

June 2006

Academy e-letter
Volume 5, Number 6
June, 2006

From the Desk of:
James R. Brandt DC, FACO
President, Academy of Chiropractic Orthopedists

Good Morning Doctor:

It was a pleasure to meet and talk to so many of you at the ACCO educational symposium in Maui. I enjoy listening and some good ideas were discussed. It is from some of these discussions the Academy makes some changes. I appreciate your interest in improving your Academy and the specialty at large. Thanks!

The 2010 project has been launched. "Stunned," "overwhelming," "far reaching," "about time," "unbelievable" and other descriptions were used by the College (ACCO), Council (CCO) and the Academy Board members who had not had prior information about the work product. Over two hours in explanation from the 2010 Chair, Dr. Ron Evans, was presented to bring the representatives up to speed.

It is now time to explain what the 2010 committee has done and its ramifications to the specialty.

Simply the committee has provided a road map for the Diplomate and chiropractic resident to obtain a Masters Degree. This is not "pie in the sky" or "pseudo degree," this is straight forward and mainstream academia.

Hours of work went into this project. The work product will soon be on the Academy website, and is the discussion draft that this committee presented to the stakeholders. . . Academy, American College of Chiropractic Orthopedists and the Council on Chiropractic Orthopedics. The blueprint encompasses 221 pages, and there is neither time nor space to give a full "book report" so I will begin in the e-letter some high points. Members of the specialty will have an opportunity to comment to the 2010 committee and stakeholders.

The Chairman has informed me that 3 institutions are eager to get this process started. Realistically, a Masters program must be accredited and approved by the regional accrediting agency for the college and this may take 12-18 months, from the time a college submits an application drafted from the 2010 Committee work. A fourth institution is interested in developing an "on line" protocol for this degree once they receive completed materials from the orthopedic coalition.

Within the new design for advanced learners there are provisions for the practicing Diplomate or "part time" student to obtain this degree. Your prior Diplomate class work may apply toward the Master's degree, depending on the host institution. Candidates for the degree will need a DC and a Bachelor's or Master's credential to enroll for this Master of Science; Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Msc-PM&R).

The topic outline (syllabus) developed by the CCO and ACCO was utilized for the advanced degree course. The 2010 Committee had 2 institutions; working independently and without the knowledge of each other, reviewed the topic outline for its relevance to specialty level material. Both groups found about 70-80 percent of the existing topic outline is undergraduate material and recommended that it be culled from the Diplomate educational process. Once the material is on the website, you will see what is recommended.

The process still involves our traditional Diplomate process of 300 + hours, except it will be semester hours or credit hours. It is proposed to be 73 credit hours. After the 73 hours, your Diplomate examination will be taken, and if successfully passed, the process into the Master's program will begin, another 12 credit hours. The requirements for application are like those at other institutions. Faculty advisors will be appointed by the institution and other protocols that need to be completed by the candidate.

I absolutely understand this information will cause many questions, I will do my best to answer each and every question, but I ask you to wait until this gets on the website. You will receive an e-mail as soon as it is available. Understand that this project is not undertaken lightly, but is an effort to bring our

specialty into the real world of academia and universal understanding of the chiropractic orthopedist. Your specialty designation (DACO or DABCO) is not Master equivalent. You are now going to have a tremendous opportunity.

The Coalition has now been assigned 19 tasks; some the Academy has already done knowing what was going to be required. There are some big ones left. Each group (Academy, ACCO, CCO) have been charged with reviewing the "Tasks and Domains" of the DC orthopedist. Basically each group must answer the question, "what do we do as chiropractic orthopedists that the general practice DC does not do." In other words, it is our "JOB DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS." Delphi committees have been and are being formed. If you are contacted by the groups, PLEASE participate.

This is a most exciting development, and it has the potential to have a tremendous impact upon your future.

The Coalition has completed a brochure that explains the basic missions of each orthopedic group. Once this is printed it will be available from each of the groups. We understand the confusion of "alphabet soup." This will help you understand the mission and descriptions of each body.

You can see how productive the Coalition is and the need for your participation. Next year the ACCO convention is scheduled to be in Scottsdale, Arizona. Bring the family; see the sights of the desert and the attractions of Phoenix. By attending the conference, you can be part of orthopedic groups that are forward thinking and working to protect and improve your specialty.

Watch the Academy website (www.dorthoacademy.com) for the June e-Journal!

Don't get caught throwing fire crackers! Have a great 4th of July!

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Good Morning Doctor,

This is just a brief note for our membership who are members of the Council on Chiropractic Orthopedics (ACA).

You have been sent recommendations for changes to the By-laws of the Council. The Academy asks you to support these changes as it accurately describes the current status of the Academy with the ACA.

This should be returned to the CCO as quickly as possible.

Watch for the July e-letter - lots more going on!