

## Summary of Natural Doctors International (NDI) Representatives Meeting

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at NCNM

The Haiti Disaster Relief Committee (HDRC) met in Portland, OR on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 to discuss the coordinated efforts of the North American naturopathic community to respond to the unfortunate disaster that occurred in Haiti in January of 2010.

Attendance included NDI Executive Director Tabatha Parker ND, HDRC Co-Chair Sabine Thomas ND, Director AANP Bill Benda MD, Director Institute of Natural Medicine Susan Yirku with representatives from Bastyr, Boucher, SCNM, NCNM and the NMSA, as well as numerous experts in disaster medicine from the naturopathic community. The meeting included presentations from NDs who had recently been to Haiti in response to the January disaster.

Consensus was reached in the HDRC to replace this narrow committee with a new, broader council, the "Naturopathic Global Health Council", which will be housed under NDI for the present time. The council will include broad representation from the community to address important emerging global health issues. The first issue the council has been charged with is Disaster Relief and the first effort is Haiti. The Naturopathic Medical Students Association has plans to set up a Students Global Health Council in the near future.

NDI and the Naturopathic Global Health Council (NGHC) council's first and most immediate project is Haiti Naturopathic Relief. A medical brigade of NDs experienced in disaster has been tentatively set for June or July of 2010. This council will concurrently spend time assessing needs, structures and pre-training standards and protocols for volunteers, in the event of future brigade placements in Haiti or other disaster situations. Analysis and conclusions will be presented to the community at the AANP conference in Portland, OR in August 2010.

The new organisational structure, and the charge to develop professional and safety guidelines in global health was presented to a professional leadership gathering of naturopathic governing bodies this weekend. It was considered essential that any sponsored outreach be ambassadorial for the profession, and should present a good impression to other healthcare provider organisations.

If there are NDs, or students with comprehensive experience of disaster, trauma, or third world triage medicine and an understanding of pharmaceutical prescribing, they would be welcome to apply to attend the upcoming brigade. An online application will be available in the upcoming weeks at [www.ndimed.org](http://www.ndimed.org). Interested candidates can contact [drknolan@gmail.com](mailto:drknolan@gmail.com)[BINM] or trip leader, Dr Sabine Thomas ND [haiti@ndimed.org](mailto:haiti@ndimed.org)[Bastyr]. Students contact their NDI or NMSA representative.

Copies to BINM Admin, Faculty, Alma Mater, Student Rep, interested NDs, BCNA, In- House Notice Board.