



Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine & Health Sciences

Naturopathic Medicine

Looking to the Future

Since the 1970s, Americans have expressed concern over the high costs of the current medical system and its enthusiasm for surgery and prescribing symptom-suppressing drugs. When people began searching for alternatives in health care, the resurgence of naturopathic medicine began. Today, the demand for complementary and alternative medicine is overwhelming.

While many alternative health care providers find themselves limited by the traditional-leaning medical atmosphere, naturopathic physicians generally have an advantage in that they are the only practitioners of natural medicine that undergo a rigorous, accredited, four-year post-graduate education. They also have an advantage over conventional medical doctors because they are trained in natural medicine as a primary system of care- a system that works not only to suppress symptoms, but to cure disease. Naturopathic physicians are experiencing unprecedented clinical success, providing leadership in innovative natural medical research, enjoying increased political influence, and expecting unlimited future potential.

Some major professional advances include:

- In 1992 the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Alternative Medicine invited NDs to serve on

key federal advisory panels and to help define priorities and design protocols for state-of-the-art alternative medical research.

- In 1994 the NIH selected Bastyr University as the national center for research on alternative treatments for HIV/AIDS.
- In 1996 the Natural Medicine Clinic opened in Kent, Washington. This clinic is the first medical facility in the nation to offer cost-effective naturopathic treatments paid for by tax dollars.
- During conversations with Robb Scholten, MD, we discussed the possibility of Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine & Health Sciences providing in-kind support for the Integrative Medical Conference scheduled for March 24-26, 2002. Southwest College has both the infrastructure and an excellent reputation in the naturopathic profession to add value to such an undertaking.
- As a conference grantor, the College would assist with continuing medical education units for and marketing of naturopathic doctors in: Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Oregon, Arizona, and Ontario, Canada. We will send an on-site

representative to provide expertise during an informal lunch time session.

- In 2001 SCNM is the official continuing education granting institution in cooperation with Harvard University's Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) conference.
- In 2001 the NIH awarded SCNM a 2 million-dollar research grant for the medicinal study of Echinacea.

Naturopathy is central in the new National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine mandated by an act of congress this year. The center conducts research on the integration of licensed alternative health care disciplines into the mainstream system and supports the development of

research centers at accredited research and educational facilities.

The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) was selected as a sponsor of the 1999 NIH Conference on Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Chronic Liver Disease. The AANP works closely with Building Bridges Between Providers, a program focused on integrating alternative and conventional health care.

A growing portion of the public recognizes the value of alternative medical treatment and this recognition is creating increased political and financial support for NDs. As understanding of naturopathic medicine expands, it will result in an overwhelming demand for fully trained natural healers, allowing naturopathic physicians to serve the public to their full potential.

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College 480.858.9100
Clinic 480.970.0000