

ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Academic Home and Partners Program

National College of Natural Medicine

The FNM Project has its academic home at NCNM in Portland. NCNM's commitment to the project through its Partners Program has been important to the long-term strength of FNM as a catalyst for professional formation.

For more information about the Foundations of Naturopathic Medicine Project, contact Pamela Snider, ND, executive and senior editor, at plsnider@comcast.net, or visit www.foundationsproject.com. At NCNM contact Susan Hunter, associate VP advancement, at shunter@ncnm.edu, or visit www.ncnm.edu.



Bill C-51 Update

The Ontario Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OAND) is supporting the efforts of the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND) to address concerns about Bill C-51, fed-

eral legislation amending the Food and Drugs Act.

The government's stated intent with Bill C-51 is to modernize the regulatory system for foods and therapeutic products (which includes drugs and natural health products, or NHPs), to strengthen the oversight of the benefits and risks of therapeutic products throughout their life cycle, to support effective compliance and enforcement actions, and to enable a greater transparency and openness of the regulatory system. While OAND understands the intent of the proposed legislation, the organization believes that Bill C-51 requires significant amendments.

CAND has been engaged as a stakeholder with the federal government for a number of years, and will continue to engage with them regarding this legislation. OAND and CAND share the goal of creating appropriate regulation of NHPs that ensures NDs' access to them and does not result in a loss of availability of therapeutic natural substances. Significant improvements are needed to Bill C-51 to achieve those and a number of other important goals.

As of press time, Bill C-51 was in second reading and, if it passes, would go to the Standing Committee on Health for detailed review. The process of Committee review could take months, and a great deal of work will be taking place during this time to ensure that NDs' access to substances and appropriate regulation of substances are addressed by the Committee.

Both OAND and CAND are encouraging its members to help support efforts in response to Bill C-51 in two ways: 1) getting involved and sending a letter to their member of parliament (MP); and 2) encouraging their patients to get involved as well, by letting them know about concerns with this legislation and the need to change it to better support naturopathic practice.

CAND and OAND have prepared letter templates, which are available on the OAND website, www.oand.org, along with a link to help find the name and address of MPs.

For more information, contact Michael Heitshu, 416-233-2001 x27 or at policy@oand.org.



VT Needs NDs

As a result of extremely successful legislative campaigns over the last four years, Vermont's NDs cannot meet the demand for its now insurance-covered services, according to Lorilee Schoenbeck, ND and president of the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians (VANP).

"There are only 20 of us here, and about half have decided to take insurance," she says. "We are in need of great doctors who are willing to become credentialed with and interact with insurance companies and state health plans. We are especially in need of experienced and/or confident NDs who are willing to act as primary care physicians (PCPs) for plans, since we have been now legally identified as PCPs."

ND specialists would also be welcome. The responsibilities are large (credentialing, accurate Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding/billing, lots of patients, interaction with state officials on developing health reform projects), but Schoenbeck also says the rewards are countless (high income potential, large scope of practice, involvement in health reform, living in Vermont).

VANP is providing support for doctors as they enter the insurance world. For more information, e-mail Schoenbeck at LLSchoenbeck@comcast.net.

Puerto Rico University to Offer ND Program

The Puerto Rico Higher Education Council (PRHEC) recently granted the Universidad del Turabo Caguas in Puerto Rico a license to offer a doctoral degree program in naturopathic medicine.

According to Efrain Rodriguez, ND, president of the Puerto Rico Association for Naturopathic Physicians and clinical director at the university, the college will begin its first class – and the CNME accreditation process – in September. *NDNR* will provide more information as it becomes available.



AANP and AHMA Annual Convention

The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) is joining with the American Holistic Medical Association (AHMA) to present the Annual Convention and Exposition Aug. 13-16 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix.

This year's convention theme is Embody Nature: Redefine Health. The program includes a clinical track, oncology track and research track, with mindfulness activities interspersed throughout the convention. This year's conference is again going "green" with carbon-neutral alternatives, from carbon tags to green travel.

As usual, the list of speakers is a veritable "who's who" within the CAM and naturopathic communities. They include NDs Cathy Carlson-Rink; David Field; Michael Traub; Donielle Wilson; Walter Crinnion; Joseph Pizzorno; Daniel Rubin; Kieran Cooley; Dugald Seely; Ryan Bradley;

Rena Bloom; Eric Yarnell; and many more.

This year's keynote speaker is world traveler Dianne Connelly, PhD, MAC, DiplAc (NCCAOM), who completed her acupuncture degree at the College of Traditional Acupuncture in the UK, and who also earned a doctorate in medical anthropology and a master's degree in education. She is chancellor and co-founder of Tai Sophia Institute, and author of several books.

Up to 23.5 naturopathic continuing education credits will be available at the convention. A list of applicable courses is available on the convention website.

To register (early-bird rates are available through July 11) and see the schedule of events and list of speakers, visit www.aanp.com.



CNDA Nutritional Therapy Course

The California Naturopathic Doctors Association (CNDA) has scheduled the IV Nutritional Therapy for Physicians Course for Sept. 11-14 at the Courtyard Marriott Pasadena. It is sponsored by IV Nutritional Therapy for Physicians.

For more information, visit www.calnd.org, and click on "Events."



NYANP Conference

The New York Association of Naturopathic Physicians' 4th-Annual Conference will be held Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the American Conference Centers in New York City.

Entitled "Balanced Health: Putting it All Together," this year's conference is for all practitioners who use natural therapeutics in their practice. Continuing education credits will be available for NDs; CE credits for other practitioners were pending as of press time.

Both vendor and speaker information will be available shortly. For more information, check www.nyanp.org. Companies interested in exhibiting should contact Gene at gene@sync-opate.com or 410-590-7900.



NHAND Conference

The New Hampshire Association of Naturopathic Doctors' (NHAND) 8th annual Pharmaceutical Perspectives Conference has been scheduled for Nov. 7-8 at the Courtyard by Marriott Conference Center in Nashua, NH.

Dedicated to providing NDs with top-quality continuing education, superior networking and exposure to some of the best companies in the country, the conference event includes speakers such as Ryan Bradley, ND; Jade Teta, ND; Keoni Teta, ND, LAc; Mary Bove, ND; Rick Liva, ND; Taryn Forrelli, ND; Michelle Pouliot, ND; and more.

The featured topic is reproductive health, which will be concentrated on during the second day. NDs will earn pharmacy and basic continuing education credits over the course of two days of presentations and a vendor fair and exhibition. For more information, visit www.nhand.org.

SCHOOL NEWS



NUHS Gets Nod for Candidacy in Naturopathic Accreditation Process

The National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) naturopathic medicine degree program was granted candidacy this spring by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME).

Candidacy does not ensure eventual accreditation, but it is a status of affiliation with the CNME that indicates the natur-

opathic medicine program is progressing toward accreditation.

"This not only puts NUHS right on schedule for meeting important milestones in the accreditation process," says Dr. Fraser Smith, assistant dean for naturopathic medicine at NUHS, "but will also allow our first ND graduates to sit for important licensure exams."

Prior to kicking off the professional degree program in fall 2006, NUHS had received permission to grant the ND degree from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. However, accreditation from the profession's own governing body, the CNME, is a multi-faceted and multi-year process.