

CtChiroScholarship

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As chiropractors, we represent the truest form of commitment to our patients and the community by investing in their healthcare. This practice is the foundation for state organization's ideologies. Devoting time and resources to the chiropractic community is of utmost importance. These organizations promote the development of state legislation, which ultimately supports the productivity of the professionals and the well-being of patients. They help standardize a higher level of physician competency, ethical standards, and patient centered care. Most importantly, they provide the support to national organizations which advocate for national change leading to the growth of the chiropractic profession and betterment of patient lives.

Becoming an active member in a chiropractic state organization is pivotal to facilitate change in a profession you believe in. Restoring to passivity creates a period of stagnation, misdirection, and unproductivity. Being part of this greater entity and getting involved will integrate like-minded physicians that will promote advancements in patient care.

The chiropractic profession is notable as an individualized profession, where each physician opens their own private practice. Although that model is changing slowly, the most recent statistics still show private practice to be the way the majority of chiropractic physicians' work. In a state organization, you are able to interact with your fellow chiropractic physicians at the organization's meetings and events. Undoubtedly, as an active member you will be able to share ideas, skills, and concepts that otherwise an individual chiropractic physician would never get exposed to in their solidarity.

An active role in a state organization will also provide a member with many benefits one doesn't realize. They provide continuing education credits in webinars and seminars. They can provide assistance with finding and vetting an insurance company. Also, they can help with starting up, staffing, and developing the overall functionality of a practice. They generally have many councils on topics which are developed to improve a physician's skill and provide an advanced level of care for every patient.

I have been fortunate to be an active member of the student body at the University of Bridgeport College of Chiropractic. I was elected to the Vice President position for the Student Government Association and have been an editor and writer for the colleges Spinal Column. These both have allowed me to have an actionable voice in my small school community. I write articles about what direction I believe the chiropractic community should take. I have also had the honor of being part of the Chios Eastern Shore Response Team and the Medics for Greece organizations. This opportunity has led to my involvement as a public health liaison in Chios, Greece with support under the Αντιπεριφερειάρχης Σταμάτης Κάρμαντζης (regional vice governor). In conjunction, I worked with volunteer groups to help promote health and sustainability of the Syrian refugees along side the local Greek population. My specific goals were to develop programs for the hygiene, contamination, and coexistence between the local Chian population and the displaced Syrians.

As an active member in my state organization, I hope to bring together chiropractors at the state level to promote our profession as the non-pharmaceutical pain management physicians. The United States of America has declared a “national emergency state” with the opioid epidemic plaguing it. With the members of my state organization, we can take this opportunity as chiropractic physicians to help support patients suffering with pain and opioid addiction. This can be a defining moment as a profession and our state organizations to improve and redefine the medical field. Our philosophy of non-pharmacological pain management and the active care model may prevent the propagation of the opioid epidemic. In addition, as an active member I can promote chiropractic physicians to be added to websites such as the U.S department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health “Chronic pain treatments.” Currently it states, “Problems that cause chronic pain include: Headache, Low back strain, Cancer, Arthritis and Pain from nerve damage. Chronic pain usually cannot be cured. But treatments can help. They include medicines, acupuncture, electrical stimulation and surgery. Other treatments include psychotherapy, relaxation and meditation therapy, biofeedback, and behavior modification,” excluding the potential for chiropractic treatment. I hope that as an active member I will be able to promote the profession in the direction that I believe will benefit our patients first, then our chiropractic physicians.

As my great grandmother Maria in Greece would say to me many times “ένα δάχτυλο μόναχο του λυγίζει, πέντε δάχτυλα μαζί κάνουν μια χροθια, ενωμένη και δυνατή,” meaning one finger alone bends, five fingers together make a fist, together and strong. A state organization unified under one banner can propel forward the profession. The state organization can help break through the boundaries imposed on the profession due to previous prejudices in the healthcare system and patient community.