

## **ANH founder Rob Verkerk to lead natural health mission both sides of the Atlantic**

***Closer integration and new roles in the Alliance for Natural Health (ANH) USA and ANH International aim to deal with increasing challenges and new opportunities for natural health***

**LONDON, April 14, 2023** - