

JMCA Journal

January 2005
Volume XIV / Number 1



Exciting March CE Programs Offered for DCs and CAs

Plans are almost complete for the Maryland Chiropractic Association's annual March CE Forum to be held March 12-13, 2005 at the BWI Marriott. Doctors will have the opportunity to earn up to 15 CE hours this weekend. Registration and other information on this exciting program is online at MCA's award-winning Web site, www.marylandchiro.com/mcanews/2005marchceforum.htm

The Saturday schedule will feature several presenters with a variety of current topics. On Sunday, the MCA will offer the compulsory AIDS, Jurisprudence and Risk Management CE. The Jurisprudence portion will be presented by members of the Maryland State Board of Chiropractic Examiners. The timely topic this year will be "Cooperation Between Board Investigators and Staff," and "Chiropractors and Chiropractic Assistants."

At just \$15 per credit hour for the full program, the March CE

Forum is the best value in the region for MCA Members. When you renew your 2005 membership you will receive up to two \$50 CE Vouchers good towards education sponsored by the MCA. This will reduce your cost even further, and continue your commitment to keeping the MCA strong so it can keep fighting for you.

In conjunction with the CE Forum, MCA will also present it's **2005 March CA Sunday** on March 13, 2005. This program will feature 5- and 10-hour courses presented by **Dr. Larry Plotkin**, one of the most popular lecturers of chiropractic assistant continuing education programs. CA's will learn to understand how the musculoskeletal and neurologic systems are interrelated. The CA will learn, in detail, about the Brachial and Lumbar Plexus, the Cranial Nerves, and the Autonomic Nervous systems. This course will include hands-on work in testing reflexes, sensation, and muscle testing to help determine and understand nerve root level involvement. This course is a must for any CA whose doctor is currently working with other medical professionals, to understand various conditions they may be working with.

Further information on the CA Sunday is available online at www.marylandchiro.com/mcanews/2005marchcasunday.htm.

Insurance Audit Seminar Update

Several forms referenced during the October 10 Retrospective Audits seminar are now available online in the MCA Member Area at www.marylandchiro.com/members/auditforms.html.

March 12-13

MCA March
CE Forum
&
MCA March
CA Sunday

Eye on Annapolis 2005 Legislative Session Sees Many Changes; More on the Way Joel Kruh, MCA Legislative Liaison

IWIF Opposed to New WCC Medical Fee Guide

The Injured Workers' Insurance Fund (IWIF) may sue the State Workers' Compensation Commission over the new Medical Fee Guide. IWIF's position is that the WCC Fee Guide prevents them from negotiating better fees. IWIF wants to use a PPO Plan to cut reimbursement.

Currently, a case appealed by IWIF is slowly working its way through the Baltimore County Circuit Court on this very issue. The WCC approved a health care provider's fees under the Fee Guide. IWIF appealed arguing that they are only required to pay a PPO rate since the provider was a participating PPO doctor.

MCA supports the new Fee Guide. Stay tuned for the court's decision.

WCC and the Harris Case

It is anticipated that the 2005 Legislative Session will include the introduction of six or seven legislative

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Welcome New Members

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Steven Mahoney, DC
Columbia, Md.

Deborah Morrone, DC
Frederick, Md.

CA MEMBER
Tammy Callender
Mayo, Md.

STUDENT MEMBERS
Janine Dinan
Marietta, Ga.

Douglass J. Griswold
Buena Park, Calif.

Maryland Chiropractic Association

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President's Update

Paul Henry, DC

Count Your Blessings & Support Chiropractic in 2005

When you receive this issue of the *Journal* the holiday season will have come and gone for another year. As we enjoyed the company of family and friends, and the social excitement that unfolds this time of year, your MCA was working hard to close out 2004 and prepare for the New Year. In 2005 we will be dealing with a range of issues that impact chiropractic in Maryland and require our attention.

