



■ WNF Member

WNF Members Newsletter

Ten stories from 5 world regions highlight this edition of the WNF Members' Newsletter. Many of the updates provided by members were quite detailed. If you would like the full update for any specific story, please contact us. Thank you to our Members who submitted.

Africa



Ghana – India Collaboration

Sixteen Ghanaian naturopaths from Nyarkotey College of Holistic Medicine are undertaking a historic clinical immersion programme at Arujiva Ayurveda and Naturopathy Hospital in Kalaburagi, India. The programme provides theoretical and practical exposure in naturopathy, Ayurveda, yoga, nutrition, lifestyle medicine and various clinical therapies.

This historic initiative signals a new phase in the development of the naturopathic program at the Nyarkotey-College of Holistic Medicine. It also strengthens the Ghana-India collaboration and advances the recognition and development of naturopathy across Africa.





OICNM Strengthens Academic Capacity

Over the past year, Olive International College of Natural Medicine (OICNM) from Nigeria, has continued to strengthen its academic capacity, regulatory standing, clinical exposure and learning resources. Some of our key developments include:

1. LSTMB Accreditation, Certification & Statutory Waiver:

OICNM's accreditation and certification from the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board (LSTMB) is an important milestone in our commitment to maintaining high standards in education.

2. Expansion of Academic and Learning Resources:

OICNM continues to focus on increasing experienced instructors across all areas of education, while also improving the tools and resources available for teaching and learning.

3. Flexible Education:

Through OICNM's online portal, students can access recorded lectures and learning resources, while scheduled live sessions with lecturers provide opportunities for further explanation and academic support.

4. Student Development:

Beyond the classroom, students participate in clinical experiences and learning opportunities, engaging with practitioners, and gaining perspectives beyond their regular coursework.



Europe



Cyprus Seeks Membership Eligibility Criteria Input

The Naturopathic Association of Cyprus is currently reviewing membership eligibility criteria and regulatory framework for professional membership within their association. As part of this process, they are seeking guidance and comparative information from WNF Full Members.

Information requested:

- Policies on membership criteria and determining membership eligibility.
- Shareable documents or policies related to self-governance for members.

Shareable documents, recommendations, legislative references, or policy frameworks would be of great value. Please contact Leandros or the WNF with any documents.



Broad Language in Proposed Bill May Negatively Impact all TM Professions

A new bill is being proposed in Poland that is designed to fight medical fraud. Although the intent of the bill has merit, the language of the proposed bill introduces sweeping new powers to the Patient Ombudsman. If the law is enacted, herbalists, phytotherapists, naturopaths and health educators are being labelled charlatans, regardless of qualifications or decades of honest work.

This legislation, if approved in its current form, would place Poland at odds with the direction set out in the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025 – 2034, formally adopted by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025. That strategy, endorsed by WHO Member States including Poland, recognizes traditional, complementary and integrative medicine (TCIM) as a valued and growing part of health systems worldwide, and commits governments to strengthening its evidence base, supporting its safe provision through appropriate and proportionate regulation, and integrating it into national health systems in a manner that respects patients' autonomy and right to health. The strategy is explicit that regulation of TCIM should be risk-based and developed through genuine, participatory dialogue with the practitioners and professional bodies it affects, rather than through broad, discretionary sanctioning powers introduced without such engagement.

The WNF joined the Polish Chamber of Naturopaths in requesting that this be vetoed and that any future legislation in this area be developed through meaningful consultation with the naturopathic profession and other stakeholders, consistent with the principles set out in the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025 – 2034.



NaturopatiaTV

Since launching in 2023, NaturopatiaTV, the official YouTube channel of the OCN FENACO SPAIN has grown to 850 subscribers. NaturopatiaTV hosts over 900 video presentations, including keynote addresses, scientific conferences, and professional panels presented at the national and international Naturopathy Congresses organized by the OCN FENACO.

Total reach exceeds 37.2K views. All presentations are shared also through social media platforms by OCN FENACO and its wide community reshares. All presentations are free of access.



North America



Leading Through Change: Strengthening & Connecting the Naturopathic Profession in British Columbia

Since April 1, 2026, British Columbia's naturopathic doctors have been practising under the new Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA), marking one of the most significant changes to health profession regulation in the province in decades. Throughout this transition, BC Naturopathic Doctors (BCND) has worked to ensure NDs are informed, supported and actively engaged in shaping the future of the profession.

