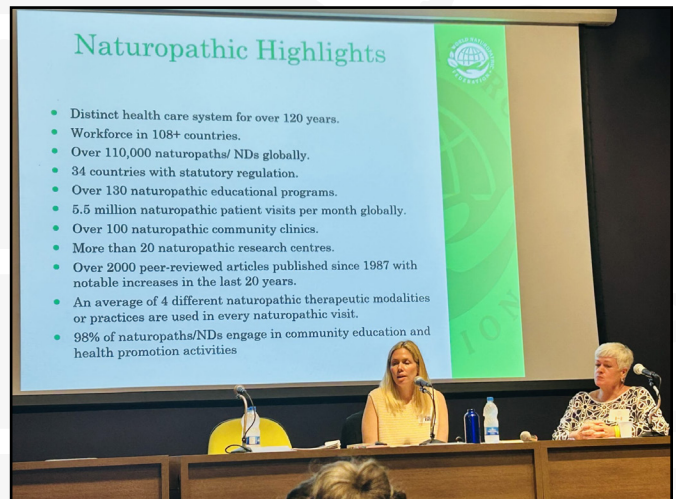


4th Quarter Update 2025

WNF General Assembly 2025 & Annual General Meeting



Over 40 attendees, representing 14 countries and 6 WHO Regions travelled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in October for the 2025 WNF General Assembly. The General Assembly (GA) was an opportunity for the global community to participate in planning sessions to share ideas and to strategize about the future of the naturopathic profession and the WNF. Please click to view the GA PowerPoint.

- The first of three planning sessions focused on the potential impact and opportunities that the new *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025 – 2034* presents for the global naturopathic profession.
- The second, was a detailed discussion on *Shaping the Voice for Naturopathic Research*. Look for details on the next page of this issue.
- The third and final session focused on a new initiative – *Naturopathic Clinical Care Guidelines (NCCGs)*. The NCCGs will be based on assessment and re-assessment, not treatment. See a story on the last page of this issue for more details.



At the WNF's Annual General Meeting (AGM), held immediately after the GA, Caio Fábio Portella, Naturopath (Brazil) was welcomed as the WNF's new President.

Caio succeeds Tobey-Ann Pinder, ND, JD (Australia). The WNF wishes to thank Tobey-Ann for her dedication and guidance through a time of transition and growth.

The eighth WNF GA will be held in India in 2027. Details to follow.

Research Advocates Pre-General Assembly Forum

On the eve of the WNF GA, Rio was the setting for an important one-day gathering of naturopathic researchers and naturopaths/NDs with an interest in advocating for naturopathic research. Naturopath, Associate Professor Dr. Joanna Harnett, PhD, MHSc, BHSc (Australia), and Naturopathic Doctors Kieran Cooley (Canada) and Co-Chair of the WNF Research Committee, Renée Purdy (Canada) facilitated a day-long working group session with 13 naturopaths/naturopathic doctors (NDs) from nine countries. Highlights of the day include:

Purpose

- To strategize for advocacy and capacity building for naturopathic research
- To bring together global perspectives on the value and integration of research in the naturopathic profession
- To provide an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and progress and to chart future directions

Outcomes

- To develop a research partnership plan that fosters collaboration and mentorship across regions and disciplines
- To increase access to research training both within naturopathic educational institutions and for naturopaths/NDs themselves
- To facilitate access to naturopathic research and research that supports naturopathic care
- To create a naturopathic research toolkit



Naturopathic Research Toolkit will provide practical guidance and resources to strengthen research capacity across diverse contexts. It will include:

- Resources that outline various research approaches that support naturopathic epistemology and whole-systems/complex-systems.
- Resources that guide practitioners on how to conduct research, especially as it relates to clinical case studies and reviews.
- Provide a repository of research instruments and clinical practice guidelines to aid validated patient-reported outcomes.
- Support evidence translation of key naturopathic resources such as the Health Technology Assessment on Naturopathy and other naturopathic research.
- Provide guidance on accessing naturopathic research and research relevant to naturopathic care.

