

World Spine Care

On June 8, 2013, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) unanimously voted to officially endorse the mission and goals of World Spine Care (WSC). The board recognized that the endorsement would contribute directly to fulfilling one of our key strategic objectives: *Ensuring chiropractors are recognized as leaders in NMSK health.*

WSC is a multinational not-for-profit organization that brings world-class medical physicians and specialists, surgeons, chiropractors, physiotherapists and scientists together to collaborate on spinal health. Seeing a profound gap in the treatment of musculoskeletal conditions in underserved areas of the world, Dr. Scott Haldeman - a leading figure in the assessment and treatment of spinal disorders - was inspired to found the WSC in 2008 with the vision to create universal care for those suffering from spinal disorders in developing countries. In June, Dr. Haldeman continued his work by travelling to the Dominican Republic to complete a feasibility study and had the opportunity to tour the Germosen and Moca hospitals.

The WSC philosophy is centred on a universal model of care for spinal disorders, designed for practical application by front-line healthcare workers in developing countries around the world. This has been effectively used at the flagship project in Botswana. Every WSC Centre will operate as a primary care clinic for individuals in need of help with a musculoskeletal issue and the clinics will be run by clinicians with special training in low-technology, low-cost, evidence-based protocols that include education, exercise and manual therapies. WSC also provides educational seminars to individual communities on the prevention of spinal injuries and spinal hygiene. Local healthcare providers are recruited and scholarships are awarded to provide advanced training in spine care, with the intention of enabling local practitioners to eventually run the spine care centres. WSC is incorporated in both the United States and Canada with Canadian chiropractors playing central roles in the clinical, research, rehabilitation and education arms of the organization.

The CCA has joined several other organizations who currently endorse the WSC including the Chiropractic Association of South Africa, The Bone & Joint Decade, North American Spine Society, European Spine Society, Canadian Spine Society, International Society for the Study of Lumbar Spine, World Federation of Chiropractic and the South African Spine Society.

The CCA is proud to announce that WSC will be the official charity of our September 18-20, 2015 National Chiropractic Convention. We are pleased to become an endorsing partner of the WSC and look forward to working with them to improve the management of spinal disorders for those who currently have no access to care. For more information on WSC please visit www.worldspinecare.com.



“World Spine Care has rapidly attracted a world-class leadership team around its vision of universal care for the devastation caused by spinal disorders in the developing world.”



Photos by: Sophie Deschamps & Geoff Outerbridge