



# newsletter

Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East Chiropractic Federation



## President's message

Dear Friends and colleagues,

We have come to the successful conclusion of our 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a Regional Body, **The East Mediterranean & Middle East Chiropractic Federation (EMMECF)**.

My warm congratulations to all of you for showing such commitment and unity to move the profession forward under very difficult social, political and economic conditions in our region. Let's all work united for a better 2013 for our EMMECF!



Dr. Efstathios (Stathis) Papadopoulos,  
DC, FFEAC, FICC  
President EMMECF

I am very proud of the fact that our 2<sup>nd</sup> EMMECF Joint conference with the Near East Spine Society, in Beirut-Lebanon in June 2012 was very successful and has opened the door to closer co-operation with the medical community as well as other Health groups. Our thanks must also go to WFC and in particular to David Chapman-Smith for his generous help and support for the meeting and to our hosts Dr Ayman Kanj and The Lebanese Chiropractic Association.

For 2013 our top priority must be a strategic plan to establish at least one Chiropractic University Based Program (in any country) in our region in order to help us consolidate and develop the profession. I can assure you that both the EMMECF and WFC will fully support any credible Educational Initiative.

I urge all of you to go to our website [www.emmechirofed.org](http://www.emmechirofed.org) and make sure that your country details are correct and for those that have not yet provided a list of your Executive council and members contact details please urgently communicate with Dr. Phylactis Ierides ([ierides@cablenet.com.cy](mailto:ierides@cablenet.com.cy)) to add your missing information to the website. We note an increased use of our website by patients to contact chiropractors in different countries. A special section has now been created in the website for you to advertise for Employment offers, new associates or if you have something to sell. Make good use of it!

Once again, I want to remind you that Dr. Alana Callender, the Chiropractic Historian and I are putting together an article on the history of the profession in our region. At this stage, I must thank all those who have responded already and remind the rest "to put pen to paper" as soon as possible to make sure that your national chiropractic history is also included. Find attached a PDF file with the questions. Kindly also supply any relevant pictures that will add value to the article. Please act now! Time is running out.

Having just returned from a very successful WFC congress and assembly, I am happy to report to you that an African Chiropractic Federation has been formed and also a magnificent publication of the 25 year history of WFC has been presented. I urge all of you to order a copy from the WFC website to see what global unity can do for the profession in such short time. Finally, I want to again bring to your attention that due to security and visa problems for Bahrain, our 3<sup>rd</sup> EMME Congress for 2013 has been shifted to Dubai on October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Also, the SPINE conference will again be held in Beirut on June 19-22, 2013.



## In this issue

- Third EMMECF Congress to be held in Dubai in October 2013!
- Updates from our member countries
- Iran health ministries agrees to proposal
- Society for progress and innovation in the Near East (S.P.I.N.E.) 2013 Annual Meeting in Lebanon in June



## CYPRUS CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SEMINAR

Delegates at our annual Seminar that took place in Lemesos, Cyprus on the 19th & 20th of January 2013 and was lead by Dr. Mark Charrette.

## Triumphs, Trials and Tribulations of Member Countries



### BAHRAIN

After 2+ years of working with the MOH and the NHRA in Bahrain we have almost got things sorted! I look forward to giving more news in the next newsletter but until then I am still waiting for final decisions at the top. In the meantime, I have been focusing on getting married and guiding my daughters through pre-teen angst!



On behalf of the EMMECF executives we would like to extend our congratulations to Dr. Amy Bowzaylo on her marriage. Who's next?!



### CYPRUS

The Cyprus Chiropractic Association has been notified by the Ministry of Health that the Council of Ministers have appointed for a three year term (Dec. 2012 to Dec. 2015) the three nominated Chiropractors to the Chiropractic Council they are : **Dr Dinos Ramon, Dr. Phylactis Ierides and Dr George Oxinos.** We are now waiting for the nomination of the other two appointments from the Civil service to complete the five member board.

Another important event was our annual Seminar of the Cyprus Chiropractic Association that was held in Lemesos on the 19th & 20th of January lead by Mark Charrette. He is an experienced guest speaker on extremity adjusting, biomechanics, and spinal adjusting techniques. His lively seminars emphasize a practical, hands-on approach. It was an amazing seminar that we highly recommend.



Dr Stathis Papadopoulos CyCA President handing a gift to Dr. Mark Charette thanking him for his precious input at our annual Seminar.



