

President's Report (summer 2003)

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The HANP was created fifteen years ago to establish an association of ND's with a special interest in homeopathy. There were several specific reasons that this need was felt:

- a) Our distinctiveness within the eclectic world of naturopathy, as ND's with a commitment to classical homeopathy.
- b) To strengthen our credibility in the homeopathic world while enhancing our opportunities for participation and contribution.
- c) To support a high standard of homeopathic training and practice in the naturopathic environment.

The HANP is not only the legacy of those who founded the HANP, but for those who have come into practice since, those who are in school now and those coming in the future. The HANP offers community to naturopaths with a special interest in homeopathy. It also grounds our professional relationship to both the general naturopathic community at large and the general homeopathic community. The maintenance and growth of the HANP is a statement of our individual commitment to homeopathy, while honoring our professional identity as naturopathic physicians.

The Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians is one of many similar associations within the North American homeopathic community, such as the AIH, NASH, state and provincial associations, etc. Each is a group of individuals of common purpose or identity, whether defined by profession, geography or even methodology.

Besides the sense of community support that associations can engender, one of their greatest values is the opportunity, through united action, to make special contributions to the homeopathic profession. So far the HANP has served the homeopathic community through our case conferences, our journal, and our participation with other homeopathic organizations such as the AIH, CHC and CHE regarding professional issues.

Many individual diplomates of the HANP have made important contributions to homeopathy and the homeopathic and naturopathic communities. In doing so, they have advanced the cause for which the HANP was founded. A glance through the list at the back of the journal reads with the names of a number of teachers and authors as well as other contributors to the profession.

We have had the opportunity, through our conference and journal, to work hand in hand with various leaders in homeopathy support services such as booksellers, pharmaceutical and software companies. However, it has become clear that there is more that the HANP should do and must do to re-energize its image and its relevance.

Recently the HANP sponsored Krista Heron's presentation on the Conifer family in Portland. This seminar was an excellent learning and networking event and a perfect

example of the kind of continuing education that we can offer, utilizing the experience of colleagues. This type of event works the middle ground between the super-teacher seminars and case conferences. Everyone who attended benefited and was clearly appreciative. We also had the opportunity to speak about the HANP and SIMILLIMUM to a general audience.

There is consideration being given towards developing seminars geared to the naturopathic community as well. Michael Traub, President of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, Past President and a founding member of the HANP, as well as Peter Bennett, a former President of the HANP, have urged us to find ways to make greater representation to the naturopathic community. This has been under discussion by the board and programs will be developed.

The day before the seminar, John Collins and I made a presentation to one of Durr Ellmore's classes at NCM on the HANP and the journal. There was much appreciation and interest from the students. This kind of direct representation to the naturopathic colleges should be, in the future, a regular feature of our work. It means a lot to students with a strong interest in homeopathy to be approached directly and shown a path forward once they enter the profession.

On several occasions I have met diplomates or former diplomates who felt that the HANP held no value for them. Given all that we have described and all that we can yet do, I would hope that in the future, there will be no question that the HANP has value for its diplomates, general members and all others who benefit from our journal, programs or affiliation.

The new structure of the HANP and new requirements for certification, create more meaningful standards, yet with a comfortable step-wise process that includes several preliminary designations or grades prior to diplomate status. This is an important accomplishment that restates our commitment to high standards for board certification and brings them more up to date with CHC standards.

All of this discussion leads us to two final points:

We need not review the difficulties of recent years, where there were strong disagreements over the direction of the journal and the organization. By the conclusion of that debate, we had lost a significant number of subscribers and with them an important portion of our income. While the freefall has finally stopped and the tide is gradually turning, there is a need to replenish our financial base so that we can bring our visions into action.

Where specifically could funds go now?

- 1) Making sure the journal is properly financed and promoted.
- 2) Making sure the conference is properly funded and promoted.

- 3) An expense account for travel requirements in order to make presentation to students or representation at major conferences and relevant meetings (CHC, CHE, etc.).
- 4) Funding the development and promotion of programs that serve the ongoing continuing education needs of homeopathic practitioners, as well as ND's seeking further homeopathic training.
- 5) The hiring of a half-time Executive Director. Brent Mathieu, our Past-President and current Executive Director, is doing a terrific job with extremely limited time and resources, but would like to move on from this position.
- 6) Regular updating and maintenance of our website.

I would like to emphasize that the organization is essentially solid – with an energetic, functioning board, new diplomates, a journal coming out regularly, new programs being planned and the conference ahead. Our choice is to plan on a gradual process of rebuilding, or catalyzing that process through actively seeking the support of the community.

We will be seeking to raise twenty thousand dollars, over and above other revenues, in the next six months. This will enable us to stabilize our position and advance our plans.

We are first appealing to our general members (as a subscriber you are a member of the HANP) and diplomates, to offer financial contributions to the organization, to help us regain our strength and move forward more rapidly and effectively. Through giving a little extra to the HANP at this time, you are affirming your support for our mission and our intentions. If you are not able to be involved in some other manner, a donation gives you the opportunity to show your appreciation and be counted.

We will also be seeking corporate support, inside and outside the homeopathic profession. All donors will be cited in Simillimum. I ask that each of you make some contribution, whether large or small, to help us realize our fund-raising goals.

The second issue is leadership. While the board has been functioning normally, with regular email discussion and teleconference meetings, there has been no President for a year now. To go forward with fund-raising, to maintain inter-professional relations, to focus the activities of the organization, it had become quite apparent, especially in our Portland discussions, that electing a President was a vital necessity.

After much consideration, upon returning home, I offered myself for this position. I did so because among the current board members, I am willing to give the time and to take a leadership role in this next phase. This suggestion was given warm support by those I had worked with in Portland. After due consideration the board unanimously agreed and so this issue has been resolved.

The difficult events of a year ago may have created new antipathies, while healing others. While I believe that the hard and conclusive debate was necessary for the life and health of the HANP, yet in spirit it was never intended to disrespect the persons involved.

I respect the hard work and commitment of each and every practitioner and would be happy to work with any sincere person towards the goal of improving our organization and its services, while maintaining its commitment to a high standard of homeopathy.