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**THE BVM MODEL: CHIROPRACTIC “PHILOSOPHY”
BACK TO THE FUTURE**

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INTRODUCTION: The chiropractic profession manages a wide spectrum of conditions. These conditions are primarily musculoskeletal conditions, but also include visceral and sometimes psychoemotional based problems.

ARGUMENT: We speculate that the attachment of the profession to traditionally described mechanisms to explain the anecdotal reports of success with non-musculoskeletal conditions is problematic. Furthermore, additional evidence acknowledges the interactive role of the viscera and the brain in the formation of many health conditions. Importantly, the traditional mechanism cannot adequately explain these changes. Additional discussion highlights the documented cause and effect of many functional disorders of the brain in many pain and condition-based syndromes by a likely stress based mechanism manifesting through the Hypothalamic-Pituitary Axis of the brain. The biopsychosocial model of disease first described by Engel and favoured by the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) has been used to describe the scope of chiropractic in the etiology and management outcomes of chiropractic treatment.

DISCUSSION: We have postulated a new model to explain the complete spectrum of chiropractic approaches. The new model promotes the interrelationship of the Brain, Viscera and Musculoskeletal structures and is referred to the BVM model. This model we feel better explains the multimodal management strategies being rendered by chiropractic, CAM and allopathic practitioners, and represents a “scientific” approach to some very traditional concepts in chiropractic. These concepts include a neurologically based “above down inside out” view of disease first postulated by Palmer. It is an inclusive model that explains the musculoskeletal spine-only approach and non-musculoskeletal approaches present in the profession.