

Introduction

So far in this series I have introduced you to a minority within the profession who show no concept of *chiropractic philosophy* and are incapable of undertaking the academic discipline of the *philosophy of chiropractic*.

Let's ignore them and put our efforts into conventional chiropractors, the magnificent 4 out of 5, or 80% of the profession who get the big idea that chiropractic is about the identification and analysis of small dysfunctions within and about the spine for the purpose of correcting them by hand or specialised instrument.

The goal of this is to help an individual patient move towards their ideal personal expression of health and well-being.

[INTRO CLIP]

Some chiropractors accept *Stephenson's 33 Principles*¹ which is an expression of belief, as in a belief in his first stated principle of Universal Intelligence.

The small problem is that a belief in Universal Intelligence is paradoxically condemned by those with an equally strong belief in the scientific method.

This means there is a clash of belief systems between those who accept Stephenson's arguments and those who reject them in the name of science.

'*Science*' is a belief system that is believed to be testable.

So, could you describe chiropractic as a belief system that is not testable? You could, and you would be wrong.

To tackle this proposition that chiropractic is testable from Stephenson's perspective you must know your own philosophical position, the lens through which you see your world. I have come to think I am a pragmatist.

Remember, *Chiropractic Philosophy* is the philosophical corpus of chiropractic, and perhaps the most important side of the philosophical coin. Let's call it 'heads'.

A search using the term '*philosophy*' in the *Index to Chiropractic Literature* returns 1,179 articles,² a good starting point for those who want to read and commence their journey to become a philosopher. The thrust of these writings over time is towards understanding the

1. Stephenson RW. Chiropractic Textbook. Davenport. Palmer School of Chiropractic. 1927. xiii (Introduction).

2. Chiropractic Library Consortium. Index to Chiropractic Literature. Data retrieved 17 January 2022 15:10:56

clinical practice of chiropractic, in terms that are relatable to the broader health care market, and of those by promulgators of *Chiropractic Philosophy* towards a deeper passion, belief and commitment to and within chiropractic practice.

If you filter only for '*philosophy*' in the *article title* you will retrieve 176 articles,³ which you can reduce to 94 peer-reviewed papers. This is a good start to your reading to give you some ideas to work with.

Now for the 'tails' side of the coin: if the *Philosophy of Chiropractic* interests you as an academic discipline and if you have an interest in strengthening chiropractic as a science, based on sound evidence and philosophical argument without becoming an evidence-based fascist, and if you are prepared to invest a few years into reading, thinking, writing, arguing, and publishing your views, then perhaps you should start working to become a *Philosopher of Chiropractic*.

My objective is to encourage you to undertake a PhD, which is a doctor of philosophy program, and to specify your field as something that deeply interests you, after all, when you are done you will be an expert in that field.

This is where philosophers start to have fun, and here I really must make mention of my observation that the really good writers in chiropractic seem to enjoy what they do and how they think, and then finding the words to convey thoughts and ideas. I particularly like Robert Leach's proposition of a questioning philosophy in chiropractic,⁴ and Wilson Cooper's take on the continuity between science and philosophy.⁵

Already I have mentioned in this set of videos Rome and Waterhouse and their eloquent explanations, backed by literally hundreds of citations from the broad medical literature, about a neuromechanical pathophysiological clinical entity known to be associated with the expression of states of health or lack there-of.

And I really must also make mention of Eric Seiler, Mark Force, and Charles Blum.

Seiler observed⁶ that '*there are no fatal flaws in DD's synthesis theistically, theologically, or philosophically. Universal Intelligence was arguably DD's god-equivalent expression*

3. Chiropractic Library Consortium. Index to Chiropractic Literature. Data retrieved 17 January 2022 15:13:00

4. Leach RA. Doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome: It is time for a questioning philosophy and theory-driven chiropractic research. *J Chiropr Humanit*. 2019 Dec;26:60-74. URL <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6911892/?report=classic>

5. Cooper W. Science vs philosophy: Do we need both? Why? *Chiropr J Aust*. 2010 Dec;40(4):143-47.

6. Seiler E. DD Palmer's theistic spin on biology and the modern effort to hide it. *Asia-Pac Chiropr J*. 2020;1:034 URL <https://apcj.net/seiler-dd-palmers-theistic-spin-on-biology/>

before he ever formalised the philosophy of chiropractic. More commonly referred to as Infinite Intelligence, it is the god of Spiritualism, which DD had as his personal religion.'

