The AAC recently filed a formal petition with the Arizona Legislature asking that the chiropractic scope of practice be changed to remove the prohibition that currently states chiropractors cannot prescribe drugs. The AAC wants an exception for prescription strength anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and muscle relaxants. The AAC's proposal was immediately rejected by the Legislature and so chiropractic will remain a drug-free profession in Arizona.

ACS is concerned that the AAC made this proposal secretly. It is a proposal that affects all chiropractors in Arizona, yet there has never been any mention of it in emails to AAC members, not to mention all Arizona chiropractors. There is no mention of the prescription drug proposal anywhere on the AAC webpage. We do not believe the profession should move in the direction of prescription drugs unless there is an overwhelmingly positive consensus in favor of such a major change. From the feedback we have received, there is no such consensus.

In the past few months, Dynamic Chiropractic has published a three part series called "The Case Against Drugs in Chiropractic." We would like a dialogue to begin about this subject and suggest you begin by reading all three articles. Then we would like you to send ACS an email expressing your views regarding whether or not the chiropractic scope of practice should be expanded granting chiropractors the right to prescribe FDA controlled prescription drugs and begin the transformation that the osteopaths made in the 1950s which ultimately led to them becoming identical to allopaths. Here are the links to the three DC articles:

http://www.dynamicchiropractic.com/mpacms/dc/article.php?id=56652

If you are in favor of drugs in chiropractic, we will expect you to rebut the arguments presented in these articles.

Anti-inflammatory drugs, of course, slow down or halt the inflammatory process. According to Robbins Basic Pathology, the classic text used in medical and chiropractic schools, inflammation is "fundamentally a protective response, designed to rid the organism of both the initial cause of cell injury (e.g., microbes, toxins) and the consequences of such injury (e.g., necrotic cells and tissues). Without inflammation infections would go unchecked, wounds would never heal, and injured tissues might remain permanent festering sores." Inflammation is "essential to the survival of organisms in their ability to get rid of damaged or necrotic tissues and foreign invaders, such as microbes."

No one has explained theoretically how it makes any common sense to suppress or oppose the inflammatory process with drugs such as NSAIDs knowing that inflammation is "fundamentally a protective response ..." Nonetheless, a few chiropractors at the AAC want DCs to get into the business of prescribing drugs to suppress the beneficial process of inflammation. This flies in the face of the entire philosophy and basis of the chiropractic
profession and must be seriously questioned. Furthermore, these drugs are highly toxic. According to a study by Wolfe et al published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in the 06/17/99 issue, if prescription NSAIDs were given their own category, they would be the 15th most common cause of death in the U.S. due to GI bleeding. In 1997, prescription NSAIDs killed 16,500 people in the U.S. while AIDS killed 16,685 people. Deaths from non-prescription NSAIDs were not counted. Chiropractic, the non-drug profession, uses ice to control inflammation. No one has ever died from using ice for inflammation.

We do condemn the AAC for operating in the dark on an issue of such monumental importance. Fortunately, we have an ace lobbyist who can keep track of what the AAC is up to at the Legislature and we will report their activities to the profession even if they want to keep them secret. We do not believe a handful of self-appointed "elite" leaders should be making policy for all Arizona chiropractors with no outside input.