

Report to the World Federation of Chiropractic and the International Board of Chiropractic Examiners

Visit to Chile, Argentina and Brazil

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Objective of the visit:

To review and assess the current chiropractic educational situation of chiropractic programs established in Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

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Synopsis:

During this trip Dr. Sanchez and I were able to meet with leaders of the chiropractic profession, and education leaders and advocates in Chile and Argentina. In Brazil we visited the school in Sao Paulo and met the students and the director of the program.

Chile

The chiropractic education efforts in Chile are supported by both the Chilean Chiropractic Corporation, and the Collegium of Chiropractic Professionals to which only chiropractors that finished the current chiropractic conversion program at UCENTRAL can be members.

The creation of this Collegium is a big step for the profession since it is a regulatory body formally recognized by the Chilean Government to oversee professional conduct.

The university (Universidad Central) that has established the conversion program (open to Kinesiologists, Medical doctors and odontologists) is currently educating a 5th group of professionals, despite FLAQ's recommendation to have only three programs as an exception due to internal factors.

The university officials stated that they have a commitment for establishing a full "pregrado" program to start in 2018. They have promised this before, so let's see if it will happen.

The university officials and the chiropractic program director, David Lopez, explained to us that they will first have to start and finish at least one Master Degree in Chiropractic program that is part of the original plan and a commitment of the university towards its chiropractic students. Also they have to do a program for the AECC "graduates" so their title can be recognized by the Chilean government.

This master in chiropractic program is due to start in 2016. We didn't see the planned curriculum for the pregrado program that they will create in 2018, but we were able to call their attention to areas that are currently in need of improvement.

A grey area in this program is the supervised clinic training. We did not have a chance to visit, or talk to the students since the class starts on Friday and we had to leave that same day.

The Corporation is working hard to maintain a good standard for chiropractic in Chile and now with the help of a formal body, the Colegio, everything will be much better.

We left Chile with the impression that things are in good hands politically and hoping again that the UCEN go ahead with the plan to open a full program in 2018.

Argentina

Our visit to Buenos Aires with the chiropractic association of the country and those in association with the two chiropractic education efforts was very informative.

But interestingly, those two programs are pursued at two different academic levels. Neither program is yet planned with a rigor that can clearly satisfy the minimal standards established by the WHO nor FLAQ, and we made recommendations in this regard to both of them.

There are three groups in Argentina –

- *Asociación Argentina de Profesionales en Quiropráctica - AAPQ* member associate at FLAQ and WFC, formed by graduates from the AECC program in Chile; www.quiropaxiaargentina.com
- Argentinian Chiropractic Association (Asociación de Quiropráctica de Argentina – AQA), a very straight group formed by Diego Merquier's father, <http://quiropaxia.org.ar>
- The Argentinian Chiropractic Institute (Instituto Universitario de Quiropráctica Argentina - IUQA) and the Chiropractic for All Foundation (Fundación Quiropráctica Para Todos - FQPR) formed by Diego Mellino, a 2001 Life University graduate www.laclinicadelacolumna.com

Each is pursuing the establishment of a program in the country, based on their beliefs. For example:

- AQA has lost much of its power and the majority of its members, but continues to give once a month a 300hs course.
- The FQPR is giving a 900hs, two years twice a month program “based” on the WHO Guideline with the support from the New Zealand Chiropractic College, Sherman and the IFCO

Diego Mellino is the head of this project. His right arm is Roberto Chalukian, former AQA member. All the necessary papers were sent already to the Minister of Education hoping to open a full chiropractic program with 3,200hs in the near future.

His project started in 2013 and involves constructing a building for the school, from scratch and he showed us a very impressive floor plan of it.

We visited his clinic which has an open concept. Glass walls allow bystanders to watch him attend to patients. We also visited his “school” where more than 30 kinesiologists are taking the course

Our main focus was the **AAPQ course**:

This program, led by Carlos Sbolci, an AECC “graduate” (the same group as in Chile), started a long time ago in Cordoba.

It is now an 840hs once a month program, given both in Cordoba and Buenos Aires, which in Cordoba is in conjunction with a private University – Universidad Abierta Interamericana – UAI <http://www.uai.edu.ar>.

This University founded in 1995 has around 22.000 students, several campuses around Buenos Ayres and in the province of Rosario. They have a health sciences program with medicine, kinesiology, nurse, etc. and they are very strong in sports. One of their goals is to be the leader for new programs.

On our first day we had a meeting with the Vice Rector Luis E. Franchi, Vice President of Extension and Vanesa Margerone, Director of Executive Training Department. Both were very enthusiastic to pursue the opening of a full program in five years, starting next year with a second degree program. They asked FLAQ to help with a partner school.

Our meeting with the AAPQ executive – Omar Picca, Marcelo Sensolini, Rodolfo, Jokanovich, and David Miranda went very well. An agreement was signed to promote a proper chiropractic program. For a second degree program they want an exam given by IBCE to evaluate their level of education, so they can base the curriculum on it.

During our visit we expressed our interest for all chiropractors, regardless of their level of education and background, to work together in establishing a level of chiropractic education congruent with the rest of the world and especially with the level of education at which the medical doctor is educated in their country.

