

ICRS forum focuses on measuring effectiveness of regulation

The International Chiropractic Regulatory Forum (ICRS) recently held another online forum, moderated by Chair, Dr Wayne Minter.

Guest presenters were Mr Nick Jones, Chief Executive and Registrar of the United Kingdom's General Chiropractic Council, and Dr Philippe Larivière, Chair of the Federation of Canadian Chiropractic.

While acknowledging the importance of measuring benchmarks such as the speed of processing applications for licensure or registration, frequency of reporting violations, inclusion of stakeholders, financial management, and regulatory responsiveness to social justice concerns, the presenters concluded that the issue of measuring effectiveness is far more complex.

Speakers agreed that transparency and fairness are paramount characteristics of effective regulatory authorities. The challenges of being a



Wayne Minter, Chair, ICRS



solid, consistent agency and one that is nimble and responsive to unplanned events such as the pandemic or media reports regarding registrants were acknowledged.

Mr Jones emphasized the importance of understanding the accountability necessary both up and down the chain of authority.

Dr Larivière stressed that a single analysis of a system component is never sufficient. Rather, the tools themselves must be continually reviewed and refined, while still maintaining enough core consistency to discern trends over time.

Speakers noted that requirements must also continually adapt in light of graduates who are far more mobile than registrants years ago. This international portability has resulted in a need for greater flexibility in the licensure / registration process for treating athletes, teaching, helping during disasters, or more permanent relocation when new practice opportunities arise.

Both noted that regulators have to be both tough and steady about fair and consistent enforcement while also being flexible and compassionate. Additionally, effective regulation requires the ability to anticipate future needs and modify systems now to meet demands as yet undefined.

The team concurred that there are no simple metrics that define effective chiropractic regulation. Rather, it is an ever-evolving process. Willingness to assess and continually reassess the many gears in the regulatory machine are the best predictors of regulatory effectiveness.

Zoom-based ICRS Forums are open to all at no charge. To join the mailing list or for more information about international regulation, please visit www.chioregulation.org.