

Chiropractic radiology in Canada: an anthology of the Chiropractic College of Radiologists (Canada) Inc.

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Although there are numerous chiropractic institutions, one which receives little acclaim, but contributes significantly to chiropractic life in Canada, is the Chiropractic College of Radiologists (Canada) Inc. The following presentation represents a brief historical perspective of this most prestigious organization.

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Il existe un grand nombre d'établissements chiropractiques et, l'un d'entre eux, Le Collège Chiropractique des radiologues (Canada) Inc., reçoit peu de louanges mais contribue beaucoup à la vie chiropractique du Canada. La présentation suivante donne une brève perspective historique de cette prestigieuse organisation.

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That D.D. Palmer rediscovered chiropractic and Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen observed the first rays he termed "x" in 1895 is sheer coincidence; however, the fact that chiropractors were amongst the first to envision their use in the assessment of structure and function is anything but. It was a natural synthesis which evolved between chiropractors and their use of x-rays. Historically, chiropractors became the first practitioners to appreciate the full-spine radiograph. Much interest in this "new" technology arose and before long chiropractors were using this diagnostic imaging technique and were forming specialized interest groups, thereby sharing and disseminating their expertise.

The Chiropractic College of Radiologists (Canada) was established through its interactions with the early American Chiropractic X-Ray specialists. Through the imagination and vision of individuals such as Drs. Waldo Poehner, Fred Baier and Leo Wunsch, Sr., the first American Examining Board was founded in January 1958 and included Drs. Michael Giammarino and Duane Smith. Drs. Baier and Poehner were lost to the profession and replaced by Dr. Lester Rehberger to be later joined in 1959 by Dr. James McCarthy.

The first certification examinations were administered in 1958 in Denver, Colorado. These American specialists thus initiated the field of chiropractic radiology and included such

renowned individuals as Drs. Joseph Janse, Earl Rich, Ronald Watkins, Appa Anderson and Joseph Howe, who were among the first to distinguish themselves as "certified" chiropractic roentgenologists.

Exposure to "certified" chiropractic roentgenologists by Canadians began with annual visits to the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College by the eminent Dr. Earl Rich; indeed, these visitations represented the author's initial encounter with the specialized area of chiropractic roentgenology.

In 1962, Dr. Ronald Watkins became the first "certified" roentgenologists to join the faculty of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. In addition to being the Chief of the Roentgenology Department, he also assumed the position of Clinic Director. In the ensuing years, the term "certified" was replaced by the American roentgenologists by the designation of "Diplomate". The designation of "Diplomate of the American Board of Chiropractic Roentgenology" was later altered to "Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Board of Roentgenology" and subsequently to "Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Board of Radiology".

Dr. Watkins is credited with instituting the first post-Doctoral roentgenology program in Canada. This was achieved with the sponsorship of the Canadian Council of Chiropractic Roentgenology. Upon graduation from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in 1964, the author became the first roentgenology resident under the tutelage of Dr. Watkins. Lectures continued from 1968 to 1970, a process which resulted in the first writing of examinations for prospective Canadian diplomates in May of 1970.

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The Canadian inaugural examinations occurred in May, 1970 at CMCC and were presided over by three proctors representing the American Board. In particular, Drs. Leo Wunsch, Sr., Michael Giamarino and Donald Hariman served as examining agents. The author successfully concluded his examinations in November, 1970 and was granted Diplomate status in May 1971. Eastern Canada was also well represented by the successes of Drs. John McRae, Robert Thurlow and Laurent Boisvert. The first Western Canadian, Dr. Ronald Collett, also earned his Diplomate status in 1971 and he was shortly followed in 1972 by another Manitoban, Dr. Gerald Kremer.

CCR founded

The Chiropractic College of Roentgenology was formed in 1972 as the result of the persistent efforts of Drs. McRae, Thurlow, Collett, Kremer and Boisvert, who in that year, granted the first fellowships in the Chiropractic College of Roentgenology, Canada (CCR(C)). These Diplomates, and now Fellows, comprised the Executive Board of the fledgling Fellowship and brought the first organized post-Doctoral, 300-hour, 3-year roentgenology program into fruition between 1971 and 1974. This effort produced four new Diplomates, Drs. Leonard Hardman, Peter Kogon, Jan Kempe and John Hawrylak.

This period also saw the author's completion of six years of service as a general and x-ray lecturer and as Head of the Roentgenology Department of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, from 1966 to 1970. The position was subsequently assumed in 1970 by Dr. John McRae who was ably assisted by Dr. Robert Thurlow. Dr. John Hawrylak also served as the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College's next resident-in-training during this period.

A contemporary x-ray residency training program was initiated at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College under the leadership of Dr. Leonard Hardman in 1977, as he assumed the charge of two additional successful residents, Dr. Daria Love and John Pikula. An active growth phase occurred between 1977 and 1980 when two more 300-hour, 3-year, post-Doctoral programs were instituted in Canada. A number of new Western Diplomates emerged and included: Drs. Ed Martinuk, Steve Maskall, Ernest Meindersma, John Mitchell, Mervin Ritchey, Ken Russell, Sid Sheard and Ron Steim, were added to the ranks. Dr. Donald Henderson successfully completed both the post-Doctoral and Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College programs thus achieving his Diplomate status.