The Research Advocacy Day was a tremendous success due to the fulsome participation of the attendees and was made possible due to the financial support of Nestle Health Sciences. The full report will be shared with WNF Members early in the New Year.

Shaping the Voice of Naturopathic Research

During the two days of the General Assembly, the WNF Research Working Group highlighted current accomplishments and initiatives including:

- Research Advocacy Working Group
- Completion of the WNF Research Curriculum Guide
- Initiation of the Pre-Peer Review Project

The working group discussed upcoming initiatives, including how they will be implementing the Naturopathic Research Curriculum Guide and a new survey. The new survey will be launched in January and it will explore interprofessional and interorganizational alliances within the naturopathic profession.



Research Planning Session

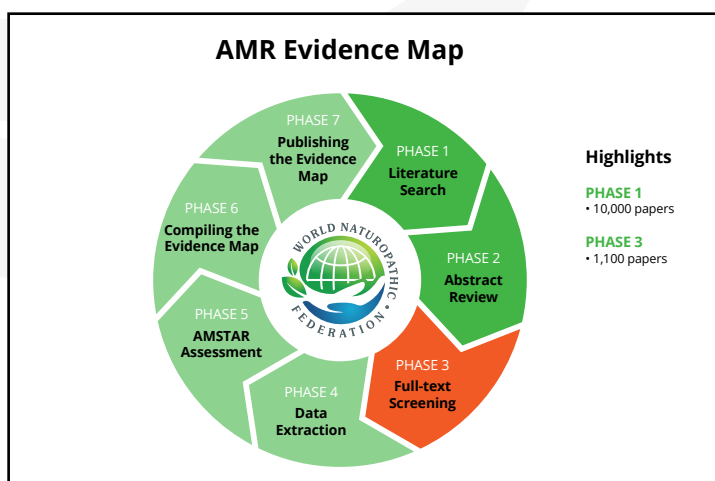
A valuable discussion on defining naturopathic research also took place. Small groups representing Full Members, researchers, Educational Members, and Non-profit Partners reviewed and refined a series of statements describing naturopathic research. Their feedback will inform the final version of these statements, which will be shared with members to help strengthen a unified voice for naturopathic research.

Moving forward, the naturopathic profession must continue to disseminate and increase awareness on the research that exists and continue to build research capacity through education and collaboration.

AMR Evidence Map

10,000 studies were found in Phase 1 for the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Evidence Map. Phase 2 involved the review of all 10,000 abstracts.

We are now in Phase 3 where 1100 studies will undergo a detailed full text screening. Thank you to the Naturopathic Doctors Caio Portella and Hayleigh Ast (co-Chairs of the WNF Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Committee), Dr. Alisha Burton (research scientist), committee members and volunteers for their work on this important initiative.



WHO Call for Traditional Medicine Projects

In September, the WHO put out a call for Traditional Medicine projects: [Health Heritage Innovations Open Call \(H2I\)](#). The purpose was to identify practices, products, educational and policy initiatives within Indigenous and Traditional Medicine that have been effective in addressing key health issues.



**World Health
Organization**

This was an opportunity for the naturopathic profession to highlight key initiatives and areas where the naturopathic profession excels. There was a great response from the naturopathic profession which resulted in at least six submissions from naturopathic organizations/individuals. The WNF's submission was titled, "The microbiome, an essential and often missing aspect of health care" and it focused on the naturopathic profession being recognized as experts in the "terrain" / microbiome and providing educational support materials for other healthcare professionals. Other naturopathic submissions included:

- Members of the [WNF Educational Committee](#) submitted, "Global Implementation of Research Curriculum Guidelines for TM educational providers"
- Dr. Joanna Harnett, ND (Australia) submitted, "Appropriate and Safe Integration of Traditional Medicines and conventional medications – a public health education initiative"
- [Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine \(CCNM\)](#) (Canada) submitted, "Health service delivery by naturopathic doctors in community-based settings"
- Associate Professor Amie Steel, PhD, ND (Australia) submitted, "ARCCIM Global TCIM Research Leadership Programs: Scaling Capacity Across TCIM"

Although none of the naturopathic projects were selected by the WHO, they will all be posted on the [WHO website](#). The WNF is also looking for ways to support the implementation of some of these great initiatives. If you did a submission as well, please [let us know](#) and we will add it to our list. Thank you for the engagement in this initiative. The response from the naturopathic profession was tremendous.

