



## House of Delegates Position Paper

### Research

#### **Overview of Naturopathic Medicine and Research**

Naturopathic physicians are primary care providers who address the myriad expressions of health and disease with a range of naturopathic modalities under the guidance of naturopathic principles. Valid research is a legitimate means of progress in health care. The naturopathic oath enjoins healers to "impart knowledge of the advanced healing arts to dedicated colleagues and students," and objective evidence is an effective means of communicating the relative effectiveness of naturopathic therapies and establishing consensus among providers. Naturopathic medical research has and continues to expand the performance of best practice and positively affects the health of patients.

#### **Position of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians:**

Naturopathic medicine, as a modern, ethical health care profession, systematically examines its theory, practice and outcomes through a wide variety of available scientific methods for purposes of verification, discovery and improvement. The profession supports its academic centers in increasing their capacity to perform rigorous clinical, epidemiological, and laboratory studies and to engage in the development of additional appropriate methods capable of sensitive evaluation of effective naturopathic practice. The profession invites appropriate partnerships from philanthropy, government, and industry in supporting the evaluation and continual improvement of health care for all.

Submitted by C. Calabrese ND; P. Reilly ND; and D. Lukaczer ND  
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