Epilogue

Beyond internal utilization, the NBCE cannot identify all possible applications of the job analysis data. To a very large degree, the applications will remain fluid, to be considered, weighed, and implemented according to a broad set of needs found in disparate corners of society. Academicians may find the job analysis data useful for one purpose, while state licensing authorities may find it useful for another. Individual health care providers may benefit by comparing the data to their own habits and knowledge.

In exploring the possibilities of further data applicability, the following criteria should be acknowledged: 1) the elements which were measured 2) the methods by which those elements were rated. The job analysis sought to determine the conditions the chiropractor typically encounters, the care he/she is likely to administer or recommend, and the risk associated with rendering this care.

A job analysis is equipped to provide information about the conditions and activities licensed chiropractic practitioners should be best prepared to address--those they encounter most often, and those that are accompanied by the greatest risk. This information can be quite valuable. For example:

- Chiropractic colleges typically seek to teach and thoroughly test student proficiency in the activities chiropractors will be called upon to perform routinely, particularly those which are performed most frequently and those that carry a significant degree of risk.
- State licensing authorities typically endeavor to assess licensure candidates' knowledge and skills in areas that they as practitioners are likely to encounter, particularly those that carry a significant degree of risk.

In serving the testing needs of the chiropractic profession, the NBCE serves as a bridge between the colleges and the state licensing agencies. In developing its National Board exams, the NBCE seeks to tailor its test material to both the chiropractic college curriculum and to the subject areas that state licensing authorities need to have assessed.

As stated at the beginning of this report, the NBCE "sought to provide the chiropractic profession, including those served by the profession and those observing the profession, with the most credible, relevant, and accurate reference possible, one which documents chiropractic as it is practiced as a full-time profession." Those who guided and conducted the job analysis project firmly believe this objective has been achieved.

It was *not* the NBCE's objective to define a chiropractic *scope of practice*; this is determined legislatively on a state-by-state basis. Nor was it the intention of the NBCE to establish guidelines for practice, to promote any particular philosophical doctrine, or to in any way infer judgments.

In evaluating the limitations of this study, several areas surfaced during the project. Some of these--such as the accuracy of licensee lists provided by states, the recollections of the respondents who provided information, and the individuals who failed to respond to the survey--were largely outside NBCE control.

In other areas, the NBCE proceeded on the basis of job analysis research and procedural precedent. Areas inevitably accompanied by the possibility of imprecision included the survey text upon which the resulting data hinged, the supposition that all respondents would similarly interpret the survey's rating scales and terms, and the interpretation of the importance factor within the study.

A wealth of information beyond that published in this text still lies within the data amassed by the NBCE job analysis survey instrument. Time, staff, and funding limitations dictated that this publication report the project findings in an abbreviated or summarized version. A companion volume offering a breakdown of data by states is planned as the next phase in reporting the results of the job analysis.