

# SCHOOL NEWS

## NCNM

### College Health Advisors to Recommend Naturopathic Colleges

National College of Natural Medicine (NCNM) in Portland, Oregon, has been added to the official list of medical schools used by advisors to refer undergraduate students who are interested in medical careers.

The National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) voted in June to include the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC) as a permanent member of its Advisory Council. Members of the AANMC will be listed with other medical colleges in material circulated by the health advisors. NCNM is one of six colleges in the AANMC.

NCNM president Dr. William Keppler said that membership in the NAAHP represents "a high achievement" for the college, adding that "This will expand recruiting opportunities significantly, and will undoubtedly affect future enrollment at our institution in a positive manner."

"Advisors for the health professions are a powerful group with great influence on undergraduates considering careers in the health fields," Keppler said. He credited NCNM administrators and Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine president Dr. Paul Mittman with gathering support for the vote.

The decision was announced during the NAAHP convention, which brought 721 health advisors from more than 500 accredited institutions of higher education to Portland at the end of June. NCNM hosted a reception for 46 health advisors who toured the campus and teaching clinics on June 27. The group stayed for dinner and a formal presentation about naturopathic medical education and research. Speakers were NCNM professor Dr. Dick Thom, research director Dr. Heather Zwickley, and clinic director Dr. Tamara Staudt. The event was coordinated through the Office of Admissions, under the leadership of Andrew McPheeters, NCNM dean of student and alumni affairs.

This is the latest development in a continuing national trend of acceptance of naturopathic medicine and naturopathic medical education. The influential Carnegie Commission on Higher Education recommended last year that doctors of naturopathic medicine (NDs) be given the same professional standing as allopathic medical doctors (MDs). The federal Department of Education is expected to approve the recommended change in 2007. Last month, the national Centers for Disease Control appointed an NCNM alumna as the first ND in the Epidemic Intelligence Service, which investigates the origins of serious diseases that threaten large American populations.

Founded in 1956, with a mission to educate and train practitioners and physicians in the art and science of natural medicine, NCNM is celebrating its Golden Anniversary as the oldest accredited American naturopathic college. The

college changed its name from National College of Naturopathic Medicine to National College of Natural Medicine in July. NCNM offers a 4-year doctoral degree through its School of Naturopathic Medicine, and a Master of Science degree through the NCNM School of Classical Chinese Medicine. For more information, please contact Sarah Spring at [sspring@ncnm.edu](mailto:sspring@ncnm.edu).

### Sue Yirku, INM Executive Director

Science magazine published an article, "Review for NCCAM Is Overdue," in its July 21, 2006, issue calling for the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to do an independent review of National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) funding and policies, without participation of any stakeholders. According to author Donald Marcus, MD, professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, "We believe that NCCAM funds proposals of dubious merit; its research agenda is shaped more by politics than by science; and it is structured by its charter in a manner that precludes an independent review of its performance."

As an emerging CAM health profession, naturopathic medical and research institutions should welcome objective scrutiny. In education, research, and practice naturopathic medicine must continuously raise the bar in pursuit of developing unique standards of practice, treatment methods, and research models. Is it, however, time to review the practices of NCCAM and its predecessor OAM? Maybe. Do stakeholders from the CAM professions and natural pharmacy industry have conflicts of interest that prevent them from completely unbiased assessment? Maybe.

However, is it not standard for the medical professions and health care industry to choose among its most capable to do audits? Is the IOM membership qualified to perform an impartial independent audit without inclusion of any relevant expertise?

Marcus' real question is whether the annual NCCAM budget (\$123.1 million in 2005) wouldn't be better spent on "the many excellent proposals that are not being funded," because of reduced NIH allocations to biomedical research. He deserves an answer.

The Institute for Natural Medicine (INM) encourages the larger naturopathic community to respond to these concerns on CAM scientific method and project merit. In the interim, perhaps someone should send Dr. Marcus a copy of the White House Commission Task Force Report on CAM, which was notably missing from his references.

In March 2002, the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy (WHCCAMP) presented to President George W. Bush its recommended blueprint for increasing public access to safe and effective CAM health care services. Full implementation of the report's recommendations

and action steps would fundamentally change the face of CAM legislation and would expedite the integration of CAM within the U.S. health care system. The report includes 104 action steps and 29 recommendations, among them:

- Improve public access to CAM providers by removing inappropriate barriers to insurance coverage.
- Increase financial support for CAM research.
- Provide education on CAM practices and professions to conventional practitioners.
- Provide assistance to states to develop more consistent regulatory standards.

### Foundations Project Update

The Foundations of Naturopathic Medicine Project (Foundations Project) continues to expand its efforts through fundraising, virtual communications among writers and editors, and preparations for its first upcoming international editors' retreat this fall.

### Simillimum Campaign

Foundations Project leaders launched their Simillimum Campaign with last month's issue of ND News and Review. The campaign is in response to a growing number of interested naturopathic medicine scholars, students, practitioners, advocates, and consumers looking for ways to support the Foundations Project. "In the spirit of homeopathy," Drue Larson, project coordinator, says archly, "small doses can lead to great outcomes." The Project hopes to raise \$20,000 through donations to the Campaign over the next 12 months.