Chief among these are the malpractice insurance crisis and the audits and coding concerns we have been addressing during the past months. We have met with CareFirst executives and are developing a plan with them to educate and inform our doctors about this issue, so as to avoid problems in the future. We will be partnering with them to present a seminar that will address all the issues. More on this later as details are confirmed.

We are also pursuing the AMI network initiative and things are moving forward, albeit slowly as projects like this often do. Our meetings with CareFirst and the many municipal governments are encouraging, but we are still a ways from making an announcement that the deal is done. We have also been working with the Board of Examiners to resolve questions on CA regulations, investigative policies, and CE requirements. The Board has been very open to input from the MCA and we look forward to continuing our cooperative efforts to make this a great state for Chiropractic and our patients.

You will have received your dues statement by now and I urge you to renew your membership immediately. This way you take advantage of the discount rate and will have your CE vouchers for upcoming seminars. Please pay special attention to the optional C-PAC contribution that you can include along with your dues. Without our continuing presence in Annapolis, we are at the mercy of our enemies, and only our ties to political allies will keep us strong. Those relationships require money to keep those people in office and while we do an incredible amount with the resources we have, we could be more proactive with just a little bit more. Every dollar counts, whether dues or C-PAC, and by supporting the Association you are accepting your responsibility for the health of the profession in Maryland. Thank you in advance for your support.

The upcoming March 12-13 CE Forum at BWI should be a good one, with a variety of topics and a chance to pick up the mandatory hours you need for license renewal. CA's will also be able to get their credits that weekend. The MCA provides the best value for your CE dollars, despite competition from outside sources which are only in the continuing education business to put your money in their pockets. They often give nothing back to the profession and unlike the MCA do nothing to preserve your right to practice. Supporting the Association by attending our seminars should be a priority for you.

As we enter the New Year and resume the rigors of practice, don't overlook your own chiropractic lifestyle. Get regular adjustments, exercise and eat right. Get enough rest and relaxation, and keep a positive attitude. Your patients need their doc to be healthy, so take care of yourself and take a moment to consider all of the good things in your life. Count your blessings (among them the MCA!) and show your support by helping us reach a new membership record for 2005.

Have a healthy and blessed New Year,
Paul Henry, DC

MCA & Anabolic Laboratories Offer Three 12-Hour CEU Sessions of "The Nutritional Adjustment"

The Maryland Chiropractic Association and Anabolic Laboratories, Inc. are proud to co-sponsor **"The Nutritional Adjustment"** taught by Dr. David Seaman beginning on April 2. This chiropractic-specific education program, consisting of three 12 CEU sessions, will focus on nutrition for reducing inflammation, nociception & joint dysfunction/subluxation.

In this era of modern health care there is a convergence of two forces relating to patient care and consumer demand...

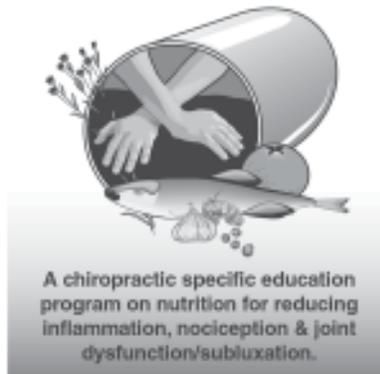
1) Preventative, alternative & holistic therapy protocols have gained considerable ground in both clinical application and scientific validation. These protocols have proven to be effective in reducing disease, managing injury and shortening recovery periods.

2) A growing percentage of the health care consumer market is driving demand for natural alternatives to medications and surgery. These consumers are also investing in natural protocols for prevention of cardiovascular disease, arthritis, osteoporosis, cancer, as well as for managing acute pain associated with injury, headaches & back pain.

The Nutritional Adjustment will expand your knowledge base, clinical services and revenue potential!

Participants will learn why many of their patients are inflamed, why the inflamed patient is slow to heal, and how to identify fad diets vs. scientifically sound diets.

