



## **Infrastructure of the Naturopathic Profession in the United States:**

### **American Association of Naturopathic Physicians** [www.naturopathic.org](http://www.naturopathic.org)

Founded in 1985, the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) is the national professional society representing licensed naturopathic physicians. AANP increases awareness of and expands access to naturopathic doctors and supports naturopathic medicine research.

### **Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges** [www.aanmc.org](http://www.aanmc.org)

The AANMC was established in 2001, to propel and foster the naturopathic medical profession by actively supporting the academic efforts of accredited and recognized schools of naturopathic medicine. The AANMC supports accredited and recognized member naturopathic medicine schools and colleges in an effort to improve their quality of education, operations, research and patient care.

### **Council of Naturopathic Medical Education** [www.cnme.org](http://www.cnme.org)

The CNME was founded in 1978. It is accepted as the programmatic accrediting agency for naturopathic medical education by the four-year naturopathic colleges and programs in the United States and Canada, by the American and Canadian national naturopathic professional associations, and by NABNE. The U.S. Secretary of Education recognizes CNME as the national accrediting agency for programs leading to the Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (N.D. or N.M.D.) or Doctor of Naturopathy (N.D.) degree. The CNME also approves postdoctoral programs (i.e., residency programs) in naturopathic medicine. The CNME is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and abides by ASPA's Code of Good Practice. The CNME is also a member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada.

### **North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners** [www.nabne.org](http://www.nabne.org)

NABNE was established in 1999. NABNE is responsible for qualifying applicants to take the NPLEX Examinations, administering the examinations to examinees, and preparing and sending exam results and transcripts to licensing/regulatory authorities.

### **Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX)**

The NPLEX, formed in 1986, is the examination that graduates of an approved naturopathic medical college must pass to be eligible for licensure. It is administered by NABNE (see above). It provides a national, standardized board examination to be used by all the states and provinces that have laws that regulate the naturopathic profession. There are 2 parts to the NPLEX:

- Part I - Basic Science Examinations that are taken by students to ensure that they have the knowledge foundation needed to enter the clinical phase of their training.
- Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination taken by students after graduation to ensure they have the clinical skills to perform the duties of a naturopathic physician.

### **The Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities** [www.fnmra.org](http://www.fnmra.org)

The mission of FMNRA is to protect the public by connecting regulatory authorities and promoting standards of excellence in the regulation of naturopathic medicine in North