## EGYPT

As per recommendation of WFC and EMMECF to exchange and attend other professions gatherings, in order to introduce Chiropractic in our region, during last SPINE meeting in Beirut we met pioneer Egyptian orthopedics and neurosurgeons. The Egyptian chiropractic society visited the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual international conference of the Egyptian Orthopedic Association held last December.

There was many interesting papers some about spine disorders. The general feeling is that we need more chiropractic assemblies in Egypt as there are many problems we can help with, like Piriformis syndrome.

*Interesting side story: Biofreeze finally introduced officially in Egypt through Evapharm!*



## IRAN

Chiropractors in Iran continue to enjoy the scope of practice which enables them to practice like any other medical practitioner.

The latest achievement which adds to this is as the result of Dr. Sabbagh's (IRCA's president) efforts and hard work in negotiating and convincing the ministry of health to grant doctors of chiropractic 5-year licenses instead of previously granted 2-year license. The importance of this change is huge since all medical doctors in Iran are granted 5-year licenses and this new change in law closes the last gap between the practice of medicine and chiropractic in Iran.

Iranian Chiropractic Association (IRCA) will hold its official election in the month of February 2013. This election will be monitored by the ministry of health as well as the Iranian Medical Council. In this election the board of directors and the inspector will be elected by the IRCA members. Of course from the 5 person elected to the board of directors the president, the vice president and the treasurer will be elected by the board itself. Continuing education is mandatory for chiropractors practicing in Iran. A DC

practicing here must accumulate at least 25 CE credits per year in order to be able to renew his/her license. IRCA has proposed to the health ministry that at least 60% of the required CE credits be chiropractic related (from seminars and congresses organized by the IRCA) and the other 40% can be gained from other medical specialties' seminars and congresses. The health ministry has initially agreed to this proposal, but they have not made it into law as of yet.

DCs can attend chiropractic as well as medical congresses and seminars to gain CE credits. The latest of such congresses was the annual congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Congress (last month in Tehran) that had 14 CE credits for DCs who attended the 3 day congress. Dr. Mohsen Khamesipour was one of the invited speakers at that congress and presented the research he conducted here in Iran. In that research study Dr. Khamesipour studied and reported "The Effectiveness of Chiropractic Manipulative Therapy on Urinary Incontinence in my patients who had Low Back Pain with Radiculopathy." This research was done in collaboration with Dr. Michael Hall, a chiropractic neurology professor at the Parker university in Dallas, Texas.

## CHIROPRACTIC PROGRESS

### ChiroTouch Raises the Bar with an Impressive 2013 Pledge to the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress

During this year's Parker Seminars in Las Vegas, Nev., ChiroTouch, a leading developer of chiropractic practice management software, presented the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress (F4CP), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of chiropractic care, with a check in the amount of \$114,000. In addition to the generous contribution, ChiroTouch has also signed up 300 new F4CP members.

"We are eager to support the initiatives of the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress towards pushing positive messages into the market-

place about the tremendous benefits of chiropractic care," shares Robert Moberg, president, ChiroTouch. "ChiroTouch is deeply entrenched within this profession and we greatly respect our opportunities to provide support with more than just great software."

ChiroTouch strives to deliver doctors with software management solutions that optimize practice operations and patient outcomes.

Kent S. Greenawalt, chairman, F4CP, appreciates and applauds the innovative fundraising approach taken by ChiroTouch. He shares: "The notable support of ChiroTouch demonstrates the loyalty of our supporters and the strength of our message. Through this positive encouragement and commitment, the F4CP will reach higher levels of success and exposure – resulting in widespread understanding of chiropractic care."

### About the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress :

A not-for-profit organization, the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress aims to inform and educate the general public about the many benefits associated with chiropractic care. To learn more about the Foundation, visit [www.yes2chiropractic.com](http://www.yes2chiropractic.com)



## OMAN

This past year has seen a slow but steady growth of the chiropractic profession in Oman!

There has been the recent arrival of a second chiropractor, Dr David Mason.



The most encouraging aspect is the fact that more Omanis are using chiropractic services. This, most notably, has come about because of

word-of-mouth. There has been increasing referrals from other health professionals. But there is much to be done on the education of the public and professionals alike. Saying that, Oman is a friendly and stable country and a pleasant place in which to live and work.

Anyone wishing more information can contact me, Dr Blair Christink, at this number (+968) 9253 7862.



## LIBYA

Despite instability and safety issues, Dr. Gamal is back practising! Further news in the next issue.



Dr. Amy Bowzaylo, from our Bahrain chapter, penned an article that was published in the latest [Issue #2, 2013] **Hospital Build & Infrastructure Magazine**.

