



June 17, 2020

World Federation of Chiropractic
160 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 601
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 3B5
Sent via EMail

Attention: Secretary-General Dr. Richard Brown DC, LLM, FEAC, FRCC

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your response to our recent complaint and thank you for providing the undersigned an opportunity to elaborate on our concerns with the International Chiropractors Association's recent publications.

We'd like to begin by noting Article 3.5 of the WFC by-laws, which outlines two provisions that constitute grounds for removal of a member:

A Member may be removed by the Constituent Members by a Special Resolution passed by the Constituent Members present and entitled to vote at a Members Meeting authorizing the removal of such Member, for any reason which the Constituent Members in their discretion deem to be in the interests of the Corporation, including where a Member:

- a) *violates any provision of the Articles or By-laws, or any policies or practices of the Corporation in effect from time to time; and/or*
- b) *engages in any conduct which may be detrimental to the Corporation, including its reputation.*

We would like to point out that neither of the ICA publications purport to be research papers, however, they are written in such a manner as to give the impression they are clinical journals. This is misleading and inappropriate, particularly because the claims within these articles are not supported by evidence or by science.

By insisting that one can optimize the nervous system through chiropractic care, especially during a global pandemic, patients will be misinformed and put in danger of disrespecting clinically and scientifically accepted measures to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Additionally, patients may be prompted to seek out chiropractic care under the false impression that a treatment will provide an immune system boost. Vulnerable and suggestible patients are at greatest risk of believing in misinformation in search of a “miracle cure.” In-person care during the pandemic also potentially increases risk of transmission for the provider, putting his/her family and livelihood at risk should they be exposed to COVID-19. The blatant disregard for the health and well-being of both the patient and the practitioner is immoral.

As such, the ICA’s claims are a shocking violation of public health directives and undermine public trust in both chiropractic and public health. The ICA is damaging the reputation of our profession and this may have direct and indirect detrimental repercussions for our position as primary contact health care providers in countries with and without legislation. This is unacceptable. As evidence-based associations, the undersigned cannot afford to be affiliated with an organization promoting these dangerous and unproven claims.

We’re incredulous that the ICA makes a leap from basic science to clinical science in their report (<http://www.chiropractic.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ICA-Report-on-Immune-Function-and-Chiropractic-3-20-20.pdf>). This is problematic at any time but is particularly egregious during COVID-19. The extremely small study samples they use to illustrate their claims is also an obvious breach of basic scientific principles.

We are not alone in our concerns. In support of our original letter of concern we have enclosed recent articles by the scientific community and a group of international chiropractic students in response to the ICA’s papers: *“A united statement of the global chiropractic research community against the pseudoscientific claim that chiropractic care boosts immunity”* and *“Chiropractic students call for action against unsubstantiated claims.”* These rebuttals to the ICA clearly elucidate the issues outlined in our original letter and further outline the inappropriateness and danger associated with the ICA’s specious claims. (See Attachments A. & B.)

Again, thank you for providing us an opportunity to elaborate on our concerns. We remain steadfast in our view that the WFC must address the significant concerns identified, as well as the appropriateness of continuing to permit a member organization to challenge and contradict the public positions of the WFC. This consistent challenge of the WFC’s brand and the WFC’s public positions regarding the profession only serve to damage the reputation of the corporation and the profession at large. The WFC and its member associations have endorsed the core values of EPIC; adhering to Evidence-based, People-centered, Interprofessional and Collaborative actions. The ICA

must thus decide whether they are willing to comply with the above core values. Given that the ICA serves on the Board of Directors of the WFC this matter requires an urgent resolution.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the signatory associations if you would like to discuss.

Regards,



Dr. Fredrik Lange,

President, Swedish
Chiropractic
Association



Dr. Gitte Tønner

President, Netherlands
Chiropractors'
Association



Dr. Bart Vandendries

President, Belgian
Chiropractors' Union



Dr. Luke Schmidt

Vice President,
Chiropractic
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Dr. Debbie Wright

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Dr. Catherine Quinn

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Dr. Espen Ohren

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Dr. Christopher Mikus

President,
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Chiropractor's
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C: Dr. Vivian Kil, President of WFC