
ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Birth of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners

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Today's National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) is now more than 40 years old, and unless some problem arises, the profession often takes it for granted. Forgotten nowadays are the saga of the NBCE's birth in 1962, that the agency is actually the fourth so named organization, and that its formation and early operations constituted a major success in cooperative action by a frequently divided profession. This article reviews some of the events involved in the formation of the current national testing agency. (*The Journal of Chiropractic Education* 17(2): 89-104, 2003)

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INTRODUCTION

The first National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) was organized by the Universal Chiropractors' Association (UCA) in 1921 at the suggestion of the protective society's secretary, B.J. Palmer, D.C. (1,2) (Fig. 1). This first testing agency, established during the Palmer School's lyceum, was intended to accompany the "model bill" that the UCA had devised for introduction in those state legislatures which had not yet granted DCs licensure. J. Ralph John, D.C., of Baltimore served as this first NBCE's president, and "for two years examinations were held, then the undertaking was abandoned" (3) (Fig. 2). The failure of this early initiative is largely attributable to the apprehension that many in the profession felt, particularly members of various state boards of chiropractic examiners (BCEs). Many voiced the concern that the NBCE was a strategy implemented to further Palmer's control over the profession. Chief among those who stood in opposition to the first NBCE was Arthur L. Forster, M.D., D.C., secretary and co-owner of the National School of Chiropractic in Chicago, who argued that "It is contrary to sound policy to place the State Boards

of Chiropractic Examiners subject to the jurisdiction of, or under obligation to, The U.C.A." (4) (Fig. 3). Forster was joined in these sentiments by Guy G. Wood, D.C., of Minot, North Dakota, member of his state's BCE and holder of the first license to have been granted by any BCE (in 1915).

The second attempt to establish a NBCE was initiated by the National Chiropractic Association (NCA; successor to the UCA and precursor of today's American Chiropractic Association). This second NBCE was organized in 1932 (5), upon the suggestion of E.A. Martner, D.C., of Minneapolis, chairman of the legislative committee of the Minnesota American Chiropractic Association (6). Its major purpose was to find a way around the barrier imposed by the passage of basic science legislation in the various states. Basic science laws required chiropractors, osteopaths, allopaths, and others to pass an examination administered by a basic science board (BSB; often composed of faculty of state university medical schools) prior to being permitted to sit for the test given by their respective licensing authorities. These laws were eventually passed in 24 of the then 48 American states and were very effective in blocking the number of licenses issued to "unorthodox" (i.e.,

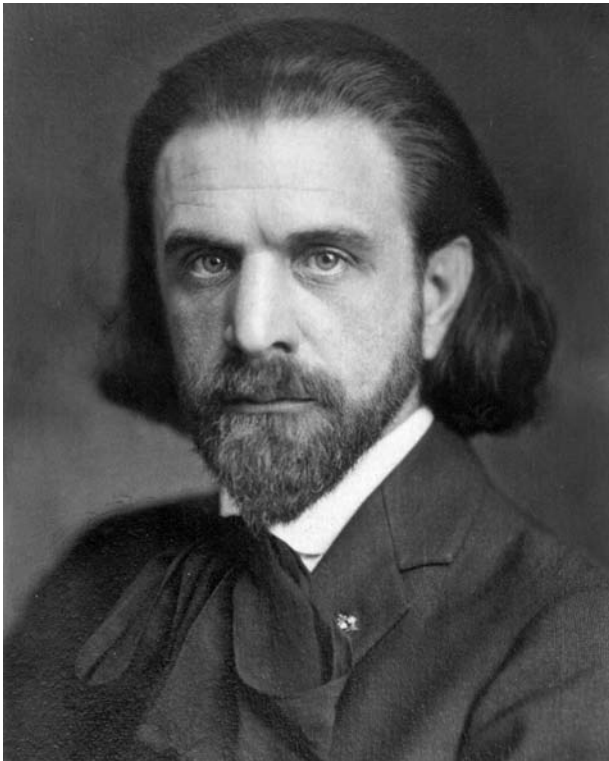


Figure 1. Dr. B.J. Palmer, circa 1920.



Figure 2. Dr. J. Ralph John, circa 1948.

nonallopathic) healers (see Table 1). When a few BSBs accepted the test results of the National Board



Figure 3. Dr. Arthur Forster, circa 1918.

Table 1. Number of Chiropractors Passing and Failing Basic Science Examinations in 1951 in Several Jurisdictions (7)

State	Passed	Failed
Alaska	0	0
Arizona	0	— ^a
Arkansas	8	6
Colorado	1	0
Connecticut	2	23
District of Columbia	0	0
Florida	15	8
Iowa	30	— ^a
Michigan	1	4
Minnesota	3	— ^a
Nebraska	0	2
Nevada	0	0
New Mexico	0	0
Oklahoma	0	2
Oregon	3	0
Rhode Island	1	0
South Dakota	0	0
Tennessee	0	0
Texas	0	1
Washington	0	7
Wisconsin	17	80

^aNo data released by the basic science board.

of Medical Examiners in lieu of their own examinations, the chiropractors hoped that they too might be able to “end-run” the BSBs.

