AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2013
RESOLUTION: A-6

INTRODUCED BY:	Niki Rarig, ND-AB Co-Chair and Wellness & Student Life Institute Coordinator (AMSA Supporting Affiliate member)[1], Rebecca Snowden, ND-AB Co-Chair and Medical Professionalism Patient Safety & Quality Coordinator (AMSA Supporting Affiliate member) [2], Renee Choi, ND-AB member and Medical Professionalism Chair (AMSA Supporting Affiliate member)[3], Kristina King, ND-AB member and Medical Professionalism Integrative Medicine Coordinator (AMSA Medical Student member)[4], Bridget Casey, ND-AB member and Naturopathic Medicine Interest Group Facilitator (AMSA Supporting Affiliate member)[1], William Benda, ND-AB Physician member (AMSA Alumni member), Malea MacOdrum, ND-AB member (AMSA Supporting Affiliate member) [1], Abigail Ellsworth, ND-AB member (AMSA Supporting Affiliate member)[1], Patrick Thompson, AMSA Supporting Affiliate member[2], Ashley Chung, AMSA Supporting Affiliate member[2], Adriane Atkins, AMSA Supporting Affiliate member[2], Devin Miles, AMSA Supporting Affiliate member[2], Mathieu Harding, AMSA Premedical Student member[5], Sara Roth, Wellness & Student Life Webinar Coordinator (AMSA Medical Student member)[6], Lorenzo Sewanan, AMSA Medical Student member[7], Brian Hanlon, Community & Environmental Health Chair (AMSA Premedical Student member)[8], Mariah McAllister, AMSA Medical Student member[9], Richard Bruno, Health Care for All Co-Chair (AMSA Medical Student member)[10], Matt Palm, Naturopathic Medicine Interest Group Facilitator (AMSA Premedical Student member)[11], Lauren Palitz, Premedical Team Programming Coordinator (AMSA Premedical Student member)[12]
SCHOOL:	[1]National College of Natural Medicine, [2]Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine [3]Bastyr University of Naturopathic Medicine, [4]Sint Eustatius School of Medicine, [5]Mesa Community College, [6]Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, [7]Yale University School of Medicine, [8]Harvard University Extension School, [9]University of Connecticut, [10]Oregon Health & Science University, [11]University of Minnesota, [12]Boston University
SUBJECT:	Creation of ND Student Subcategory in the Supporting Affiliate Membership Category
TYPE:	Resolution of Constitution and Bylaws

WHEREAS The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), the national accrediting agency for the Naturopathic Doctorate degree, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; and[i]

WHEREAS The Department of Education classifies the Naturopathic Doctor degree (ND) from CNME schools as a Doctor's degree - Professional practice, along with MD and DO degrees; and [ii,iii]

WHEREAS There are six Naturopathic medical schools in North America that are accredited by both the national and regional accrediting authorities; and [iv,v]

WHEREAS The Naturopathic doctoral program is at least 4 years in duration and during the first two years of biomedical and diagnostic sciences, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND/NMD) students' credit loads are equivalent to those of Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) students. Third- and fourth-year ND students receive clinical training as Primary Care Physicians (PCP's) at their schools' teaching clinics and off-site clinics including those in rural and underserved areas; and [vi]

WHEREAS All licensed Naturopathic physicians must complete four years of graduate medical education from CNME approved schools and successfully pass NPLEX/NABNE board exams[vii] (basic sciences and clinical science board exams, similar to USMLE Steps I and II respectively, upon graduation) ; and

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians are Primary Care Physicians trained in conventional medical sciences including physical examination, lab diagnosis, pharmacology and minor surgery, as well as safe and evidence-based Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) such as botanical medicine, environmental medicine, Chinese Medicine, physical medicine, hydrotherapy, counseling and clinical nutrition; and [viii ,ix,x,xi,xii,xiii,xiv, xv, xvi, xvii]

WHEREAS 33% (over 4,000 students) of respondents to the American Association of Medical College's 2007 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire reported that the instructional time devoted to clinical nutrition and CAM during their training was inadequate. Naturopathic doctoral programs offer a model of medical training designed for the medical student aiming to practice natural and integrative medicine; and [xviii]

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians-in-training serve as content experts in Integrative, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (ICAM) ; and

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians have the most comprehensive evidence-based ICAM training at the physician level upon graduation and serve as invaluable resources in the medical field; and

WHEREAS Naturopathic physicians help to fill a gap in the healthcare system and are part of the solution to the PCP shortage in underserved populations; and [xix,xx,xxi,xxii,xxiii]

WHEREAS Chronic illness is implicated as a major cause for rising healthcare costs[xxiv,xxv] and Naturopathic physicians are trained in the prevention, treatment and management of those conditions which results in significant cost savings and cost effectiveness; and [xvii,xviii,xix,xx,xxi]

WHEREAS the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) is the only national professional society that represents licensed or licensable Naturopathic physicians who are graduates of one of the six naturopathic medical schools accredited by the CNME; and

WHEREAS The Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA) is the only international professional organization that represents Naturopathic physicians-in-training enrolled in CNME-approved doctoral programs; and

WHEREAS the Naturopathic medical profession has both a national organization representing Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) as well as a national organization representing the ND medical student voice (NMSA), thus demonstrating a well established profession with resources and structure in place to further their contributions to the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS Naturopathic medical students participate in AMSA seeking to further their understanding of the broader health care system and strengthen alliances among all physicians-in-training; and

WHEREAS increasing numbers of Naturopathic medical students are AMSA members and whereas many of these members have been active in AMSA (*e.g.*, attending Institutes, Regional Conferences and National Convention, holding leadership positions in Action Committees, Teams and Interest Groups and engaging in AMSA initiatives) ; and

