THE GEORGIA CHURCH DE CONSTRUCTOR CHURCH DE

REMEMBERING DR. DEANE MINK

A -

GCA CONNECTS WITH STATE, NATIONAL LEADERS

ASSOCIATION NEWS: GCA OFFERING NEW MEMBER BENEFITS

A PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

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ICA, ACA urge supporters to sign Medicare equality petitions; ACA elects new president.

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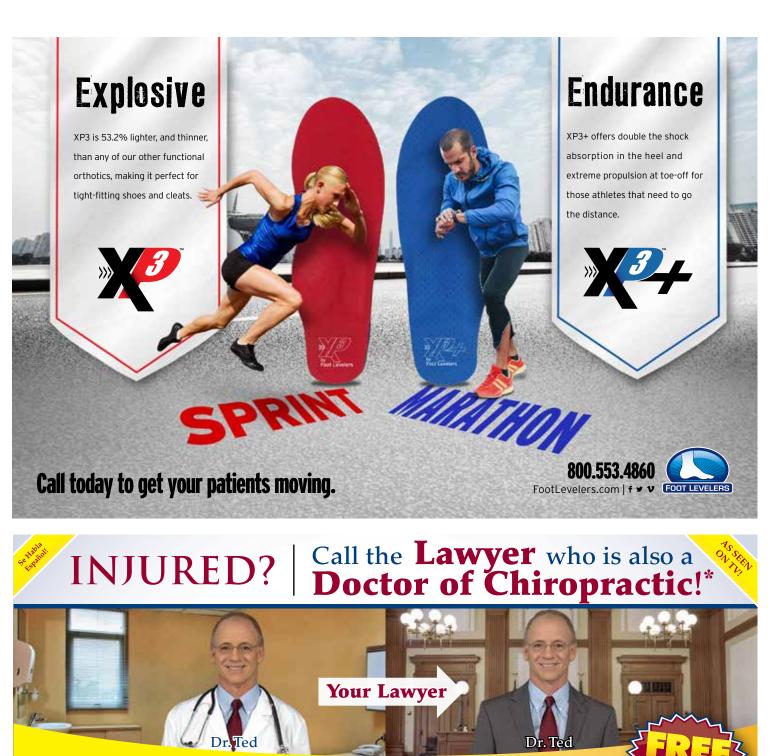
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> On the cover: Ga. Sen. Lester Jackson (from left), Life University student Munntouya Hunt, GCA-PAC Chairwoman and Director Dr. Leana Kart and Ga. Sen. Greg Kirk network during GCA's Chiropractic Day at the Capitol, held Feb. 18 in Atlanta.

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*Attorney Ted Greve is a Georgia licensed doctor of chiropractic. He practices only law.

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New Benefits Designed to Serve GCA Members

The Georgia Chiropractic Association has been the Georgia chiropractor's support system since 1912, serving as the strongest voice for the profession since then. We're the only chiropractic association in the state that has a lobbyist at the state capitol every day that the legislature is in session. We will always continue to fight for your right to practice in our state.



While our voice has never been stronger with our legislators - and will only continue to grow - we also want

you to know that we're here to support you in your day-to-day operations as well. If you're a member of ours, you should have already received your renewal packets for 2016. In that packet is information about the new programs we're unveiling this year, all designed to not only SAVE money, but to actually help you EARN money for your business. Some of our new offerings include:

- A Group Purchasing Program that will allow you to purchase your clinic supplies, equipment, computers, furniture and other items at steeply discounted prices;
- Heavily discounted ink and toner program, which will allow you to purchase directly from the manufacturer at heavily discounted prices just for GCA members;
- **Financial services** which will help you navigate the world of long-term care insurance, life insurance, malpractice insurance and insurance to protect your practice against RAC and HIPAA audits. That's just a small sampling of the new programs we're offering to GCA members

for 2016. You can read more about these programs in Association News, on page 8.

There's never been a better time to be a GCA member, and I think you'll especially notice that if you attend our Spring Conference, which this year is May 20-22 at the Sonesta Resort on Hilton Head Island. This event is an excellent way to both earn continuing education credits AND get a little bit of rest and relaxation as the summer season kicks off. We'll even have some family-friendly activities for spouses and kids, so feel free to bring them along! You can find out more about this year's offerings beginning on page 14. If you haven't been to a GCA event in a while, I sincerely hope you decide to attend.

Respectfully, Edwin Davis, D.C. • President

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THE GEORGIA CHIROPRACTOR

Spring 2016 Volume 35, No. 2

Official Publication of the Georgia Chiropractic Association, Inc. Founded 1912

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"The Hole You Give Through is the Same Hole You Get Through"

The Georgia Chiropractic Association lost one of its most passionate and active members Feb. 3. Dr. Deane Mink practiced for 54 years in Valdosta and was deeply involved with GCA during his entire career.

When I was at his funeral, one of the many doctors of chiropractic he mentored, Dr. Randy Griffis, told me that Dr. Mink just couldn't understand why some chiropractors would not join the association.



I thought about that on the long ride home to Atlanta.

When I thanked Dr. Mink each time he agreed to serve on a committee, speak to potential members, host district meetings, attend GCA's Capitol Day or present an award, he would always say "The hole you give through is the same hole you get through," meaning the more he gave to his profession, the more his profession gave to him.

Dr. Mink understood that his practice would benefit by being a member of GCA. During his time in membership, chiropractors were able to start accepting insurance and Medicare, refer for MRIs and practice more fully within their scope.

While we made great strides in the 50-plus years Dr. Mink was a member, our battles are never over. We continue to fight on behalf of all chiropractors in Georgia to be able to be compensated fairly, offer world-class educational seminars and provide members-only benefits such as our Insurance & Medicare Hotline and discounted business services.

To honor Dr. Mink's memory, I ask all non-members to join GCA to help us promote, protect, educate and represent the chiropractic profession.

If you are already a member of GCA, I want to thank you for your support and challenge you to become more involved. Join a committee, sign up for our legislative grassroots initiative, attend a seminar or serve as a mentor to a newly graduated doctor.

