

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Efstathios Papadopoulos, DC, President*



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

At the annual meeting of the WFC Council held June 4-7, in Seoul, South Korea, new Executive Officers were elected for a two-year term.

I am greatly honoured to have been elected your President. My fellow officers are Dr. Michael Flynn (North American Region, ACA), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Dr. Dennis Richards (Pacific Region, Australia), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President;

Dr. Gregory Stewart (North American Region, CCA, Canada) Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Gerard Clum (North America, ICA), Past-President. Dr. Clum, an inspiring leader during his presidency, will be congratulated appropriately at the Congress in Montreal next April.

The Council meeting was held in Seoul to support the development of chiropractic in Korea and Asia. The Council met with Korean Chiropractic Association (KCA) leaders and members, met with Congressman Kim, the legislator leading the campaign for the recognition and legal regulation of chiropractic in Korea, and visited Hanseo University in Haemi some two hours south of Seoul to meet faculty and students at Korea's one government recognized school of chiropractic. This has an affiliation with the University of Bridgeport College of

Chiropractic in the US and is partway through the accreditation process. We were most impressed by Hanseo's facilities and personnel, and treated to a gracious dinner by the university's President Ham.

Events associated with the Council meeting were a meeting of leaders from China to establish a Chiropractors' Association of China, a meeting of the Asian Pacific Chiropractic Doctors Federation (APCDF), which represents the national associations in Asia and the Pacific, and technique seminars by Dr. John Downes, sponsored by Life University, and Dr. Mark Charrette, sponsored by Foot Levelers. All in all it was a most productive week in a country and region that have pioneering chiropractors who deserve our strongest possible support. KCA President Dr. Taeg Su Choi, a Life University graduate who practises in Masan, is doing an outstanding job at great personal sacrifice.

A major agenda item at the Council meeting was preparation for the WHO Congress on Traditional Medicine/CAM in Beijing, November 7-9, 2008. This is the meeting for which WHO has asked the WFC to organize a Symposium on Manual Methods of Health Care.

All details of this historic meeting, at which the chiropractic profession will be seen as the leader in manual health care internationally, and which opens with Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO, addressing over 2000 delegates assembled at the Great Hall Tiananmen Square, are at [www.wfc.org/WHOBeijingSymposium](http://www.wfc.org/WHOBeijingSymposium). See a separate item on the Congress, and why you should participate, elsewhere in this Quarterly World Report.

A further important part of the Council meeting was a half day consideration of responses from you, the member associations, to the first round questionnaire in the WFC's current visioning and planning exercise. The outcome of that will come to you soon as a second round questionnaire. The end result is to be agreement on core values and purposes of the WFC, and a vision and plan to achieve those purposes in the years ahead.

What do I want to bring to my two-year term as WFC President? I am a Palmer College graduate practising in Nicosia, Cyprus, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the European Chiropractors' Union (ECU), and President of the Cyprus Chiropractic Association. I

have represented the Eastern Mediterranean Region on the WFC Council since 1992. This is one of the four regions in which chiropractic is largely undeveloped and under-represented – Africa, Asia, Eastern Mediterranean and Latin America.

During my term I want to continue and expand the WFC's support for pioneering chiropractors in the countries of these regions – to achieve chiropractic education, practice and legislation that recognizes chiropractic as a separate and distinct profession that is an integral and valuable part of the mainstream health care system. The profession in these regions faces a growing threat from other professionals and lay persons teaching, practising and claiming chiropractic as their own. The longer we delay in establishing our profession on a proper basis the more our progress will be complex, slow and difficult.

I am most pleased to report positive results of WFC leadership in my region after sponsored meetings during the past three years – in Cyprus (2006), Turkey (2007) and Egypt (2008). Most countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have or are currently forming formal national associations, aided by WFC model documents (e.g. bylaws, code of ethics). Three have formal legislation to regulate the profession on international standards of education and practice (Cyprus, Iran, United Arab Emirates). The next step, as recently in Asia and Latin America, must be formation of an effective regional organization similar to the ECU in

Europe. This will plan for the region's first university-based chiropractic education, consistent legal scopes of practice and mutual support. Progress has been made in my region through seed money and expertise from the WFC, matched by sponsorship from others (e.g. Palmer College for the Cairo meeting in March). During my term of office I look for similar and further progress in the four regions I have mentioned.

However, the WFC does and must continue to bring direct benefits to all its members. With your consistent support it is doing so. Just one example of such benefits is the February BJD Neck Pain Task Force Report, providing a firm scientific response for those who continue to challenge the appropriateness of cervical adjustment. This report, providing the best possible answer to our vocal critics particularly in North America and the UK, was only possible because of initial negotiations and meetings hosted by the WFC some 10 years ago. At present there is a new partnership between the WFC and FICS which promises similar impact in the field of sports chiropractic in the decade ahead.

The challenge for the present members of the WFC Council is to live up to the high standards and dedication of the former leaders who have launched our organization so successfully. My colleagues and I look forward to your support as we try to emulate their success.

Yours sincerely,



Efstathios Papadopoulos, DC  
President