

Report from the Third Annual Meeting of the Chiropractic Research Journal Editor's Council*

* Dr. Thomas Bergman (*Journal of Chiropractic Technique*); Dr. Mary Ann Chance and Dr. Rolf Peters (*Chiropractic Journal of Australia*); Mr. Russell Gibbons (*Chiropractic History*); Dr. Allan Gotlib and Dr. Silvano Mior (*Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association*); Dr. John Grostic (*Chiropractic Research Journal*); Dr. Robert Hazel (*Chiropractic Sports Medicine*); Dr. Grace Jacobs (*Journal of Chiropractic Education*); Dr. Dana Lawrence (*Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*); Dr. Simon Leyson (*European Journal of Chiropractic*); Dr. Brian McMaster (*Chiropractic: Journal of Clinical Investigation and Research*).

On Thursday, May 14, 1992, the Chiropractic Research Journal Editor's Council (CRJEC) met in formal meeting for the third time. It is the purpose of this report to inform the chiropractic profession of the issues raised and discussed at this meeting. The editors of the member journals in attendance included Dr. Thomas Bergman (*Journal of Chiropractic Technique*); Dr. Mary Ann Chance and Dr. Rolf Peters (*Chiropractic Journal of Australia*); Mr. Russell Gibbons (*Chiropractic History*); Dr. Silvano Mior (*Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association*); Dr. John Grostic (*Chiropractic Research Journal*); Dr. Grace Jacobs (*Journal of Chiropractic Education*); Dr. Dana Lawrence (*Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*); Dr. Simon Leyson (*European Journal of Chiropractic*); and Dr. Brian McMaster (*Chiropractic: Journal of Clinical Investigation and Research*). Also in attendance as non-voting participants were Dr. Anthony Rosner (Director of Research, Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research); Dr. Ron Rupert (*Chiropractors*) and Mr. Steve Seater (Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research). The meeting was chaired by Dr. Silvano Mior.

The agenda for the meeting included a report from the FCER, items submitted from members, election of new officers and a guest presentation by Dr. Charles Goldsmith entitled "Statistics for Journal Editors". This presentation reflects the ongoing commitment of the members of the CRJEC to ensure that as gate keepers to the chiropractic literature, excellence in all areas of publication is maintained.

The following items comprised the main agenda for the meeting:

- 1 Report of the CRJEC meeting;
- 2 Chiropractic subject headings and indexing;
- 3 Database usage in chiropractic literature;
- 4 Publication policies;
- 5 Advertising;
- 6 Publication qualifications; and
- 7 Election of officers.

Reporting of the CRJEC meeting

Results of each CRJEC meeting have been published by all member journals in their first issue of the year. To prevent unnecessary duplication of information and provide for a single citation source for future referencing, the council agreed to publish the entire results in a single source. The source selected was the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* (JMPT). The other member journals will publish an acknowledgement of the meeting but policies raised and passed by the council will be reported verbatim in the first issue of the volume year for the JMPT.

Chiropractic indexing

The council continues to be involved in collaborative work with the various chiropractic indexing groups in an attempt to create a common list of subject headings. This issue of a common database is not a new one and was the subject of much debate in last year's meeting.² The CRJEC is committed to ensuring that a chiropractic subject heading list is finalized and agreed upon by the indexing groups.

In the meantime, *Chiropractors* has tabulated a list of subject headings specific to chiropractic and not found in the medical subject headings list (MeSH). The council reviewed the indexing terms presently listed by two or more chiropractic indexing agencies. A motion regarding the use of indexing terms was carried unanimously and adopted as policy. The policy reads that:

"The members of the CRJEC incorporate the list of terms used by at least two² chiropractic indexing agencies as the list of chiropractic subject headings."

The indexing terms are to be identified as either MeSH or "Other" terms. The CRJEC will continue to work with Clibcon and urge them to reach consensus on a preliminary common list that can later be modified as required.

Database usage in chiropractic literature

As a result of concerns raised in the previous two meetings^{1,2} regarding the difficulty of member journals being indexed in common databases, tracking of all chiropractic citations in

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member journals for 1990 was undertaken. This tracking was undertaken to address the criticism raised by the indexing agencies that chiropractors are not citing their own literature. Furthermore, less than 100 chiropractors are reported users of Medline. Thus agencies are not willing to expand their indexing to chiropractic literature given that there are so few chiropractic users.

