

Did you know this about Chiropractic Medicine?

The word Chiropractic comes from Greek. Rev. Samel Weed coined the word which means: “Done by Hand”. (chiro – Hand) and praktikos – practical)

Chiropractic medicine is categorized as complementary and alternative **medicine** (CAM). It is a health care modality that is concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of conditions of the musculoskeletal system. It focuses on the relationship between structure (the spine) and function (the nervous system) and how that relationship affects the preservation and restoration of health. It is believed that disorders of the spine have a negative effect on health in general. There is an emphasis on manual procedures such as joint adjustment and/or spine manipulation.

Chiropractic medicine began on September 18th, 1895 when Daniel David Palmer noticed that his janitor, Harvey Lillard had a vertebra out of alignment while working in his office. Harvey had become mostly deaf 17 years earlier after he hurt his back. Palmer had Harvey lay down on the floor and he “adjusted” his upper back area of his spine. A day later, Harvey’s impaired hearing was much improved.

DD Palmer was fascinated by the anatomy and physiology of the human body all his life and he made a point of keeping abreast of the latest scientific discoveries in these areas by avidly reading that day’s medical journals. D.D. Palmer moved his family to Burlington IA, near Ottumwa, and learned the techniques of magnetic healing, a common therapy of the time, and became very successful at it.

He couldn’t help but ponder why one person would become ill with pneumonia or pains in the body, when a person living in the

same house would escape all illness. He finally realized that alignment issues in the spinal column would inevitably affect the efficient flow of nerve signals causing disarray in the body.

After his successful adjustment on Harvy, DD Palmer continued to develop chiropractic, calling it “a science of healing without drugs.” He established the Palmer School of Cure, now known as the Palmer College of Chiropractic, in Davenport, Iowa in 1897. Many people became interested in Palmer’s new science and healing art. Among his early students were Palmer’s son, Bartlett Joshua, as well as members of the older healing arts of medicine and osteopathy. Osteopathy had already been invented in 1874 by Andrew Taylor Still, MD, who lead the way with the concept of "wellness" and recognized the importance of treating illness within the environment of the whole body.

The first state law licensing chiropractors was passed in 1913, and by 1931, 39 states had given chiropractors legal recognition.

Chiropractic arose as a profession in the United States in the 1890s. Until the 1950s the profession was concentrated in North America and was largely isolated from the mainstream of health care. In the 1960s and 1970s the foundations were laid for broader acceptance of the vocation – improved scholastic and licensing standards, research texts and scientific journals, and legal recognition and regulation in all US states and numerous other countries.

More than 100 years after its birth, chiropractic is taught and practiced throughout the world and the profession has earned broad acceptance from the public and in national health care systems. It is broadly regarded as the leading example of an alternative health care modality reaching mainstream recognition. Philosophically there is an emphasis on the mind / body relationship in health and the natural healing powers of the body.