The first officers of this second NBCE were James Slocum, D.C., of Iowa, president (Fig. 4), J.H. Durham, D.C., of Kentucky, vice president, and A.H. O’Connell, D.C., of Vermont, secretary. All were members of their respective BCEs and all were active in the NCA and in the International Congress of Chiropractic Examining Boards (ICCEB; earliest forerunner of today’s Federation of



Figure 4. Dr. James Slocum.



Figure 5. Dr. Frank Dean.

Chiropractic Licensing Boards). Among those who passed all sections of the first examinations of this second NBCE were Frank Dean, M.B., D.C., founder and president of the Columbia Institute of Chiropractic in New York City (later renamed New York Chiropractic College) (Fig. 5) and Ruland W. Lee, D.C., of Newark, New Jersey, future president of the NCA (8) (Fig. 6).

Test administrations continued for several years (Fig. 7), and provision for the continuance of this second NBCE were made at the NCA's annual convention in 1934 at Pittsburgh (9,10), at which time the ICCEB was reorganized as the independent



Figure 6. Dr. Ruland Lee.

Council of State Chiropractic Examining Boards (COSCEB). However, with the resignation of A.H. O'Connell, D.C., as secretary of the National Board, this initiative seems to have fizzled out.

North Dakota chiropractor George Hariman (Fig. 8) recorded that a third NBCE was organized "as early as 1940" (11), although Hariman's successor as president of COSCEB suggested July 1944 as its date of inception (12). The initiative for this testing agency came from COSCEB; Joseph Hoyt, D.C., reported to the profession about the first members of this third NBCE (Figs. 9 and 10):

Dr. Hoyt stated that in accordance with instructions of the Chicago Convention of 1944 he had appointed the following as members of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners: Dr. D.B. Mears, St. Albans, Vt.; Dr. A.R. Hosking, Danville, VA.; Dr. L.F. Downs, Billings, Mont.; Dr. P.V. Blond, Batesville, Ark.; Dr. Edgar Northam, Baltimore, Md.; and that this was the first called meeting of this National Chiropractic Examining Board.

It was also pointed out that this National Examining Board, to be effective, must eventually win recognition of the various State Boards. The initial problem will be to establish a prestige not only with State Boards through the rules and regulations governing the actions of their Boards, but also with state legislators for the purpose of additional statutes necessary to recognize a National Chiropractic Examining Board. (13)

Walter B. Wolf, D.C., member of the South Dakota BSB and a long time member of the NCA Council on Education (Fig. 11), recalled that this

NATIONAL BOARD of EXAMINERS Rapidly Gaining Recognition

The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners will meet at Denver, Colorado, just following the National Convention in August. The dates will probably be August 21-22-23.

The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners is rapidly gaining National recognition and it is to be hoped that a large number of our members will take advantage of this opportunity to take the National Board examinations.

National Board certificates which were issued following the Detroit examinations last year are now in the hands of several State Boards of Chiropractic Examiners for favorable action and acceptance, and one Basic Science Board has

indicated that they will approve the National certificate.

The initiation fee is to be held down again this year to only \$25.00, and this will offer a splendid opportunity for those desiring to take the examinations to do so and at the same time to enjoy the great Denver vacation Convention.

The officers of the National Board of Examiners are: President, Dr. J. E. Slocum, Webster City, Iowa; Vice-president, Dr. J. H. Durham, 411 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, Kentucky; Secretary, Dr. A. H. O'Connell, Barre, Vermont.

Use the coupon below for further information.

Dr. A. H. O'Connell, Sec'y-Treas.
National Board of Examiners
Barre, Vermont.

Kindly send me information on the next examination to be held by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners in Denver.

Kindly enclose an application blank as I am desirous of taking the examination.

Name

Street

City State

Figure 7. This advertisement and information form for NBCE's 1933 examination appeared in the May 1933 issue of the NCA's *The Chiropractic Journal*.

third NBCE was still in its early stages of development when the Council met in Portland, Oregon during the NCA's 1948 convention:

... an attempt was being made by the National Council of Chiropractic Examining Boards to establish a National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, and that this board would definitely include a basic science section in its composition.

The various members of the Council all expressed their approval of such a National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, but also voiced the opinion that it would be some years before such could be accomplished because of the heterogeneous nature of the various chiropractic boards and their individual requirements... (14)

This effort also seems to have quietly faded from the scene.

