

# Chiropractic Advocate Int'l

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## Chiropractic Bangalore, India Project Update



Since the initial invitation in March 2004 by (CAMHADD) the Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap and Develop. Disabilities to evaluate how chiropractic could be incorporated in the “Healthy City Initiative” underway in Bangalore, India, there have been five events facilitated by the (CDC) Chiropractic Diplomatic Corps that have shaped an ambitious plan to establish the chiropractic profession in India.

### APRIL 2004

The CDC sponsors Dr. Vasu Pandurangi and Dr. Ganesh Supramaniam of CAMHADD to meet key healthcare and government officials in Bangalore. This resulted in tacit agreements to provide clinic space for DCs to treat Urban Poor in CAMHADD clinics; to provide class room space for a chiropractic school at the RV Dental College facilities by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS); to lobby for official chiropractic recognition from the State of Karnataka.

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## Chiropractic Access for Marginalized Populations

Many DC have paid the price to personally participate in a foreign mission and face the challenges of bad water, long tedious trips, and uncomfortable “basic” accommodations just to have the privilege to care for the poor – for free.

“Charity should begin at home” so the saying goes, and if one looks there are many local causes that don’t require leaving the comforts of home to do some good. There are various ways a DC can give back to their communities locally by volunteering their time and services to people in homeless shelters, soup kitchens, church referrals, migrant and labor camps in rural areas.

The CDC has effectively defined its identity or role in society, namely that of “community development.” Otherwise known as [C.A.M.P.](#) this program refers to our USA domestic community development efforts to bring chiropractic access to the poor and under-served populations in one of the world’s wealthiest countries.

When a community does not have its own chiropractor it is a community at risk. The most measurable outcome of chiropractic care that has lasting impact on communities is the decrease of individual disabilities... keeping people at work and improving the quality of life and maximizing their economic potential.

### THE POOR:

In the USA where 87% of the world’s chiropractors practice we still find over 40 million people who cannot afford care but they do have access to medical care in one of the 4,000+ Community Health Centers that form America’s healthcare safety-net. The CDC became active in expanding chiropractic access for the poor through government funded clinics serving Medicaid since 2000. We have been advocating for inclusion and placing DCs in several Federal and Rural Health Clinics, often found within a Rural Hospital.

### THE ABORIGINALS:

Native Americans have their own government funded clinics but it was rare to find a DC working there until

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#### MAY 2004

Principals from the RGUHS, RV Dental College, CCD and CAMHADD meet in Geneva during the World Health Assembly, also attended by Dr. John Sweeney of the CCEI. Discussions focused on the feasibility of creating a local pool of faculty to form a full 4 year CCE level DC course. This would involve selection of advanced degreed health care candidates to undergo a 2 year conversion course. This would require coordination of several DC faculty to teach on a series of sabbaticals, under the supervision of a few full time DCs who would also supervise and provide the chiropractic care at the CAMHADD clinics to the urban poor of Bangalore.

#### SEPTEMBER 2004

Dr. Gary Auerbach, India Project coordinator for the CDC, went to Bangalore for site visits and to finalize a proposal to the RGUHS made in partnership by the CDC, RV Dental College and CAMHADD to establish a 2 year "Fellowship Course" to graduate DC faculty, followed by a full 4 year DC graduate program meeting similar graduate standards as other 1<sup>st</sup> professional degrees such as Dentistry, Medicine, and Homeopathy in India.

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*"...how chiropractic could be incorporated in the "Healthy City Initiative" underway in Bangalore, India."*

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#### OCTOBER 2004

Dr. Michel Tetrault and Dr. Gary Auerbach presented the full Bangalore India Project to the majority of DC college presidents during the Association of Chiropractic Colleges meeting in Toronto, Canada. Concurrent World Federation of Chiropractors education conference gave the CDC the opportunity to expose additional chiropractic organizations to the project. These discussions produced support letters for the CDC Bangalore Project with many DC schools offering support personnel, staff and guidance.

Three schools in particular expressed interest in taking principal roles in the development and operational aspects of establishing academic standards, placing faculty, training and guiding local Indian staff, etc. These are Glamorgan, Durban and Macquarie and all are commonwealth country public institution based. Since India is a commonwealth country, there are significant commonalities that make these players a perfect match for a Bangalore project.

#### DECEMBER 2004

Geneva, Switzerland WHO headquarters is the location where representatives for CAMHADD, CDC, RV Dental, RGUHS, Glamorgan, Macquarie and the

India Chiropractic Association (ICA), Dr. Jimmy Nanda heard presentations by WHO technical officers Dr. Roberta Ritson and Dr. JoAnne Epping-Jordan.

Comprehensive discussions covered curriculum and space requirements, budget review of the project and strategic planning of interim steps to successful outcomes. Dr. Nanda of the ICA presented the previously unannounced work he has made at the Federal government in New Delhi to form a General Chiropractic Council in preparation for official legal recognition of chiropractic throughout India.

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The next immediate steps are to study the academic details of the MBBS graduate studies of General Medicine and other equivalent health care courses and to formulate the specific curriculum syllabus for the missing chiropractic classes needed to upgrade the student to meet International Chiropractic degree standards and to qualify to teach chiropractic at the higher educational requirements for an Indian University.