The Nutritional Adjustment



Schedule of Sessions

Session I - April 2-3, 2005
"Clinical Nutrition For The Musculoskeletal System"

Session II - April 23-24, 2005
"Nutritional Supplements For Inflammation, Pain, Subluxation & Chronic Disease"

Session III - May 21-22, 2005
"How Dietary Habits Create Inflammation, Pain, Subluxation & Chronic Disease"

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ACA Update

By Bill Lauretti, DC, ACA Maryland Delegate

Join us at the 30th Annual NCLC

Make plans now to join us for the National Chiropractic Legislative Conference (NCLC) in Washington, D.C. on March 2-5, 2005.

The National Chiropractic Legislative Conference (NCLC) is the chiropractic profession's most important public policy and advocacy event. And for the first time this year, doctors attending the conference can also earn continuing education units!

For the 30th consecutive year, hundreds of DCs and chiropractic students from across the country will gather in the nation's capital to meet with members of Congress to discuss issues that matter most to DCs and chiropractic patients.

In addition to the Capitol Hill advocacy that has helped make ACA one of the most effective lobbying organizations in America, NCLC 2005 offers the latest on coding and documentation, as well as on new opportunities for DCs in Medicare, military and veterans health care and the National Health Service Corps.

Make plans today to participate in NCLC and join ACA in the fight to:

- * Ensure full status and fair treatment in key federal health programs, including Medicare, veterans, military, the National Health Service Corps and the U.S. Public Health Service
- * Advocate for expansion of access to chiropractic care in the Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system
- * Safeguard our hard-won physician status
- * Secure funding for chiropractic research and education

NCLC will also give you the opportunity to hear the latest on the recent inclusion of doctors of chiropractic in the VA health care system. In March 2004, DCs were the first provider group added to the massive VA health care system in 25 years. Now, DCs are on track to provide care in 28 VA facilities. Hear how you can participate in this new opportunity.

New this year - Continuing Education Seminars! Hear the latest on coding & documentation, Medicare, workplace safety and practice management during ACA's continuing education seminars on March 4-5.

Visit www.aca-nclc.com for more information!

Watch for New ACA Publications This Month

Beginning this month, ACA will reach more than 60,000 doctors of chiropractic and students throughout the entire profession every month with a new newspaper called the *ACA*

News. This professionally written and designed newspaper will replace the current *ACA Today* newsletter and will educate doctors of chiropractic about developments affecting the ACA, their practices, their profession and their role as leaders in national health care issues. It will also frame the profession's national agenda, build a sense of community among all within the profession and inform and demonstrate to non-members that involvement with and support of the ACA and its programs is essential to the future and professional livelihood of every doctor of chiropractic.

At the same time, the chiropractic profession's preeminent research journal - the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics (JMPT)* - will become the official scientific journal of the American Chiropractic Association. Print and online subscriptions will be provided free to all ACA general members as a new member benefit. All other membership categories will receive deeply discounted rates on both print and online subscriptions. Not only will ACA members themselves benefit from the cutting edge information contained in *JMPT*, but the American Chiropractic Association will also become synonymous with quality research - improving our credibility, image and status with legislators, policymakers, the media and the general public.

To accomplish these amazing goals, the *Journal of the American Chiropractic Association (JACA)* will move to an online only version - JACA Online - that will be housed in an online, fully searchable database allowing ACA members instant access to a wealth of clinical and educational materials to assist them in their practices. The database will be searchable by date, keyword, author name or subject - and will be accessible 24 hours a day for free to members only. Non-ACA members and the general public will be able to access the full text of articles for a fee.

Updated Coding Resource Available This Month

Newly updated for 2005, the complete chiropractic coding resource developed exclusively by doctors of chiropractic for doctors of chiropractic will be available soon. It contains sample insurance appeal letters, talking points, and clinical examples as well as essential chiropractic coding information including CPT-4, ICD-9-CM, HCPCS, and Medicare.