THE FOURTH ATTEMPT

The fourth attempt to establish an NBCE had its origins in the early meetings of the COSCEB-inspired General Committee of the Profession on Education (GCPE). The GCPE was a diverse group

that drew its members from both major camps in the profession: the International Chiropractors' Association (ICA) and the NCA. The president of COSCEB in 1961, Devere E. Biser, D.C., of Texas (who was also a member of ICA's Board of Control), reported that college leaders had endorsed this fourth effort (see Table 2). Joseph Janse, D.C., N.D., president since 1945 of the National College of Chiropractic (Fig. 12), had attended a number of meetings of the American Association of Basic Science Boards (e.g., 16,17), and gave impetus to the creation of the testing agency:

... Dr. Joseph Janse sparked the idea after attending several meetings of the Association of Basic Science Boards in the early '60s. He observed that many Basic Science Boards were recognizing National Boards in the healing arts and that the Chiropractic profession might end up being the only group sitting for the individual Basic Science Boards since we did not have a National Board. In 1962, Dr. Janse urged the formation of a National Chiropractic Examining Board through the General Committee of the Profession on Education which was sponsored by the former Council of Chiropractic Examining Boards. Since then 8 Basic Science Boards have recognized our National Board and 6 Basic



Figure 8. Dr. George Hariman of Grand Forks, North Dakota, president of COSCEB and the third NBCE.



Figure 9. Dr. Claude Henderson of Mandan, North Dakota, served as president of COSCEB and the third NBCE.

Science Boards have been repealed. So we do have a reason to celebrate....(18)

Florida delegate to the COSCEB, Edward M. Saunders, D.C., chaired a meeting (see Table 3) to organize the new NBCE in 1962 at the Council's annual conference in Detroit (20, 21). The National Board was expected to become self-supporting based on a \$50 fee for its full test, with \$10 charged for each subtest taken a second time. Examinees who failed more than two subtests were required to take the entire examination over. The governing board of the NBCE would consist of five members appointed to 3-year terms by the COSCEB, and vacancies were to be filled by appointment by COSCEB's president. The NBCE would accept applicants from ACA- and ICA-accredited schools. Robert I. Runnells, B.A., D.C., of Colorado, made the motion to create the new agency, and Dr. Saunders was named president. He reported:

The General Committee of the Profession on Education, composed of educators from NCA and ICA colleges and the officers of the Council of Chiropractic Examining Boards, while meeting at the Hollywood

Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood, California, on February 24, 1962, discussed at length the need for a National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. It was agreed that a national board should be set up as soon as possible, since the medical boards were attempting to set up a clearance through their National Medical Board through the Basic Science Boards, and this could be used further to hamstring our profession. They also felt that a National Chiropractic Board must be neutral in nature, and that it would therefore have to come through the Council of Examining Boards. Dr. Devere Biser, president of the Council of Examining Boards, immediately set up a committee to look into the feasibility of setting up such a board, and to bring a report before the Council of Examining Boards in Detroit in June, 1962.

This committee was composed of the following twelve outstanding members of the Council who had a total of over 150 years of experience on Examining Boards: Dr. E.M. Saunders, Florida; Dr. Jacob A. Fischman, Connecticut; Dr. Cecil L. Martin, New Jersey; Dr. Robert Runnells, Colorado; Dr. Devere Biser, Texas; Dr. R. Dwayne Moulton, Idaho; Dr. S.J. Durham, Missouri; Dr. G.E. Hariman, North Dakota; Dr. D.R. McDowell, South Dakota; Dr. H.T. Opsahl, Iowa; Dr. Carl Peters, North Carolina; Dr. G.L. Holman, Wyoming.

After much deliberation, this committee presented its report to the Council of Examining Boards in Detroit,



Figure 10. D.B. Mears, D.C., of St. Albans, Vermont, circa 1976; chairman of the third NBCE in 1945.



Figure 11. Dr. Walter Wolf of Eureka, South Dakota (courtesy of Dr. Kerwin Winkler).

recommending that a national board be established and the mechanics for setting up such a board. Following

Table 2. Participants in the November 1961 meeting of the General Committee of the Profession on Education, convened by the Council of State Chiropractic Examining Boards (COSCEB) (15)

-
- William N. Coggins, D.C., president,
Logan Basic College of Chiropractic
Kenneth Cronk, D.C., acting dean,
Palmer College of Chiropractic
Ernest G. Napolitano, D.C., president,
Columbia Institute of Chiropractic
George H. Haynes, D.C., M.S., N.D.,
dean, Los Angeles College of Chiropractic
John B. Wolfe, B.S., D.C., president,
Northwestern College of Chiropractic
Joseph Janse, D.C., N.D., president,
National College of Chiropractic
Devere E. Biser, D.C., president,
COSCEB and vice-president, ICA
R. Dwayne Moulton, D.C., vice president,
COSCEB and president-elect, NCA
Gordon L. Holman, D.C., secretary-treasurer,
COSCEB
-



Figure 12. Dr. Joseph Janse is seated far right in this 1956 photograph of National College alumni and supporters, among whom were COSCEB stalwarts George E. Hariman, D.C., Gordon L. Holman, D.C., and Norman E. Osborne, D.C.

considerable discussion, the council voted to establish a National Board of Chiropractic Examiners and adopted rules and regulations governing the board.