I think you'll find, as Dr. Mink did, that the more you give, the more you will receive.

Valerie Smith, M.A. • Executive Director

Honoring Dr. Mink, p. 19



ASSOCIATION NEWS

New Services will Save You Money

event calendar

APRIL 30, 2016, 10:00am GCA Board of Directors meeting GCA offices, Tucker, Ga

MAY 20-22, 2016 GCA Annual Spring Conference & Trade Show Sonesta Resort, Hilton Head Island (same location as 2015!)

OCTOBER 21-23, 2016 GCA's 104th Annual Fall Conference & Trade Show Westin Atlanta Perimeter North (same location as 2015!)

DECEMBER 2016 GCA 20-Hour CE Weekend Dates & Location TBD

Visit gachiro.org for a complete list of upcoming events A new year brings new member benefits for members of the Georgia Chiropractic Association, including ways to not only save money but EARN some extra income.

All GCA members have received a sign-up sheet in their renewal packets for new offerings for network member practices. There are multiple opportunities for the practicing chiropractor, including:

- Group Purchasing Program: Signing up for this program allows you to purchase your clinic supplies and equipment, computers, furniture and many other items you may need for your practice at significant discounts.
- Heavily Discounted Ink & Toner Program: These are the

same quality cartridges you find in the box stores. With this program, you are able to purchase your ink, toner and drum cartridges directly from the manufacturer at prices that are heavily discounted for the GCA.

• **Revenue Cycle Management:** This program, offered by one of the best companies in the U.S., offers a full cadre of revenue cycle management services.

Other programs are available as well.

For chiropractors interested in any of the above or additional programs, just check off and fill out the form included in your renewal packet, and fax the completed form to 470-539-4739. If you need an additional form, please contact us at the GCA offices at 770-723-1100.

GCA unveils new mission, vision statements

The Georgia Chiropractic Association's Board of Directors has been hard at work developing mission, vision and values statements to carry our association into the future. At the Feb. 18 meeting, the following statements were approved:

The mission statement will read:

GCA promotes, represents, educates and protects the entire chiropractic community in Georgia and advocates for unrestricted access to chiropractic care. **The vision statement will read:** Doctors of chiropractic will be the providers of first choice for Georgians seeking to improve their health and wellness.

Values statements will be defined in future meetings.

Frassrand a Friendly Voice for GCA Callers

If you call into the GCA office, you may be lucky enough to hear the cheerful voice of Mickie Frassrand.

"I love it here," Frassrand said. "I especially like the people. It's a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere."

Frassrand has worked at the GCA office on a part-time basis since March 2015. She was introduced to the position through her daughter, Diane Hamby, who is the association's director of operations and membership.

When not helping GCA, Frassrand is a devoted community volunteer, serving in multiple missions through her church.

"I like to read a lot and volunteer," Frassrand said. Most recently, she's been assisting with a mission to send needed items to U.S. servicemembers currently overseas.

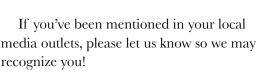


Mickie Frassrand

GCA Members in the News

Our members have been busy the past few months, including these following mentions in state and local outlets:

- Member Dr. Robert Hayden spoke on behalf of the American Chiropractic Association for a *Family Circle* article titled: "Prevent Neck and Back Pain by Sleeping in this Position: These Few Adjustments Will Help You Wake Up Pain Free."
- Members Dr. Mary Watkins and Jeanne Hanlin from Watkins Total Healthcare were featured in Moxie, a magazine for women, a publication of *The Times* out of Gainesville, Ga.





Dr. Robert Hayden

You Said It! #GCASays



Johnny Isakson

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Proud recipient of the 2016 Veteran Healthcare Leadership Award from Natl Chiropractic Leadership Conf. #NCLC2016



GA Chiropractic Assn @GAChiro2016 GCA with @SenatorIsakson at #NCLC2016.

Brett Mizell Thank you to the GCA for the prize, and for all the hard work you do advancing our profession in the great state of Georgia!

Unlike - Reply - Message 2 - March 2 at 5:43pm

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Who knows? You may be featured next!

GCA now Offering C.A. Webinars!

Check your email and visit gachiro.org for more information on GCA's NEW webinar programs, featuring Laurie Simpson, C.C.A., C.C.C.P.C. Chiropractic assistants will appreciate these convenient educational opportunities, many taking place over the lunch hour.

By Carly Sharec

With a widely-attended Chiropractic Day at the Capitol and the passing of Senate Bill 158, the Georgia Chiropractic Association can consider the 2016 legislative session a success.

"The past few months have been a truly positive experience for chiropractic in Georgia," said GCA President Dr. Edwin Davis. "It's been particularly gratifying to be able to work together with other associations, like the Medical Association of Georgia, to get a bill passed that positively impacts our patients."

Davis is referring to S.B. 158, commonly referred to as the Consumer & Provider Protection Act. Since 2015, GCA has worked to get this bill passed. The bill creates transparency for rental networks, or "silent PPOs."

The bill reads, in part: "Any person who commences business as a rental preferred provider network shall register with the Commissioner within 30 days of commencing business in this state unless such person is licensed by the Commissioner as a health insurer."

The text goes on to say: "A rental preferred provider network shall not: (1) Knowingly access or utilize a network provider's contractual discount pursuant to a provider network contract without a contractual relationship with the network provider, rental preferred provider network, or third party."

The full copy of the bill can be found online at legis.ga.gov, and then by search for S.B. 158.

GCA is encouraging members to reach out and

thank the bill's sponsors: Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), Sen. Greg Kirk (R-Americus), Sen. Hunter Hill (R-Atlanta), Sen. Joshua McKoon (R-Columbus), Sen. Ben Watson (R-Savannah) and Rep. Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper).

Legislators also passed House Bill 952, or the "Georgia Professional Regulation Reform Act." The bill itself was written in response to a decision by the Supreme Court, ruling that state regulatory boards could be subject to antitrust violations.

