



AANP Member Spotlight: Suneil Jain, ND



1. What started your pathway in naturopathic medicine?

My curiosity in naturopathic medicine started when I was a young boy in Virginia. I used to have severe digestive problems along with stomach pains and aches. We had a great community in Virginia with a lot of friends and family who were physicians, and I went from doctor to doctor and specialist to specialist, but no one could really help.

In 1984 when I was 8 years old, I travelled to India with my parents for summer vacation, and my aunt asked parents about the health issues I was having. She took us to see her homeopathic doctor. He asked me what I thought were unique and strange questions, made some recommendations (which I followed) and gave me a homeopathic remedy. A few days later I had no pain, and I have never had the pain again. That stuck with me, it was profound.

I had always wanted to go into medicine and talked about how I wanted to do it naturally and homeopathically. When I was an undergraduate at the University of Virginia, my then-girlfriend (now wife) said to me, “You know, there is an actual profession of natural medicine that does what you are talking about.” That’s when I found out about naturopathic medicine and applied to SCNM. I was accepted, and it is the greatest thing I have ever done.

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

This path has been phenomenal, I never realized the power and scope we have until years into it after I gained more knowledge, confidence, and patient testimonials. Can you imagine how different healthcare would be around the world if every doctor were trained like us? If we were the first line of defense in this current pandemic? We have a calmness and confidence while others have fear and trepidation because they literally do not know what to do.



I would say that I have frustration more than challenges. Frustration with not being able to get this information out. Membership with the AANP is the least I can do to support getting the word out. I have decreased my physical presence in my practice and with my patients because of this exact thing – with my knowledge and experience I want to get the word out about naturopathic medicine. We all need to be more assertive and use our voice we have, use the education and experience we have. The public will benefit from the power of what we know.

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

There are not many of us. We are a small family, a lot needs to happen, and we need a loud and unified voice. Membership is the least I can do to support and get the word out. Seeing our knowledge in action builds confidence. We need the AANP to support representation of *all* of us, *all* our knowledge, *all* our scopes, relentlessly. More members mean more money and more strength to do these very things.

This is our time.

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