

MISSION

The mission of The American Association of Naturopathic Medicine shall be to promote, advance and protect the Philosophy, Science, Art and the Profession of Naturopathic Medicine in the United States of America. It will support and promote excellence in education, research and the delivery of healthcare. It will secure and enhance the health of the American public by advancing and promoting Naturopathic Medicine as a viable and effective means to health care delivery. It will do so by preparing and training Naturopathic medical physicians through graduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education. The AANM will serve as a vehicle of advocacy and communication to advance the standing of Naturopathic Physicians nationwide.

TENETS

The AANM supports, promotes and advances the premise that Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine are physicians. Through education and training they are primary care physicians who utilize both conventional medical diagnostic procedures and therapeutic modalities as well as natural methods of diagnosis and treatment in an integrative approach to health care delivery. The practice of naturopathic medicine means the diagnosis, treatment, operation, or prescription for any human disease, pain, injury, deformity, or other physical or mental condition, with emphasis on the importance of the natural processes and the natural healing arts, addressing both the physical and vitalistic aspects of the individual.

The AANM supports the utilization of standard and innovative medical diagnostic procedures, methods and instrumentation for the prevention and treatment of disease.

The AANM promotes the utilization of both natural and synthetic pharmacological agents and surgery and all techniques and procedures taught in modern schools of medicine for the treatment and prevention of disease.

The AANM advocates the education of Naturopathic

Physicians through postgraduate and residency training programs in both conventional medicine and traditional Naturopathic medical disciplines.

As part of the General Principles of Practice, Naturopathic Physicians embrace and maintain the following principles as being integral to the practice of Naturopathic Medicine:

vis medicatrix naturae. The Healing Power of Nature. The healing process has order and intelligence. The body has the inherent ability to heal and restore health, and to ward off disease. Illness is a manifestation of the body's intrinsic attempt to right itself back into balance due to physical, emotional or spiritual disharmony.

Treat The Whole Person. Health and disease are the result of a complex interaction of many components, which include the physiological, genetic, structural, mental, emotional, spiritual, environmental, and social factors. The proper functioning of all systems of the individual is essential to health. "Dis-ease" is an expression of an imbalance of any part, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual that affects the whole person. All aspects of the individual must be considered in order to formulate a complete picture of their state. By doing this, the whole person can be treated.

primum no nocere. First Do No Harm. Because the physician respects the inherent ability of the body to heal itself, he/she must be aware of the consequences and side effects of treatment. Therefore, the more gentle and non-invasive the treatment, the less disruptive it will be to the whole person. Since suppression of symptoms may interfere with the healing process, it is avoided whenever possible.

tolle causam. Identify And Treat The Cause. There is always a cause for illness. Symptoms such as headache, fever or rash are not the cause of illness. Symptoms are an expression of the body's attempt to heal itself, and are signals that the body is out of balance. Although there are many causes of illness, they are most often found in the patient's lifestyle, diet, mental and emotional state. If only the symptoms are treated, the underlying causes remain and the patient could develop a more severe and chronic condition.

Prevention Is The Best Cure. How we choose to live directly affects our health. The physician can help patients recognize how their choices will reflect their well beingness. The physician may also assess risk factors in order to recommend the appropriate intervention to prevent illness.

docere. Doctor As Teacher. The original term for the word "doctor" is docere which means teacher. In keeping with this meaning, the physician should educate and encourage his patients to take responsibility for their health. In doing so, the physician becomes a facilitator in the patient's healing process. This develops a cooperative doctor-patient relationship which is therapeutic in and of itself.

OBJECTIVE

- To provide membership to Naturopathic Physicians, and other health care providers and Naturopathic Medical Students, Corporations, Organizations, Educational Institutions who support the mission, tenets and objectives of the AANM.
- To restore Naturopathic Medicine to its rightful place among the healthcare professions in the nation.
- To develop educational guidelines for the practice of Naturopathic Medicine.
- To support a national standardization of the education and practice of Naturopathic Medicine.
- To promote and establish standards and recognition of Naturopathic Medicine Specialty Boards.
- To become an educational resource for physicians and students of Naturopathic Medicine.
- To create educational programs that will foster and convey knowledge of Naturopathic Medicine to the profession.
- To serve the profession of Naturopathic Medicine by developing and presenting educational programs for postgraduate education.
- To foster and promote programs in Preventive Medicine.
- To encourage and promote the growth and professional development of students of Naturopathic Medicine.