The bill gives the governor oversight regarding rules and board decisions, including for the Board of Chiropractic Examiners. GCA is concerned this could delay or politicize the approval process.

The bill reads: "The Governor shall have the authority and duty to actively supervise the professional licensing boards of this state to ensure that their actions are consistent with clearly articulated state policy and shall therefore have the authority and duty to:

(1) Review and, in writing, approve or veto any rule before it is filed in the office of the Secretary of State by Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act,' or before such rule becomes effective, if filing is not required.

Again, a full copy of the bill can be found at legis. ga.gov and searching for H.B. 952.

Both S.B. 158 and H.B. 952 were awaiting Gov. Nathan Deal's signature as of presstime.

Much of GCA's success at the state capitol this









year is due in large part to the support the association's members have provided, through both PAC memberships and by participating on the grassroots committee.

"We were also really pleased with the turnout at GCA's Chiropractic Day," Davis said. "Not only did we see many of our GCA members and our senators and legislators, but many students from nearby Life University also attended.

"It was wonderful to see the next generation taking such an active interest not only in the practice of chiropractic, but the effort needed to protect our right to practice," Davis added.

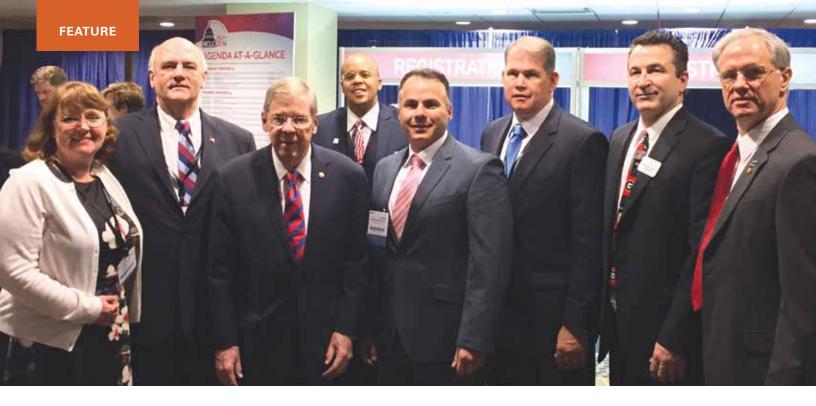
A special guest at the event included Rep. Ed Rynders (R-Albany), who spoke to attendees about the best ways to connect with their legislators. "Build relationships," Rynders said. "Know how to communicate. Personalize your notes and phone calls. And engage as many members as possible.

"Please don't come and see me only when you want something," he emphasized.

Also in attendance was Life University President Dr. Guy Riekeman, who spoke briefly to the audience about the importance of chiropractic.

"The United States is 5 percent of the world's population, but consumes 50 percent of its medication," Riekeman said. "We have something important to bring to the health care system. All we're asking for is an equal playing field."





GCA Lobbies for Increased Access to Chiropractic Care in D.C.

A group of Georgia chiropractors spent a windy February day in Washington, D.C., educating 13 of Georgia's 15 senators and representatives on why access to chiropractic care should be expanded for veterans, TRICARE recipients and Medicare enrollees, during the National Chiropractic Leadership Conference.

GCA President Dr. Edwin Davis, President Elect Dr. Richard Buchanan, Director Dr. Winston Carhee, Past President Dr. Robert Hayden, member Dr. Charlie Saboura, former member Dr. Michael Grosz and Executive Director Valerie Smith met with the offices of Sen. Johnny Isakson, Sen. David Perdue, Rep. Buddy Carter, Rep. Tom Price, Rep. Austin Scott, Rep. Sanford Bishop, Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, Rep. Barry Loudermilk, Rep. Rob Woodall, Rep. David Scott, Rep. Jody Hice and Rep. Tom Graves.

"I think all the meetings were very positive," Davis said. "We were able to educate the legislators and their staffs on our issues."

Georgia Sen. Isakson delivered a positive chiropractic keynote address to chiropractors from across the country to kick off the lobbying day, saying that he was educated on chiropractic issues by his neighbor, GCA member Dr. Jim Anchors, who "lobbied me in the back yard."

By Valerie L. Smith

The issues discussed with legislators included:

- Increased access to chiropractic for veterans
- Access to chiropractic for TRICARE recipients
- Increased coverage of chiropractic in Medicare
- Allow chiropractors to serve in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- Allow chiropractors to participate in the National Health Service Corps

"We asked each of them to support the legislation we are working on," Hayden said. "Rep. David Scott was already supporting access to chiropractic for TRICARE recipients and allowing chiropractors to serve in the National Health Service Corps as a result of last year's visit, so if you are in his district, please make sure to thank him.







GCA member Dr. Karen Mathiak has qualified to run for Ga. House District 73, which represents parts of Fayette, Spalding and Henry counties. You can learn more about her campaign at weneedkaren.com.

Session is Over, but Still Time to Get Involved

By Carly Sharec

One of the best ways GCA can continue building relationships with our state legislators is by continuing conversations with them when they are not in session.

With the Georgia General Assembly ending its 2016 session on March 24, chiropractors have the next nine months to develop relationships with lawmakers.

"There are multiple ways to get involved," said GCA-Political Action Committee chairwoman Dr. Leana Kart. "One of the best investments a chiropractor can make in their career is to become a GCA-PAC member.

"Another way to get involved is to sign up for our grassroots committee, chaired by Dr. John Webster," Kart added. "That's actually a really great way to get connected with your legislators, as all you need to do is provide your home address and GCA will help you get started."

To join GCA's grassroots committee, email your home address to Carly Sharec at csharec@gachiro.org.

Join GCA-PAC by visiting gachiro.org, and selecting the Political Action Committee section under the "Influence" tab.

2016 Spring CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

MAY 20-22 Sonesta resort Hilton Head Island, SC

AHOY, CHIROPRACTORSI. Set sail for the beach and GCA

By Carly Sharec

Shiver our timbers and find a bounty of hidden treasures at this year's GCA Spring Conference and Trade Show!