New for 2005:

- Revised Clinical Examples—easier to understand and use
- Talking Points to educate and inform insurers
- New Acupuncture CPT Codes
- Expanded HCPCS and Preventive Medicine codes
- Updated Medicare sections

Order yours today at www.acatoday.com or by calling 703-276-8800!

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James LeVan, D.C.
C-PAC Treasurer

Greetings, friends and colleagues! I hope you all had happy and restful holidays. The CPAC treasury and I are both staggering to the finish line, the start of the legislative session in Annapolis. For a blessed three months it is illegal for a state legislator to have a fundraiser, or even accept a contribution. So, of course they all have them right before the session starts. Just a little something to keep them warm through the winter, you know. But that ninety days of session is the R&R the treasury needs to get back on its feet and get ready for another year. Luckily, it is also the time when many of you are sending in contributions along with your MCA renewals. Thank-you so much for remembering CPAC!!!

I know I've said this a hundred times, but without the financial support that comes from CPAC, **Joel Kruh** would never get a chance to do his job. We may not have millions, but our support is steady and reliable for the legislative friends we've made over the years. Thanks to your generosity the Chiropractic profession has built a solid reputation in Annapolis. I hope you will all give whatever you can to keep us effective politically. As always the following list of donors reflects the last twelve months of contributions.

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Please send your contribution to Dr. James LeVan, 10605 Concord St., Ste. 206, Kensington, MD 20895.



ICA Report

Eric Huntington, DC
ICA Representative for Maryland

ICA to Present Chiropractic Certification in Spinal Trauma With Dan Murphy in Dallas

The highly acclaimed Spinal Trauma Certification Program, featuring chiropractic spinal trauma expert **Dan Murphy, DC, DABCO**, will begin its 2005 seminar series at The Harvey Hotel-DFW Airport in Irving, Texas, starting January 15-16. Dr. Murphy is the coordinator and primary lecturer of this comprehensive post-graduate curriculum covering clinically relevant elements in assessment, case management, and research for trauma cases.

The curriculum for 2005 includes new, referenced, state-of-the-art information regarding trauma neurology, mechanisms of vehicular accident injury, current clinical trauma case management concerns, and strategies for documentation of clinical findings and care. All material in the program is developed to be put to work in chiropractic practice to both enhance quality of care and to strengthen the DC's status in this vitally important segment of the health care marketplace. The 2005 program is co-sponsored by Palmer College of Chiropractic.

"This program offers attendees an incredible opportunity to enhance their knowledge and clinical skills along with strengthening their professional strategies for documenting and reporting patient care records," states **Dr. Jeffrey Buller**, Chair of the ICA Council on Applied Chiropractic Sciences.

The complete 10-module sequence leads to the Chiropractic Certification in Spinal Trauma (CCST) credentialing through the ICA Council on Applied Chiropractic Sciences. However, doctors may also take individual seminar sessions for continuing education credit and enhanced expertise in areas of special interest. In addition, students are able to attend the program for additional educational benefits while still in school.

The 2005 program will include a distinguished faculty of team presenters for select topics, including **Dr. Charles Davis** on Mechanisms of Accident Injury, **Dr. James Carter** on Accident Imaging and Analysis, **Dr. John Maltby** on Recordkeeping, Patient Examinations, and Documentation, and **Dr. Charles Davis and Travis G. Black, J.D.** with a special mock trial and deposition for the Chiropractic Jurisprudence session.

More information on the CCST program as well as information about the ICA Council on Applied Chiropractic Sciences and membership benefits, can be accessed through the "CCST mini-site" posted on ICA's web site at www.chiropractic.org or you can call the International Chiropractors Association at (800) 423-4690 (US and Canada) or +01 (703) 528-5000 during Eastern Time Zone office hours. The ICA Council on Applied Chiropractic Sciences can also be reached by e-mail at science@chiropractic.org.

