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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Subscriber,

Dr. Dennis Marchiori and Dr. Sharon Jaeger are our lecturers for this issue of *D.C. Tracts*. Both come with excellent academic, scientific, and clinical credentials.

When it comes to radiography, our profession has come a long way since I graduated from chiropractic college in 1962. We were trained to read and analyze plain films to determine structural dis-relationships, congenital anomalies, and pathology. Our cognizance and expertise in dealing with the latter left something to be desired. The chiropractor of today is better prepared to order the appropriate diagnostic films, and has sufficient knowledge and experience to determine if the information on the radiographs (along with an adequate history and examination) is sufficient to allow a comfortable pursuit of an intelligent course of treatment. If there is any question as to the interpretation of the radiographic findings, chiropractic and medical radiologists are available for consultation.

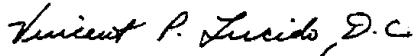
Whether we still take our own radiographs or access them from other professionals, Dr. Marchiori's emphasis is on honing our skills by paying attention to basics, avoiding error in observation and interpretation by following a detailed check-list, and conducting an organized search of the films.

Dr. Jaeger stimulates our awareness of the varied conditions that we should be alert to when viewing lumbar films. She spares us by not giving a broad panoply of pathologic conditions that we need to be prepared to see, but focuses on commonly found calcifications of nearby organs and tissues. While findings vary in their clinical significance, it is incumbent upon us to make a proper determination of what they are and how they may or may not affect the patient's health.

Dr. Tracy Littrell fills the Diagnostic Corner with an overview of radiological aspects of rheumatoid arthritis - and a very helpful reminder of the seven criteria for making a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (4 out of 7 necessary).

Dr. Killinger gets an assist in her abstract section from Drs. Linda Carlson and Robert Rowell. Her peanut butter and jelly analogy with regard to radiology and chiropractic is apropos. Both disciplines developed in a somewhat parallel chronology, and intersected early in the process.

Respectfully,



Vincent P. Lucido, DC

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COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The topic of the Spring issue of *D.C. Tracts*, Vol. 21, No. 1 will be the Female Athlete. Dr. Michelle Barber will present lectures on the female athlete triad and the anterior cruciate ligament. Dr. Stephen Perle will provide the Diagnostic Corner on exercise and pregnancy.