

Academy President Letter

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

From the Desk of J. R. Brandt DC, MS, FACO

President

Academy of Chiropractic

Dear Fellows,

I'm feeling a bit nostalgic about our specialty of orthopedics at the moment; this will be my last presidential letter. Later this month Dr. Kim Skibsted will become the new Academy president.

I've been thinking over the past few weeks about the significant strides that our specialty has made over the last 60 years. It has been my privilege to be part of it for over 40 years. I began as Vice Dean of the Academy in 1980. Back in 1975 when I started classes to become a chiropractic orthopedist you had to have three years of didactic training followed by a Part I examination, and two years of "on-the-job training" before you could finally take the Part II examination. It was a five-year process at that time.

Having been involved with chiropractic orthopedics all of these years has honestly been a blessing. Yes, we've had many ups and downs during this process, but we've always stayed true to our principles. There have been so many people that have been instrumental to me and more importantly to our specialty. I can't even begin to name everyone without leaving some out. What has been remarkable to me has been the absolute dedication to our specialty with a desire to see continued improvement and expansion of the specialty.

There are two people who helped me more than I can ever explain to anyone. Those two doctors are Dr. Gene Toon who guided me through the early days in the 1980s when I joined as an alternate board member to the American Board of Chiropractic Orthopedists (ABCO). The other and a true friend and mentor is Dr. Ron Evans. I cannot count the hours that we spent scheming, thinking, and planning thoughts and ideas to help the specialty. Fortunately, this involved a great deal of personal friendship and our families spending time together. We did

have on occasion a single malt in one hand and a premium cigar in the other talking about and discussing our specialty. They will never truly understand the depth of my appreciation for their help and assistance during some of our tough times in past years. Thanks a million!

Thank you to my wife, Carolyn, who never wavered on giving her support to the time and effort it took during these past years with Academy business. She is appreciated and loved; I got the best deal ever!

One other man that has continued to inspire me to this day and has been a real blessing to be with and that is my son Ryan, a chiropractic orthopedist that I had the privilege of practicing with for 17 years. Thank you, Ryan, for your steadfast principles and ethics.

Over the years I've met hundreds and hundreds of chiropractic orthopedists all of who demonstrated high professionalism; indeed, a sign of respect and appreciation for the specialty. Thank you for being that professional doctor and representing all of us well.

I remain excited about the specialty and the direction in which we are headed. It is incredible to see the transformation and stability of our examination protocols over the last few decades. Soon we will be an international body with members throughout the world. Incredible!

I will have the privilege of being an advisor as immediate past president to the board. However, I will then have the opportunity then to go back to my very first love with orthopedics, and that is exam writing, item judging and being a subject matter expert. That's how I began this process back in the mid-1980s with the ABCO. I will also be working with the team on our NCCA certification.

Please continue to give Dr. Skibsted and the Academy Board your support.

Blessings to all and thank you for your confidence and trust. I shall never forget your kindness.

Jim Brandt

*"Unless you give yourself to some great cause, you haven't even begun to live..."*  
*William P Merrill*

*“... Where your achievements matter”*

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**President / Academy of Chiropractic Orthopedists**

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