It is not clear to us that the current efforts regarding chiropractic education in Argentina will end up at an acceptable level, nor that all chiropractic groups in the country will be able to work together for one similar purpose and destination for the chiropractic profession. But our decision is to center our efforts for the rest of year in Argentina. At the end of the year we can have a real picture of the situation.

Brazil

Our visit in Brazil, due to time constriction, was limited to Anhembi Morumbi University, in Sao Paulo. There we had the opportunity to converse with students and student leaders and they expressed their most important concerns continue to be their interest for more continuing education courses and the establishment of a chiropractic law in the country. Although we didn't visit FEVALE University, we know the students there share these concerns.

Recommendations:

For Chile:

1. That Chile stop their conversion programs and start a formal full "pregrado" program in the country;
2. That the Collegium in Chile maintains interest and works towards establishing the necessary channels for all chiropractors in the country to have access to membership in the Collegium.
3. That the Chiropractic Corporation maintains an all-inclusive policy towards membership.

For Argentina:

1. That it is important to start a second degree program in 2016, aiming to a full program in 5 years' time.
2. That once Argentina develops its first "chiropractic grado" program, all others support the program, and work together towards strengthening the program toward the minimal international standard.
3. That the AAPQ only accept as a voting members DCs or "graduates" from the AECC.
4. That the AAPQ should improve their communications with the other groups.

Agreements:

An agreement was signed by all AAPQ participants in Buenos Aires and a follow up date – August 2015, was set to evaluate the progress.

Activities:

Day 1 - Tue 7

Travel and arrival to Santiago from Toronto (Dr. Borges) and Dallas (Dr. Sanchez).

Day 2 - Wed 8

Meeting with Raul Guiñez, President of the Chilean Chiropractic Corporation (FLAQ Member); Pamela Bonacic, Vice President of the Chilean Chiropractic Collegium and Randolph Dolz, Coordinator of the Second Degree Chiropractic Program at Universidad Central de Chile (UCENTRAL).

Meeting at UCENTRAL with David Lopez, Director of the Second Degree Chiropractic Program at this university, Randolph Dolz and Raul Guiñez.

Dinner meeting with directors of the Chilean Chiropractic Collegium: Hugo Salazar, President; Pamela Bonacic and Vicente Peña, Treasurer.

Day 3 - Thu 9

Meeting with Fábio Dal Bello, Coordinator of Master Programs at Universidad Santo Thomas.

Meeting with Jaime Sepulveda Salinas, Advisor for the Department of Policies of Medical and Pharmaceutical Professions in Chile, Raul Guiñez and Hugo Salazar.

Meeting with Bernardo Morales Catalan, Dean of Health and Sciences Department at UCENTRAL, David Lopez, Pamela Bonacic and Raul Guiñez.

Dinner Meeting with Raul Guiñez, Paula Bonacic, Randolph Dolz and Hugo Salazar.

Day 4 - Fri 10

Travel from Santiago to Buenos Aires.

Meeting with Luis E. Franchi, Vice President of Extension at Universidad Abierta Interamericana (UAI); Vanesa Margerone, Director of Executive Training Department at UAI; Carlos Sbolci, Coordinator of the Chiropractic Program for Kinesiologists at UAI and Rodolfo Jakonevick Vocal with the Argentinean Chiropractic Association (AAPQ).

Meeting with Carlos Sbolci, Rodolfo Jakonevick and Adrian Bizarri Chiropractic Program for Kinesiologist and professor at UAI).

Day 5 - Sat 11

Meeting with Juan Bistolfi, Owner/President of Monteverde Chiropractic and Medical Equipment Company.

Meeting with Diego Mellino, Director General at “La Clinica de la Columna” a non-profit clinic of “Fundacion Quiropractica Para Todos”/Director of the Chiropractic Program for Kinesiologists at “Instituto Quiropractico de Argentina” and Roberto Chalukian member of “Fundacion Quiropractica Para Todos” and professor with the Chiropractic Program for Kinesiologists at “Instituto Quiropractico de Argentina”.

Visit to the Chiropractic Program for Kinesiologists at “Instituto Quiropractico de Argentina”.

Day 6 - Sun 12

Meeting with directors of the AAPQ; Omar Pica, President, Rodolfo Jakonevick, Treasurer; David Miranda and Marcelo Sensolini, Financial and Audit Committee.

Tour of Buenos Aires' cathedral, parts of the city and Boca area with Rodolfo Jakonevick and Marcelo Sensolini.

Day 7 - Mon 13

Travel from Buenos Aires to Sao Paulo.

Day 8 - Tue 14

Meeting with Fernando Azevedo, Coordinator of the Chiropractic Academic Program at Anhembi Morumbi University. Campus and clinic tour.

Lunch meeting with Fernando Azevedo; Flavio Vemura and Lucas Marques de Oliveira, Directors of the Chiropractic Student Association at the Anhembi Morumbi University.

Day 9 - Wed 15

Departure from Sao Paulo for both Sira Borges and Juan Sanchez

Note: Juan Sanchez missed his flight from Sao Paulo to Dallas on this date due to a last minute reschedule performed by LAN Airlines notified by email only. Orbitz, the travel agency and LAN assumed no responsibility for the missed flight and a new ticket (Sao Paulo-Dallas) had to be purchased. Dr. Sanchez will contact both Orbitz and LAN from the USA, to follow up on this matter.