

55th NORTHWEST CONVENTION REPORT

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N W N P C C H A I R

The Heart of Naturopathic Medicine was celebrated at the 55th annual Northwest Naturopathic Physicians Convention (NWNPC) held May 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency in beautiful downtown Vancouver, BC. True to this theme the conference featured a cardiovascular emphasis with lectures on Naturopathic Treatment Protocols for Cardiovascular Disease by Dr. Martin Milner, a Pharmacology Update on Cardiology and Diabetes by Dr. Jean Jacques Dugoua and Iron Metabolism by Dr. Russell Marz. These central topics were complimented by keynote addresses from Dr. Tieraona Low Dog, Dr. Brian Goldman, Dr. Alan Gaby and Dr. Alex Vasquez. The conference also featured an endocrine focus including lectures by Dr. Pamela Jeanne on the Hormonal Milieu in the Aging Process, Dr. Henri Knafo on BHRT Therapy and Dr. Clara Cohen on TCM Treatments for Gynaecological Issues. Timely topics such as HCG Therapy in Weight Loss by Dr. Les Griffith, Primary Care for Pregnant Patients by Dr. Cathy Carlson Rink, Biomedical Interventions for Autism by Dr. Anita Bratt and Therapeutic Exercise for Low Back Pain by Dr. Ryan Oughtred were balanced by a timeless lecture on the Classic Principals of Naturopathic Medicine by Dr. James Sensenig.



Saturday closing speaker Dr. Alan Gaby at left, delegate Dr. Rick Marinelli, speaker Dr. Russell Marz, and friend.

The 2011 NWNPC was hosted by the BCNA with the generous support and sponsorship of Dr. Chris Turner, NDNR and Biotics. Meridian Valley Laboratories and Can Prev Premium Natural Health Products sponsored luncheons. The convention served as the site for the second annual Bob's Red Mill Cup, a student competition providing \$14,000 in scholarship money. Congratulations to the three finalists, Harmonie Eleveld of CCNM, Jessica Kooima of SCNM and Erin Sharman of NCNM. Each student gave a ten minute speech on Food as Medicine. Thanks go out to Bob's Red Mill, National College of Natural Medicine, the Naturopathic Medical Student Association and Dr. Chris Turner for their support of the BRM Cup.

The Hyatt served as host site of the convention for the second time in BC. Meals were delicious, staff was fabulous, accommodations were modern and the central location allowed for downtown excursions.

The convention attracted delegates from all over North America: Alberta 3; Alaska 4; Arizona 2; BC 267; California 2, Colorado 1; Connecticut 1; Illinois 1; Manitoba 2; New Hampshire 1; Nova Scotia 1; Ontario 7; Oregon 19; Saskatchewan 3; Qubec 1; Washington 33. Plus, of course, many student volunteers.

The Northwest could not proceed without the generous support of our exhibitors. Seventy eight booths were ably filled by knowledgeable, friendly suppliers who also donated over \$20,000 worth of gifts for raffles and draws. Some notable prizes included Aspire netbooks, android tablets, Invicta watches, a 2012 Northwest free registration, a Hyatt Hotel Weekend Package and numerous gift baskets.

The banquet dinner was a huge success with 200 winners in the balloon contest and a fantastic dance with renowned cover group, the Famous Players Band of Vancouver. Dr. Marz gave us another command performance on the dance floor as fun was had by all. The evening was punctuated by presentation of the first annual Dr. Gerald Farnsworth Award, given to Dr. Chris Turner for his dedication and commitment to the naturopathic medical profession.

To all delegates, students, exhibitors and volunteers—a huge thank you for your support. We strive to produce a conference that delivers excellence in continuing education while promoting camaraderie in the naturopathic profession. The volunteer board of directors welcomes input into the convention. Please refer to the syllabus for our feedback form.



Friday BINM volunteers, l to r: Kira Cai, Veronika Botova, Anna Arsenault and Amy Rolfson. Thanks to all the BINM volunteers for their support prior to and during the Northwest and AGM.

Please mark your calendars for the 56th NWNPC to be held at nearby Semiahmoo Resort, in Blaine Washington, May 18-20, 2012. Also, set aside April 12-14, 2013 for the 57th NWNPC in Portland, Oregon.