Arnold Schwarzenegger To Headline ICA's Symposium on Natural Fitness

ICA has received official confirmation that the 2005 ICA Fitness Symposium will once again include California Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. ICA's 13th Annual Symposium on Natural Fitness to be held March 4-5 in Columbus, Ohio is now open for registration. The Symposium, held in conjunction with Arnold's Fitness Weekend, is offering a multi-faceted program featuring the same kind of exciting, star-packed, innovative programs, that have made it the highlight of the chiropractic calendar over the past decade. Mark your calendars for March 4-6, 2005 and come to this gala program at The Columbus Hotel for a full and fantastic weekend of fitness stars, champion athletes, and innovative, practical chiropractic continuing education opportunities!

Along with the Symposium's quality continuing education program and related events, participants in ICA's weekend program also attend special parts of the Arnold Fitness Weekend and Competitions, which includes the world's largest Fitness Expo packed with leading sports nutrition, fitness equipment and publication services along with a world-class lineup of athletic demonstrations and competitions. Registrants can also choose between a full VIP package of reserved-section seats to the major Arnold Weekend Competitions or a deluxe package that allows them to personally purchase separate event tickets through Ticketmaster.

As with every year, each Symposium registrant is able to pose with the world's most famous chiropractic patient—global superstar Schwarzenegger for a studio-style portrait photo. A vigorous advocate of chiropractic care for people of all ages, and holding an honorary chiropractic degree from Cleveland Chiropractic College, Schwarzenegger will speak to the Symposium attendees about his personal experience with chiropractic, crediting the care he received throughout the years for his success in bodybuilding and his ability to maintain a rigorous filmmaking and travel schedule.

This year's continuing education program is co-sponsored by Life Chiropractic College West and features leaders in the world of fitness who are dedicated to exercise and athletic training in the context of chiropractic care. Practical programs by leaders in fitness and prominent educators will include a new lineup of faculty with a dynamic series of presentations, sports-case-scenarios and how-to demonstrations that have made the Symposium a dynamic educational event each year. Invited speakers this year will also include **Dr. Tom Deters**, **Dr. Mitch Mally**, and **Dr. Jeff Spencer**.

"This entire ICA Symposium Weekend is dedicated to bringing our attendees a great range of relevant and practical information on fitness, exercise and sports chiropractic at a greater

(Continued page 12)

Eye on Annapolis

(Continued from page 1)

proposals regarding the Harris case. This case, decided by Maryland's Court of Appeals in 2003, eliminated the unusual activity standard. MCA has not taken a stance on this issue. It is expected that legislation will be introduced to overturn the Harris case and require compensable claims to be accident related. Other proposed legislation, patterned after Virginia law, requires that a specific accident has caused mechanical changes to an employee's body. In all, MCA anticipates 6 or 7 legislative proposals related to this topic.

Health Care Commission Restructured

The Maryland Health Care Commission appointed by **Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.** has been restructured, changing the Democrat-controlled Commission to Republican hands. The previous Health Care Commission was in the final stages of developing a limited benefit plan design, including chiropractic benefits. MCA is awaiting the Commission's agenda going forward and will alert membership as issues arise including the Commission's 2005 legislative agenda.

Athletic Trainer Licensure on Hold

Based on recent discussions with representatives from the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association, the proposed Athletic Trainer License Bill is on hold for the 2005 Legislative Session while the National Athletic Trainers' Association works on definition changes to the certification of athletic trainers.

Sample Agreement for Patients and DCs Opting Out of HMO Insurance Reimbursement

Name of Patient is a Health Maintenance Organization subscriber with Name of HMO.

Name of Patient enters into this Agreement with Name of DC and agrees Name of Patient shall be solely responsible for all charges for professional services rendered by Name of DC. The hereinabove mentioned patient further understands and agrees that said patient shall not submit any bills for professional services to my HMO for reimbursement.

I, Name of DC understand and agree not to seek payment for my professional services rendered to said patient from patient's HMO. Both parties to this Agreement understand and agree to strictly abide by the terms of this Agreement.

