

COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION
Virtual Meeting of the Committee on Postdoctoral
Naturopathic Medical Education (CPNME)

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 ♦ 3:30 – 5:00 PM ET

Minutes

CPNME chair, Dr. Stretch, called the virtual meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. ET. The following CNME Board members were present:

- Eileen Stretch, ND, Chair
- Arvin Jenab, BSc, ND
- Joni Olehausen, ND
- Randy Swenson, DC, MHPE
- Amanda Alexander, ND
- Marcia Prenguber, ND

Other CPNME members and guests present:

- Gary Garcia, ND (Bastyr U.)
- Dee Saunders, ND (NUNM)
- Jasmine Carino, ND, (CCNM)
- Joseph Vazquez, ND (SCNM)
- JoAnn Yanez, ND; AANMC Executive Director

Staff present:

- Daniel Seitz, JD, EdD (Executive Director), Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Request for additions or other changes to the agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Share general info/updates on residency programs in light of COVID-19-related challenges

The residency directors, Dr. Yanez and Dr. Jenab (who serves as Medical Director of Naturopathic Medicine & ND Residency Director, at the UC-Irvine Samueli Center for Integrative Medicine) all gave updates of the impact of the Covid situation on residency sites and programs. Overall, there has been an increased use of telemedicine, but the mix of in-person and remote treatment of patients varied from location to location. Insurance reimbursement for in-person vs. telemedicine and liability were considerations in some cases. In-person appointments are now on the increase. Dr. Yanez reported that there were about 600 applications for 73 residency slots during the most recent application period.

Review entrance requirements regarding ND licensure for a residency program in light of issue raised by Dr. Jenab

Dr. Jenab explained that since the start date of ND residency program at UCI needed to coincide with the start date for MD residencies, the requirement for residents to obtain an ND license either prior to starting the residency or within the first term was not realistic for bringing

in recent ND grads. Also, a license is not needed for billing, since the residents all operate under a licensed practitioner. So, he asked the CPNME to consider whether it might be possible to provide greater flexibility in regard to this requirement. Generally, CPNME members were somewhat hesitant to change the licensure requirement as it serves some useful purposes. However, the committee agreed that before deciding this issue either way, it would be helpful if Dr. Jenab and Dr. Garcia (since the UCI residency is sponsored by Bastyr) presented a specific proposal to the CPNME for review, which they agreed to do.

Review of selected individual residency sites

Dr. Swenson reported on the NUNM residency sites he reviewed. The required residency database materials were in place and sufficiently up to date.

Dr. Prenguber reported on the Bastyr U. residency sites she reviewed. The required residency database materials were in place and sufficiently up to date.

Dr. Stretch reported on the SCNM residency sites she reviewed. While almost all of the required residency database materials were in place and sufficiently up to date, in the case of Vibrant Health Naturopathic Medical Center one document—the Affiliate Training Agreement—had not been filled out. Dr. Vazquez, who very recently assumed the residency director responsibility, will address this and double-check that other residency documentation is in place.

Dr. Olehausen reported on the two CCONM residency sites she reviewed. While some of the required residency database materials were in place for both sites, the affiliation agreements were missing. Dr. Carino will address this and double-check that other required residency documentation is in place and up to date.

There was some general discussion on the information provided on individual residency sites in database documents (e.g., whether in the case of research/scholarly activity, greater specificity in regard to information provided would be helpful).

Discuss timeline for resuming work on developing competencies for residents.

Dr. Jenab, chair of the residency competencies taskforce, stated that he would like to resume taskforce meetings starting this May. It was agreed that Dr. Stretch and Dr. Seitz would meet with Dr. Jenab to work out a tentative meeting schedule and timeline for completing this work.

Miscellaneous matters

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. ET.