Five doctors were elected to the National Board of Examiners, one from each district as follows: District 1—M.B. DeJarnette, Nebraska, term expiring 1965; District 2—Chas. C. Lynch, vice-president, Michigan, term expiring 1965; District 3—Jacob A. Fischman, secretary-treasurer, Connecticut, term expiring 1964; District 4—Devere Biser, Texas, term expiring 1963; District 5—E.M. Saunders, president, Florida, term expiring 1964. [Figs. 13–19]

Table 3. Participants in the First Meeting of COSCEB's National Board Committee (19)

Edward M. Saunders, D.C., chairman
 Cecil L. Martin, D.C., co-chairman
 Devere E. Biser, D.C.
 S.J. Durham, D.C.
 George E. Hariman, D.C.
 Gordon L. Holman, D.C.
 D.R. McDowell, D.C.
 R. Dwayne Moulton, D.C.
 H.T. Opsahl, D.C.
 Robert I. Runnells, D.C.



Figure 15. Dr. Robert Runnells.



Figure 13. Dr. Devere Biser, circa 1968.



Figure 14. Dr. R. Dwayne Moulton.

The National Board of Examiners met in Detroit and adopted the following policies:



Figure 16. Dr. Major B. DeJarnette of Nebraska.

1. The standards set by the board would be kept at as high a level or higher than any state board.
2. The examination would be given in two parts. Part I would be basic science subjects, and Part II, chiropractic subjects. If the National Medical Board



Figure 17. Dr. Jacob Fischman of Connecticut.



Figure 18. Dr. Edward Saunders of Florida.



Figure 19. Dr. Gordon Holman of Wyoming.

should be recognized for reciprocity by the American Association of Basic Science Boards, every effort will be made to obtain equal recognition for the National Chiropractic Examining Board.

3. The colleges have expressed a desire for their graduates to take the National Board upon graduation. These examinations could be given at one of the colleges in the East, Midwest, and on the Pacific Coast for all the colleges in the area, and would be supervised by a board member. The fees collected

from these examinations would help to defray the expenses of the board.

4. Basic Science Boards and chiropractic college educators from approved colleges will be used as consultants in the formation of examination questions. The questions will be set up as multiple choice and will be IBM graded. The National Chiropody Board was organized in 1957, and gave its first examination in 1962. It takes time to do things right. We are going to have high standards and be an examining agency that the profession can point to with pride. We will not give any examination until we can do it right, even if it takes five years, but we hope to do it much sooner.
5. The National Board has no desire in any way to usurp the power of the various state boards. It feels that, since all the other professions, except chiropractic, have a functioning National Board, it would be dangerous for our profession not to keep on an equal status with the other professions, and it could conceivably be used against us. The National Board Certificate would also be helpful to chiropractors practicing in unlicensed states, and according to our association attorneys, make their defense easier.

No state board can be forced to participate in this program, nor is it our desire to force ourselves on any state board. Inasmuch as the National Board grew out of the Council of Examining Boards, and is actually a part of the council, it is hoped that all the member states will endeavor to co-operate in every way.

Some states have the power now to accept the National Board Certificate in lieu of examination. Some states could accept the National Board Certificate under their reciprocity section of their law.

The National Board would like to have each state consult with its attorney general and see if it can recognize the National Board at the present time. Some states may have to change their law to include recognition of the National Board. (21)

At the federation's next meeting, held in Chicago in June 1963, COSCEB Vice President Runnells reported the incorporation of the NBCE in the state of Texas, this following an April 1963 meeting in Dallas of its first officers and board members (see Table 4) (Fig. 20). Legal assistance had been provided by the attorney for the Texas Chiropractic Association, E.L. Bauknight (22). Runnells also reported that the National Board's charter and bylaws must be reviewed and approved by COSCEB (23). "Our profession," Dr. Runnells observed, "is late getting started, but can benefit from the experience of other professions by using their ideas formulated through years of preparation." He also stressed the continuing and ultimate authority that rested with the individual BCEs, but reiterated the potentially valuable role that the NBCE could play in replacing the redundant testing required by chiropractic and basic science examining boards:

... The national examinations will be designed primarily to relieve the individual states from the need of

