

Academy President Letter
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From the Desk of J. R. Brandt DC, MPS, FACO
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I know you have heard this before but..."Where does time go"...It's nearing the end of 2011. The good news is that the Academy has accomplished a great deal as a membership group and to help the orthopedic specialty. You can go back and read some of this year's President's letters to see some of the accomplishments. I'm not going to do a "review" of the year. It's some of what has been going on behind the scenes that I can now tell you about...it is quite exciting.

Let's start with the Diplomate examination...As you know we have been actively working to secure accreditation with the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and with the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). We are anticipating this by the 3rd quarter next year. From its beginning of the Diplomate examination process, the Academy has followed the guidelines of NCCA for its Diplomate examination requirements and protocols. This includes psychometric tenants and test development. We have started a relationship with a group in Minneapolis, MN that will help with this process. They specialize in navigating through the minefields and pitfalls of certifying requirements. They will be participating in the Diplomate examination process as well. Our attendance at the national convention of ICE has precipitated this partnership.

The Programmatic Committee has been meeting and working continually since their meeting in July 2011. Our test question database is now in a computer program that not only weights the questions, but sorts the questions as to domains. It tracks question use and performance among other things. Item writers and item judges will be writing directly to the program. Webinars will be starting in January 2012 for this group of Diplomates. This is truly an unbelievable feat pulled off by the IT people that the Academy has contracted to accomplish this process. Well done!

Watch for an announcement of additional Diplomate examination changes in early 2012. We continue the development and changes with information we have obtained and continue to procure from ICE. I announced earlier this year that we will have a stationary base for the examination at Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, Minnesota. We have a plethora of examiners and simulated patients in this area to draw from. It will keep the cost of the examination less by having it at NWHSU.

We have always considered the Academy as an international membership and Diplomate examination group. You should have no doubt about it now....We were contacted by the college Faculdade América Latina in Caxais du Sol, Brazil earlier this year. Since that time, we have been in discussions with the chiropractic college and their Post Grad coordinator. We have been guiding them and assisting with their graduate certification program. What they have presented to the Academy is nothing short of spectacular....it will be an advanced degree program in Chiropractic Orthopedics and Traumatology. They began classes in October 2011. The syllabus is very robust and very Broad. Truly an advanced level education for the students. Currently they are studying pharmacology. They have asked the Academy to be the certifying body for their class graduates. Caxais du Sol is located in southern Brazil between San Paulo and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Look at these demographics: The students are mostly from the area,

but one travels from Rio 1200km, another from Santa Catarina 700 km plus some a bit closer. In the next two months, the students are dedicated to research production and presentation. Faculdade América Latina is a multiple professional college, but chiropractic is the first program in the health sciences. The city has an immediate population of nearly 400,000 residents. It is a very strong commercial and industrial center. The largest groups are in the metal works and mechanical areas. The area has 35,000 auto workers. What has triggered the colleges interest in chiropractic orthopedics was the following statistic that I found fascinating. The region has spent 22% of its surgical dollars on NMS problems. Hence the course name Chiropractic Orthopedics and Traumatology. The Academy is proud to be working with the college and the Post Graduate faculty of Faculdade América Latina. The class instructors credentials are extensive in health care. This is a well thought out syllabus. The class ends late 2013.

Changes in our recertifying process will become evident throughout 2012. It will remain voluntary, and CEU requirements will not drastically change. There will be some additions to the process. The new process is mandated by ICE and part of the requirements that we need to have to become completely certified. For those of you who have recertified and those thinking about it, this will be a much stronger program when you are asked to describe what it involves in the courtroom to a jury. This will help to demonstrate your desire as a practicing clinician to accomplish meaningful continuing education. Look around and see what other professions have to do to maintain their certifications...this process, recertification, will eventually be the natural evolution of our profession and currently our specialty is far out front with this process.

Look for some additional exciting announcements in 2012. Could there be more advanced classes on the way? We'll see!

I ask each of you to bring a new member into the Academy in 2012. In my travels, I still find orthopedic Diplomates that do not have a clue as to what changes have been made with the Academy from 10 years ago to today. We are trying to reach as many people as possible, but we still need your help. Please point them to the website at (www.dcorthoacademy.com) ask them to take some time and go through the site. I would be glad to communicate with someone you refer to the Academy if they have any questions. Membership helps all and makes your specialty a stronger voice.

Don't forget to use the Membership Directory when you have patients traveling and need to find a doctor. Some of you are putting a nice "mini website" together within the directory. That's what it's for, to let other members and the public who search for a doctor get to know you a little better.

God Bless and to all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah from the Academy.

In the time we have it is surely our duty to do all the good we can to all the people we can in all the ways we can.....William Barclay

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