The following questions were asked of naturopathic organizations throughout North America in an effort to share visions; promote, support and advance licensing efforts in unlicensed states; and join forces where possible. If your association has not been contacted to participate in this column, contact Julie LeBlanc, managing editor, at editor@ndaan.org, or 262-392-3988.

Interview with Jeremiah Stevens, NMD, IDAANP president

What is your mission statement? The IDAANP is a voluntary membership organization whose purpose is:

• To cultivate an environment in which naturopathic medicine is widely recognized, supported and accessible in Idaho.
• To advance NMDs as independent primary care physicians who specialize in natural medicine and preventive health care.
• To partner with other medical groups and healthcare interests to bring safe and effective health care to citizens of Idaho.

What are your goals for the next three years? Our goals are to:

• Fully implement the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Act that was passed in 2005. We have been working for the past three years to ensure that the highest standards for education and qualification for licensure are upheld. We have consistently supported CNME and NPLEs for educational and testing standards for licensure. We continue to stand for federally recognized educational standards and see ourselves as advocates for protecting public health.
• Continue to build a self-supporting organization that is financially feasible and able to work toward our mission.
• Increase our current membership. As Idaho’s population grows, we encourage newly graduated CNME-educated NMDs to relocate or return to Idaho to practice. Overall, Idaho is a great place to live and to practice.

What current projects is the association working on? We have three committees that are actively working on projects:

• Legislative committee. With the help of an incredible lobbying team, the legislature amended the Naturopathic Licensing Act to allow members of the IDAANP to serve on the Idaho Board of Naturopathic Medical Examiners.
• Fundraising committee. This committee works continuously to build individual and corporate relationships that will help to put our association on a strong financial footing for the future. We have

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With the support of generous Friends of the FNMP and corporate, funders of our scholarship program, the FNMP’s work is ongoing and its influence is expanding. The organization is always looking for new partners to join the mission to improve health care.

Friends of the FNMP Project Charter Corporate Sponsors

Champion ($500,000)
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FNMP Friends Share Insights on Global Health Promotion

Editor’s note: As part of its contract agreement with FNMP, NDNR will on occasion include interviews of the FNMP’s top sponsors in the news section. NDNR did not solicit, write or participate in the creation of this interview.

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What sort of inroads have you made politically within your local government? We have worked hard to develop strong relationships with the governor’s office and key legislators. Our strongest ally has been our lobbyists, who are well connected and highly respected. These relationships have helped in the passage of our licensing act in 2005 and our recent amendment this spring, and will continue to help us as we move forward in filling vacancies on the licensing board and promulgating rules.

Do you have any particular stories that highlight the accomplishments of your association? Our primary accomplishment has been the most recent amendment to our licensing act. The original Naturopathic Licensing Act was passed in 2005 with educational standards inherently implied but not explicitly stated. The Idaho Bureau of Naturopathic Medical Examiners (BINME) was given the task of promulgating rules that further defined the statute. However, in the three years since the statute was passed the BINME has not been able to write rules acceptable to the three commissioners in power since 2005, nor to the Senate Health and Welfare committee. The BINME’s proposed rules have been significantly lower than the national standards for education and testing used by every other state that licenses NMDs. If these rules had been approved, the door would have been opened for allowing licensing to practitioners who have not completed four-year medical training nor taken national board exams. Very likely, persons with diploma-mail order degree would have been able to qualify for a license to practice naturopathic medicine in the state of Idaho. As licensure allows for minor surgery and pharmaceutical prescription rights, the IDAANP has consistently opposed the lowering of standards for naturopathic licensure. We have continually held the position that the standards for licensing NMDs in Idaho should be similar to the standards in all other licensed states.

This year, an amendment to our licensing statute proposed to correct the law to clearly indicate educational and testing standards for licensure. After some amending, it passed the House and was signed into law by Governor Otter. Three primary changes are now in place:
- When a vacancy exists on the BINME, the governor sends a letter to both state associations, the IDAANP and the IANP (which is comprised predominantly of graduates from non-CNME schools), asking for nominations for the position. The governor then appoints an individual.
- The members of the IBNME serve at the pleasure of the Governor. This translates into allowing the Governor to appoint and remove members of the IBNME without restriction, which should help improve the overall functioning of the licensing board.
- The next BINME board has until next legislative session to promulgate rules that fit the current statute. The rules must be approved by the Governor (as temporary) and the legislature (as permanent).

ND Classifieds

Naturopathic Doctor - Pasadena, CA
Synergy Natural Medicine Clinic, located in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains near Pasadena, CA, is looking for another ND to join our Clinic. We seek a genuine desire to help patients and build your career.

Compensation: Base salary, bonus and leads towards ownership in the Clinic.

For more information or to arrange a phone interview, call Bill at (626) 670-5954.

www.synergymedicine.com

BEAUTIFUL SANTA BARBARA PRACTICE FOR SALE:

Live in paradise and step into an established, turnkey practice. Beautiful park-side furnished office in ideal downtown location. 5 treatment rooms plus reception and waiting area, private offices and storage. Terrific opportunity for 1 or more CAM practitioners. Owned by ND and LAc, but can be used by ND, LAc, D.O., or MDs that offer similar modalities. Currently offering clinical nutrition, homoeopathy, botanical medicine, acupuncture, bio-identical hormones, physical medicine, physical exams, and conventional and specialty lab testing. Owners willing to help transition, do marketing and introduce to local business connections. Organized practice with excellent patient records, database, and supplement inventory tracking.

Contact: Practitioner501@gmail.com or (805)462-0114

Please add anything else you feel is relevant. We have made dramatic steps in the past session, but the hard work is ahead of us. The progress made this year is a testament to the fact that money is well spent and everyone’s voice is important. As we move forward, we still face many challenges. We all likely have the need of legal assistance in the rule-making process. We are continuing to work on building a quality association and creating association-corporate relationships. At this point, we are asking doctors, individuals and corporations to stand with us and support us in our efforts to improve the situation here in Idaho. We are in a crucial window for our profession in this state. We have an opportunity to fully implement our licensing law. There is also the very real possibility of lowering standards and even the loss of our bill. We also must acknowledge that what happens here in Idaho has national implications. We are asking for assistance in what we are doing here.

Contact Information: IDAANP, 208-338-0405, info@idaanp.org; www.idaanp.org.

Colorado Association of Naturopathic Physicians presents

Nature Cure, Vitalism, & Spirituality in Naturopathic Practice

When: October 18-19th
Where: Mt. Princeton Hot Springs, CO
Speakers: Louise Edwards, ND & Deborah Frances, ND
Sponsored by: Mountain Peak Nutritional, Wise Woman Herbals, TID Health, Thorne, Vital Nutrients, Melogeline, Pharmoc, ITI, Biogenesis, Xymogen, & NDNR

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- Two or more years of experience in a primary care setting
- Strong clinical and communication skills with an integrative approach to medicine
- Experience with, or a strong interest in, using herbs
- A genuine desire to help patients and build your career

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