"A swashbuckling adventure awaits you at this year's convention," said Dr. Leana Kart, conference committee chairwoman. "Bring your spouse, bring your kids. Invite your friends! Just make plans to spend the weekend with us. We have a lot of activities planned, and it's going to be a great time."

This year's conference is May 20-22 at the beautiful Sonesta Resort on Hilton Head Island. Registration is now open by visiting gachiro.org. You can also find the link to book your hotel room on the GCA website.

"The spring conference is a really great opportunity for our Georgia chiropractors to get involved with our association while getting those important CE credits for the year," said GCA President Dr. Edwin Davis.

Be a better chiropract-arrr!

GCA has lined up a stellar cast of speakers with a wide variety of topics for this year's event, including **Terry Yochum, D.C.**, who will be speaking 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday about spondylolisthesis in patients who prefer to continue participating in sports.

Other clinical speakers include:

- David Lee, D.C., on Nutritional Applications for Monday Morning (2-5 p.m. Friday)
- Michael Jacklitch, D.C., on Medicare Documentation: "Just Show Me What to Do" (1-5 p.m., Saturday)

 Marc Ellis, D.C., on Cerebellar Dysfunction, Assessment and Treatment (8 a.m.-noon, Sunday)

Get started with our 1-hour jurisprudence course, featuring a discussion with **Aubrey T. Villines, J.D.** (8-9 a.m. Friday).

For risk management, Dr. Morgan Mullican will speak on **Systematic Case Management** (9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday), and Laurie Simpson, C.C.A., C.C.C.P.C., will round out the weekend for C.A.s in teaching **Revisiting ICD-10** (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday) and **Improving Your Communication Skills** (8 a.m.-noon Sunday).

It's not all about the classes, though.

Set sail for FUN!

Don't be a landlubber... earn your CE credits AND join GCA for a blast at the beach!

We're having our **Welcome Reception** beginning at 6 p.m. Friday. Come dressed in your finest pirate outfit as we celebrate at our first big event

of 2016.

New this year is a **Spouse & Family Meet & Greet**, beginning 9 a.m. Saturday (location TBD). Your significant other and children will have a blast getting to know the other families and making plans to hang out over the weekend!

Make plans to attend the **President's Luncheon** at noon on Saturday, sponsored by ActivHealthCare. This is a great opportunity to spend some time with your professional peers while enjoying delicious food! You can indulge your sweet tooth later that day with our **S'mores by the Pool** event, beginning at 8 p.m.



Don't be a scallywag... register early!

If you miss our Spring Conference & Trade Show, you might as well walk the plank!

"Attendees often really enjoy our spring conferences," Davis said. "Not only because it's on the beach, which is a lot of fun! But because it's just a very relaxed environment to earn your needed CE credits.

And, Davis added, "the Spring Conference is just a really great way to connect with others and kick off the summer season."

Pre-registration runs through May 13, but you'll receive a special early bird discount if you sign up by April 29! You can sign up online or by filling out the form included in this magazine. You can also give GCA a call at 770-723-1100 if you have any questions and would like to register.

For those who plan to stay at the hotel, visit gachiro.org and use the provided link for the special GCA rate of \$195. (If you call the hotel directly, be sure to mention you're attending the GCA event.) Do so SOON, as we expect rooms at this rate will sell out quickly.

"I really think this is going to be one of the most popular spring events GCA has put on in recent memory," Kart said. "You can't get much more fun than being a pirate! With the great activities we have planned on top of a list of really stellar chiropractic speakers, this is going to be an awesome event."

FRIDAY, MAY 20

8:00am — 5:30pm	Trade Show
8:00am — 9:00am	Jurisprudence
9:00am — 1:00pm	Risk Management
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Clinical Science: David Lee, D.C.
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Welcome Reception

Come in *QUALE* wear!

SATURDAY, MAY 21

8:00am – 5:00pm	Trade Show	
8:00am – 12:00pm	Clinical Science: Terry Yochum, D.C	
9:00am – 11:00am	Spouse & Family Meet & Greet	
	(Location TBD)	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	President's Luncheon,	
	sponsored by ActivHealthCare	
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Clinical Science:	
	Michael Jacklitch, D.C.	
8:00am – 5:00pm	C.A. Course	
Loin us at 9.00 nm for 100701 by the pool		

Join us at 8:00pm for **Smores** by the pool

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Trade Show
Clinical Science:
Marc Ellis, D.C.
C.A. Course





GCA has lined up a stellar cast of speakers with a wide variety of topics for this year's event.

JURISPRUDENCE



Georgia Rules & Regulations Friday, May 20; 8:00am-9:00am Aubrey T. Villines, J.D. Join GCA's legal counsel Aubrey Villines in this one-hour discussion of Georgia law, rules and regulation changes that impact your everyday practice.

RISK MANAGEMENT



Systematic Case Management Friday, May 20; 9:00am-1:00pm Morgan Mullican, D.C. Sponsored by Breakthrough Coaching Dr. Morgan Mullican will lead this CE course providing you valuable insight.

CLINICAL SCIENCE



Nutritional Applications for Monday Morning Friday, May 20; 2:00pm-5:00pm David Lee, D.C. Sponsored by Nutri-West Blue Ridge Dr. David Lee will provide detailed explanations of cardiovascular health screenings and protocols for all of your patients, as well as deliver a hands-on manual muscle testing workshop. You'll get the information you need to improve your practice first thing on Monday morning. 3 hours CE.



Spondylo & Sports/Commonly **Encountered Questions** Saturday, May 21; 8:00am-12:00pm Terry Yochum, D.C. Sponsored by Foot Levelers

Join Dr. Terry Yochum as he reviews the etiology and discusses both the chiropractic and medical management of the problematic spondylolisthesis patient. This exciting program will revolutionize the way you approach the diagnosis and management of patients with spondylolisthesis, particularly those who wish to continue playing sports. 4 hours CE. Medicare Documentation:







Sponsored by American Chiropractic Association What Medicare documentation is needed for a patient's initial visit? What's the proper coding for subsequent visits? Go back to the basics with the seminar featuring Dr. Michael Jacklitch as he goes through the step-by-step process of Medicare documentation. 4 hours CE.

