

WHAT IS CHIROPRACTIC / FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGY?

The science and art of Chiropractic has always been neurologically based. Chiropractic is designed to stimulating the nervous system in its most efficient manner -- through the center line structures of the spine and central nervous system. Nowhere is the phrase "use it or lose it" more appropriate; we either use our nervous system properly or it will break down. The properly delivered chiropractic adjustment is one of the most powerful ways to stimulate the brain and nervous system.

Many people might ask how a chiropractic adjustment can stimulate the nervous system. [Click here to find out.](#)

Chiropractic was founded on neurological principles. Every chiropractic adjustment affects segmental spinal cord reflexes, stimulating an immediate local response to the spinal cord that loops back again to the muscles that support that joint. From the cord, the stimulus also goes directly to the brain and other related areas. It, too, loops back down to the cord again to integrate its effects on these segmental loops. In total, for every signal that comes into the spinal cord twelve different things happen inside that cord segment, all in an instant.

Today -- thanks in a great part to the Carrick Institute for Graduate Studies -- chiropractic's neurological foundation is deeper, wider, and stronger than ever. Each functional neurologist has a unique calling to both study and skill, and has developed a superior knowledge of neurology, the application of which is done without drugs or surgery. That standard enables these doctors to better care for their patients and become referral sources for neurological diagnosis.

Just as with other healthcare professionals in medicine and dentistry, today's doctors of chiropractic can choose to be either general practitioners or specialists. Through focused education, training, and board certification, those doctors who choose to specialize devote their practice to a particular branch of health care. Chiropractic doctors might specialize in internal disorders, radiology, orthopedics, physical rehabilitation, pediatrics, and neurology. Those doctors who specialize in functional neurology assess the neurological condition of a patient and treat that patient using non-invasive, non-pharmaceutical therapies. It might be best described as brain-based physical rehabilitation.