

Saturday, 12 December 2020

Via Zoom

MINUTES AND 12th ANNUAL FORUM PROCEEDINGS**REGULATORY MEMBERS**

New Zealand Chiropractic Board	Kristin Grace, Past Chair Glenys Sharman, Registrar/General Manager - Delegate Tim Cooper, Chair
General Chiropractic Council	Penny Bance, Director of Development - Delegate
Federation of Canadian Chiropractic	Lisa Richard, Past President - Delegate
Chiropractic Board of Australia	Wayne Minter, Chair - Delegate Michael Badham, Board Member

PARTNER MEMBERS*

Councils on Chiropractic Education International	Jean Moss, President Cynthia Petersen, Treasurer/Secretary
Association of Chiropractic, Malaysia	Wong Yi Kai, President
Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board	Gemma Beierback, Chief Executive Officer

* *Chiropractic Association of South Africa – by way of written report from Bridget Bromfield, Secretary-General*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

McTimoney College of Chiropractic	Christina Cunliffe, Principal
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STAFF

ICRS	Donna M Cohen, Executive Director
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NON-MEMBERS

World Congress of Chiropractic Students	Jordanne Buote, President
Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards	Karlos Boghosian, President Carol Winkler, Vice President Jon Schwartzbauer, Executive Director
The Chiropractic Association (Singapore)	Valerie Teo, President
Independent	Rand Baird
Chiropractors Association of Zimbabwe	Evalie Heath
German Chiropractors' Association	Katharina Karn, Vice Chair

1. Call to order, roll call, and declaration of quorum – *Dr Lisa Richard, Chair*

As chair, Dr Richard called the 3rd Annual General Meeting to order at 3:10 EST, welcoming members and guests. Donna Cohen served as Recording Secretary, and ensured that participants were recognized and listed.

Dr Richard explained that, as a nonprofit international organization registered in Nova Scotia, Canada, the ICRS is governed by its Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, the legal requirements of Canada's Not-for-profit Corporations Act and regulations, and the current version of Robert's Rules of Order. She extended appreciation to the Federation of Canadian Chiropractic for hosting the ICRS' registered address.

The delegates of the Regulatory members were confirmed, with the New Zealand Chiropractic Board bidding farewell to longtime chair Dr Kristin Grace. Dr Grace announced that Glenys Sharman, the NZCB registrar, will now serve as their delegate. The other delegates were verified as Dr Wayne Minter (CBA), Penny Bance (GCC), and Dr Lisa Richard (FCC).

With the delegates of the four Regulatory Members present and entitled to vote, the Chair declared a quorum present. She invited other members and guests to comment as well, keeping in mind the time constraints of the meeting.

1. Announcements / Recording the Meeting

The attendees agreed by consensus that written minutes of the meeting will suffice.

2. Approval of Agenda

M/S Minter / Bance **To approve the Agenda as presented.** *Approved, no objection*

3. Financial Report

As Secretary/Treasurer, Mrs Penny Bance referred to the Annual Report, pp. 4 – 5, with the Fiscal Year 2019 actual report and projections for Fiscal Year 2020. She explained that she had reviewed the figures in detail and found them to accurately represent the finances. There were no questions about the financial reports.

She explained that the Board had considered the reduction in expenses due to the COVID-19 virus including cancelled travel, and by consensus had determined that the dues for 2020 and 2021 will be combined, in essence offering two years for the price of one. Any 2020 dues will therefore cover 2021, and any dues paid in 2021 will apply to both years.

Because there are so few financial transactions at this time, it is recommended to approve the financial reports rather than appointing a public accountant.

M/S Bance / Richard **For ICRS Fiscal Year 2019, because of the limited funds and transactions, the membership agrees to accept the financial data in the reports as presented in lieu of appointing a public accountant.** *Approved unanimously*

4. Next Forum and Annual General Meeting

The chair explained that ICRS usually meets in conjunction with the WFC Congress to enable more international participation. Because of the virus, WFC has cancelled its 2020, 2021 and 2022 in-person meetings in favor of meeting virtually. The 2023 meeting is planned for Australia's Gold Coast, and ICRS has been invited to join them.

