

Personal Statement

Guru Sandesh Singh Khalsa, ND

Like many of you, for me naturopathic medicine is not just a career, it is a calling to service to support healing for individuals, communities and the planet. It has been the focus of my professional life since I began studies at NCNM in the 1970s. There were 5 states licensed when we graduated in 1978 and few people knew what an ND was! We have made incredible strides in the 42 years since then, but the landscape continues to evolve and now we have Covid-19 which has impacted the profession profoundly. My commitment is to utilize my experience (see biosketch) and an innovative and inclusive mindset supporting AANP to help naturopathic medicine to prevail in reaching our goals of all states being licensed, full participation in the health care system, maintaining our identity and philosophy and successful careers for doctors.

The AANP Executive Director and staff have been phenomenal in working overtime to assist the entire profession, not just members, with information and resources to address the impact Covid-19 has had on those in practice as well as advocating for ND inclusion in Federal relief for healthcare workers. I support continuing this commitment for as long as necessary and to begin planning for the support required as restrictions are lifted and practices open again.

My background includes extensive experience in naturopathic practice, education, accreditation, administration, governance and finance. It is necessary for a board to provide appropriate oversight of the staff and finances, ensure clear communications and to engage in strategic planning and set priorities. It must both provide oversight and support of the administration while not interfering with the ability of the staff to carry out the goals and responsibilities of the organization. Clear and respectful communication with the membership and other organizations is a priority as is working to support the success of its members individually and collectively. The AANP Board will emphasize efforts to obtain feedback from its members on their needs and to work closely with the House of Delegates on plans to improve the structure of the organization.

AANP and the naturopathic profession must be an inclusive home for all individuals and groups without explicit or implicit discrimination. The AANP has a Diversity and Inclusion Committee working to identify the challenges and attitudes that must be overcome for this to be fully realized and I support this effort.

The differences in views on naturopathic philosophy and practice are a reflection of our doctors' strongly held beliefs. I support and would initiate efforts to engage in respectful dialogue to determine how we can understand and accept our differences while moving forward together based on those principals and beliefs that unite us. Dr. John Bastyr always saw the philosophy and science of the medicine as two sides of the same coin. Our future is much brighter if we are united.

I am committed to serving naturopathic medicine by providing conscious leadership for AANP to support individual and profession wide success with transparency, accountability and integrity.

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