

# The Update

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## The FSCO is Still Pink by Bill Decken, DC LCP

Harry Ritchie wrote a book titled *The Last Pink Bits: Travels through the Remnants of the British Empire*. Ritchie noted that if all the British Colonies were colored pink on a map of the world, at one point in time much of the globe would have been colored pink. The book tells of his travels through Gibraltar, the Ascension Islands, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the Falklands Islands, Bermuda, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The year was 1998 and these were the seven remaining colonies of the British Empire.

John Cabot spotted Newfoundland in 1497 thus starting the British imperial adventure. As British expansion ensued the world map became more and more pink, reaching its densest coloration in 1897, with the Imperial Capitol in London and its Empress Queen Victoria on the throne. In 1947, four hundred and fifty years after Cabot went colony spotting; India won its independence from Britain. Lord Curzon, at the time, was recorded as saying, "As long as we rule India, we are the greatest power in the world. If we lose it, we shall drop straight away to a third-rate power." In 1997, the British lease on Hong Kong expired and its six million inhabitants were delivered into China's hands. The color of the world map changed drastically in 100 years.

Suffering from the delusion of

importance, the British Nationality Act denied inhabitants of all but two of Britain's colonies the right of abode in Britain. The act was created to prevent Britain from being overwhelmed by six million people who, it was thought, would invade the country before the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong. Since money is always in the mix, a price of 200,000 pounds was set as the fee that a person from Hong Kong had to invest in the United Kingdom in order to be granted full British citizenship. The flood-tide of those emigrating to Britain amounted to only 5,000 over 5 years. Why so few? Ritchie suggests the fact that Hong Kong had a higher per capita income, that one-third of Britains were unemployed, and that Hong Kong has both a lower infant mortality and higher life expectancy than Great Britain may have influenced peoples' choices.

This interesting read got me thinking about Chiropractic. Has the world map of chiropractic become less pink as well? BJ Palmer certainly did his best to paint the world pink with Chiropractic. On the other hand, DD Palmer introduced the term "mixing" in the very early years of the profession because he saw those educated and trained in Chiropractic painting with different colors as the young profession grew.

A study of the principles of

## FSCO

### Chairman

Bill Decken,  
DC  
(SC) 864-574-  
8047

### Vice

### Chairman

Greg Stetzel,  
DC  
(NJ) 973-948-  
5556

## FSCO Officers

### President

Shane Walker,  
DC  
(FL) 239-597-  
6099

### Vice

### President

Peter  
Kevorkian,  
DC  
(MA) 781-  
769-2500

### Secretary

Kristen  
Denette, DC  
(MA) 508-  
230-5056

### Treasurer

Dennis  
Keenan, DC  
(NJ) 201-845-  
0993

## FSCO

2276 Wassergass  
Road  
Hellertown, PA  
18055  
1-800-521-9856  
[www.straightchiropractic.org](http://www.straightchiropractic.org)

chiropractic reveals that the vertebral subluxation, its detection, correction and reason for doing so, is central to the practice of Chiropractic. That's Chiropractic "in the pink". As a brief aside, if you have not been fortunate enough to study these principles or wish to delve into them deeper, I suggest the Academy of Chiropractic Philosophers (ACP) program at Sherman College, as a good place to start. If you like you can also follow that with study towards a Diplomate in Philosophical Chiropractic Standards (DPhCS).

So, in the 100 years that the British Empire was waning from its 1897 peak to its 1997 loss of China, what was the Chiropractic experience? The length and breadth of education grew but some Chiropractic colleges were closed. Specialized and regional accreditation of Chiropractic colleges was granted by governmental entities, peaking with a total of two specialized accrediting agencies, the CCE and SCASA, for the profession. SCASA eventually fell off the map. Chiropractic became recognized in all 50 of the United States with licenses being granted to chiropractors, and several other countries developed official recognition of Chiropractic as well. Insurance reimbursement grew dramatically during this period but then limits were implemented.

Does Chiropractic also suffer from the delusion of importance? Research, an important aspect of any field of study, focused on "the pink" at Palmer College in the early days but eventually took on a different hue. This expansion of a different color was not limited to research, but was also found in education (chiropractic colleges teaching physical therapy and

state jurisdictions requiring it for licensure), testing by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners expanded into the areas of physical therapy, pharmacology and acupuncture, and insurance reimbursement for vertebral subluxation had to be connected to a medically diagnosable condition.

The latest developments in Chiropractic, beyond this 100 year window, include the education and recognition of a higher tier of "advanced level chiropractic physicians" who can prescribe drugs and give injectables. This is clearly an expansion of Chiropractic, but of what color? At the same time we return for a look at the United Kingdom, where the use of the phrase "vertebral subluxation complex" has been discouraged by regulatory and educational institutions. This is clearly a declining of any pink colonization on the part of Chiropractic over the past 115 years.

So how important is the color pink to chiropractic? How important is the patient education curriculum in your practice? How important is it for your actions to match your words? How important is your participation in the state and national organizations that represent Chiropractic? The FSCO was chartered as a pink colony in 1976 by individuals who wanted to see Chiropractic stay pink, and see that pink expand. The FSCO is still pink. Thank you for your support.

*Bill Decken, DC, LCP, is Chairman of the FSCO Board of Directors. In addition to maintaining Family Straight Chiropractic in Spartanburg, SC, he is an Associate Professor at Sherman College. Currently also Chairman of the Philosophy Department, his vision to encourage and to help develop thinkers, writers and speakers for the chiropractic profession has led to the development of the Academy of Chiropractic Philosophers. He is founder and president of the Palmetto State Chiropractic Association.*