



**AANP Awards 2023**

## **Champion of Naturopathic Medicine**



***Awarded to Ingrid Lovitt***

**The following selection criteria is used:**

The "Champion Award" is bestowed annually by the AANP Board of Directors to a non-ND individual who is deeply committed to changing the landscape of the healthcare through his/her championship of naturopathic medicine. The following selection criteria is used:

- Honors the educational standards of naturopathic medicine.
- Serves as a voice to educate and influence health care consumers, providers of all types and/or the media on the positive impact of naturopathic doctors.
- Demonstrates a commitment to expanding access to naturopathic doctors by advocating the value of naturopathic medicine to government, health care institutions or corporate entities.

- Holds a vision for the profession and practice of naturopathic medicine that is larger than self, and selfless in nature.
- Demonstrates through character and actions a commitment to the principles of naturopathic medicine.

*Award presented by Elizabeth Stegmaier, ND*

Good morning! There are very few things that would pull me away from the glorious summer in MT, to a historic heat wave in AZ. Introducing you to Ingrid Lovitt is one of them.

My name is Elizabeth Stegmaier and I am a naturopathic physician practicing in Missoula, MT.

I have the distinct pleasure and honor of awarding the 2023 AANP Champion of Naturopathic Medicine to Ingrid Lovitt. Since January 2019, Ingrid has been the Executive Director of our state naturopathic association in Montana “MANP.” Ingrid started as a volunteer public member on the state board that oversees ND licensees. We then saw the potential and passion in Ingrid and scooped her up as our ED. We have not looked back since.

Since taking the role of ED 5 years ago, Ingrid has held a vision of what's possible for Naturopathic Medicine in MT. From the early days of her tenure, Ingrid had her sights set on updating our scope of practice in MT. Montana was originally licensed in 1991 and our scope allowed for limited prescribing. In Fall 2022, the MANP membership voted to run a bill in the 2023 legislative session for the first time in 32 years. For two years prior to introduction of this bill, Ingrid had been building bridges and making connections all over our state in preparation for our legislative efforts. She personally met with 100s of legislators, public members, health industry representatives, and health care providers from all over Montana to introduce and educate them on naturopathic medicine. Montana is a big state - she has visited almost every inhabited corner to support our profession. Ingrid has met and collaborated with representatives from boards and associations including medicine, pharmacy, acupuncture, nursing, physician assistant, midwife, physical therapy, and on and on. The list of who Ingrid has lobbied is endless.

In late April, the governor signed our bill into law. We went from an inclusionary and limited scope to an exclusionary formulary with broad prescribing. Never settling for majority votes in our favor, Ingrid commanded nearly unanimous votes at every step with every bill. From the security guards to the governor's office and everywhere in between, Ingrid paid attention and won them over. The opposition was fierce, yet Ingrid was measured and prepared.

Nancy Aagenes is a retired ND and former AANP president. She was also one of the leaders in the effort to get MT licensed in 1991. I asked her to comment on Ingrid's work at the capitol this year. Here is what she said, "Ingrid's behind the scenes coalitions startled everybody on every side of our issues. Our leaders have learned to never underestimate Ingrid. Nobody got up early enough or worked hard enough or had enough information and foresight to outdo Ms. Lovitt."

Along with Dawn Dalili, the MANP president, I was one of two volunteer leaders for this legislative slam dunk, so we have come to know Ingrid well. I also asked Dawn to comment on Ingrid's work. "Our success comes almost exclusively through the masterful work of Ingrid Lovitt, and the smartest thing I did was get out her way."

Ingrid's truest strength has been her commitment to the ideals of naturopathic medicine. In working closely with her, it is clear that this is not just a job, but rather an expression of her values, which is why we are so thrilled to see her named Champion of Naturopathic Medicine. Thank you to the AANP for honoring her with this richly deserved award.

-Elizabeth Stegmaier, ND