Cerebellar Dysfunction, Assessment and Treatment Sunday, May 22; 8:00am-12:00pm Marc Ellis, D.C.

A speaker with groups across the United States, including The Carrick Institute, GCA member Dr. Marc Ellis will present this comprehensive look in chiropractic neurology. 4 hours CE.

CA PROGRAM

Revisiting ICD-10 Saturday, May 21; 8:00am-5:00pm

Improving Your Communications Skills Sunday, May 22; 8:00am-12:00pm

Laurie Simpson, C.C.A.

Sponsored by ActiveHealthCare Join Laurie Simpson on Saturday for an overview of ICD-10 and to ensure your understanding of it is complete for when the grace period ends Oct. 1. On Sunday, Simpson will teach how to communicate with tact, diplomacy and professionalism so you'll be able to best communicate with not only patients, but with your fellow coworkers.

save the date

GCA'S 104TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE & **TRADE SHOW** Oct. 21-23, Westin Atlanta Perimeter North

GCA'S 20-HOUR CE SEMINAR WEEKEND Dec. 2016, Location TBD

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Booth #3 ChiroTouch

Contact: Stephanie Cadirici Phone: 800-852-1771 Web: *chirotouch.com* ChiroTouch offers product management software and solutions.

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Contact: Gary Volino Phone: 770-334-2226 Web: *pulsecenters.com* Decription of company goes here and here and here

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GCA MEMBER LENDS EXPERTISE to Updated Guidelines



Greg Baker, D.C.

The Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics, the official scientific journal of the American Chiropractic Association, recently published an update to a previously issued evidence-based clinical practice guideline on chiropractic management of low-back pain (LBP).

The update, which revised and combined three previous guidelines, supports that doctors of chiropractic are well-suited to diagnose, treat, co-manage and manage the treatment of patients with low-back disorders.

"To be considered current, guidelines must be less than five years old," explained Greg Baker, D.C. Baker is a GCA member and co-author of the guidelines. "Our guidelines were outdated, and so we went ahead and updated them."

To that end, a formal systematic review of LBP literature was conducted for the current update using the Delphi technique and included 37 panelists, of whom 89 percent had worked in private practice for an average of 27 years. Panelist consensus was reached after one round of revisions; the vast majority of recommendations remained unchanged. The previous Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters guidelines were developed in 2008 and expanded twice over the intervening years.

The updated guideline provides recommendations throughout the continuum of care from acute to chronic and offers the chiropractic profession an up-to-date evidence- and clinical practice experience-informed resource outlining best practice approaches for the treatment of patients with LBP. Key recommendations are as follows:

 Routine imaging or other diagnostic tests are not recommended for patients with non-specific LBP. Imaging is indicated in the presence of severe From the Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics with additional reporting by Carly Sharec

and/or progressive neurologic deficits or if the history or physical exam causes suspicion of serious underlying pathology.

- The hierarchy of clinical methods used should generally correspond to the existing level of evidence (i.e., use treatments that are well-supported by evidence first, before moving on to other treatments that are less supported by evidence but that have been shown to be effective through practitioner experience).
- Active care (exercise) clinical strategies can aid in functional recovery from a re-conditioning perspective and also to improve "locus of control" (promoting patient self-reliance) from a psychosocial perspective.
- Informed consent should be obtained from the patient. The diagnosis, exam and any proposed procedures should be explained clearly. Any material risks associated with the proposed treatment should be reviewed (the definition of what is a "material risk" can vary depending on the state), as well as risks associated with other treatment options and the risk of doing nothing.

"There really wasn't any significant change," Baker said. "There wasn't a great deal of new information or studies that were done. We made the guidelines a little bit more user-friendly and comprehensive."

Baker, a 1990 graduate of Life University, has practiced chiropractic in Georgia for 25 years.

"He was a leader that I, and many others in my generation, looked to as a role model for how to communicate and practice the chiropractic philosophy."

GCA MOURNS THE LOSS of Dr. Deane Mink

By Valerie L. Smith

Dr. Deane Mink, a tireless champion of chiropractic and member of the Georgia Chiropractic Association for 55 years, died Feb. 3, 2016. He was 81.

Beloved by his patients and respected and admired by his fellow chiropractors, Mink was an extremely active member of the chiropractic community, serving as GCA president, helping to create the GCA Political Action Committee, lobbying for insurance quality and serving on the Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners, all while building one of the largest practices in the state. He was named Chiropractor of the Year in 2001 and received the William M. Harris Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

"Dr. Mink was a broad scope chiropractor who was totally committed to the foundational principles of chiropractic," explained his friend, Dr. Davis Kinney. "There are those in our profession who don't think that being an advocate of a 'broad scope' of practice and being a 'principled' chiropractor can coexist in the same person, but Dr. Mink was the living proof that you can be strongly committed to both.



"He was a leader that I, and many others in my generation, looked to as a role model for how to communicate and practice the chiropractic philosophy," he said.

Mink mentored young chiropractors all over the state, selflessly sharing his formula for success, that Dr. Clark Stull, one of many people he influenced to become a chiropractor, said was, "Love your patients, and they will love you back and refer their families and friends to you."

Mink estimated he had 11 patients who became chiropractors as a result of a positive experience as his patient, including his son, Dr. Mitchell Mink.

His wife, Sue Mink, said, "His energy and passion for helping people get better was contagious. He loved to see patients crawling in, then walking out.

"For him, every day was going to be a great day, and he was going to make the most of it, whether he was going to work, or a Gators game or fishing. I think this drive made him successful and loved by his patients and other chiropractors. His passion for life was contagious."

