



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA) makes history at annual federal lobbying initiative**

(PORTLAND, OR.) May 2, 2017--- The *American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP)* hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> *DC-Federal Lobbying Initiative (DC-FLI)* in Washington DC this past weekend. The event commenced the afternoon of April 29 after a morning seminar entitled 'Natural Approaches to Chronic Pain: Effective Alternative to Opioids.' The AANP joined forces with the *Academy of Integrative Pain Management (AIPM)* to present workshops and expert panels to discuss this leading topic of concern in the United States healthcare system. Notable guest panelists include a US Army Surgeon General, Chief Executive Director (Defense and Veterans Centre for Integrative Pain Management), Patient-Centred Care Director (VA Medical Centre), and Branch Chief of the National Centre for Complementary and Integrative Health.

The *Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA)*, the student-governed nonprofit representing North American naturopathic physicians-in-training, made a notable presence at the annual conference hosted by the AANP. Naturopathic medical students traveled from all over North America to participate in this initiative. A total of 110 naturopathic medical students were in attendance, which is the highest attendance record the organization has seen in several years. Moreover, each NMSA chapter in the United States was represented with notable increases in student attendance from the NMSA Chicago Chapter as well as the NMSA chapters at the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine (Tempe, AZ) and University of Turabo (Puerto Rico). For the first time in several years, NMSA was invited to present a panel entitled 'Student Involvement in Legislative Success'.

"This was my second time attending DC-FLI and it won't be my last. AANP's annual event provides an excellent opportunity to network with other students and doctors while we work to bring our medicine to new heights at the federal level," said Dawn Alden, NMSA Vice-President of Membership.

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On April 30, naturopathic medical students engaged in elevator speech workshops and discussions surrounding issues that concern the naturopathic community. On May 1, DC-FLI participants met with offices of state representatives and senators on Capitol Hill. Issues discussed include enforcement of the non-discrimination clause (Section 2706) of the Affordable Care Act as well as inclusion of naturopathic medical services in government-funded healthcare programs including Medicare and Veterans Affairs Medical Centres throughout the United States.

DC-FLI concluded with the annual Whole Health Reception. Legislative offices all over Capitol Hill were invited to join the naturopathic community for organic chocolate, wild salmon, and other healthy treats.

NMSA and AANP rolled out dual membership to naturopathic medical students earlier this year. The accomplishments and success at this year's DC-FLI demonstrates the significant progress that can be made when naturopathic medical students and physicians work collaboratively onwards a common goal. For details on the results of this year's initiative on Capitol Hill, please contact the AANP.

**About the AANP:**

The [American Association of Naturopathic Physicians](#) (AANP) is the professional association that represents licensed Naturopathic Doctors. The AANP strives to make naturopathic medicine available to every American, and to increase recognition of Naturopathic Doctors as the identified authorities on natural medicine. Learn more at [www.naturopathic.org](http://www.naturopathic.org).

**About the NMSA:**

The [Naturopathic Medical Student Association](#) (NMSA) is an international, student-governed 501(c)3 non-profit organization established to support naturopathic medical students at accredited schools in the USA and Canada. The NMSA provides access to unique leadership experiences and educational resources, as well as increased access to information on how to succeed in our future careers as healthcare professionals. Learn more at <https://naturopathicstudent.org>.

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