The next (2021) ICRS AGM: **April 2021**, via Zoom, with exact date to be announced. It was agreed that the stakeholders, including those participating in this call, will be polled for preferred dates.

5. Elections

The Board extended its gratitude to Dr Kristin Grace for her service as ICRS Vice Chair, and with regrets, received her intention not to seek that office again. Dr Richard announced her desire to run for the office of ICRS Vice Chair. As current Chair, she announced that the following slate has agreed to serve if elected:

Chair – Dr Wayne Minter

Vice Chair – Dr Lisa Richard

Secretary-Treasurer – Mrs Penny Bance

M/S Richard / Sharman To adopt the slate of nominees by acclamation. *Approved unanimously*

Dr Richard was thanked for many years of leadership in the ICRS, noting her involvement dating back to the first meeting in Montréal in 2009. Dr Minter expressed his personal gratitude to Dr Richard for agreeing to continue serving as an officer to lend her experience and insights.

Dr Minter conveyed his appreciation to the membership for the opportunity to serve as Chair, and thanked those who have brought the organization to this point, including Drs Richard and Grace, and Mrs Penny Bance who continues as Secretary/Treasurer. He recognized volunteer executive director, Donna Cohen, the Partner and Associate Members, and the many stakeholders who have supported the mission of the ICRS.

The Chair congratulated those who were elected, and noted that the officers would assume their duties at the close of this meeting.

6. New Business

There was no new business to bring before the Annual General Meeting.

7. Adjournment

M/S Minter/Sharman To adjourn the ICRS Annual Business Meeting. *Approved, no objection*

The Chair declared the 2020 AGM of the ICRS adjourned until the 2021 AGM, to be held by Zoom at a date found to be acceptable by poll.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna (Liewer) Cohen, Executive Director

Recording Secretary

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Open Forum Session with Partner and Associate members, guests: What is your news? How is your organization handling the challenges posed by COVID-19? How can ICRS help?

New Zealand Chiropractic Board – Ms Sharman provided some background on the structure of the NZCB. She outlined the government’s response to COVID-19, and how it affected both the work of the board and individual practice. The board extended renewal times and the CPD renewal. She noted that the board was able to meet in person for the first time in late November.

General Chiropractic Council – Mrs Bance noted that the UK went into full lockdown the third week in March. She described how technology has enabled the GCC employees to continue working from their respective homes, and that the process has refocused the team on reducing paper in favor of electronic means. She reported that the regular business is resuming, including catching up on fitness to practice hearings, and continuing monthly newsletters and guidance to practitioners. She commended the educators, including the new London program, for pivoting to provide instruction using remote methods. The GCC has also adapted to monitoring the educational programs remotely. She noted that some of the adaptations have actually presented improvements in processes and thus will be continued.

Chiropractic Board of Australia – Dr Minter reported that Australian deaths have been relatively limited due to swift lockdown action. Impact on practice has been varied, but in general the provision of services has been relatively uninterrupted. The work of the CBA has carried on via Zoom and other electronic platforms, with limited delays. Proactive audits continue of websites for advertising compliance, and those found to be out of compliance are initially offered encouragement to review and correct their issues. With respect to spinal manipulation of children under 12, robust efforts have been undertaken to secure the input of multiple experts across several professions to develop some joint responses which will become publicly available. As chair of CBA, Dr Minter also met with lobbyists including Friends of Science in Medicine, which promotes evidence-based care through strong connections with media and government. He predicts that such groups will be springing up internationally if they haven’t yet, and advises thoughtful and clear management of board responses.