Impact of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy

The Impact of the [WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025 – 2034 \(TM Strategy\)](#) was discussed in detail at the [WNF General Assembly](#). The [TM Strategy](#) presents many opportunities for the naturopathic profession and other Traditional Medicine professions, but it also presents many challenges. The main challenge is that the recent Strategy, like all WHO TM Strategies focus on the 3 P's: products, practices and practitioners. What is missing is professions.



A [commentary](#) written by our CEO Dr. Iva Lloyd, ND, *The WHO's Expedition into Traditional Medicine – A Naturopathic Observation* outlines the opportunities and challenges for our profession. This is a time for the naturopathic profession to get engaged with the regional, national, and international governments.

Naturopathic Clinical Care Guideline (NCCG) Working Group

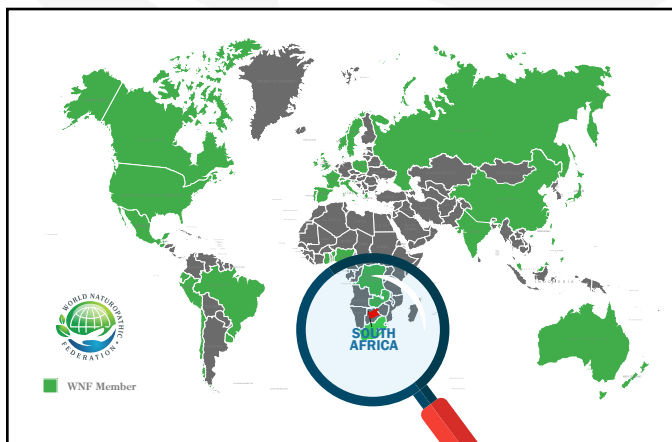
The need for the naturopathic profession, like all Traditional systems of medicine, to have practice guidelines that inform naturopathic care and guide regulatory efforts is becoming a necessity. This need is highlighted in the new WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025 – 2034 and has been raised by different levels of governments in various countries. Having guidelines that inform other healthcare practitioners how the naturopathic profession addresses health conditions is also an essential element of professional collaboration.



As a profession that focuses on individualized patient care and treating the causes of diseases, the typical practice care guidelines that focus on standardized treatments do not fit with naturopathic practice. Hence, the WNF has initiated a Working Group that will create a template for **naturopathic clinical care guidelines (NCCGs) that focus on assessment and re-assessment; not on treatment**. The aim is to establish research-based guidelines that stay true to the principles and theories that guide naturopathic practice and that are applicable for naturopathic doctors and naturopaths globally. We will be starting with a general template and then adding specific conditions as we fine-tune the process.

Naturopaths/naturopathic doctors from around the world with a strong practice, educational or research background will be invited to participate in surveys and to provide feedback throughout the process. To stay updated on the progress of the NCCG Working Group, please check out the WNF social media.

"Greetings from . . ."



"Greetings from . . ." the WNF's bi-monthly, one-hour informal conversation with our members recently celebrated its fifth edition (Spain). In January, our spotlight will shift to naturopathy in South Africa.

Missed an episode? Please click the link:

- [Canada](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [Brazil](#)
- [India](#)
- [Spain](#)

Welcome New Members

The WNF's international footprint grew in the last half of 2025 with a new Full Member from Sweden and a second Educational Institution from the UK. Please welcome: Svenska Naturläkareförbundet (SNLF) and The Healing Garden Institute. For membership inquiries, please reach out.