Dr. Ken Register, one of Mink's partners, agreed. "I still remember my first day. I got completely exhausted just by following him around. He could see 100 patients a day and play tennis at lunch," he remembered.

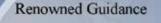
"He taught me his 'look back' rule, which was to look back before you finished to make sure you did a great job," Register said.

Looking back on Dr. Mink's contributions to the profession, he did.

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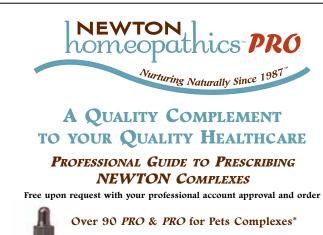
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NATIONAL NEWS





ACA, ICA asking for support on Medicare equality

Both the American Chiropractic Association and the International Chiropractors Association are offering petitions for chiropractors, patients and other supporters to sign in the pursuit of Medicare equality.

ICA's National Medicare Fairness Campaign can be found online at chiropractic.org/medicare-fairness, while ACA's National Medicare Equality Petition is at acatoday.org/equality/doctors. Both petitions aim to promote chiropractors to full physician status under Medicare guidelines.

The Georgia Chiropractic Association is urging its members and all Georgia chiropractors to support the cause, and to

promote signing these petitions to

patients and friends of the profession.



David A. Herd, DC

David Herd, D.C., elected as ACA's new president

The American Chiropractic Association's House of Delegates elected **David A. Herd**, **DC**, of Geneva, N.Y., to serve as president.

Dr. Herd, who graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, previously served on the ACA Board of Governors as vice president of ACA.

Dr. Herd has been a leader in the chiropractic profession for decades, previously serving as ACA's New York state delegate, as well as secretary, treasurer, vice president and president of the Rochester district of the New York State Chiropractic Association. He has served as an assistant professor of chiropractic studies at New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls, N.Y. He also served on the boards of directors of the Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters and the Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research.

THE FRONT LINE

"The more diligent you are now, the better off you'll be on Oct. 1, 2016, when the 'honeymoon period' ends."

CLARIFYING ICD-10 Requirements

By Laurie Simpson, C.C.A., C.C.C.P.C.



Laurie Simpson

Now that practices have finally settled into ICD-10, I figured it would be a good time to address some commonly-asked questions as well as a couple of misconceptions.

U: Do we need to populate each of the 12 spaces available for diagnosis?

A: No. There is not a distinct number of diagnoses required for claim submission. However, you must use adequate and appropriate diagnoses to fully support each of the services rendered.

Q: Our claims are being rejected. What is the reason for this?

A: First, check each diagnosis used to ensure you have not added any digits or characters to a code not required by ICD-10 guideline and coding instructions. Secondly, check to make sure your software isn't including the diagnosis decimal point onto the claim forms, as this is not required on claims and will result in rejection. Third, for those codes that do require the seventh character (such as the 'S' codes), make sure this character is being properly added. Fourth, be sure that you ICD Indicator in Box 21 of your claim form is being populated with a "0." Finally, if all of the items above are in proper order, it would be best to check directly with the payer to determine if there is perhaps a processing glitch or policy available that identifies codes that may not be acceptable on claims for that payer.

Q: We cannot find codes to identify the left or right side of the spine, such as with low back pain. Do we add digits 1 or 2 to the code to clarify left or right?

A: No. Codes pertaining to the spine are not specific to laterality. The codes that do require laterality specificity are for the extremities. Do not add any characters or numbers to any codes that do not specifically require this in the coding instructions.

Q: How do we know which codes a payer will allow?

A: Many of the ICD-10 codes translate very closely or even identically in some cases from ICD-9 to ICD-10. It is likely that these direct or very similar crossovers in ICD-10 will process in the same manner as they had previously with ICD-9. That said, there are many new codes, combination codes and much more specific codes than what was available in ICD-9. Providers should continue to use those diagnoses within their scope to diagnose and that most closely support patient documentation. More specific information as to which codes are best to use in certain circumstances will likely be defined by individual payers in the weeks and months to come.

Currently we are in what many have termed as a grace period or a honeymoon period with ICD-10. Meaning that many payers including Medicare aren't denying claims currently based solely on the specificity of the ICD-10 diagnosis code. They are processing and paying the claims as long as the code used is from the right family of codes.

Which leads me to Misconception #1: My claims are all getting paid so "I've got this." This is not only a time for you to get used to using ICD-10 but it is also a good time for you to doublecheck yourself. Make sure your diagnosis is a direct reflection of your documentation.

Misconception #2: I have a cheat sheet that I'm using and it's working great! While cheat sheets are a helpful tool, they do not include instructional notes that pertain to specific codes. You still need to utilize your code book in order to address any Excludes1, Excludes2, Includes, etc.

The more diligent you are now, the better off you'll be on Oct. 1, 2016, when the "honeymoon period" ends.

"When an epitransverse prose is present, osseous adjusting of the upper cervical spine should be avoided."

EPITRANSVERSE PROCESS Presents in AP Open Mouth

By J.C. Carter, D.C., D.A.C.B.R.



Dr. Carter is a GCA member. He maintains a busy film reading practice at 3350 Riverwood Parkway Ste 1900, Atlanta, GA 30339. If you have **questions regarding digital X-ray or his film reading service** please call 770-984-5395 or email at jccarterdc@gmail.com. His website is jcradiology.com. An epitransverse process represents a variation of normal where a congenital bone bar connects the transverse process of C1 to the occiput. The bone bar connection may be complete or may form a joint with the occiput. The finding may be unilateral or bilateral.

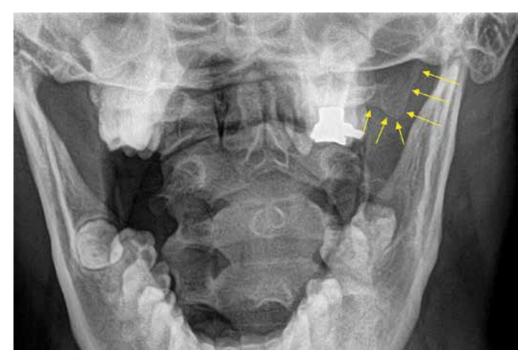
The vast majority of epitransverse processes are discovered incidentally. The lesion is almost always asymptomatic. There is no evidence of a relationship to vertebrobasilar disease. The epitransverse process is seen in a small percentage of occipitalizations.