Federation of Canadian Chiropractic – Dr Richard reminded people that what happens in one jurisdiction will likely appear in others, and that educators, examiners, and regulators need to work together. She reported that the silver lining of COVID-19 has necessitated more meetings, which are more frequently focused on sharing best practices in a multitude of areas. The issue of whether chiropractors can provide swab tests for the virus has differed among provinces. Chiropractors in one or more provinces may be able to be hired to provide vaccinations (not in their offices). All CE (CPD) has become “virtual” – now required where previously some provincial regulations have not made allowances for this. FCC now has every province as a member, and the virus has actually brought people together. She reported that new leaders have been elected.

Dr Badham (Australia) asked for a brief report from all the regulated jurisdictions about the status of online learning for CPD. Without exception, jurisdictions reported it is allowed, but also noted that the virus is causing a re-evaluation of how many hours and which topics should be considered as viable for online delivery.

Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board – Ms Beierback mentioned that CCEB was forced to cancel the May exam due to COVID-19, but that this was able to be addressed in future planning as the October exams came back on line. She contacted all the provinces and got varied responses about where high stakes testing falls into provincial prioritization categories. In one case, this has necessitated relocating the written exam. The CCEB has added remote proctoring as a new tool to ensure security. The OSCE exam did receive an exemption from the Health Ministry to provide the test, and reported no subsequent infections. Extensive efforts were devoted to ensuring a safe environment for the exam.

Councils on Chiropractic Education, International – Dr Moss reported she will be completing her term in a few days and asked Cindy Petersen to handle the official report. She extended her appreciation to the ICRS leadership for ongoing efforts to support public protection. Dr Petersen noted that the CCEI membership presently includes three accrediting bodies (Canada, Australasia, and Europe). An October remote planning session went well, and the CCEI strategic plan will be posted shortly. She described how the *International Framework* applies to the process of accreditation, noting it is a living document and is being evaluated against the members' agencies on a continuing basis. She commended the accreditation research coming out of Australia from Stanley Innes. The CCEI's virtual Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 16 December 2020, with observers to include the US CCE, the Latin American accreditors, and the WCCS students. Among other roles, CCEI assists in the development and recognition of new accrediting bodies in geographic regions where such agencies are not currently recognized. It also routinely handles queries from those wanting to relocate internationally. Finally, she noted changes taking place in CCEI leadership.

Association of Chiropractic, Malaysia – Dr Wong explained that the nation is in the first phase of enacting chiropractic regulation, a process that continues to be delayed whenever the key persons in government change. The virus has forced these efforts to be postponed at this time. Also, Malaysian chiropractors were initially forced to suspend practice due to COVID-19. However, infections and deaths have been relatively low.

McTimoney College of Chiropractic – Prof Cunliffe expressed appreciation to the UK regulators for their support and practicality regarding the need to make significant changes in the ways in which chiropractic education is delivered. Of particular interest has been how to ensure safety and hygiene in the clinics by addressing personal protective equipment, enhanced spacing, and controlling the team structures. She remarked that the safety of students has been the College's first priority, followed by how to keep them on track with the skills and knowledge required for graduation. Within two weeks of the outbreak, McTimoney had converted entirely to online means but was able to reopen clinics in June under strict hygiene constraints. The College has been regularly assessing student response to the greater shift to online learning and the survey results have been overwhelmingly positive, with students feeling supported through the process.

Dr Minter added that the CBA has been impressed by how nimble the educational programs have been in modifying the learning platforms. Serious concerns have been expressed for first year students who may not have fully bonded to the programs. Prof Cunliffe explained that among other adaptations, she writes weekly communiques, adding this extra element in online encouragement and information. She has found that first year students in particular have embraced the communications enthusiastically, and seem not to be negatively impacted by the reduction of in-person training.

