



NATIONAL AYURVEDIC MEDICAL  
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

# Annual Report

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Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022



**2021/2022**

July - June

[www.ayurvedicaccreditation.org](http://www.ayurvedicaccreditation.org)



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Annual Report for the fiscal year 2021-2022. NAMAC's inaugural year has proven to be busy, productive, and predictably challenging. As is the case with any start-up organization, the tasks of launching the business, setting up the structure, and supporting operations filled the first few months of our work together. As you will read in our FY22 Highlights, once we had those initial tasks in hand, we directed our attention to the foundational operations necessary to ensure our success.

As I reflect on the past twelve months and what we have accomplished, I am acutely aware of all the individuals or organizations that have contributed to our launch. It is with deepest gratitude that I especially acknowledge the contributions of the following:

NAMAC Board of Directors

Hilary Garivaltis, Executive Director of the National Ayurvedic Medical Association (NAMA)

NAMA Board of Directors

Our inaugural donors

I am proud and fortunate to work with a strong and committed Board of Directors. Each of these individuals brings their expertise and deep interest in the field of Ayurvedic Medicine to the organization.

Our stakeholders of schools, professionals, and organizations create the foundation of our Ayurvedic community here in the United States. The future of Ayurvedic Medicine depends on strong support within the three pillars necessary for an emerging profession – accreditation of educational programs, individual certification of professional qualifications, and engaged professional membership organizations. I am confident that NAMAC is aligned to provide the highest accreditation standards and guidance to our esteemed schools and programs.

Yours in service and gratitude,

## Board of Directors



**Jim Ventresca, DOM, President**

**Pratima Kumar Musburger, JD, MPH, Treasurer**

**Leslie Elliott, MPH, PhD, Secretary**

**Alakananda Ma (Olivia Hudis), MBBS, AD**

**Suhas Kshirsagar, BAMS, MD(Ayu), AD**

**Rammohan Rao, PhD, CAP, RYT**

**Vaidya Anupama Kizhakkeveetil (Anu)**

## Our Vision, Mission, and Goals

National Ayurvedic Medical Accreditation Council (NAMAC) was founded in August of 2021 to serve the public by accrediting educational programs of Ayurvedic medicine in the United States.

### **Vision**

To accredit educational programs in Ayurveda, ensure quality, promote excellence in student learning, and advance the field of Ayurvedic medical education.

### **Mission**

To provide quality assurance: serving the public by establishing and maintaining standards and educational competencies in Ayurvedic medicine. To support and provide peer-reviewed accreditation to those programs that voluntarily seek recognition and that demonstrate they meet or exceed NAMAC's standards.

### **Goals**

- To develop credible, relevant, and regularly updated accreditation standards that are informed by science and clinical experience, and that reflect the ongoing evolution of the field of professional Ayurvedic medicine.
- To ensure, through valid and reliable evidence-based evaluation processes, that NAMAC standards are being met by Ayurvedic medicine professional programs that seek initial and continued NAMAC accreditation.
- To provide a voluntary, peer-review accreditation service that works in partnership with the Ayurvedic medicine profession, educators, regulators, certifying bodies and the public in developing and administering its standards and processes.
- To provide an accreditation service that welcomes and honors diversity in all aspects of Ayurvedic medicine professional education, including theory, philosophy, and instructional methods.

# FY22 Highlights

In our inaugural year, we achieved much of the foundational work necessary to ensure our long-term success. These are some of the key areas of our focus.

## A. Development of NAMAC's Governance Structure and Internal Operations

**Executive Director Hired:** The NAMAC Board of Directors recruited and hired an Executive Director in April of 2021 in preparation of the planned launch in August, 2021. Lisa Cavallaro, Psy.D., came to NAMAC with a wealth of professional experience related to accreditation and organizational management. Under Dr. Cavallaro's guidance, NAMAC launched as an independent nonprofit organization in August of 2021 with initial support and startup funding provided by the National Ayurvedic Medical Association (NAMA).

**New Board Members:** We added two outstanding individuals to our Board this year. In March of 2022, Leslie Elliott, PhD, MPH, joined the NAMAC Board. Leslie is the Director of the School of Public Health (SPH) at the University of Nevada, Reno. She brings extensive accreditation expertise to the Board, having been highly active in the accreditation efforts of public health programs and schools over the past 20 years, and has developed accreditation materials related to the online MPH program. She also has training in both Yoga and Ayurveda.