Table 4. Officers and Members of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, 1962–70

Year	President	Vice-President	Secretary-Treasurer	Board Member ^a	Board Member ^a	Board Member ^a	Board Member ^a	Board Member ^a
62–63	Edward M. Saunders	Charles C. Lynch	Jacob A. Fischman	Major B. DeJarnette	Devere E. Biser			
63–64	Edward M. Saunders	Charles C. Lynch	Jacob A. Fischman	Major B. DeJarnette	Devere E. Biser	NCA becomes		
64–65	Edward M. Saunders	Charles C. Lynch	Jacob A. Fischman	Major B. DeJarnette	Devere E. Biser	ACA		
65–66	Gordon L. Holman	Robert I. Runnells	Jacob A. Fischman	Edward M. Saunders ^b	Devere E. Biser	Henry G. West	Charles C. Lynch	Jacob A. Fischman
66–67	Charles C. Lynch	Rex A. Wright	Gordon L. Holman	Edward M. Saunders ^b	William W. Kalas	Henry G. West	Charles C. Lynch	Jacob A. Fischman
67–68	Rex A. Wright	William W. Kalas	Gordon L. Holman	Edward M. Saunders ^b	William W. Kalas	Henry G. West	Charles C. Lynch	S.N. Olson
68–69	Rex A. Wright	William W. Kalas	Gordon L. Holman	Edward M. Saunders ^b	L. Howard Fenton	Henry G. West	Charles C. Lynch	S.N. Olson
69–70	Henry G. West	S.N. Olson	Gordon L. Holman	Edward M. Saunders ^b	L. Howard Fenton	William W. Kalas	Charles C. Lynch	?

^aBoard members also referred to as District Directors.

^bDr. Saunders was also designated Executive Secretary.



Figure 20. Joint meeting of the ACA Council on Education and the Council of State Chiropractic Examining Boards during the midyear meeting of the ACA board of governors; from the February 1964 issue of the ACA Journal of Chiropractic.

a written examination. However, this will not take away the right of any individual state to examine the applicant in any way it sees fit, such as an oral examination, or examining the applicant on physical diagnosis, thus leaving the responsibility of passing or rejecting up to the individual state boards.

It is not difficult to grasp the significance of an individual having a certificate obtained as a result of being passed by the National Board of Examiners on basic sciences and on chiropractic, especially one going into an unlicensed state. Other National Boards are trying to bypass the individual State Basic Science Boards and, of course, should this happen, this Board will do everything in its power to obtain the same privilege. (23)

GETTING UNDERWAY

The NBCE was meticulous in its preparations, determined that “We will not give any examination until we can do it right” (21). Reciprocity, a hoped for consequence of the national testing service, would depend upon cooperation among individual BCEs. Such cooperation was not always readily forthcoming, as in Arizona, where the BCE “felt that this would take away a power that should be kept at home. Dr. Kalas was instructed to take this position at Chicago” (24).

The NBCE was still preparing for its first test administrations when Saunders reported at the COS-CEB's June 1964 meeting in Denver:

... You will have to check with your attorney general to see where you stand on recognizing the National Board. You may not have to change your law at all, you may be able to do it with Board rule, or possibly attach an amendment to the law. Florida's amendment says, "The Board may grant a license without a written examination to an applicant that holds a National Board of Chiropractic Certificate that meets the requirements of this chapter and who has successfully passed an oral interview and a practical examination and has paid an additional fee of \$50." Am appointing Dr. Lynch to contact the various Boards to see what has been done to accept this National Board.

The primary function of this Board is to get us through basic science. As they do away with basic science boards, and as the states start giving Part I of the National Medical Board in lieu of the basic science, we must have this thing going so we can come right in with our National Board and demand equal recognition. This Board will be on a level with, and administered in the same manner as other National Boards.

The schools are all for this National Board, there is no opposition at all...

This National Board Certificate gives no one the right to practice anyplace...

Mr. Dean, Legal Council [sic] for the Kansas Chiropractic Association: Would like to compliment the Board on the work that has been done to try to resolve the basic science problem throughout the United States. In Kansas we will have to change the law, but I think this can be done. This is not my problem as much as the problem of selling the Kansas Chiropractic Association. My question is this: What steps are being taken to satisfy the doctors in the various states that the Board will not be dominated by ACA or ICA?