Once this syllabus is completed in early 2005, a delegation of the CDC and the ICA will travel to Bangalore and New Delhi to present the course specifics for approval by RGUHS and to establish formal relations with the Indian government on behalf of the Indian Chiropractic Association.

Lastly, but most importantly, a detailed business plan has just been written for submission to prospective funding sources such as the Tata family, an Indian family of industrialists and philanthropists.

The reader can find more information at the following article on our website: [Bangalore India Project](#)

#### **Links to participating Institutions:**

[Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences](#)

[RV Dental College](#)

[Glamorgan University](#)

[Macquarie University](#)

[Durban Institute of Technology](#)

## Country Support Groups



There are several hundred foreign born or foreign heritage Doctors of Chiropractic in English-speaking countries that have not established a chiropractic practice in their home or ancestral country. These individuals are not very likely to leave the comforts and life styles of the economically advanced country of residence

but there is still much they can do to contribute to the development of chiropractic in their native or ancestral land by banding together under an informal association referred to as a "Country Support Group" (CSG).

We will highlight a couple of them here to let the reader know of their existence and of their current activities. Let's begin with **India**, since we have an important project underway in Bangalore. Two Canadian DCs are central to this CSG. They are Dr. Jimmy Singh Nanda of Toronto and Dr. Shailly Prasad from Alberta, temporarily residing in Bangalore.

There are another eight or so chiropractors from North America of Indian descent who are listed with this CSG and support the efforts of establishing contact with the Indian federal government in New Delhi. Dr. Nanda is requesting that the government form the General Chiropractic Council along similar lines of the General Dental Council. There are also plans on formalizing the India Chiropractic Association once there is legal recognition of chiropractic by the government.

In **Russia** we find one DC in permanent practice in Moscow, Dr. Charles Register, and a hybrid teaching exchange experiment in Vladivostok, located on the Far East of Russia just north of Korea, established by Dr. Harold McCoy. There is a Russian Chiropractic Association consisting of just two DCs with one of them practicing in the USA. In 2004 a group of American DCs began visiting Russia and setting an agenda to help establish chiropractic clinics and schools.

The Russian CSG consists of DCs and non-DCs of which many are Russian citizens or married to one; the leader is Dr. Sherry Durrett of Woodlands, Texas. There are another 15 or so participating members and half of them have actually been to Russia in 2004. A small contingency recently went to Moscow and St. Petersburg to support Dr. Register's meetings with the Minister of Social Development to support a Palmer Clinic Abroad program and to meet with the Minister of Health and build seek official recognition of the chiropractic profession.

If anyone is interested in joining or inquiring about the Indian and Russian support groups they can contact the Executive Director of the Chiropractic Diplomatic Corps directly by email at [tetrault@chiropracticdiplomatic.com](mailto:tetrault@chiropracticdiplomatic.com).

the CDC started engaging the tribal clinic leaders directly. There are no provisions that include DC care but neither are there provisions excluding it either. It is basically up to each site to decide to add a DC.

### *OUR SENIORS:*

Americans have been criticized by other cultures for their failure to adequately care for their elderly and the chiropractic profession can carry its own share of the blame. Why are there only rare occasions where a DC will make regular weekly rounds to nursing homes, convalescent homes, assisted living and long term care facilities?

The CDC is placing senior care for the frail and elderly on our 2005 priority list. In October 2004, Dr. Tetrault spoke at the national conference of P.A.C.E. facilities. These are senior day care facilities that function like an HMO in providing all the member healthcare services, but have yet to begin the inclusion of chiropractic services. We have the information to help DCs throughout America connect with these organizations in their states and close the gap of medical ignorance about the value of having chiropractors in these programs and within other senior care facilities.

### *MIGRANT WORKERS:*

Migrant workers and Labor Camps are not as fortunate as the other groups discussed earlier in this article. The need for chiropractic care tends to go up with lower economic groups since they tend to do more back-breaking work but funds are not as available.

DCs can volunteer to help these sweet, humble and hard working people by contacting local Catholic churches and state governments on information of where to find migrant worker communities and labor camps. Get a few DCs together and each donates a day or a couple half-days per month in these rural communities. Working through culturally savvy individuals will open doors to reassure these often undocumented people that you will not be bring the border patrol.

We would love to hear about any program DCs are actively doing for these marginalized populations. Let's share our information and contacts and collectively begin to impact the lives of these individuals in our communities. Chiropractic should be for everyone and in wealthy countries there should be no barriers for even the lost marginalized to access chiropractic care.

More information on our website at: [C.A.M.P.](http://C.A.M.P.)

#### **NEWSLETTER POLICY:**

This newsletter is intended to inform and encourage the International growth of Chiropractic. If you know someone who may be interested in receiving this newsletter, please have them go to [www.ChiropracticDiplomatic.com/register](http://www.ChiropracticDiplomatic.com/register) and complete the Foreign Service Registry form, their address will then be added to future mailings. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, simply notify us by replying to the delivery email and your email address will be removed from the list.