Dr. Hardman was succeeded by Dr. Michael Buehler as Chairman of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, Roentgenology Department in 1981. He successfully supervised Dr. Andre Cardin as CMCC's first exclusively full-time roentgenology resident. Dr. Buehler's duties were subsequently assumed by Dr. Lindsey Rowe, who Chaired CMCC's X-ray Department between 1982 and 1984. He was followed by Dr. James Grilliot. He supervised two radiology residents, one of whom, Dr. Marilyn Staines, succeeded him as Chairperson in 1988. Recently Drs. Ross McArthur and Marshall Deltoff have

secured status as Diplomates. Currently a number of Canadian candidates are eligible for Board examination and several Canadian residents are engaged in the training process.

The CCR(C), since its inception, has been favoured by strong leadership. In recent years this has been attributable to the undaunted efforts of Drs. Steim, Ritchey, Sheard and Kogon. Dr. Ritchey inaugurated the annual educational seminars, the first of which was offered to all Doctors of Chiropractic on June 6, 1987 in Montreal. Programs have since been conducted in Edmonton on June 30, 1988 in conjunction with the CCA Convention and most recently on June 10, 1989 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. These popular events continue to be inspired by Dr. Sid Sheard who formulates the program and secures Fellow speakers.

College activities have been many and varied. Members have participated in a wide variety of professional endeavours. Dr. Thurlow, with the assistance of Dr. McRae, has provided service to the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Committee in Ontario. Presently, Dr. Thurlow is being aided in part by both Drs. John Pikula and Donald Henderson in advisory capacities. During the mid and late 1970's, the foundation for a viable and credible quality assurance program was laid by the determined efforts of Drs. Hardman and Henderson.

Simultaneously, Dr. Steim was appointed as a Canadian observer to the American Chiropractic Board of Radiology (ACBR). He was succeeded by Dr. Collett who became the first Canadian member of the Board and who remained in that position until 1985. Dr. Love was appointed as the Canadian liaison to the American Chiropractic Board of Radiology during 1986-87. The current Canadian liaison to the ACBR is Dr. Sheard, having served from 1987 to the present.

A landmark event occurred in 1983 when CCR President, Dr. L. Boisvert, engineered the incorporation of the present Chiropractic College of Roentgenologists, (replaced by "Radiologists") Inc. as a fully incorporated, "not-for-profit" institution. This action opened the window of opportunity to valuable research possibilities including government research grants as a free and independent educational entity.

The operation and conduct of a 3-year, 300-hour "field" program is not without its challenges. Although presently not operational, the past success of these programs was largely due to its many contributing participants; initially it was the efforts of Drs. Collett, McRae, Thurlow and Kremer, assisted by such distinguished American Diplomates as Drs. Tom Goodrich, Donald Hariman, Brian Davis, Douglas Rae, Joseph Howe and Michael Buehler. Later lectures featured Drs. Hardman, Kogon, Hawrylak, Kempe, Boisvert, Sheard, Ottinger, Steim and Shrubbs.

CCR Inc. accomplishments

Fellows of the CCR have served the HARP Commission; initiated quality assurance programs; participated in the American Chiropractic Board of Radiology; served as CMCC faculty and post-Doctoral lecturers and acted as Roentgenology Department

Chairmen at CMCC. Members of the CCR have also contributed to many other unique achievements. The first Canadian chiropractic roentgenology manual was "Roentgenometrics in Chiropractic", authored by Dr. John McRae in 1974. The first truly Canadian chiropractic roentgenology text in bone pathology, "A Synopsis of Clinical Roentgenology - Bone" was written in 1988 by Dr. Peter Kogon. Drs. Collett and Kremer were the first Fellows to establish an independently private radiological laboratory in Canada in 1972 in Winnipeg; while Dr. Kogon established a similar laboratory in Toronto in 1982.

As well, Canadian Fellows have contributed numerous manuscripts to major professional journals including the Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association (JCCA) and the Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics (JMPT). Members continue to serve as examiners for various provincial Licensing Boards, as well as providing examination test items to the Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board and Board of Chiropractic Examiners (USA). Fellows continuously guest-lecture to local chiropractic societies and provincial chiropractic x-ray councils. They have, on occasion, been featured guests on radio interview programs. Fellows have frequently served as faculty advisors for award-winning undergraduate investigative projects. Contributions to lay publications exposing spinal health and back pain have been made. They have rendered evidence in courts of law as expert witnesses providing invaluable testimony while still others have testified at the Royal Commission level in both Australia and New Zealand. Consulting at such institutions as the Workers' Compensation Board, Auto Pact and liaising with various private insurance carriers across the country, have been additional activities.

In 1979 the CCR made a significant contribution to the CMCC X-ray Department in the form of its donation of its Radiological Society of North America slide collection. In 1982, CCR donated the balance of its library resources, including lecture tapes and a collection of slides produced by Dr. Terry Yochum, to the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. Other financial contributions to the CMCC have permitted the valuable addition of many items to the X-ray Department.

CCR and the future

It is with much pride that we can reflect upon past achievements; however, it is the challenge of the future which must be addressed. Upon what sights should this prestigious organization set? Perhaps a partial response could be in a deep and long-standing commitment to research initiatives. The stimulation of undergraduate achievement by encouraging radiologic investigative excellence and grants for resident research initiatives could be areas of worthy consideration. While each of us continue to meet the health care needs of our individual communities, it is our ultimate collective responsibility to persist in the progress and advancement of our profession. This can only be achieved through dedicated research and publication of all matters pertaining to the chiropractic interest including, but not limited to all forms of diagnostic imaging.

This historic perspective is respectfully submitted by one who has witnessed the progress of CCR since its inception. The obvious commitment of its membership over the previous eighteen years is a testament to an equally flourishing future for chiropractic radiology in Canada.