Dr. Saunders Answered: This is a non-political organization. The National Board is controlled by this Council, the members of the board are elected by the Council. They are elected exactly the same way as the Directors of the Districts are elected... (25)

The first NBCE test sessions were held simultaneously in March 1965 at Chicago, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New York City, and Davenport, Iowa. Sixteen states (Alaska, Alabama, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Wyoming) had already agreed to accept the NBCE's test results (26,27). Dr. Saunders reported that:

Our staff processed 807 applications for Part I, and 482 applications for Part II. Due to heavy snows in the midwest and some illness of applicants, we actually had 749 write Part I, and 466 write Part II. 216 failed Part I and 63 failed Part II. We had a total of 317 pass both parts and are eligible for a "Diplomate" certificate. (26)

Twelve chiropractic college faculties prepared thousands of potential test questions, and the new agency's first test committees were formed (see Table 5). The NBCE hired Harrison C. Godfrey, Ph.D., Director of the Department of Grades and Evaluation at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, to compute and analyze tests results. Godfrey's experience in such work included test construction and scoring for national examining boards in dentistry and podiatry; the psychometrician observed that "In general, the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, is to be congratulated on the development of an exceptionally strong battery of tests. From a measurement standpoint the examinations are surprisingly discriminating and reliable and should be viewed as no small achievement" (26) (Figs. 21 and 22).

Donald L. Deam, attorney for the Kansas Chiropractic Association, was hired by the NBCE as legal counsel in 1965. His first task involved a suit brought in Superior Court of New York State against the NBCE, Saunders, and Columbia Institute of Chiropractic's president, Ernest Napolitano, D.C. The latter anticipated that the "suit could be settled out of court satisfactorily," and that he would be responsible for the expenses involved (26). The NBCE announced that the next examination sessions were scheduled for April 1966 (Figs. 23 and 24).

Although its finances were meager at first, Saunders noted that initial monetary support for the NBCE had come from the ACA and ICA (27). He also noted many other kinds of assistance from several sources, and described the initial test administrations:

Fortunately we were able to obtain great help from the Secretaries of the National Dental and Podiatry Boards. They helped us every step of the way, giving us guidance and direction all the way. In only three years, with their help, we were ready for our first examination. The Chiropractic Colleges did a tremendous job forming a pool of some 10,000 to 12,000 questions in thirteen categories. The testing committees did a magnificent job of selecting 100 questions in each category, from these pools, to be used on the examination.

The actual examination was prepared in one location, with 250 stencils cut; 250,000 sheets of paper mimeographed; these sheets collated by hand into 13,000 booklets of questions. All of these booklets were hand numbered and wrapped and sealed into packages of 50 each, and packed into footlockers along with IBM answer sheets and IBM pencils, etc. Twenty of these footlockers were sent by air freight to security officers, who had no connection with our profession, to five testing centers. These centers were Los Angeles, Davenport, Chicago, Indianapolis, and New York City. At each center the footlockers were picked up from the

Table 5. Test Committees for the National Board Test Program for 1965 (20)

PART I

1. ANATOMY

Chairman-Gerald A. Host, B.C., D.C., National College of Chiropractic, Lombard, Illinois
Member-Donald O. Pharoah, A.A., D.C., Ph.C., Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa
Member-Norman Swenson, B.S., D.C., Chiropractic Institute of New York, New York, N.Y.

2. PHYSIOLOGY

Chairman-Bert T. Hanicke, B.S., D.C., Logan College of Chiropractic, St. Louis, Missouri
Member-J. Alan Johnson, A.A., D.C., B.S., Lincoln College of Chiropractic, Indianapolis, Indiana
Member-Gerald M. Rogers, A.S., B.S., D.C., National College of Chiropractic, Lombard, Illinois

3. CHEMISTRY

Chairman-Kenneth Cronk, B.A., M.S., D.C., Ph.C., Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa
Member-Lewis F. Bierman, D.C., B.S., M.A., Lincoln College of Chiropractic, Indianapolis, Indiana
Member-George T. Parker, B.S., M.S., D.C., National College of Chiropractic, Lombard, Illinois

4. PATHOLOGY

Chairman-William D. Harper, B.S., M.S., D.C., Texas Chiropractic College, San Antonio, Texas
Member-Don Fink, B.S., D.C., Logan College of Chiropractic, St. Louis, Missouri
Member-Sidney Cook, B.A., D.C., Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa

5. BACTERIOLOGY

Chairman-Dorothea A. Towne, B.S., D.C., Ph.C., Cleveland Chiropractic College, Los Angeles, California
Member-Peter Newman, B.A., D.C., Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, Glendale, California
Member-John W. Pierce, B.S., D.C., Lincoln College of Chiropractic, Indianapolis, Indiana

6. HYGIENE, SANITATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Chairman-Arnold J. Zarett, D.V.M., B.S., M.S., D.C., Chiropractic Institute of New York, New York, N.Y.
Member-Christopher Waser, D.C., Logan College of Chiropractic, St. Louis, Missouri
Member-Woodrow W. McIntyre, B.S., D.C., Cleveland Chiropractic College, Kansas City, Missouri

PART II

1. DIAGNOSIS

Chairman-Robert N. Solheim, D.C., Northwestern College of Chiropractic, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Member-Ronald P. Beideman, D.C., National College of Chiropractic, Lombard, Illinois
Member-Romuald Klimkiewicz, M.D., Columbia Institute of Chiropractic, New York, N.Y.

