

WNF: Ensuring the Naturopathic Profession is Part of the Global Healthcare Conversation

Dr. Iva Lloyd, BScH, RPP, ND



The World Naturopathic Federation (WNF) was formed in 2015 during a naturopathic conference in Paris France. The aim of the WNF is to support and promote the growth of the naturopathic profession globally.

The WNF encourages naturopathic regulation, accreditation of naturopathic educational programs and naturopathic research. One of the missions of the WNF is to establish official collaboration status with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international agencies.

In order to support the global profession, the initial years were spent on surveying and researching the profession to determine the naturopathic landscape globally. Our analysis revealed that naturopathy is practiced in about eighty countries and is regulated in thirteen. There are about ninety naturopathic educational institutions and around 10,000 naturopathic doctors / naturopaths. What unites the profession is our philosophies and principles and a core set of modalities. Although there is tremendous diversity in naturopathic educational programs, about 1/3 of them are over 4,000 hours in length.

Over the past 5-years WNF Officers have kept in regular communication with the WHO as we move towards official collaboration status. On March 30th of this year, Dr. Iva Lloyd ND, CAND representative to the WNF and its current President was invited, along with ten other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to attend a virtual meeting on the role of Traditional and Complementary Medicine in Controlling COVID-19 hosted by Dr. Zhang Qi, Director of Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCI) from the WHO. During that meeting all NGOs presented their professions / organizations ideal approach to COVID-19. Dr. Zhang Qi encouraged all NGOs to provide research specific to respiratory infections to support their recommendations. As a result of that meeting the WNF has undertaken the following initiatives:

WNF Rapid Review Task Force

Forty naturopathic practitioners and researchers from eight countries have come together to conduct rapid reviews on twelve naturopathic recommendations specific to the prevention or treatment of upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs). The focus of all rapid reviews is limited to human studies.

The aim is to have the rapid reviews completed by the end of May. At that time, they will be shared with the WHO and other governments around the world. They will also be effective in helping to inform naturopathic practice and public health policies. The rapid reviews will be posted on the WNF website and will be officially published.

Animated Video

The WNF is in the process of creating a ninety-second animated video for the general population. This video focuses on the role of lifestyle factors in providing individuals with a shield to protect them from life's challenges. The disrupting factors include viruses and other pathogens, environmental factors, smoking, junk food and stress.

The video will be available for all naturopathic practitioners and organizations by the end of May. The video is in English with French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese subtitles.

Review of Natural Medicine and COVID-19

Naturopathic practitioners around the world have been frustrated as their governments and regulators have instructed them not to make statements about COVID-19. That being said, many integrated health organizations and non-regulated T&CM professions have been quite vocal. The WNF will be conducting a review of the main organizations that have been promoting natural treatments for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. We will be exploring the range of individual treatments that were recommended and the level of research that was provided.

As with all activities conducted by the WNF, our role is to promote the naturopathic profession as experts in natural medicine. COVID-19 will be with us for a while, and the WNF is working to ensure that the role of naturopathic practice becomes part of the conversation. 🍁

About the Author

Dr. Iva Lloyd, BScH, RPP, ND has been president of the World Naturopathic Federation since its inception in 2014. She has participated in three WHO Working Groups and the Global Conference for Primary Health Care. She is also the previous Editor in Chief of Vital Link (2002-2015), an adjunct faculty member at CCNM, and is in private practice at Naturopathic Foundations Health Clinic in Markham, Ontario.

For more information:

<http://worldnaturopathicfederation.org/wnf-covid-19-task-force/>