

## Mary Ann Chance (1937-2008) Memorial Paper

The practice-life of Dr Chance, before commencing her 25 years as co-Editor of *Chiropractic Journal of Australia*, was marked by a distinct interest in the health of the whole individual. This was a strong characteristic of graduates from the Palmer College at that time whose focus on 'hands-only, spine only' was with the intent of making holistic change in the life and wellness of each patient.

BJ Palmer refined these concepts to the 'hole-in-one' approach in which he limited the spinal adjustment to the highest level of subluxation, nearly always around C1. At that time his 'wet-brain' specimen revealed the actual complexity of spino-neural relationships at this level, details of which continue to emerge in the literature today thanks to advanced imaging techniques and clever approaches to dissection.

It should not be long before PET scanning is investigated with a view to identifying brain function before and after chiropractic adjustment, but chiropractors have never been ones to hold back on delivering care on the basis of empirical findings and astute observations. After all, if we waited until there was replicable 'scientific evidence' in these matters we would be waiting a long time and withholding effective care, because we simply would not know what we should be looking for in the 'white-coat' laboratory.

Instead, our clinics are chiropractic's laboratory where, as Jolliot explores in this year's Memorial Paper, "the ancient assumption that the whole is more, or different, than the sum

of its parts is still meaningful." It may well be that the term "biopsychosocial model" is the contemporary expression but all it says is that clinicians such as Mary Ann Chance were practicing that model of care well before it was formalised and widely adopted.

It is also relevant that Dr Chance brought those ideas and concepts to the Editor's desk, and during her 25 years there are countless examples of papers exploring the 'softer' side of chiropractic care, all in an attempt to better understand what it is that we do which makes chiropractic so powerful.

Dr Jolliot, a graduate of the National College in Chicago who is also an anthropologist, has been a friend of Dr Chance since 1985. Her exploration of the current understanding of holism makes an entirely fitting paper as a tribute to Dr Chance.

For the fourth year we invite you to celebrate the life of a great contributor to the chiropractic profession, especially in Australia, this time seen through the eyes of a European-based anthropologist and chiropractor.

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