

**The George Arvidson Award
for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic**
78th Annual Congress
Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards
May 8, 2004
Denver, Colorado

Presented by Dr. Richard L. Cole, FCLB President

The George Arvidson Award for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic was created by the Federation in 1992.

This award is the Federation's highest individual honor.

Named for FCLB Past President Dr. George Arvidson of Minnesota, it recognizes integrity, service, sacrifice, vision, and commitment in the arena of chiropractic licensure.

The selection of the recipient is made thoughtfully and with joy as we continue to keep alive the dreams of George Arvidson, the gentle man with the great heart, the radiant smile, and the deep love for chiropractic.

Each year, a right choice clearly emerges to uphold the honor represented by this prestigious award.

Our 1993 award began the tradition with journalist Don Petersen.

1994 was Dr. Rex Wright of Kansas. In 1995, Dr. Brent Owens of Florida. In 1996 the award went to co-winners, Dr. Paul Tullio of Illinois and Dr. Frank Hideg of Kentucky.

1997 - Dr. Daniel Saint Germain. 1998 - Dr. Peter D. Ferguson

1999 the award went around the world to Australia to Dr. Ed Devereaux. The new millennium in 2000 recognized Dr. Ken Padgett. In 2001, the winner was Horace Elliott.

In 2002, Dr. Joe Brimhall was honored.

And last year, Dr. Larry Spicer of Minnesota was the recipient of the Federation's highest individual honor.

This year, we have the opportunity to highlight the character and accomplishments of a man who has sacrificed much for chiropractic licensure and regulation.

He is bright, passionate, and vocal.

To many, he is larger than life.

In some ways, he's hard to get close to - perhaps this is because he's always moving so fast.

His relentless travel schedule, over 40 weeks a year, would exhaust most of us – yet he seems to draw from some deep well of energy.

Where does he get this energy?

Maybe it comes from his love of chiropractic, sparked some 45 years ago when he matriculated into Palmer Chiropractic College.

But perhaps it comes from his sense that the more he does, the more he sees there is to do - that accomplishment simply fuels vision.

Maybe that sense of urgency to work, to contribute, is why he doesn't play golf.

He is infinitely curious. He reads at least one book each week, and is fascinated by law, business, marketing, and public relations.

He was in private practice long enough to care for three generations of patients.

After 11 years in practice he challenged himself to take the National Board examinations, which were not available when he graduated from Palmer.

But that wasn't enough. Something made him want to look beyond the surface. He wanted to see more clearly - inside everything, people and issues.

So he pursued postgraduate studies in radiology at National College from 1973 - 75.

We should have known he was headed into leadership - and we can be thankful that we didn't lose him to the fast food management company that helped pay for his chiropractic college education.

Instead, he went on to become his state's delegate to the American Chiropractic Association and president of his state society, where he also served as its director of legislative affairs.

All this was preparing him for a position of spokesperson, both nationally and internationally, for the chiropractic profession.

But his message was never on behalf of the profession, it was always on behalf of the patient.

What do we learn from him?

That – with persistence and commitment, we can take on giants - and we can win.

Although he has never served on a licensing board, he has contributed notably to public protection and to chiropractic regulation, by drafting and spearheading legislation to ensure professional practice.

Years ago, he saw in our Federation the potential to capitalize on connections, technology, and the economies of scale.

Without hesitation, he committed to developing CIN-BAD in both its early stages and subsequent Internet presence. This has slammed the door shut on doctors escaping to new jurisdictions without board knowledge.

He stands by the Federation, providing financial support for our database development. He stands by the patients, putting their interests first and foremost in hundreds of interviews through radio, TV and print media.

As chairman of the ACA Board of Governors, he spoke passionately for chiropractic.

As President of the World Federation of Chiropractic, he solidified a vision of a world united for the benefit of patients.

As President and CEO of NCMIC Group, he gives generously to projects which both enhance the professional practice and raise the standards for doctors of chiropractic.

His father was a stonecutter, laying the foundations for magnificent worldly structures.

He has followed in that path, laying the foundations for magnificent ideas and innovative connections.

He sees needs and fills them,
he sees opportunities and builds them.

Please join me in presenting the Federation's highest honor,
the George Arvidson Award,
to a distinguished author, teacher, leader, and loyal friend of public protection,

Dr. Louis Sportelli