Signature of Patient

Date

Signature of DC

Date



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Chiropractic News & Notes

Chiropractic & All That Jazz; 2004 COCSA Largest Meeting To Date

NEW ORLEANS, LA — The Chiropractic Association of Louisiana hosted this year's gathering of state association leaders in New Orleans at the annual meeting of the Congress of Chiropractic State Associations. Set to the theme "Chiropractic and All That Jazz," more than 100 delegates from 45 state chiropractic associations participated in round table discussions and workshops aimed at improving their operations and overall effectiveness.

Most of the sessions were geared towards providing association management training for state elected leaders and staff. According to **COCSA Executive Director Janet Jordan**, "This is really what sets us apart from other chiropractic conferences. Sure, we deal with chiropractic issues because it's important for our state association leaders to know what's going on out there, but we are really the only resource for chiropractors on how to run a state association."

Jordan went on to say, "We must be doing something right because the popularity of our meeting continues to grow. This year is the largest meeting I can remember and is certainly a record breaker when it comes to corporate support."

CCA Vows to Continue Battle with ASHP and ASH

SACRAMENTO, CA — The California Chiropractic Association (CCA) is vowing to continue to explore all legal avenues available in pressing its claims on behalf of chiropractic patients and their doctors of chiropractic against American Specialty Health Plans of California, Inc. (ASHP) and American Specialty Health Networks, Inc. (ASH) in response to a decision handed down by a San Diego Superior Court.

On December 6, 2004, **Judge**

William R. Nevitt ruled in favor of ASHP/ASH on a majority of the claims in CCA's litigation with ASHP/ASH. The court found CCA's three claims alleging that doctors of chiropractic were systematically refused compensation for medically necessary chiropractic services rendered to be of merit.

"CCA is obviously disappointed with much of the court's ruling," said **Dennis Buckley, DC, CCA president**. "Despite the court ruling, we continue in our very strong belief that many of ASHP's operating practices are illegal, and that they effectively serve to negatively impact an insured person's ability to access desired chiropractic care."

In June 2001, CCA filed a lawsuit against ASHP and ASH for unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business acts and practices in violation of Business and Professions Code 17200. Represented by Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman, among the business practices CCA claims ASHP/ASH illegally engaged in were:

- 1) systematically denying chiropractic doctors who participate in ASHP's chiropractic networks authorization to provide medically necessary chiropractic services to members of ASHP's chiropractic health plans, and the opportunity to be paid for such services;
- 2) systematically refusing to compensate participating chiropractic doctors for medically necessary chiropractic services rendered;
- 3) systematically and arbitrarily withholding monies from these doctors under the purported authority of deceptive and misleading contract provisions; and
- 4) systematically reducing reimbursement rates to doctors of chiropractic below reasonable levels.

A fifth set of claims, challenging ASHP/ASH's terminations of doctors from panels without cause, was dropped by CCA.

"We knew when we launched this action in 2001 it would be a long process," observed Buckley. "We are prepared to continue this cause for as long as it takes on behalf of the public seeking chiropractic care and doctors of chiropractic." development of additional community out-reach programs.

9.3% Medical Error Rate Announced by CMS

BALTIMORE, MD — The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently announced that the Medicare program overpaid medical claims by almost \$19.9 billion in 2004, as reported by *CQ HealthBeat*.

According to the agency, less than half of those errors were due to insufficient documentation. The rest of the payment mistakes were due to health professionals not responding to requests for medical records, incorrect coding, and billing for medically unnecessary services.

In response to the announcement, **Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa)** praised the agency for getting a more complete picture of billing errors, but urged the agency to "work even more aggressively to stem the tide of this error rate and work closely with the Justice Department and the Inspector General in the pursuit of waste, fraud and abuse."

In the formal CMS announcement, **Administrator Dr. Mark McClellan** unveiled a series of steps the agency will use to more accurately measure errors and help reduce them to four percent in four years. The steps include educating providers about the importance of submitting thorough and complete medical records, identifying where additional claims reviews are needed, and identifying where additional education on submitting claims is needed.