2. GYNECOLOGY, OBSTETRICS, PEDIATRICS

Chairman-Paul O. Crown, D.C., Western States Chiropractic College, Portland, Oregon
Member-Lazarus L. Kalman, B.S., M.A., D.C., Chiropractic Institute of New York, New York, N.Y.
Member-Jay D. Kirby, O.C.R., Litt.D., D.C., Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, Glendale, California

3. X-RAY (Technique and Interpretation)

Chairman-Earl A. Rich, D.C., Ph.C., Lincoln College of Chiropractic, Indianapolis, Indiana
Member-Carl S. Cleveland, Sr., D.C., Ph.C., Cleveland Chiropractic College, Los Angeles, California
Member-Appa L. Anderson, D.C., Western States Chiropractic College, Portland, Oregon

4. GERIATRICS, DERMATOLOGY, SYPHILOLOGY, TOXICOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY

Chairman-John A. Barfoot, B.A., D.C., Texas Chiropractic College, San Antonio, Texas
Member-Max Kavalier, B.S., M.A., D.C., Chiropractic Institute of New York, New York, N.Y.
Member-Harold Payne, D.C., Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, Glendale, California

5. PRINCIPLES OF CHIROPRACTIC (Spinal Analysis, Adjustive Technique, Orthopedics and First Aid)

Chairman-Carl S. Cleveland, Jr., B.S., D.C., Cleveland Chiropractic College, Kansas City, Missouri
Member-Mortimer Levine, D.C., Chiropractic Institute of New York, New York, N.Y.
Member-Galen R. Price, D.C., Ph.C., Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa

6. JURISPRUDENCE, ETHICS AND ECONOMICS

Chairman-Morris Schwalb, Esq., B.S., L.L.B., Chiropractic Institute of New York, New York, N.Y.
Member-D.P. Casey, D.C., Logan College of Chiropractic, St. Louis, Missouri
Member-Elmer L. Crowder, D.C., Ph.C., Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa

7. PHYSIOTHERAPY (Elective)

Chairman-John Mazion, Ph.B., D.C., National College of Chiropractic, Lombard, Illinois
Member-Richard D. Stonebrink, D.C., B.S., Western States Chiropractic College, Portland, Oregon
Member-Richard H. Hardenbrook, B.S., D.C., Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, Glendale, California

National Board of Chiropractic Examiners



Hereby Confers On

Edwin Howard Kimmel

the title of

Diplomate

having satisfied all the requirements and having successfully passed the examinations given by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Dated May 1, 1965 .


Secretary


President



Figure 21. A dated but unnumbered certificate from NBCE was granted to ACA governor Edwin H. Kimmel, D.C., in May 1965, signed by NBCE Secretary Jacob Fischman, D.C., Ph.C., and NBCE President Edward M. Saunders, D.C.

security officers by a member of the National Board, and kept in his custody during the entire examination. Our first examination was given March 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1965.

The examination in Los Angeles, was given by Dr. Gordon L. Holman; the Davenport examination was given by Dr. Robert Runnells; the Chicago examination by Dr. Devere Biser; the Indianapolis examination was given by Dr. Charles Lynch; and the New York examination was given by Dr. E.M. Saunders, and Dr. J.A. Fischman. The seals were broken on each package of questions in the presence of the applicants at the beginning of each examination.

Proctors were hired from the liberal arts colleges in each testing area. We had a minimum of one proctor for each thirty applicants, plus the Security Officer, and the Test Administrator, for each testing center.

The National Board has had nothing but praise from the colleges at each of the five testing centers for the



Figure 22. Drs. Edwin Kimmel (left) and Devere Biser, during a meeting of the ACA board of governors in 1967 (courtesy of Dr. Kimmel).



Figure 23. Drs. Charles Krasner (left), president of the Chiropractic Association of New York, and Ernest Napolitano, 1965.



Figure 24. The early offices of the NBCE were the homes or clinics of the agency's officers (e.g., Dr. Ed Saunders); here the home of Gordon L. Holman, D.C., in Cheyenne, Wyoming (courtesy of Joanne Monath of the NBCE).

manner in which the examinations were conducted. We have also had many compliments from the representatives of the many Boards, and organizations who dropped into the testing centers to observe the examinations while in progress. . .

Thousands of hours of man power went into the preparation of this examination, some paid for, many, many hours donated by dedicated individuals who believed that this was a job that had to be done, if we were to survive as a great profession. These same individuals are already hard at work on next years examination. I would like to note here that no Board Member, or College Personnel, received any salary or pay for duties performed other than actual travel and expenses. . .

