



Journal of Chiropractic Humanities

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The *Journal of Chiropractic Humanities* is a peer-reviewed journal devoted to providing a forum for the chiropractic profession to disseminate information dedicated to chiropractic humanities. The primary purpose of this journal is to foster scholarly debate and interaction within the chiropractic profession regarding the humanities, which includes; history, philosophy, linguistics, literature, jurisprudence, ethics, theory, sociology, comparative religions, and aspects of social sciences that address historical or philosophical approaches. The journal's objective is to fulfill this purpose through careful editorial review and publication of expert work, by creating legitimate dialogue in a field where a diversity of opinion exists, and by providing a professional forum for interaction of these views.

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The Mechanistic/Vitalistic Dualism of Chiropractic and General Systems Theory: Daniel D. Palmer and Ludwig von Bertalanffy

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Objective: The purpose of this paper is to investigate similarities and differences between the mechanistic/vitalistic dualism of chiropractic and general systems theory.

Discussion: Early chiropractic philosophy is compared with the progression of general systems theory from its roots in vitalistic thinking to quantum theory. The writings of D.D. Palmer predate those of Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1901-1972), the acknowledged founder of general systems theory. The mechanistic/vitalistic dualism of chiropractic is explored against theories.

Conclusion: Early and contemporary general systems theories parallel some of the writings of chiropractic authors and share some common vitalistic ground.

When Demand Exceeds Supply: Allocating Chiropractic Services at VA Medical Facilities

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Andrew S. Dunn, DC, MEd, MS and Steven R. Passmore DC, MS

Objective: With limited Veterans Affairs (VA) doctors of chiropractic (DCs) in geographically disparate VA medical facilities of varying capacities, the potential of demand for care exceeding supply can be realized. The purpose of this paper is two-fold. First the authors propose a model for VA chiropractic clinic operation to maximize appropriate access to care and utility of services provided. Second the authors suggest an ethical basis for making potentially difficult administrative decisions regarding the distribution of chiropractic services within VA medical facilities.

Discussion: The authors suggest practices to maximize clinic efficiency and effectiveness under conditions of demand for chiropractic services in excess of available supply. In terms of access, the service agreement and gatekeeper instructions for ordering a consultation should help shape demand and avoid inappropriate consultation requests. Consultation requests should also be screened by VA DCs. Scheduling should work to minimize no-shows through a patient reminder system. With regard to utilization, the delivery of chiropractic services should be made more efficient through the use of templates within the electronic medical record. Lastly, evidence-based outcome measures should be

applied to objectify clinical progress and help to identify clinical end points in care. Utilitarian theory serves as a possible ethical framework to guide VA DCs in maximizing the benefits of chiropractic care to our veteran patient population

Conclusions: VA doctors of chiropractic must balance the demand for patient care with the limited availability of resources. Suggested practices may enhance appropriate access to and efficient utilization of chiropractic care within the VHA.

Chiropractic Research in the Postmodern World: A Discussion of the Need to Use a Greater Variety of Research Methods 28

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Objective: This paper aims to provide a discussion of postmodern research ideas that could be implemented in the chiropractic profession.

Discussion: Many studies on chiropractic care are really more evaluations of one or two modalities alone (such as spinal manipulative therapy / chiropractic adjustments) and do not consider the entire chiropractic clinical encounter. The results of chiropractic care in randomized controlled trials for example have not necessarily shown the results that one might anticipate and the evidence is conflicting. Postmodern research encourages looking at problems from multiple perspectives and requires consideration of local context first and foremost. Qualitative and practice-based / action research methods are postmodern techniques that have been employed sparingly in chiropractic research. These methods could be of benefit as they could reduce the gap between practice and research and provide a more patient-centered means of studying the profession. Several chiropractic researchers have indicated the need to use such techniques to improve the profession and our understanding of it.

Conclusion: Implementing research methods that have postmodern perspective could be beneficial for the profession. This is not to say that randomized controlled trials should be abandoned, they are still an extremely necessary part of the health care research landscape, but tempering them with some studies that employ unique postmodern methodologies could be useful in helping expand our understanding of the profession, particularly at a local and clinical level.

The Four Principles of Biomedical Ethics: A Foundation for Current Bioethical Debate 34

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Objective: To provide an overview of the four principles originally developed by Thomas Beauchamp and James Childress are now used in modern bioethical decision-making and debate and to describe several challenges to their premier status in bioethics.

Discussion: The four principles that form the core of modern bioethics discussion include autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice. The originators of these principles claim that none is more important than another, yet challenges have been laid against these principles on that basis as well as on other areas of disagreement. This paper looks at the nature of the most significant of those challenges.

Conclusion: The four principles have withstood challenge now for nearly 30 years and still form the basis for most decision making in both the research setting and in clinical practice within the

chiropractic profession. However, professional understanding of the principles is not known and may provide a fertile area for further investigation.

Philosophy of Chiropractic: Its Origin and Its Future

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Gerard Clum, DC

This paper, addressed to the World Federation of Chiropractic 9th Biennial Congress 2007 meeting, held in Vilamoura, Portugal, briefly overviews the history of philosophical underpinnings of the chiropractic profession. This paper further identifies future areas of thought and inquiry for the profession.