It is titled *Creating Rehabilitation Centres with the whole person in mind: a complex issue*.

It will surely interest you all. You can read the article by accessing this website:

[www.lifesciencesmagazines.com](http://www.lifesciencesmagazines.com).

You simply have to subscribe to the *Hospital Build Magazine* for free and then you can view the article.

If your work has been published recently, or not so recently, please proudly share with us!



Dr Abdullah Al Harbi met with the administration at the Saudi Healthcare Specialties Commission in February.

## Chiropractic continues to gain status

April 25, 2013 - Life Chiropractic College West welcomes this week's Wall Street Journal article on "The Best and Worst Jobs of 2013." The Journal published the article from CareerCast.com which ranked 200 jobs from best to worst based on five criteria: **physical demands, work environment, income, stress, and hiring outlook**.

Chiropractic was ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> best occupation in 2013, up from number 19 in 2012.

“**CHIROPRACTIC WAS RANKED AS THE 11<sup>TH</sup> BEST OCCUPATION IN 2013.**”

Life West President, Brian Kelly, DC, says: "To most chiropractors, this is not surprising. We know we have one of the best careers available by all benchmarks, including opportunities for financial success and the reward

of helping others in profound and important ways. It is exciting for people looking for a rewarding career to see our profession continue to come to light in the public eye as an excellent career."

The Wall Street Journal article echoes a 2012 Department of Labor report ([bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/chiropractors.htm](http://bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/chiropractors.htm)) that also supports the view that chiropractic is a rewarding career.

Kelly said, "This Wall Street Journal article builds on the 2012 US Department of Labor report, which stated the U.S. needs '28 percent more chiropractors by 2020.'"

"When we look at the current failing healthcare system, more and more people are seeking an approach to their family's health that is safe, is affordable and produces great results. Chiropractic meets all those criteria. It is also a drug-free approach to health and appeals to people looking for a career that helps people and changes lives."

Life Chiropractic College West, located in the San Francisco Bay Area, has seen a 20 percent increase in enrollment in the past 12 months.

Source: Life Chiropractic College West, [lifewest.edu](http://lifewest.edu)



## TURKEY

Our most important news would be the recovery of Dr. Aysegül Ozturk, She is lively and amazed that she has lived through the past 2 years with little recollection of it. In a tragic automobile accident she was in a coma for 6 months due to a severe head injury with hemiplegia of her right side of the body. She went through numerous surgeries and spent nearly a year in intensive care unit.

After an exhausting but rewarding rehabilitation program, she is back in control of her daily life. She is up and living. She is actually looking to start practicing again within this year. Currently she is only left with a right lateral peripheral vision problem which, doesn't serve her harm in any way. However she has consultations with specialists in such cases to treat the condition if it is treatable. With all of that said, welcome back my friend. Welcome back Aysegul!

“**WE TOOK MORE SERIOUS INITIATIVES WITH THE HEALTH MINISTRY IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHIROPRACTIC PROFESSION IN TURKEY.**”

As an association we took more serious initiatives and attacked the current health ministry administration in recognition of the chiropractic profession in Turkey. It seems to be paying off. We offered them many international documents proving our case why chiropractic needs to be recognized and regulated in Turkey. We were able to create a more open communication channel and now we seem to be moving along with the process.

Dr. Sedat Yıldız, M.D., a physiatrist of Süleyman Demirel University of Isparta has been key in

getting the university to be open to the idea of starting a chiropractic education program. He traveled to London with me to attend the European Chiropractic Union general council meeting as an observer. The professionalism of the general council and the organizational skills of the ECU impressed him so much that he is now motivated to work harder for chiropractic in Turkey. There will be a national symposium held at the Süleyman Demirel University on complementary medicine September of 2013. Medical doctors, professors and academic leaders in medicine of Turkey will be invited to this symposium. Dr. Mustafa H. Agaoglu will present chiropractic there. The official language of the symposium will be Turkish. Should it be a success then an international event is actually being considered for the upcoming years. Unfortunately we are still facing the problem of current medical act which, states only the medical doctor can diagnose and treat. This obviously will need to be rectified within the legalization process of chiropractic.

And the final news would be the selection of myself (Dr. Mustafa Hulusi Agaoglu) to the development of ParaBadminton in Europe Committee of the World Badminton Federation. ParaBadminton is seeking to become olympic sport by 2020.

I have currently stepped down from my position within the Turkish Physically Challenged Sports Federation.



Süleyman Demirel University of Isparta campus.