The result of the tracking of chiropractic citations by the CRJEC apparently supports such a claim. Less than 12 percent of the references cited in papers appearing in peer-reviewed chiropractic publications are chiropractic citations.³ The vast majority of references are medically based. Although there is an inherent bias in the manner in which the above results were tabulated, chiropractors are indeed not citing their own literature to any great extent.

The CRJEC is well aware of the many reasons that may explain the above discrepancy. We also acknowledge the close interaction that exists between the researcher and the editor, each requiring the services of the other. However, the lack of chiropractic referencing is seen as a serious concern. The council addressed several strategies that may be used to promote the referencing of chiropractic literature: 1) excite the profession to read chiropractic journals by stressing the importance of critical appraisal skills; 2) stimulate researchers to cite chiropractic literature where appropriate; 3) support a common chiropractic indexing database, thereby increasing access to the literature; 4) inform authors of the various chiropractic indexing agencies presently available; and 5) have editors continually influence authors in the importance of referencing chiropractic literature.

The editors are also aware and do not support the use of "citation banking", the use of multiple references that are not appropriate or do not add to the support of the argument being made by the author.

Publication policies

a) *Statistical strategies*: The CRJEC acknowledges the importance of correctly applied statistical analysis in submitted papers. All journals will obtain the services of a statistical consult in the review of selected manuscripts. A committee will be established to create guidelines for the use of statistical analysis in chiropractic journals.

b) *Acknowledgements*: Authors are reminded of the requirement to obtain written permission from all individuals who are cited in the acknowledgements.

c) *Declaration of support*: All manuscripts reporting results of funded research must include a declaration stating the source of funding and/or contributing sponsors. The editor has the responsibility to pursue conflicts of interest and may disclose this information without bias to the reader.

Advertising

The CRJEC is concerned about the use and type of advertising that appears in the chiropractic literature. Various antichiropractic agencies continually request examples of unethical and

fraudulent advertising appearing in chiropractic literature. The chiropractic profession must realize that the integrity of the profession is at risk when inappropriate advertising and/or classifieds appear in its professional journals.

The CRJEC, realizing the importance of establishing ethical guidelines in advertising, has formed a committee to set policy regarding this issue.

Publication qualifications

Concerns were raised regarding the republication of published materials as well as the prepublication release of information. Both these concerns are in violation of copyright signed by authors upon submitting their manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal. Authors and information dispensing agencies must be aware that once a manuscript has been submitted for consideration for publication, the copyright is controlled by the publisher and not the author. Further information regarding publication protocols can be obtained in the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" available from all CRJEC member journals.

Election of officers

Dr. Mary Ann Chance was nominated and elected chair for the next meeting.

In response to the increasing amount of work emanating from the annual meetings, the CRJEC created several committees to address issues of importance in the area of chiropractic publications. These committees and their members include:

- 1 *Policies and Procedures*
Dr. Leyson (chair), Dr. Chance and Dr. Hazel;
- 2 *Ethics and Advertising Standards*
Mr. Gibbons (chair), Dr. Bergman and Dr. Grostic;
- 3 *Chiropractic Indexing and Databases*
Dr. Jacobs (chair), Dr. Peters and Dr. Rupert;
- 4 *Research Methods and Statistics*
Dr. Lawrence (chair), Dr. McMaster and Dr. Mior.

Conclusion

During the last three years, the CRJEC has made significant progress towards its goal of enhancing standards in the publication of chiropractic information. Decisions affecting the submission and the publication of manuscripts will continue to be reported in the annual reports from the council.

References

- 1 Chiropractic Research Journal Editor's Council. Report from the Chiropractic Research Journal Editor's Council. *J Manipulative Physiol Ther* 1991; 14:1-4.
- 2 Chiropractic Research Journal Editor's Council. Report from the Chiropractic Research Journal Editor's Council. *J Can Chiropr Assoc* 1992; 36(1):42-43.
- 3 Lawrence D. Journal citation records and the status of indexing. Proceedings 7th Annual Conference on Research and Education. June 19-21, 1992, Palm Springs, California, pg 35.