

# The upper cervical Chiropractic lineage diagram project

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Joseph Ierano

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**Narrative:** At times something little and insignificant can get into our minds as clinicians and give us a reason to think a little more deeply about whatever it may be.

This is the case when I came to realise there is no given lineage of how upper cervical Chiropractic care came to be what it is today.

There are multiple independent stories, each favourable to one person's particular recollections, but by and large they are isolated stories and disconnected from others.

I have commenced this small project to build a lineage based on what I have been able to retrieve from the literature.

It is a work in progress, which I present here, with the open invitation to readers with further detail they feel is relevant to please reach out to me so we can build a definitive lineage of this idea in Chiropractic.

**Indexing Terms:** Chiropractic, upper cervical; history.

## The story so far

As an amateur musician my primary neural pleasure tonic is aural. Among many a visual dominance in focus of interpretation, with due respect to the blind, must also be high as magazines are still available for browsing in physical stores to this day. Print media has transitioned largely to electronic format often surrounded with flashing lights and icons. This seems to be the phishing of attention spans among the multitude.

I must say I like to occasionally have an optic newsstand input as seeing is believing and holding a picture still presents a delightful array of neural optical signals to stir the wants and desires or simply relive a memory that awakens the amygdala with charming nostalgia, once again.

### *Upper cervical specific*

Given that the single most important subdiscipline in chiropractic is arguably the '*Upper cervical specific*' (UCS) technique and is my technique of choice, I wanted to create a picture of this century-old tale.

It would assist my work on a literature review of UCS with my focus on *Atlas Orthogonal Technique*. I have found that the personalities and characters involved in its emergence are as interesting as the science behind it.

... the ability to understand the relationships and connections within a sub-discipline of Chiropractic can empower us as modern-day clinicians to make further contributions ...'



As a general observation, UCS is a phenomenon of novel, unique importance, with deep adherence to the liberation of suffering in humanity, which has almost completely been ignored in mainstream human health care history. Kind of like the emergence of pornographic photography and its fascinating comment on French society origins through the raunchy Daguerrotype of old. (1) Pornography has gained more intellectual interest as a social phenomena, it seems, than a BJ Palmer 'hole in one' lecture, let alone the genius of his father explaining his extraordinary transition from Magnetic Healer. I would like to think these attitudes are changing.

Examination and treatment of the brainstem, craniocervical junction is of supreme importance to human function and thriving. We are not in consideration of the nevertheless brilliant worth that modern medicine has achieved in treating frank and obvious pathology of this area: fractures, dislocations, medical subluxations; but, rather, the subtle esoteric considerations of occult trauma, the fine milli-metric Chiropractic subluxations that we observe in finely aligned radiographs and the highly skilled subtle palpation skills that can detect soft tissue turgidity and musculature in tonic aberration.

And subsequently our detection of change and a return to 'normal' after an adjustment executed within the parameters of the upper cervical disciplines. I am thinking of palpation, leg length analysis, imaging, post-imaging and management.

To date I have not located an adequate schematic, diagrammatic representation of the origins and lineage of UCS, thus I embarked upon creating one.

This must be seen as a work in progress and I invite anyone to comment, reference and add to this work (email me at [joe@ieranocom.com](mailto:joe@ieranocom.com)).

We need to collectively ensure that in the decades to come Chiropractic will not become just 'what people think it is', (2) but rather all it can be, as an answer to problems with human health.

Just like the appreciation of the century-old naughty Daguerrotype in the fascinating (yet, also shocking) *YouTube* clip cited, many stories can emerge from the initial shock to the medical establishment blocking the perceived profound health outcomes borne of Chiropractic thinking and luminous tweaking with the human body.

The social context is the fact that certain acts, no matter how they are painted in history, can emerge as a necessity and a godsend to human expression, in the changing landscape of social norms.