Usually the only view that captures the

epitransverse process is the Anteroposterior Open Mouth view. The epitransverse process is virtually impossible to see on AP and lateral views.

In addition, even the slightest bit of rotation on an Open Mouth view can cause the teeth to overlap the epitransverse process and hide it from view. The process is typically a cone-shaped extension of the transverse process that turns cephalad toward the occiput.

When an epitransverse prose is present, osseous adjusting of the upper cervical spine should be avoided.



(Figure 1). The AP Open Mouth demonstrates a continuous bone bar extending from the transverse process of C1 toward the occiput (arrows). The finding in this case is unilateral.

FOR WEBSTER, IT'S ALL ABOUT Chiropractic and Family

By Carly Sharec



"From the very beginning, I've been an association man," Webster said. "I believe in associations." An unfortunate illness and perhaps a bit of divine intervention led Dr. John Webster into chiropractic.

"When I was 19 years old, I was struck with kidney stones," Webster said. After three years, a visit to a doctor found that his right kidney was not functioning normally. "I was 22 and my prognosis was very poor with the possibility of having to have my kidney removed. And I felt great otherwise, except for those kidney stones!"

Webster's father recommended he see a chiropractor before a more drastic surgical option.

"Three months later, the tremendous pain I had had for three years was gone," Webster said.

At 22 Webster was contemplating college but at the time was doing commercial and residential electrical work and plumbing. One day, while waiting for his wellness exam at his chiropractor's office, he suddenly knew this was his calling.

"A distinct feeling came over me, and the message I got was 'John, this is what I want you to do," Webster said. "I feel like God called me to this profession."

Webster attended Life University, where he not only graduated in 1983 but also where he met his wife. They then moved to North Carolina where he owned his practice until 2010, when the family decided to move back to Georgia to be closer to family.

In North Carolina, Webster was actively involved in chiropractic, having served in multiple roles in the state association along with serving on the state's board of examiners and being voted doctor of the year twice.

"I'm still learning here in Georgia," he said. "But I want people to know I'm excited to be here. Georgia is blessed in so many ways with a strong chiropractic association."

Webster hasn't wasted any time in getting involved with his new home state, currently serving as GCA's grassroots committee chair.

"From the very beginning, I've been an association man," Webster said. "I believe in associations."

He credits his mentor, Dr. Darrell Trull of North Carolina, for encouraging him to be involved in his state association and in chiropractic legislation.

"He took me under his wing," Webster said. "I listened to everything he said and became involved with chiropractic politics."

When not practicing or volunteering, Webster is a devoted family man.

"I've been married to the same wonderful lady for 31 years, and she is my life," he said. "I don't golf, I don't watch a lot of sports. I just totally love chiropractic, I love my family and, of course, I'm active in my church.

"Chiropractic is the next big thing," he added. "I really believe that. It's a gift that's been given to us... and we need to take it to the masses."

STUDENT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS LED AN Hunt to Chiropractic Career

By Carly Sharec

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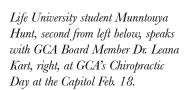
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Early exposure to a hospital environment led 26-year-old Munntouya Hunt to her calling.

"I had a younger sister born with a cancerous tumor," Hunt said. "I used to go to the hospital all the time with my mom, and I loved the atmosphere. The doctors seemed to have the answers to everything, and I knew I wanted to be that person."

That desire led Hunt to graduate from Kennesaw State University in 2012 with her degree in biology, having chosen that as the "gateway" to many careers in the health field. However, she was still unsure what she ultimately wanted to do with her life. She had shadowed various specialties during her time as an undergraduate, and never felt the same enthusiasm she once had when visiting the hospital so many years ago.

Then, she remembered interning with a chiropractor during her high school years. Being in Kennesaw, she decided to head down the road





and visit Life University to explore their programs.

"Listening to the chiropractors... it was like, this is the passion I want to have. This is it," Hunt recalled.

She began her studies at Life University in January, and has loved every moment.

"This is where I want to be," she said enthusiastically. "This is the path God has led me to be on. I am so excited."

When not in school, Hunt works at CarMax, where her coworkers good-naturedly tease her for her passion for her future career.

"I'm always telling them to go get adjusted, that it will make their lives so much better," she said. "They kind of laugh at me about that as I just started at Life, but I am just really excited about it!"

When not at school or work, Hunt enjoys reading, traveling and spending time at home with her dachshund.

Hunt was also really excited to attend GCA's Chiropractic Day at the Capitol on Feb. 18, where she said she was introduced to the importance of being involved in the profession at various levels.

"It was amazing to see how everyone was involved," she said. "It inspired me to use my voice and see where I can be informed and really help my community."

While Hunt is at the beginning of earning her chiropractic degree, she already has plans to practice in Georgia once she graduates. She intends to focus on sports chiropractic.

"I just want to be involved in my community," Hunt said. "I want to be able to help wherever and whenever I can."

DEVELOP ONLINE PRESENCE with Consistency

By Carly Sharec

When establishing and promoting your practice, spend some time to think not just about your physical presence, but your online reputation as well.

That's what Kraig Kittel with ChiroPlanet.com advises.

"The first step is to create a clinic name NOT based on your name," Kittel advised, saying that when a chiropractor then goes to sell the practice, the name can stay in place while not following their personal online reputation around.

Additionally, Kittel suggested considering what online search terms people might use when searching for a chiropractor while selecting a practice name. For example, a person might not search for "Atlanta chiropractor" as that would be too broad of an area. However, it's possible they'll search for a "Kennesaw" or "Stone Mountain" chiropractor.