In April of 2022, Vaidya Anupama Kizhakkeveetil (Anu), also joined the NAMAC Board. Anu is an Ayurvedic Practitioner, licensed acupuncturist, and Professor and Program Director of Ayurvedic Medicine at Southern California University of Health Sciences. Her contributions to the field of complementary and alternative medicine include extensive travel to propagate Ayurveda worldwide, numerous research presentations at national and international conferences, publications in various peer-reviewed research journals, and regular participation as a peer reviewer at conferences. She currently serves on the Research Working Group of the Academic Collaborative for Integrative Health and recently completed a NIH-funded research study.

**A New Slate of Officers Established:** In August of 2022, a new slate of officers, and an Executive Committee was established and confirmed. The officers include Jim Ventresca, President, Leslie Elliott, Secretary, and Pratima Musburger, Treasurer. The officers will serve an initial term through June, 2023.

## B. Development of the Accreditation Handbook, including Key Policies and Procedures and Educational Competencies

**Accreditation Handbook:** During this reporting period, the NAMAC Board refined the accreditation handbook, which includes the policies and procedures that will be shared with programs seeking accreditation. The handbook required significant reorganizing and editing for clarity and accessibility. It is anticipated that the current version will be finalized in FY23.

**Educational Competencies:** Prior to NAMAC's launch in August, 2021, the NAMA Standards committee developed an update on the educational competencies which had been reviewed by the schools in a survey/comment period, and again at the NAMA conference in 2022. The NAMAC board is tasked with reviewing the standards and accepting them as written, or making recommendations for changes, which would then be voted on. All final requirements would then be included in the Accreditation Handbook and schools would be given notice of any changes.

# FY22 Highlights

## C. Outreach and Partnership Development

Partnership development and outreach to the Ayurvedic education community was a critical activity of FY22. NAMAC's Executive Director participated in numerous one-on-one conversations with Ayurvedic programs across the country to discuss NAMAC's role related to accreditation as well as key processes related to accreditation candidacy.

2022 NAMA Conference: The 2022 NAMA Conference held in Tucson, AZ was a key forum to further establish NAMAC's presence and role in the Ayurvedic education space. NAMAC's Executive Director had the opportunity to present at the school's meeting, which included twelve programs. Attendees recognized the value of accreditation and supported NAMAC's work in furtherance of this goal. There was some hesitation related to the fees associated with accreditation, including that of the site visit fee, which may warrant additional consideration by the NAMAC Board. A task force comprised of several Board members will conduct research regarding the current fee structure and will make their recommendations in early FY 23.

## D. Donor Outreach

Board members identified several pathways to begin establishing donor relationships. A strategic plan for fundraising is in development and publication materials are in the initial stages.

## E. Further Developed Online Presence and Infrastructure for Applications

Website and Accreditation Portal: The NAMAC website went live in February of 2022. In addition to including key information about NAMAC and the accreditation process, the goal is to build out a linked application portal, where programs will submit key documentation. The Executive Director, in partnership with NAMAC's technology consultant, began work on the build out of the application portal with a goal of completion and launch in early FY23. The organization plans to contract with a part-time communications consultant to manage activities related to website design and digital communications in FY 23.

## F. Planned Transitioned Oversight of Recognized Programs

Bridge Program/Oversight of "Recognized" Programs: In FY22, the NAMAC Board discussed maintaining "recognition" status for Ayurvedic educational programs initially set forth by NAMA. Programs not yet ready for candidacy would be under NAMAC's administration of their recognition status. Recognized programs would have two years to move into pre-accreditation candidacy. The Bridge Program will terminate in September, 2024. If a program has not moved into candidacy by then, their recognition status will terminate.

Transitioning oversight of the program recognition process serves as an opportunity for NAMAC to educate and prepare programs for accreditation candidacy. If NAMAC agrees to this transition, the transfer would take place in September, 2022.

NAMA has also provided "recognition" of Ayurvedic Yoga Therapy programs and NAMAC discussed maintaining recognition status for those programs as well. NAMAC will be deciding on its role vis a vis these programs. Ayurvedic Yoga Therapy programs would not have a pathway to accreditation in the near-term, but that could be reevaluated in the future. NAMAC would hold the recognition status while the professional standards and educational competencies continue to be refined. This decision will be deliberated and decided upon in FY23.