### Virtual Writing Program

After months of coordinating, modifying, training, and testing MOODLE (a virtual learning platform originally designed for teaching and managing on-line classes), it has been successfully translated into a virtual platform where contributing authors from

around the world are coming together to discuss concepts and work together on their pieces of writing. Several writing groups have started up and forum discussions are beginning to take place, like the one on spirituality and the *vis medicatrix naturae* mentioned below.

### International Editors' Retreat

Editors from four countries are reviewing submissions, preparing materials, and key issues for the first International Editors' Fall Retreat. Sure to be an enriching and productive event, participants will present and discuss key areas of the text, from medical phenomenology and epistemology, model for a core philosophy, principles of clinical theory, laws of healing, science and the *vis medicatrix naturae*, nature cure, the elements of naturopathic primary care, to clinical sciences, modalities and algorithms, naturopathic case management, naturopathic education, and implications for creating a healthy world.

Retreat participants Emma Bezy, MSW and Louise Edwards, ND, co-leads for the Spirituality section of the book, this month began a process of reviewing the historic and current definitions of spirituality relative to health as it is used in the profession and across naturopathic college curriculum. Their goal is to codify the relationship between spirituality and naturopathic medicine's theory of the healing power of nature—*vis medicatrix naturae*.

The next step in their process will be to use MOODLE collaboratively, refining the definition with Foundations authors, particularly those writing in chapters related to spirituality, the *vis medicatrix naturae*, and healing. "It is our intention," Ms. Bezy says, "to give the authors an initial definition that will be a catalyst for their thinking and then invite their input." Dr. Edwards adds, "We want to be thoughtful and thorough in this process so in the end we have broad agreement on a definition that can be used throughout the profession without contradicting established beliefs and practices." Ms Bezy and Dr. Edwards will share their findings at the International Editors' Retreat.

# NEWS BRIEFS

### PLANT STEM CELL THERAPY - LA Sept. 16 & 17 Weekend

Learn about the ultimate Qi and Jing tonics. For centuries Chinese formulas employed deer antler for its rejuvenating properties and the success of these formulas have been shown to be attributed largely to the numerous

stem cells founding the antler. In this two day weekend course learn about embryonic plant stem cells and how they can rejuvenate vital organs in the body. Numerous cases will be presented that show how plant stem cells can reverse numerous degenerative conditions. Protocols will be provided for the treatment and prevention of commonly seen clinic presentations.

## NHAND

### New Hampshire Association of Naturopathic Doctors 2006 Annual Conference

The 2006 NHAND conference is just around the corner! Pharmaceutical Perspectives VI: Integrative Partners in Healthcare is to be held on October 20-21, 2006, at Rivier College in Nashua, NH. Please join us the evening of October 20 for the Friday Social. Food, fun, and prizes!

Reduced-rate accommodations have been arranged at the Nashua Courtyard in Nashua, and transportation to and from the conference will be provided free of charge.

We are currently accepting registrations. Please visit the following link for more information: [www.nhand.org/ppvi.php](http://www.nhand.org/ppvi.php). Space is limited so register today! For more information, e-mail one of the PPVI Conference Committee members at [health@nhand.org](mailto:health@nhand.org).

## OAND

### OANP Upcoming Events

October 6-8: Craniosacral Therapy Level I with Dr. Nancy Soliven. This course covers the fundamental principles of craniosacral therapy with a special focus on developing the intuitive skills and sensitivity necessary to detect the body's more subtle energetic systems. Register by visiting [www.oanp.org](http://www.oanp.org) and clicking on Upcoming Events.

November 10-12: Craniosacral Therapy Level I or Level II with Dr. Nancy Soliven. Course level will be based on demand after the October 6-8 seminar. Register by visiting [www.oanp.org](http://www.oanp.org) and clicking on Upcoming Events.

December 3: Pain Management and Pharmacy Seminar. This year's annual OANP Pharmacy Seminar will focus on pain management to help doctors fulfill a new state requirement for 6 hours of pain management CE.



### California Association Updates and Announcements

Join us for our Merging Medicine Series – Stress, Inflammation, and Cancer to be held November 4-5, 2006, at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA.

This year, Michael Murray, ND, will deliver the keynote speech and lead an exciting lineup of noteworthy speakers. All interested health professionals are invited to learn more and register online at [www.CALND.org](http://www.CALND.org) in the Events section. Ten continuing education units (CEUs) are pending for a variety of health professions. More information and exhibitor packets are available at [executive@calnd.org](mailto:executive@calnd.org) or by calling 209-245-3521.

### CNDA Accelerates Efforts to Increase Continuing Education Offerings

To ensure continued excellence in licensed naturopathic care and practice, the CNDA is now offering and approving continuing education courses. If you are interested in attending a course and want to verify credit approval, or to establish credit for a continuing education course you plan to offer, visit [www.CALND.org](http://www.CALND.org) in the Newsletter section or contact [drsijbrant@calnd.org](mailto:drsijbrant@calnd.org).