The Basic Science Board in Kansas recognizes the National Board and other Basic Science Boards are considering such. (27)

REASON TO CELEBRATE

Four years later, three additional BSBs had accepted the NBCE's test results in lieu of their own

Table 6. Enactment and Repeal of Basic Science Legislation in the United States (Based on References 28 and 30); States Listed in Chronological Order of Revocation

Dates of enactment & revocation	State
1939-1967	Florida
1936-1968	Arizona
1941-1968	New Mexico
1957-1969	Kansas
1946-1970	Alaska
1940-1971	Rhode Island
1937-1972	Michigan
1935-1973	Iowa
1937-1973	Oklahoma
1933-1973	Oregon
1927-1974	Minnesota
1959-1975	Alabama
1925-1975	Connecticut
1927-1975	Nebraska
1951-1975	Nevada
1939-1975	South Dakota
1925-1975	Wisconsin
1937-1976	Colorado
1943-1976	Tennessee
1929-1977	Arkansas
1929-1978	District of Columbia
1949-1979	Texas
1959-1979	Utah
1927-1979	Washington

examinations (28). Despite a reinvigorated antichiropractic campaign by organized medicine, centered since November 1963 in the American Medical Association's Committee on Quackery (29), state legislatures had begun to eliminate basic science boards (see Table 6). Although political medicine's goal was to "contain and eliminate" its smaller competitor, the walls created by basic science legislation were crumbling.

By 1966 the number of states recognizing the NBCE's tests had grown to 25, although in a few jurisdictions (e.g., Illinois) the testing authority (BCE or basic science board) purchased subsections of the NBCE tests without accepting scores from the full battery (31). Questions about the security of NBCE exams were raised in Iowa and Utah, but Dr. Godfey was of the opinion that "Security operations of Chiropractic testing are far above any other I know" (32). He also noted that the fail rate for

NBCE examinees was much higher than for those taking the national board examinations in medicine and dentistry.

The legislative committees and BCEs in other jurisdictions (e.g., Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada) were working toward recognition of the NBCE (32–34), but prospects in some states (e.g., New York, Ohio) looked dim. The NBCE’s second year of test operations saw Logan College in St. Louis and Canadian Memorial College in Toronto added as testing sites (35). The COSCEB considered methods to compare NBCE test results with those of basic science examinations, and ways of familiarizing chiropractic students with NBCE’s procedures (34). Henry G. Higley, D.C., M.S., professor and chairman of the departments of physiology and research at the LACC and ACA’s director of research, was commissioned to perform some of the statistical analyses of scores (32), perhaps in conjunction with a larger study of licensure and testing in the profession (36) (Fig. 25). The NBCE encouraged chiropractic colleges to make its examinations mandatory for all students (33).

A decade after its birth, the NBCE could boast “10 Years of Progress” and that it was well on the way to accomplishing its primary goal. In his annual report to the profession, NBCE Executive Director Gordon Holman indicated that “8 Basic Science Boards have recognized our National Board and 6 Basic Science Boards have been repealed. So we do have a reason to celebrate” (37) (Fig. 26). As well, he noted, 41 BCEs had recognized the NBCE and accepted its test results as a basis for licensure. In Mississippi the newly established BCE had turned to the NBCE for assistance in preparing its first licensing



Figure 25. Dr. Henry Higley, 1967.



Figure 26. Dr. Gordon L. Holman, 1973.

examinations. Problems were still apparent in some jurisdictions, such as Virginia, where the medically dominated licensing authority threatened to substitute the tests administered to foreign medical graduates (FLEX) for NBCE’s exams (37). But overall, the chiropractors’ fourth national testing agency was a success and had demonstrated the profession’s ability to work together for a common goal.

SUMMARY

Today’s NBCE has endured like none of its fore-runners and is a testament to the capacity of chiropractors to work cooperatively for a shared purpose: the defeat (or bypass) of basic science legislation. That this venture would succeed was not clear at the outset. Although B.J. Palmer’s, demise in 1961 (38) had raised hopes that greater unity in the profession might be possible, the chiropractic colleges, most of which were allied with one or the other of the two national membership societies (ICA, NCA), were in conflict and competition. Other attempts at unified action, such as the formation of a single national membership organization (the American Chiropractic Association) in 1963–64 and the ongoing contest to establish a federally recognized educational accrediting agency, would not be so successful.

In the case of the present NBCE, however, common purpose and shared commitment to a high standard produced an agency that achieved its original goal and has continued to serve for four decades. Notwithstanding rocky times along the way, chiropractors can take satisfaction in the birth and longevity of the National Board. This is an agency that has become an established and essential component in the infrastructure of the profession.

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