Force has provided⁷ a philosophical perspective on the matter of the SARS pandemic of this early 21st Century. In a very solid examination of the facts as they were known at the time he creates a position for chiropractors that is rational and evidence-based. For me, this is philosophy in action, giving ideas as what chiropractors can do, and more important, why they should consider them.

In a similar vein Blum has provided several papers as a framework for chiropractors to apply their philosophy in practice in these challenging times. The first of his series⁸ disentangled the context of chiropractic and the immune system and presented a big picture view.

In his 3-paper series^{9, 10, 11} which is current at the time of recording, he examines non-pharmaceutical prevention, early treatment, and care for those with Covid syndromes, including the Long Haulers. Through this work Blum reinforces the 'why' of chiropractic while respecting its position as a limited health-care system that avoids the use of drugs and surgery.

Reading just the few papers mentioned here, if nothing else, will make you more science-fluent and better equipped to distinguish chiropractic science from fake science and pseudoscience. And you will be a greater asset to the profession.

To summarise the 5 videos within the topic '*Chiropractic*' I have shown that *Chiropractic Philosophy* and the *Philosophy of Chiropractic* are two very different sides to the one coin of chiropractic. The first is the driver for chiropractors for what they do and how they do it, if you like it is the Philosophical Corpus of chiropractic. The second is an academic discipline in the tradition of all philosophies of science.

7. Force M. Reasoning SARS-CoV-2. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2022;2. URL

8. Blum C. Chiropractic and the Immune System: Disentangling Context and Looking at the Big Picture. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2020;1:001 URL <https://apcj.net/blum-immunity-philosophy/>

9. Blum C. Covid-19 and the role of chiropractic in the healthcare arena with non-pharmaceutical prevention, early treatment, and care for those with long Covid syndromes: Part 1 - Prevention. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2022;5. URL <http://apcj.net/papers-issue-2-5/#BlumPrevention>

10. Blum C. Covid-19 and the role of chiropractic in the healthcare arena with non-pharmaceutical prevention, early treatment, and care for those with long Covid syndromes: Part 2 – Early Treatment. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2022;5. URL <http://apcj.net/papers-issue-2-5/#BlumEarlyTreatment>

11. Blum C. Covid-19 and the role of chiropractic in the healthcare arena with non-pharmaceutical prevention, early treatment, and care for those with long Covid, long Covid-19, or long hauler syndromes: Part 3 – Long Covid. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2022;5. URL <http://apcj.net/papers-issue-2-5/#BlumLongCovid>

In this series I have shown the distribution of chiropractors has over 80% as the mode, being conventional chiropractors, with a negative tail to statistical insignificance of a minority less than 20%, who make false claims about divisions within the discipline and hold that it needs to be remade in their pseudo-scientific image.

I've given examples of the minority and referenced their work so you can make your own decisions. On the positive side I've given some of those I view as *Philosophers of Chiropractic* and again, cited their work for you.

You have a transcript of each video, and each transcript is fully referenced. Also the website is fully indexed, by both the terms I have used, and the topics of these videos.

In the next series of 5 videos I look at *Chiropractic as a Science* and address the question '*Is chiropractic a science?*', '*Does it need to be?*', and the relevance of '*Epistemic Relativism*'.

I will also show how Eastern philosophical principles are superior to those used in the West when it comes to understanding chiropractic, and look at the issue of '*Underdetermination of theory by evidence*'.

I look forward to our time together.

This video is indexed at ebrall.com as '01-5 Two Sided Coin'

Indexing terms: Stephenson's 33 Principles; Universal Intelligence; 'Science' as a belief system; philosophical corpus; Robert Leach; Wilson Cooper; Peter Rome; John Waterhouse; Eric Seiler; Mark Force; Charles Blum.