

Grier A, Charbonneau M, Herzog W, Peterson D, Vernon H, Papadopoulos C. Report of the Task Force on Chiropractic Research in Canada. *JCCA* 1997; 41(1):36-61.

To the Editor:

I cannot understand how it is possible for the people who prepared the "Report of the Task Force on Chiropractic Research in Canada" to fail to recognize the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* as a widely indexed chiropractic research publication.

Indeed, the words used by the authors are "For chiropractic research, a research journal which is widely indexed does not exist. Most chiropractic journals still publish too many 'weak' scientific studies, and their distribution is restricted (virtually limited to North America)." The authors then go on to extol the virtues of the medical journal *Spine*, which is indeed worthy of that note. However, given that two of the authors of the Report are members of the *JMPT* editorial board (Drs. Herzog and Vernon), I am surprised by this omission regarding the *JMPT*. The *JMPT* is indeed internationally indexed, in *Index Medicus* as well as other indexes, has an international audience, receives submissions from researchers worldwide, and has served as beacon for chiropractic research for 20 years.

I also note that the authors provide no evidence for their claim that most journals publish too many "weak" papers.

It does not matter if the subscription base for a chiropractic journal is limited to North America if that journal is indexed; the work that the journal publishes will still be able to be found, and quickly used and disseminated, by researchers throughout the world.

I don't usually get too worked up over slights such as this, but in the context of a major report with substantial policy recommendations, such an oversight is to me nothing short of astounding. I hope that the authors will do what they can to correct this mistake.

Dana J. Lawrence, DC
Editor *JMPT*

In reply:

On behalf of the Task Force on Chiropractic Research in Canada, I would like to apologize to Dr. Lawrence. In our Task Force deliberations, we tried to always be positive and constructive; our goal is to coordinate, guide, and encourage excellence in chiropractic research, not to estrange people like Dr. Lawrence who are very committed to chiropractic research.

However, in our efforts to create excellence in chiropractic research, we were also idealistic, committed, and ready to set our sights as high as probably never done before in chiropractic research. For example, while discussing a journal outlet for chiropractic research we defined that there should be a journal that is fully indexed, has a large, world-wide distribution and acceptance, and receives international contributions from researchers in many different areas.

We felt that such a journal was not available at present among the chiropractic journals.

The *JMPT* has been excellent for chiropractic research, and to use Dr. Lawrence's words "has served as beacon for chiropractic research for 20 years". We do not want to take anything away from that, or lessen the contribution of the *JMPT* and Dr. Lawrence to chiropractic research. In fact, the *JMPT* comes close in many aspects to what we had in mind for an international outlet of chiropractic research. I would like to suggest to Dr. Lawrence to consider the possibility of a more global and larger distribution of *JMPT* and ways to attract more general scientific audiences and contributors than it does at present.

Again, I would like to emphasize that our interest is to be constructive and helpful. We hope that Dr. Lawrence may forgive us for setting our aims as high as never before.

W. Herzog, PhD
(Member, Task Force on
Chiropractic Research in Canada)