ACA Report

(Continued from page 4)

Congress Directs \$2 Million to Chiropractic Student Loan

President Bush recently signed into law a directive from Congress to provide \$2 million in funding to expand and extend a pilot program allowing chiropractors to participate in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) student loan repayment program. The chiropractic provision, contained in the conference report to accompany HR 4818, was sponsored by Senators **Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)** and **Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)**, and backed by the ACA and the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC).

“This is yet another important milestone in the ACA’s battle to ensure that chiropractic care is fully included in all federal health care programs,” said ACA President Donald Krippendorf, DC. “Doctors of chiropractic belong in the National Health Service Corps because we have a unique and important role to play in providing millions of Americans in underserved areas with the care they need. Thanks to Tom Harkin and Arlen Specter — two great leaders who understand the value of chiropractic to the nation’s health care system — there will be new opportunities for DCs and better health care for patients.”

In 2002, Congress established a special pilot program to assess the impact of making chiropractic care more available in communities served by the National Health Service Corps. Under this program in 2003, eight DCs who had entered into employment contracts with eligible community health centers around the United States and submitted applications to the government were selected to serve as the first chiropractors in the NHSC student loan repayment program. These DCs began receiving tax-exempt student loan reimbursements up to \$25,000 per year to continue during a two- or three-year service commitment.

Following selection of this initial group of DCs, from a pool of about 90 applicants, NHSC officials unexpectedly — and counter to their orders from Capitol Hill — announced that the program was closed and would be evaluated without additional groups of DCs being added. The ACA and ACC vigorously protested this decision and worked together not just to overturn it, but also to support new legislation to expand and extend chiropractic

participation in the NHSC and the student loan repayment program. The ACA/ACC advocacy effort - launched officially at the 2004 National Chiropractic Legislative Conference - successfully secured support from Harkin and Specter, Rep. **Charlie Norwood (R-Ga.)** and other pro-chiropractic leaders in Congress and culminated with final approval by Congress of the conference report on HR 4818.

The NHSC assists medically underserved communities to recruit and retain primary care clinicians, including dental and mental and behavioral health professionals, to serve in their community. More than 23,000 health professionals have served with NHSC since 1972. Current field strength totals more than 2,700 clinicians/health care professionals whose careers are influencing the outcomes of underserved populations and communities. Many clinicians have remained in service after fulfilling their initial NHSC commitments.

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ICA UPDATE

(Continued from page 4)

level than ever," says Fitness Council president **Dr. Gerald R. Mattia**.

Visit ICA's website for the Symposium 2005 informational sub-site at www.chiropractic.org for updates on the faculty, highlights on program offerings, featured programs, and registration.

Medicare Issues Will Be Key in ICA's Public Policy Agenda

Medicare reform and enhancement of the benefits and services chiropractic patients receive under this all-important federal program will be at the top of ICA's legislative and administrative agenda in 2005. This will be the case both because of the vital importance of the availability of chiropractic care to our senior population, and because of the important role Medicare plays as a model for other third-party payment plans, both public and private, not just in the United States, but around the world.

According to a recent GAO report, "In fiscal year 2003, Medicare paid over \$271 billion for the health care of approximately 41 million beneficiaries. More than 1 million providers submitted about 950 million claims during that year."

ICA is working with the Chiropractic Coalition to craft a Medicare agenda that will strengthen the status of the DC, and help preserve access to chiropractic services in a program under enormous financial pressure. This will include legislation that will allow DCs to "opt out" of Medicare and enter into the same private contracting arrangements with Medicare eligible beneficiaries now open to medical doctors and other providers. ICA is also very interested in legislation to clarify chiropractic definitions under the law, and to expand program-wide coverage of chiropractic examinations and x-rays.