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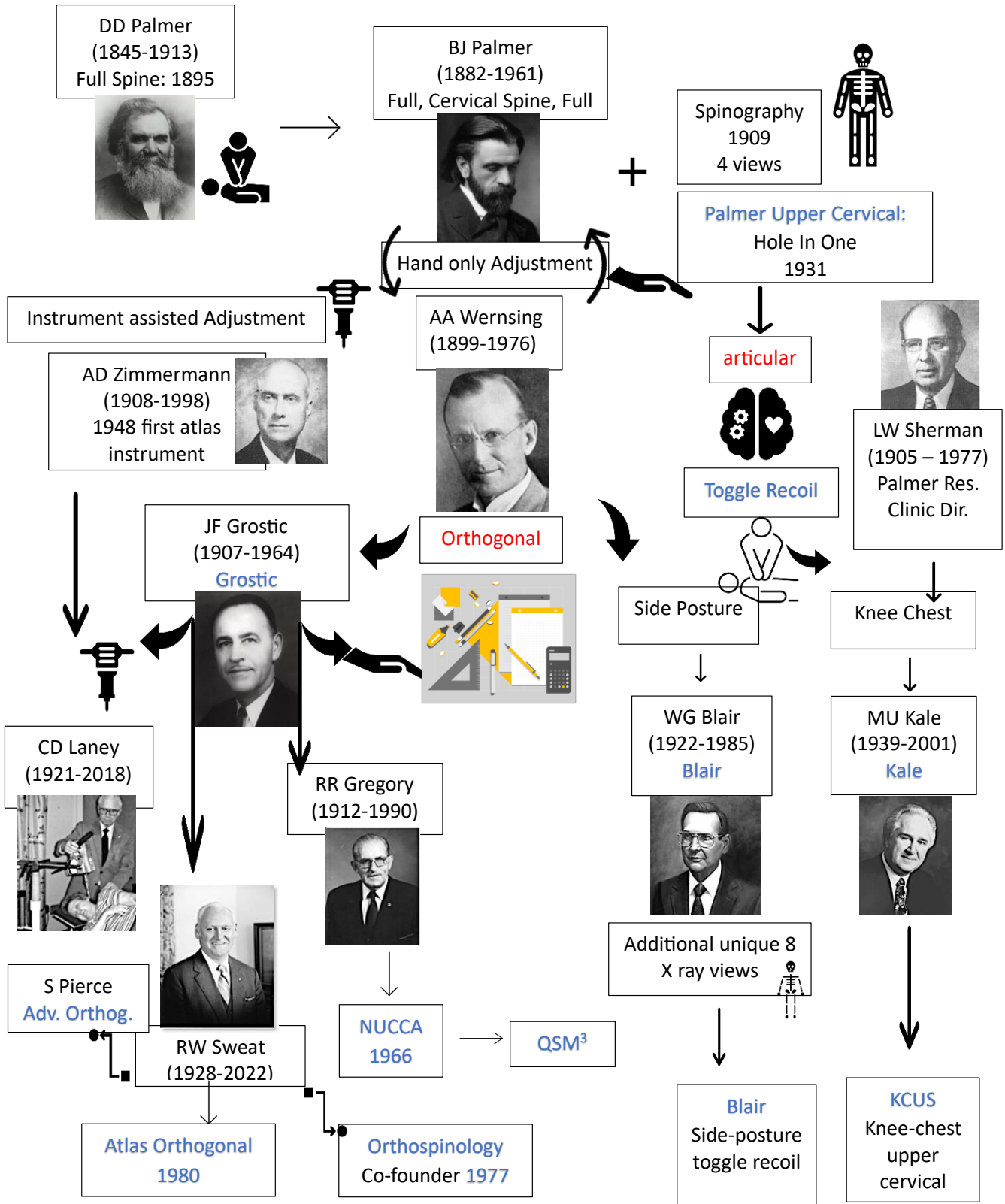
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Cite: Ierano J. The upper cervical Chiropractic lineage diagram project. *Asia-Pac Chiropr J.* 2024;4.3. [apcj.net/papers-issue-4-3/#IeranoLineage](https://apcj.net/papers-issue-4-3/#IeranoLineage)

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1. The poignancy of old pornography. The School of Life YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPeVVGcmwx0> accessed 12 December 2023.
  2. I credit this insight to my partner, optometrist Patrizia Ranieri, B.Optom (Hons).

# Upper Cervical Chiropractic Technique Lineage

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*About the chiropractor*

Dr Ierano is a 1997 graduate of Palmer Davenport and is a certified instructor in Atlas Orthogonal Technique, via the Sweat Foundation in Atlanta, USA.

He teaches 'upper cervical specific' in Australia and now practices in Sydney.