President’s Message: Naturopathic Leaders and Leadership
By Carl Hangee-Bauer, ND, LAc

Earlier this month, I attended three meetings in three days in Portland, Oregon. The first was our AANP Board meeting, bringing together 13 Board members elected by the membership to represent their interests and guide the direction of the association. The second day was a meeting of the Naturopathic Coordinating Council (NCC), a diverse group representing the AANP, the schools and colleges, the CNME, NABNE, and other established and recognized organizations representing the naturopathic profession in North America who collaborate in planning and coordinating action toward a vibrant and successful naturopathic profession. The third day was a meeting of the American Association of Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC) where representatives from the seven naturopathic medical schools met to discuss topics of mutual interest and promote successful programs and improve student education.

Read the rest of the piece at AANP’s blog, "Physicians Who Listen."

News From the Office- April 2010: Federal Reform, State Implementation and Naturopathic Medicine
By Karen Howard

There has never been a more important time for naturopathic medicine to realize the positive impact of state licensing laws that dictate a full scope of practice for qualified naturopathic doctors. Why? When Congress passed H.R.3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act they included new programs, new regulations, and new opportunities for the expansion of naturopathic medicine. At the upcoming DC FLI, more than 165 physicians, educators and students will pound the halls of Congress to advocate for utilization of ND primary care services. Read More

State Legislation Update- April 2010: News from Kansas, California, Iowa, and Alaska
By Michelle Clark, ND, Alliance Chair

Naturopathic medicine in Kansas has taken its next step with a transformation from ‘registration’ to ‘licensure.’ On April 19, Governor Parkinson of Kansas signed into law the Naturopathic Doctor Licensing Act. As licensed practitioners, rather than registered providers, patient access to naturopathic medicine in
Kansas will increase, since insurers, laboratories, and regulators will be more apt to recognize naturopathic services. Congratulations to our volunteers in Kansas and thank you for your work to champion a future where naturopathic medicine is available to every American. Read More

Further Information on CPT Code Sets
By W. Bruce Milliman, ND

We are happy to report that after our first article written in the AANP eNews last month, inquiries were made with regard to CPT coding around manipulation codes. We thought we would use the questions brought forth to discuss this code set. At this point in time Naturopathic Physicians in Washington State are restricted by law from the use of chiropractic codes. Variations of this problem exist in other states. As a consequence, ND’s use either Physical Therapy codes (7010-97546) or Osteopathic codes (98925-98929). Alternatively, some practitioners bundle the procedure into an Evaluation and Management visit (99201-05/99211-15). Since there are many types of manipulation and only a few coding options, the existing codes may not allow for accurate (or any) coding for certain forms of manipulation (for example, craniosacral therapy).

This is a great opportunity to discuss development and introduction of new, more appropriate CPT codes for consideration by the Editorial Panel. In developing new Category I codes the CPT Advisory Committee and the CPT Editorial Panel require:

1. That the suggested procedure/service is a distinct service performed by many physicians/practitioners across the United States
2. That the clinical efficacy of the service/procedure is well established and documented in U.S. peer review literature
3. That the suggested service/procedure is neither a fragmentation of an existing procedure/service nor currently reportable by one or more existing codes
4. That the suggested service/procedure is not requested as a means to report extraordinary circumstances related to the performance of a procedure/service already having a specific CPT code.

As you can see, overcoming the constraints implied in paragraph 3 would take a concerted national process involving other practitioners groups committed to see this process through. The good news is that we are well positioned with Bruce Milliman, ND as an Advisor in the Health Care Professional Advisory Committee and Eva Miller, ND as Staff (nominated as alternate advisor) for the CPT Editorial panel if such an endeavor were to be desired.

NDI Haiti Update
By Tabatha Parker, ND

Natural Doctors International is happy to announce the formation of the Naturopathic Global Health Council (NGHC). The newly constituted Council is the successor to the NDI - Haiti Disaster Relief Committee, and is composed of representatives from all of the major organizations in the naturopathic profession in North America.
The council will work towards addressing issues in global health as they relate to naturopathic medicine. The first issue the council has taken on is DISASTER RELIEF, and our first effort will be in Haiti. The goal is that the lessons we learn from this first effort will help us develop guidelines around disaster relief for naturopathic physicians - so that we may participate in disaster relief in a responsible way, with proper training, etc.

We invite those interested in Global Health to participate in the council - if you or your organization would like to join, please email us at info@ndimed.org. For more information, please visit www.ndimed.org.

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→ Events and Announcements

FNPA Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 8, 2010, 9 am - 12 pm. Red Tent, 20 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach, FL. The Florida Naturopathic Physicians Association will have their annual meeting at The Red Tent in Delray Beach. For the general public, there will be booths, tables and opportunities to speak with Naturopathic Physicians from around the state, including free 15 minute consults. Discover how Naturopathic Medicine can improve your health, pick up some free
samples and enjoy the morning with other health conscious folks. Refreshments will be served. Closed session for ND's 12-6 pm, includes 3 hours of CE (1.5 pharmacy and 1.5 general). Questions to ecampnd@gmail.com.

6th IN-CAM Research Symposium: Call for abstracts
Abstracts are now being accepted for the 6th IN-CAM Research Symposium, “Complementary and Integrative Health Care: Theoretical, Methodological and Practical Issues.” The symposium will take place from Nov. 19th - 21st, 2010 at the Sutton Place Hotel in Vancouver, BC.

The deadline for abstract submission is Friday, July 30th, 2010. For more information about the symposium, or to register and/or submit an abstract, please visit www.incamresearch.ca. You may also contact the symposium Coordinator, Natasha Kachan, at n.kachan@utoronto.ca.

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