WHEREAS Naturopathic medical students have demonstrated competence, dedication and enthusiasm while serving in leadership positions for Action Committees, Teams and Interest Groups; and

WHEREAS Naturopathic medical students face cost-prohibitive membership rates in the Supporting Affiliate Membership category which are currently at $50 per year. The annual expiration of dues also results in attrition of membership instead of retention. Naturopathic medical students seek more equitable membership rates, such as $75 for the duration of their medical school training; however, it does not appear to be in AMSA's best interest to adjust the rates of this entire category since many members in this category are larger institutions who can afford it. Through creation of an ND student subcategory within the Supporting Affiliate category, there is possibility then to seek from the BOT adjustment of rates within the subcategory only; and

WHEREAS creation of a Supporting Affiliate Membership subcategory for Naturopathic physicians-in-training will allow for diversity within the AMSA membership that more accurately reflects the current and future physician population,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Constitution and Bylaws, Article III, paragraph 6 (pg. 4), be AMENDED to designate an ND student subcategory and read:

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Supporting Affiliate

A. General

Available to those not eligible for medical, premedical, international medical, resident or professional membership -- includes allied health professionals ~~and naturopathic students~~.

B. Naturopathic Student

Available to Naturopathic students enrolled in or on leave of absence from any Council of Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) accredited or provisionally accredited North American Naturopathic training program.

FISCAL NOTE: None

[i] U.S. Department of Education. *Accreditation in the United States: Specialized Accrediting Agencies*. http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg7.html

[ii] U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Glossary*. http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/?charindex=D

[iii] Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Association for Institutional Research. *New Post-Baccalaureate Degree Classifications*. 2008. http://airweb.org/images/new%20post-baccalaureate%20degree%20classifications.pdf

[iv] Council on Naturopathic Medicial Education. *Accreditation Standards*. 2009. http://www.cnme.org/

[v] U.S. Department of Education. *The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs*. http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/

[vi] Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges. *Comparing ND and MD Curricula*. 2011. http://www.aanmc.org/education/comparing-nd-md-curricula.php#first_two

[vii] North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners http://www.nabne.org/

[viii] Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine *2011-2012 Catalog* http://www.scnm.edu/images/stories/2011-12%20Course%20Catalog%20INDEX.PDF

[ix] Bastyr University School of Naturopathic Medicine *2011-2012 Catalog* (pp. 76-85) http://www.bastyr.edu/ftp/catalog/catalog_11-12/School_Naturopathic_Medicine_11-12.pdf

[x] National College of Natural Medicine *2011-2012 Catalog* http://www.ncnm.edu/images/Publications/NCNM_Catalog_2011-2012.pdf

[xi] University of Bridgeport *2010-2012 Catalog* (pp. 72-80) http://www.bridgeport.edu/Media/Website%20Resources/documents/academics/registrar/UB_catalog.pdf

[xii] Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine. ND Program Course Listings. http://www.ccnm.edu/prospective_students/course_listings

[xiii] Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine. Curriculum- Course Description. http://www.binm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=141&Itemid=96

[xiv] National University of Health Sciences. Doctor of Naturopathy Curriculum Trimester by Trimester. http://nuhs.edu/academics/college-of-professional-studies/naturopathic-medicine/curriculum/trimester-by-trimester/

[xv] Fleming S, Gutknecht N. *Naturopathy and the Primary Care Practice*. Primary Care. 2010. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2883816/

[xvi] LaMont S, Quinn S, et al. *Naturopathic Medicine: Primary Care for the 21st Century*. http://www.dralysa.com/resources/Naturopathic_Medicine-Primary_Care_for_the_21st_Century.pdf

[xvii] Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians. *Insurance Reimbursement*. 2011. http://www.vanp.org/insurance_reimbursement.php

[xviii] Abbott RB, Hui K, Hays RD, et al. Medical Student Attitudes toward Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine. Evid Based Complement Alternat Med. 2011; 2011: 985243 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3147138/

[xix] Naturopathic Physicians Research Institute. *Cost Studies*. http://nprinstitute.org/cost-studies

[xx] New York Association of Naturopathic Physicians. *Benefit Analysis of Licensing Naturopathic Doctors*. May 2011. http://nyanp.org/ndreport511.pdf

[xxi] Coalition for Patients' Rights. *Recent Studies Show That Access to Full Spectrum of Healthcare Professionals Key to Cost-Effective Care.* 2011. http://www.patientsrightscoalition.org/Media-Resources/News-Releases/Key-to-Cost-Effective-Care.aspx

[xxii] Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians. *Fact Sheet*. 2011

[xxiii] New York Council for Naturopathic Licensure. *Dr. Weil Endorses NY Licensure*. 2010. www.**youtube**.com/watch?v=6h8OxUb6afU

[xxiv] Bloom, D.E., Cafiero, E.T., Jané-Llopis, E., Abrahams-Gessel, S., Bloom, L.R., Fathima, S., Feigl, A.B., Gaziano, T., Mowafi, M., Pandya, A., Prettner, K., Rosenberg, L., Seligman, B., Stein, A., & Weinstein, C. (2011). *The Global Economic Burden of Non-communicable Diseases.* Geneva: World Economic Forum. www.weforum.org/EconomicsOfNCD

[xxv] DeVol R, Bedroussian A, et al. *An Unhealthy America: The economic burden of chronic disease – Charting a New Course to Save Lives and Increase Productivity and Economic Growth*. Milken Institute. 2007. http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/publications.taf?function=detail&ID=38801018&cat=resrep