BCND has also continued to build the profession's presence within the broader healthcare system, strengthening relationships with government and health system partners, advancing conversations about the contribution NDs can make to primary care, and working increasingly closely with colleagues across Canada and with other health professions, including through the Health Associations of BC Network.

This is a significant period of change for the profession in British Columbia, but also one of real opportunity. Through regulatory leadership, advocacy, education, mentorship and stronger partnerships within and beyond naturopathic medicine, BCND is working to ensure NDs have a strong voice through that change, remain connected to one another, and are well positioned to shape and contribute to the future of healthcare in British Columbia.



Unprecedented Challenges

In the past 12 months, naturopathic medicine in the United States has faced significant challenges, including the U.S. Department of Education's rule excluding naturopathic doctors and other professions from the definition of a "professional degree" and reducing federal student loan access to less than half of what is needed to complete a naturopathic medical education. Our collective response has demonstrated the profession's growing ability to work collaboratively across organizations, respond strategically to adversity, and advocate for the future of naturopathic medical education and practice.

Concurrently, the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) underwent a challenging review by the U.S. Department of Education regarding its accreditation status, new debt-to-earnings reporting requirements highlighted the disconnect between federal metrics and the realities of graduates who often become small business owners, and Florida's legislature overwhelmingly passed a naturopathic licensure bill that would have ended the state's longstanding prohibition on the practice of naturopathic medicine—only to see the legislation ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

What has been equally notable, however, is the profession's coordinated response to rise to the challenges. The Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC), the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), and the Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA) jointly filed a lawsuit challenging the Department of Education's exclusion of NDs from the "professional degree" definition. The CNME has engaged new leadership and experienced consultants to implement reforms identified during the Department's review. While the profession faced substantial federal challenges, important progress also continued at the state level, with several states advancing scope of practice and insurance coverage legislation.



Introducing Nature's Medicine Through Time: A Landscape of People & Practices, Principles and Institutions



Mitchell Bebel Stargrove, ND, LAc – graduate and instructor at NUNM – is editor and resident historian of *Nature's Medicine Through Time: A Landscape of People and Practices, Principles and Institutions*, a free, noncommercial archive documenting the history of nature's medicine across nine historical eras — from ancient traditions through botanical therapeutics, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, nutrition, manual therapies, and the full range of person-centered practices into the modern era.

This extensive archive looks beyond therapies and theories to show how natural medicine traditions and integrative care, including naturopathy, have expressed social activism, embodied creative compassion, extended the therapeutic relationship into daily life, and reflected their cultural milieu.

As an academic project, it applies the model of professional formation as its framework – using naturopathy as the case study – to provide an analysis that you won't find synthesized anywhere else.

Western Pacific



Naturopathic Education Expands in Australia

The naturopathic profession in Australia continues to demonstrate its strength and vitality, with growing opportunities for students to undertake high-quality naturopathic education.

From 2027, [Torrens University Australia](#) will offer its Bachelor of Health Science (Naturopathy) in Adelaide, adding to its established delivery in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. An important part of the expansion will be a new student-led clinic to provide naturopathy and other health science students with opportunities to work with real clients under expert supervision, developing the practical and professional capabilities required for clinical practice while also contributing health and wellbeing services to the local community.



Latin America



Science & Nature: Integration for Global and Sustainable Health



On August 22, 2026, the Puerto Rico Association of Naturopathic Physicians held its Annual Convention, "Science and Nature: Integration for Global and Sustainable Health," in Puerto Rico.

The convention brought together naturopathic physicians and other healthcare professionals for a day dedicated to education, collaboration, and the continued advancement of naturopathic medicine in Puerto Rico.



Participants shared knowledge and perspectives, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue and reinforcing the importance of integrating scientific evidence, prevention, naturopathic principles, and a whole-person approach to health.



This convention was an opportunity to strengthen the professional community, build relationships among healthcare professionals, and continue increasing the visibility and contribution of naturopathic medicine within Puerto Rico's healthcare landscape.

We are proud of what our community continues to build and grateful to everyone who contributed to making this year's convention possible.