

Inheriting the Journal

Kent Stuber, DC, MSc, Editor-in-Chief



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Dr. Allan Gotlib was the fourth Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association (JCCA). On June 30th Dr. Gotlib officially retired and on July 1st I began serving in this capacity. Until late last year when Dr. Gotlib approached me about taking over as the Journal's Editor-in-Chief upon his retirement, assuming this position had never occurred to me. It actually never occurred to me that Dr. Gotlib might retire. I think of Allan as indefatigable, not the retiring type. However, I am very happy for him and hope that he is able to reflect proudly upon a career of serving this profession that is second-to-none. Dr. Gotlib has likely done more for the profession than any other single person that I can think of in the past 30 years. I am very happy that he will now be able to enjoy his retirement and hopefully enjoy many long wonderful years watching grandchildren's hockey games and the like.

I am also very pleased that Dr. Gotlib has agreed to accept the position as the Journal's Editor Emeritus. When you change Editors for the first time in 30 years, there will likely be a few bumps in the road and I am sure that as time goes on that we will need to make some changes to the way that we conduct the Journal. However the core

purpose of the JCCA will remain unchanged. Canada has always been at the forefront of research in chiropractic and the Journal has been one of the chief means of disseminating those research findings. The Editorial team that Dr. Gotlib has assembled is experienced and full of many of the best minds that our profession has to offer. It is my privilege to work with each of them.

However, it is intimidating to inherit the Editorship from Dr. Gotlib. There is tremendous weight and responsibility that comes with it. Dr. Gotlib is a Member of the Order of Canada and has deservedly received every honour that has been bestowed upon him during his career. I do a double take when I think about it; I have to follow a Member of the Order of Canada. That is a ridiculously tough act to follow. What Dr. Gotlib does for this profession and this Journal cannot be replaced. However it is incumbent upon those of us who are asked to succeed Dr. Gotlib to give the same blood, sweat, and tears that he has in order to continue the tremendous momentum that he has initiated.

One of the things that has always struck me is that Dr. Gotlib ran the Journal in a way that was extremely patient and encouraging to authors and researchers, particularly those early in their research careers. This kindness and humanity should be no surprise to anyone who has ever spent more than a minute with Dr. Gotlib. I am very proud to have served under and learned from him over the past decade or so in a variety of roles for the Journal: peer reviewer, Editorial Board member, Assistant Editor, Associate Editor, and of course author. As much as I can, I will try to continue to run and grow the Journal in the way that Dr. Gotlib did.

Looking at where the profession sits from a research standpoint in Canada today, it would have been unfathomable even ten years ago. The University Research Chair program across the country has allowed some of the brightest minds in the profession to advance themselves while researching and publishing extensively. These research chairs universally represent great success stories as the research chairs achieve higher ranks within their institutions and continue with their impressive output.

There are several of our colleagues who have either

just completed or will soon complete PhD and Master's degree programs and my hope is that they can find appointments at more universities across the country. The dream of a chiropractic researcher at every major university in Canada, along with strong research programs at CMCC and UQTR is not as far away as one might have thought a few short years ago.

CMCC has established their own research Chair in Dr. Sam Howarth, and that Chair along with the rest of the CMCC research department including the CMCC-UOIT collaboration headed by Dr. Pierre Côté (whom I am so pleased is one of the JCCA's Assistant Editors) are producing at an unbelievable rate. Similarly, UQTR's chiropractic and research faculty including Drs. Martin Descarreaux, André Bussi  res, and Mathieu Pich   are publishing extensively and helping to train the next generation of both chiropractors and chiropractic researchers in the form of several PhD candidates and recently completed DC, PhDs such as Dr. Jean-Alexandre Boucher. This is very encouraging, but there is still a long way to go, the job isn't nearly finished. The people and the infrastructure are coming into place that will allow for continued success and progress. However, as a profession we must continue to support and work with these researchers.

My goals for the JCCA as Editor-in-Chief include expanding readership by Canadian and international chiropractors. The Journal also wants to increase readership by other health professionals and increase the number of contributions from multidisciplinary teams. Patient care for musculoskeletal conditions is becoming increasingly collaborative and multidisciplinary these days and the health care research environment is no different. The articles that we publish should reflect this. The staff and senior Editors will continue to try to find ways to get our articles in front of clinicians, researchers, and important third parties. I want the JCCA to continue to be one of the first journals that a chiropractic researcher thinks of submitting to when they are preparing a research manuscript.

Chiropractic is a profession that enjoys a reputation of being patient-centered. I feel that a future where chiropractors practice in a manner that is evidence-informed, collaborative, and patient-centered is paramount for the health of our patients and for the profession. The Journal holds an important place for our readers in that it helps provide that evidence that can help inform the actions that clinicians take for their patients.