Michael Schneider, Tony Hamm, Guy Riekeman, and Brian McAulay.

al of human subjects research, invitation of international researchers, organization of planning meetings, agendas, minutes, and surveying stakeholders regarding themes and feedback to continue to improve the conference.

The continued improvement of the ACC-RAC has been a team effort, a fact Dr. Johnson recognized annually at the ACC-RAC. At each conference, she affirmed that none of the improvements in the conference could have happened without the contributions of the volunteers providing peer review and feedback, the researchers and educators contributing their scholarly works, the Peer Review Board, and the members of the ACC-RAC Planning Committees. Although in May 2015 she announced her retirement as ACC-RAC Peer Review Chair to pursue other scholarly interests, she will continue to support the conference in many ways. She thanks the ACC and David O'Bryon for the opportunity to have served the ACC for so many years.

FUNDING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Claire Johnson is the past Peer-Review Chair who coordinated peer review and scientific portions of the ACC-RAC meeting and served on the ACC-RAC Planning Committee. She is a current member of the board for NCMIC. Bart Green receives a stipend from the Association of Chiropractic Colleges as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Chiropractic Education*.

About the Authors

Bart Green is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Chiropractic Education* and an associate editor for the National University of Health Sciences. Claire Johnson is a professor and editor at the National University of Health Sciences. All photos in this paper are provided courtesy of Drs. Bart Green and Claire Johnson. Address correspondence to Claire Johnson, 1507 East Valley Parkway 3-486, Escondido, CA, 92027 (e-mail: johnsondc@aol.com).

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