ICA will also be carefully watching the recently enacted chiropractic demonstration project, in which DCs in parts of three states will see expansions in the scope of Medicare covered services. In announcing the implementation of the project, CMS Administrator, **Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.**, stated: "We recognize that many Medicare beneficiaries seek the services of chiropractors for back pain and other conditions. This demonstration provides the opportunity to evaluate whether expanding coverage of chiropractic services reduces overall Medicare expenditures for neuromusculoskeletal conditions."

Classifieds

To place a classified ad in the MCA Journal, please send it in writing, along with appropriate payment, to MCA, 720 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230. The cost for a 25-word ad is \$15 for MCA members (2 issues for \$25) or \$25 per issue for non-members. The next issue is set for distribution on March 1, 2005. The deadline for classifieds is February 15.

Associate Wanted — Baltimore: Dr. Johnson is looking for licensed or soon-to-be DC with PT privileges. All candidates must have good people skills, are not afraid to work and eager to learn. Possible partnership opportunities, limited positions available. 410-744-1233 (7/05)

Associate Wanted — Chiropractor with PT privileges wanted in established Perry Hall/White Marsh practice. Must be energetic, dedicated and willing to promote practice. Call Dr. J. Mitchell Adolph 410-256-9650. (1/05)

Associate Wanted — Associate Doctor or "buy in, buy out" opportunity- Busy, well managed and organized multi-DC family practice in northwest Baltimore, new 3,700 SQ ft facility, is in need of DC's wanting to treat patients, or perform exams/reexams, full or part time. Salary + Bonus, group health insurance. contact Dr. Huntington 443-524-6604. (3/05)

Associate Wanted — Salary + Bonus with ownership potential. Rockville. Chiropractic associate with PT privileges wanted in CBP high volume practice. Great opportunity to earn and learn from Distinguished Fellow of CBP. Fax resume to 240-361-0719 or call 301-646-7885. (1/05)

Associate Wanted — Must have PT privileges, be able to work independently, and promote yourself. Excellent opportunity in an established family oriented practice in the Perry Hall/White Marsh area. 410-529-5003. (3/05)

Associate Wanted — Associate needed in Wheaton, MD. Great opportunity for DC with Physiotherapy privileges in clinically-focused office. Salary, bonus and partnership. Please fax CV to: 703-444-4142. (1/05)

Practice Sharing — AA Co. Low overhead encourages relocation or new Dr. startup. First month expenses under \$2,000. Female chiro leaving. Fax inquiries to 410-674-8608. (5/05)

Office Coverage — Licensed, experienced and insured DC with PT privileges. Please contact at 410-901-2903 or DrEdAChiro@bcctv.com. (7/05)

Office Coverage — Licensed, experienced DC, with PT privileges available for vacation relief. Charles Weitzman 443-929-2001 (1/05)

Office for Sale — Affordable - office, equipment, and furnishings for sale in PG County. 1,500+ square feet set up for busy practice. Please call 410-798-5612. (1/05)

Equipment for Sale — Rehab. Equipment for sale including cervical, low back, multi-hip and rotary torso machine. Excellent condition. \$3,000 or best offer. EKG/spirometer machine, like new, \$2,500 or best offer. Call 301-352-3454. (1/05)

Equipment for Sale — Chattanooga Ergostyle elevation table. Forward and Toggle drop headpiece, lumbar drop, light tan. Hardly used, in excellent condition. \$2,500 Rich-Mar VI, 2 Channel stim and ultrasound \$400. Call 410-662-4476. (1/05)

Equipment for Sale — Chiropractic table has working cervical thoracic, and lumbo pelvic drops. Will sacrifice for \$500. Also available: 2 flat therapy tables, \$100 for both. 443-929-2001. (1/05)

Equipment for Sale — Arthrotonic Tri-roller Stabelizer Table. 750.00 410-544-2025. (1/05)

Equipment for Free — State approved and register Continental X-ray 200 MA, 100 KV table and wall bucky - FREE. C.N. Cooper 410-235-5640. (1/05)