



## AANP Member Spotlight: Erin Ellis, NMD



### 1. What started your pathway in naturopathic medicine?

In 2010 I was diagnosed with a rare form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma which was the defining moment in my life. I always wanted to be a doctor, but gave up on those dreams because I was sick of being in school. Not only did I beat cancer with flying colors, but throughout the process I learned about how important health and wellness is to be your best self, to prevent chronic disease and cancer. It wasn't until I met a colleague, another ND, I knew this was my bigger purpose. I am a firm believer that life does not happen to you, it happens for you and in 2013, I returned to school. I gave up my social life, my general management job, and 4 short years later in 2017, I graduated from Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe, Arizona with my Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine. I am now fulfilling my passion and helping my patients become the best version of themselves.

### 2. What do you like most about being a naturopathic doctor and what are some of your challenges?

My favorite part of being a naturopathic doctor is being able to give hope to my patients that their symptoms are real, there is a reason why they feel the way they feel and that they can heal once we find the root cause of their concerns. Most of my patients come to me feeling hopeless, defeated and dismissed and to see the smile on their faces (sometimes tears of joy) knowing that they have found someone who listens is why I keep doing what I do every single day.

Some challenges with being a naturopathic doctor is not being recognized fully by the conventional medicine side nor being recognized by insurance. I've been called a 'fake doctor' or 'not a real doctor' because I'm not a traditional MD. Continuing to advocate and educate around Naturopathic Medicine is something I continually do to prove these naysayers wrong!

### 3. What makes your membership with AANP valuable as a naturopathic doctor?

Being part of the AANP is important on many levels not only for me, but for the advocacy of naturopathic medicine so we can continue to be seen and heard across the United States. Even though there are thousands of ND's, we are still better and stronger together as we continue to grow. I love that we are able to connect with other ND's and provide a directory for those that are seeking a new form of healthcare.

Website: [www.hopenaturalhealth.com](http://www.hopenaturalhealth.com)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/dr.erinellis](http://www.instagram.com/dr.erinellis)

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/drerinellisnmd>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@dr.erinellis?lang=en>

Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/hope-natural-health-podcast/id1575291061>