

differences, accept that insurance prefers medical doctors, and carve out a niche that allows us to be different?" — *Dr. Eileen Machida, Oregon*

"In a time where everyone wants to become a medical professional, we as chiropractors have steered far away from the original concept of what chiropractic was meant to be. As a recent grad, many of my fellow classmates wanted to be able to prescribe drugs, and we were taught to only refer patients for surgery when they presented with disc herniations, for example. If they want to prescribe drugs or just refer patients to surgery, then they might as well just go to medical school.

"We as chiropractors have to focus on our philosophy and treat what chiropractic was originally meant to treat: the spine. Yeah, I know sometimes patients come with shoulder pain or wrist pain, and we might treat that also; but as long as we focus on the spine and treat the subluxations, we treat the cause of the problem. It is at this point that the apple does not fall far from the tree." — *Dr. Carlos Castro, California*

"This profession eats its young rather than nurturing them. Too few DCs are members of state and national associations. And then there's the issue of prescribing drugs. Ugh! Go to med school if you want to prescribe drugs!" — *Dr. Nancy Davis, Texas*

"Simply put: [The biggest issue is] the AMA's refusal to recognize chiropractic as not only a valid, but superior form of treatment than allopathic medicine - probably 98 percent of the time." — *Dr. Frances Rinaldo, California*

"Chiropractic is accelerating in its pace of being irrelevant due to lack of adequate scope. We have allowed other professions to expand their scope while we have been narrowed to a 'musculoskeletal' practice, and then only through manipulation. We fail to deliver adequate coverage through Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance for anything outside of a manipulation to the spine. Chiropractic has never been more irrelevant than today, and without a broader appeal and coverage for more services, chiropractic will continue its slide into oblivion." — *Dr. LaRoy Reek, Wisconsin*

"The profession **needs to tier** - several schools will soon offer the DCM degree and advance, and the rest of the minority profession will stay as is. That's good, since there is and never has been any unity in the profession. The *Wilk* case is a joke because the ACA did not sue for money and people do not even know about it - exactly what the AMA wanted!" — *Dr. Richard Muccillo, California*

In a sense, each chiropractic practice is a reflection of the profession; there's a reason why you're doing well - or not so well - that's tied to chiropractic on a larger scale. So, what's the biggest hurdle to advancement in *your* practice? Or what's your formula for success - what's working and could help your fellow DCs achieve more, reach more patients, expand their practices, and stave off personal and professional stagnation? Email editorial@mpamedia.com with your thoughts on this important issue.

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