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PTs Force Police Action Against Palmer DCs in Brazil

WFC Calls for further funding support to protect the profession

The fight for chiropractic in Brazil took an ugly turn during the past week on Thursday evening June 26 when the Federal Police, acting upon a complaint from physiotherapy leaders, challenged visiting doctors of chiropractic from Palmer College's Clinics Abroad program for being engaged in the illegal practice of physiotherapy.

The Palmer team was in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina in the south of Brazil, accompanied by members of the Brazilian Chiropractors' Association (ABQ), and was rudely interrupted as members were giving humanitarian chiropractic services to patients in a public school in a poor local community.

"The police say they acted because of persistent calls that day from the president and lawyer for the local branch of the COFFITO (the regulatory body for physiotherapy)," says ABQ President Dr. Juliana Piva of Rio de Janeiro. "The police arrived with media reporters organized by the COFFITO, and that evening there were print and internet stories about the raid."

Protesting, patients were taken from adjusting tables, and then Palmer and Brazilian DCs and students were escorted to the police station. However after intervention by ABQ lawyer Antonio Castagna Maia, a full explanation and a visa check showing all was in order, the Federal Police were satisfied and released the group.

"We have had many Clinic Abroad trips in recent years as part of Palmer's partnership with both the ABQ and the School of Chiropractic at Feevale University. but never a problem until now", reports Program Leader Lori Curry at Palmer.

The reason for difficulty now is clear. This is part of the physiotherapy profession's increasingly aggressive campaign to have chiropractic declared a specialty of physiotherapy by law in Brazil. "It is a response to recent litigation against PT leaders promoted by us to protect the independent status of chiropractic," adds ABQ Past President and Palmer graduate Dr Ricardo Fujikawa. "The real battle has now begun."

During the past year the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) has been coordinating a fundraising campaign to support the ABQ's 200 members against the 95,000 PTs

represented by the COFFITO. National associations, colleges and individuals from around the world have generously given over US\$120,000 because of the clear international significance of what is happening in Brazil – if PTs there are successful in having chiropractic acknowledged as part of physiotherapy, this will not only be a major calamity in Brazil but will also encourage similar problems in other countries.

“Funds raised have been a huge help to us”, says former ABQ President and Legislative Campaign Leader Dr. Sira Borges, “but sadly now they are now all but exhausted.”

Highlights of the last year, made possible by international support have been:

- The draft chiropractic law promoted by the ABQ has passed all committee hearings and is awaiting a final vote before the Camara or legislature.
- Meantime some PT leaders have been providing and supporting short technique courses of up to 300 hours in chiropractic for PTs, and graduating these PTs with a certificate in chiropractic. The goal is rapid creation of a chiropractic specialty in Brazil.
- The Brasilia lawyer and consultants retained by the ABQ have persuaded prosecutors at the Ministerio Publico, a government watchdog agency for issues of public interest and safety, to take legal proceedings against the PT leaders promoting the totally inadequate postgraduate chiropractic courses for PTs on grounds of misrepresentation and public safety – these proceedings were launched last month.

“What the WFC now asks,” says new WFC President Dr. Stathis Papadopoulos of Cyprus, “is that chiropractic associations, colleges, other organizations and individuals dig deep to assist the ABQ and chiropractic in Brazil once more. We must stop the PTs in Brazil from succeeding in their brazen attempt to hijack our profession.”

For more detailed background to this conflict, a list acknowledging donors to date, and a donation form go to the Newsroom at www.wfc.org. Please act now to support your colleagues in Brazil – for their benefit and for yours wherever you may practice.



WFC President
Dr. Stathis Papadopoulos

Quiropraxia:

Uma especialidade do Fisioterapeuta

No Brasil, a quiropraxia é uma especialidade da Fisioterapia (RESOLUÇÃO Nº 220 de 23 de maio de 2001) que intervém nos distúrbios funcionais de órgãos e sistemas, cuidando de seus aspectos biomecânicos, cinéticos e sinérgicos, com fins de superar as manifestações clínicas decorrentes, resgatando a saúde funcional do indivíduo.


O Fisioterapeuta especialista em quiropraxia busca, através de ajustes de vértebras, eliminar os atritos que provocam desgastes e degenerações nas articulações promovendo assim a manutenção do funcionamento saudável do sistema nervoso e um bom fluxo neurológico atuando de forma ativa no processo de prevenção e promoção de saúde.

Um forte aparato econômico interno e externo, impulsiona a tramitação em Brasília de um Projeto de Lei que tenta criar uma nova profissão na área da saúde, que é a QUIROPRAXIA, sob o argumento que, a manipulação da coluna vertebral é recomendada como uma das principais técnicas para disfunções articulares, tratamento seguro e indolor, que alivia a dor sem a necessidade de medicamento ou cirurgia.

No relatório final aprovado pela Comissão de Educação e Cultura da Câmara em agosto de 2006, foi recomendado que a quiropraxia deve ser ministrada em instituições de ensino superior, como uma especialização da fisioterapia e não como curso autônomo, pois os princípios metodológicos dos procedimentos manipulativos e / ou de ajustamento ósteo articular, estão agasalhados na formação acadêmica do fisioterapeuta.

Ao tentar criar uma nova profissão os legisladores em verdade tentam seqüestrar direitos concedidos ao profissional fisioterapeuta desde 1969, direitos estes que definem e fundamentam a Fisioterapia Brasileira. Não há justificativa social para transformar áreas do saber (especialidades) em uma nova profissão.

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