Once a practice name has been selected and the domain name has been secured, Kittel advised the following when developing a website:

• **Keep it consistent.** When creating a website design, don't make it look completely different from your other marketing materials like brochures or business cards. Make sure it has the same look throughout.

- **Put the important stuff up top.** "Make sure you have your name, business name, phone number, address, logo, all the key elements embedded on the top of the page," Kittel said. "That way it won't change regardless of what page you click to within the website."
- **Keep it simple.** Remember that patients and prospective patients only really care about the basic information it's typical for websites to have

four categories: home, about us, services provided and contact us. While you may choose to provide some different pieces of information, Kittel said a website should have no more than seven categories.

- Make sure it's mobile responsive. With more and more people using their mobile devices, it's imperative your website can make the transition from desktop to smartphone or tablet. "To be 'mobile responsive' means that the website is in a language that automatically responds to whatever device a person is using," Kittel explained.
- Use video. Kittel advises just using your smartphone or any digital camera to make a short, 2-3 minute video to place on your website's home page.
- **Get social.** Make sure you also set up your Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus and other social media accounts using the same name and look as your website and other marketing materials.

Finally, Kittel suggested to do due diligence on your domain provider. Too often, companies will say they are setting up a business website when they are really just setting up a page via their own website.

"It's a lot of companies that used to do business in print, so people are used to their brand," Kittel explained. "However, they're embellishing what they really do for businesses online."



By Carly Sharec

Going into business for yourself can be an exciting time, but there's also a lot to think about, not the least of which is exactly what you want from your practice space.

"You really need to understand the process you physically need to go through to open an office," said Carolyn Boldt with CrossFields, a custom chiropractic office design and architecture firm. Boldt is the company's vice president and director of design. "You really, really need to be clear with what you want from a facility standpoint."

This has been especially true for GCA member Dr. Lacie Guy, who is in the process of building a new practice space in Valdosta.

"We've outgrown our current office," Guy said. "When I started working with CrossFields, I had no intention of building at that time. But ... I ended up purchasing land, and that's how we ended up building from scratch."

Whether you begin by renting your space or building from scratch, Boldt suggests that beginning chiropractors use the following steps when planning their future office space:

- List out exactly what it is you'll need in the space. This includes everything from your receptionist's desk to how you choose to practice will you have an open adjusting space? Will you need a separate consultation room? How many people will you need sitting behind the front desk? Knowing exactly how much space you'll need before renting will save some heartache later, Boldt advised.
- Work with a real estate broker. "They're going to know the market," Boldt said. "They're going to know the things that may not be listed."

You can find CrossFields online at chiropracticeofficedesign.com



• Come up with your aesthetic vision. "We believe chiropractic offices are definitely health care space, but there's a little bit of retail and there's a little bit of hospitality going on as well," Boldt said. Something as simple as paint color and perhaps a bit of inexpensive artwork can transform a space into a comfortable environment for your patients. Boldt also suggests for chiropractors to buy stylish, residential furniture and to have replacement furniture budgeted every two to three years.

Though Guy has been in practice for six years, she has found working with CrossFields to be an invaluable experience.

"I just can't fathom how much money and time it would save a new practitioner to be able to go out into the community and have a clear vision of what they need and want from their space," Guy said.

need advice?

Do you need advice about starting a new practice? Submit questions to csharec@gachiro.org, and your answer may appear in the next edition.

FUNNY BONES

Linda Denham Gilreath, D.C.

Dr. Linda Denham Gilreath writes and practices chiropractic in Cartersville.

SHE'S A Dancing Girl

Spring is here. The days are getting longer, warm days are sure to follow. Invincibility is in the air. I know that I am going to get in trouble. My first clue came when I actually considered myself a future contestant in our local charity fundraiser, Dancing with the Stars. The dancers are advertising their contact information for donations while showing snippets of their dance routines on the Internet. It is so inspiring - in spite of the fact that I treat several of the dancers each year as they prepare their bodies to meet new challenges; in spite of the fact that I have no rhythm and dance to the beat of a different drummer. These are small obstacles to a person with a big imagination. It reminds me of filling my plate with a quantity of food I knew I couldn't consume. Momma would say, "Your eyes are bigger than your stomach."

Momma cannot dissuade me now. First of all, she doesn't know what I am up to these days and second, my eyes are not bigger than my stomach. Not much is bigger than my stomach, which brings me to the next part of my potential Dancing with the Stars obstacle, my diet. For years I have advised my patients to lose weight, like it was an easy task. Just cut back, don't eat anything white, drink more water, I droned on and on. That was before my body turned on me. I look fondly back to the days when I could eat anything. The problem then was that I was not hungry, I didn't want anything. My brother's first words were, "Eat, Linda." I knew all the skinny jokes. If I turned sideways and stuck out By Linda Denham Gilreath, D.C.

my tongue, I would look like a zipper. I could seek shelter from the rain under a clothesline. Without provocation my metabolism slowed to a crawl. The two pounds I gained over Thanksgiving didn't come off when I stopped eating so much; mostly because I didn't stop eating so much. Cutting back was impossible because after all these years, I was hungry. Christmas came and went with an additional couple of pounds. My clothes were tight. I began to juice fresh vegetables at lunch. They were great. Unfortunately, I was hungry. How could this happen? Eating your words is not appetizing.

Then there is the problem of flexibility. Oh yes, I can bend forward with the best of them. My hamstrings are in great shape. My legs are toned, I just can't lift them in any of the spectacular positions I envision being needed for Dancing With The Stars. Yoga became my solution. I now own several yoga books, a yoga mat, a block and a strap to encourage new movements. I even watch YouTube videos at lunch. Now all I have to do is actually do the yoga.

I am feeling pretty good about my future with Dancing With The Stars though. I lost those pesky five pounds when I said goodbye to sugar. I am going to start yoga as soon as I purchase the "21 Day Yoga Body" Internet class. In the near future I will be able to sauté, pas de chat and generally fling myself about with the best of them.

What, you have to do all that in high heels?

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