## Recruits!

There is an increasing interest in coming to the Middle East to practice and with this newsletter you will all find attached two CV's of highly qualified individuals who are looking to come to the region. Have a look and please contact them at your convenience.

## SYRIA



Dr Samar Shabib is safe and well and open for business in Damascus if any of your patients are travelling to Syria and need chiropractic care.

## PALESTINE



In Palestine there is still no law, but the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education approved the chiropractic degree and they called it "chiropractic Medicine" with a Bachelor degree, even though both Doctors (Dr. Mohsen Abukhdeir and Dr. Ali Abughazaleh) who submitted their applications to the Ministry are U.S.A graduates with Doctor of Chiropractic degree. After the approval from the Higher Education they asked both doctors to go to the Palestinian Medical Council and until now the status undefined. At the moment there are two Palestinian chiropractors



in the west bank and Jerusalem area. There are another two Palestinian chiropractors that live and practice in historical Palestine (1948). Dr. Mohsen AbuKhdeir in Shufat-Jerusalem 972542527892 or 970598077240



## UAE

Our association had it's AGM meeting in November we elected new board members as follow :

- Dr. Mohamad Raslan, President**
- Dr. Vanda Corbett, Vice-president**
- Dr. Niveen El-Saleh, Secretary**
- Dr. Pamela Leader, Treasurer**



Dr. Vanda Corbett

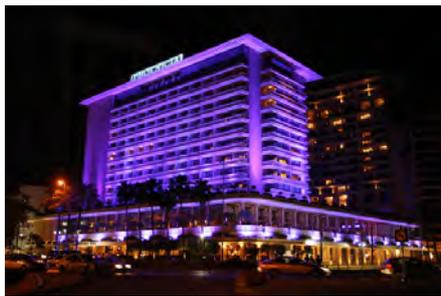
The Emirates Chiropractic Association is working with WFC and the EMMECF to start a chiropractic school in the Middle East we are trying to find the right university and to talk to the officials regarding this matter and we are hoping that by the end of this year we will have an answer.

**The Emirates Chiropractic Association will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> EMMECF in Dubai in October.** The speaker will be Dr. Mark Charrette to talk about upper and lower Extremity Adjustment. We might have another speaker but we are not sure yet.

We are hoping many chiropractors from the region will attend this event!



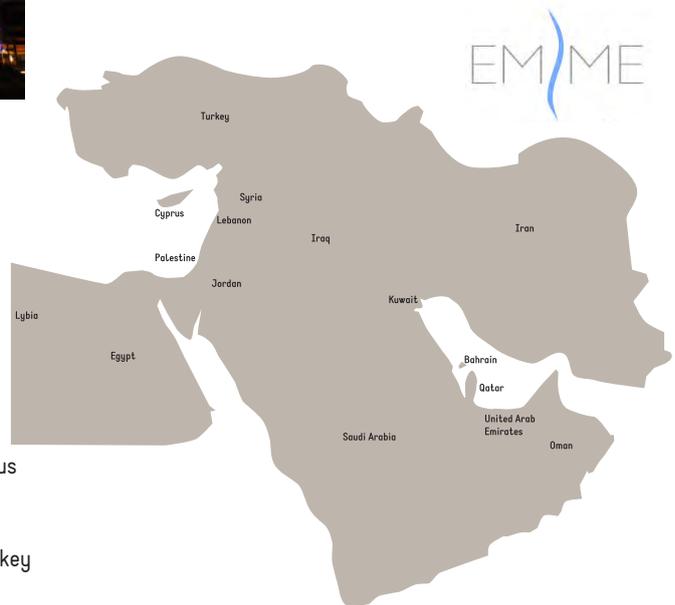
The 2013 Annual Conference for the Society for Progress & Innovation for the Near East (S.P.I.N.E.) in June!



The Phoenicia Intercontinental in Beirut

The 2013 Annual Conference for the Society for Progress & Innovation for the Near East (S.P.I.N.E.) and The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Current Concepts in Orthopedics (Sports Injury, Joint Reconstruction, and Trauma, Spine, and Pain & Rehabilitation Medicine) will take place in June from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Beirut, Lebanon at The Phoenicia Intercontinental.

This conference was a great success last year and opened a lot of doors for further collaboration with Chiropractors and orthopedic and neurosurgeons in the Middle East. Please attend if you can!



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If you would like to join or know of other Doctors practicing who should join our association please pass on our details



While no news is forthcoming from Lebanon at this time, we look forward to hearing from them in our next newsletter.



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