# Financial Reporting

## National Ayurvedic Medical Accreditation Council Profit & Loss July 2021 through June 2022

	Jul '21 - Jun 22
<b>Income</b>	
Income	67,200.31
<b>Total Income</b>	67,200.31
<b>Expense</b>	
Payroll and Related	39,432.32
Advertising	12.00
General and Admin	2,333.13
Insurances	2,198.32
Professional Fees	12,788.75
Travel	1,710.93
<b>Total Expense</b>	58,475.45
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,724.86</b>

## National Ayurvedic Medical Accreditation Council Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2022

Checking/Savings		
Bank of Am Operating 8983	8,724.86	
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>8,724.86</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>8,724.86</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>8,724.86</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Equity		
Net Income	8,724.86	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>8,724.86</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>8,724.86</b>	

## Key Contributors/Partners

NAMAC's accomplishments this year were made possible by the generous support we received from the following organizations and individuals. This support was rendered through financial donations and through many hours of volunteering and sharing of expertise.

**National Ayurvedic Medical Association** - NAMA was our primary supporter through several grants provided throughout the fiscal year totaling \$55,900.

**Maryada Foundation, Dr. Bal Ram Singh** - \$5,000

**Komal Herbals, Inc., Hasmukh Parekh** - \$5,000

**Dr. Savitri Kumar** - \$1,000

**Peter Heller** - \$100

**Anonymous** - \$200

**NAMAC Board of Directors** members volunteered over seven hundred hours of their time during the fiscal year. **Hilary Garivaltis, Executive Director of NAMA**, provided her time and resources to support the successful launch of NAMAC and continues to be an ambassador for our organization.

## Challenges and How They Were Addressed

**Fundraising:** A significant challenge in FY22 was ensuring sufficient funding for operating expenses and generating reserves. An initial donation of \$55,900 from NAMA, and donations totaling \$11,300 from individuals helped to close the funding gap this year. Dedicated efforts to bring in donations to cover start-up costs until NAMAC is self-sustaining through accreditation fees will be critical over the next several fiscal years. Providing NAMAC Board Members with training and resources related to fundraising, and expanding NAMAC's network of contacts would be an important activity in FY23.

**Independent Identity:** To ensure that NAMAC is seen as an independent accreditation organization within the broader Ayurvedic education community has come with some challenges. The organization is committed to ongoing conversations about NAMAC's mission, goals, and activities conducted with key organizations and partners will be critical moving forward, as it will be essential that all partners are working in concert with one another.

**Alignment with Department of Education Requirements:** NAMAC has worked to ensure that its accreditation policies and procedures were aligned with Department of Education requirements to the extent possible, as it plans to become a federally recognized accrediting agency after establishing a robust portfolio and operating history. While those federal requirements have served as a goal, the organization recognizes the priority of programs' needs and is working to ensure that the benchmarks established are achievable. This may require some iterating of policies and procedures over time.



## Year Ahead (FY23)

NAMAC has identified several key activities to further in FY23:

### **Establishing Its Identity**

Looking ahead to FY23, NAMAC will work toward continuing to establish itself among Ayurvedic education organizations. NAMAC staff and board members will continue to engage in one-on-one conversations with key partners to ensure they are aware of NAMAC's mission and work in furtherance of accreditation and will discuss how organizations in the Ayurvedic education community can work in alignment with one another. In addition, the NAMAC Board has been discussing the possibility of changing its name as a way of providing increased transparency and independence from other organizations and committees in the Ayurvedic education community.

### **Welcoming Candidates for Accreditation**

In FY23, NAMAC anticipates welcoming the first round of program candidates for accreditation.

### **Establishing a Committee of Subject-Matter Experts**

NAMAC also anticipates creating a consortium of stakeholders to review academic and skill-based competencies which elevate professional standards.

### **Establishing an Advisory Council**

NAMAC will be establishing an Advisory Council in FY23. The council positions will be offered by invitation from Board members. At this stage, it is anticipated that the Advisory Board will consist of six individuals, each for a 2-year term. The primary responsibilities will be to serve as an ambassador for NAMAC and engage in community outreach and fundraising.

### **Financial Stability**

The organization will continue to strengthen its fundraising capabilities to initiate a capital reserve fund earmarked for the Department of Education application. In addition, the anticipated revenue generated from accreditation fees will work towards the budgetary goal of being able to sustain operating expenses by the end of 2025.