Chiropractic Association of South Africa – on behalf of Dr Bridget Bromfield, Secretary-General of CASA, Ms Cohen presented her report. Dr Bromfield explained that chiropractors had fared fairly well even during the five-week period of hard lockdown. The Association was pleased to develop "Guidelines for Good Practice Hygiene" that were adopted by the regulatory agency as a "Board notice." Further, telehealth had previously been determined to be unprofessional conduct. However, the pandemic facilitated a fresh review of earlier decisions. The Association submitted a request for reconsideration and suggested guidelines, noting global trends to use digital media. They pointed out the benefits of protecting the public as well as healthcare providers. The request was positively received, and resulted in the regulatory body publishing an "Extraordinary AHPCA Policy Decision" for the period of the South African State of Disaster. Happily, chiropractic was the first profession to have telehealth legally regulated, even before medical doctors. Ms Cohen pointed out that this is an example of how associations can support regulation, and that by doing the hard work of developing initial draft guidelines can move ideas forward more quickly.

Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards – Dr Boghosian expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the ICRS meeting and noted his desire that the FCLB and ICRS collaborate in the future. He described the FCLB's successful efforts in March to work on a national scale to affirm that chiropractors are "essential providers" as the COVID-19 virus forced a confusing set of closures.

He noted that chiropractors have also been able to reduce some of the burdens on emergency rooms by treating qualifying patients directly. He listed some of the issues US boards have been facing, such as extending renewal deadlines, reduction of fees, and online CE. He noted the increasing use by boards of the FCLB PACE program to credential CE programs and the Certified Chiropractic Clinical Assistants program. He introduced FCLB Vice President Carol Winkler and Executive Director Jon Schwartzbauer. Dr Winkler echoed the silver linings of the virus challenge in bringing people together.

World Congress of Chiropractic Students – Dr Buote described the purpose of the 30+ chapter WCCS to develop leadership skills and a deeper understanding of the profession as it pertains to the broader healthcare community. The need to cancel in-person meetings has had a financial impact. Students have embraced virtual meeting platforms perhaps more easily than other groups. However, she cautioned that too many meetings like this this can result in “Zoom Fatigue,” particularly when education is also being delivered almost solely by remote means. An online discussion series has been launched.

The Chiropractic Association (Singapore) – Dr Teo reported that Singapore chiropractors are self-regulating. During the initial lockdown, all chiropractic clinics were closed. The association continues to work with the Ministry of Health as they seek legislation to regulate the profession. The silver lining of COVID-19 has been the opportunity the virus provided to have more in-depth conversations with government officials and educate them about chiropractic. The association works to share information with non-members as well as members in an effort to unify and strengthen the profession.

Rand Baird – thanked everyone for the opportunity to sit in on the conversation as an observer, noting his longstanding involvement in international chiropractic.

Zimbabwe - Dr Heath said she has finished her term on the Council, but continues to maintain an interest in international issues. In her area of Zimbabwe, she was able to guide the determination that chiropractors are essential workers and therefore should continue working.

Dr Boghosian asked Dr Minter for more information about the chiropractic care of children. Dr Minter described the various steps that government agencies throughout Australia have gone through to try to develop clear guidance. As more reports are finalized and made public, they will be made available to the ICRS. The reports have reiterated there are no safety issues relating to manipulation of children under 12 that have been identified from the review.

Dr Wong announced that the ACM founder and president sadly passed away in Australia. Dr Richard extended sympathies on behalf of the ICRS.

Dr Tim Cooper, new chair of the New Zealand board, was also welcomed officially to the ICRS group.

Dr Richard thanked everyone for participating, and explained “Conversations with Regulators” – Mini Forums that are planned via Zoom for this next year. She invited attendees to submit topics they believe to be of particular interest. In closing, she noted that regulation does not happen “in silos” – and it is the network of ethical organizations and people that strengthens the profession and protects the public.

Attached: Third Annual Meeting Report – FY 2019-2020 YTD

HIGHLIGHTS: “Look for the silver linings!”

- CE / CPD by remote means will likely be reviewed in most jurisdictions for appropriate topics and number of hours
- From the virus: Understanding “essential services” as well as the meaning of government terminology for levels will continue to be a challenge
- Schedule 2021 Annual General Meeting via Zoom
- Solicit topics for ICRS Mini Forums – “Conversations with Regulators”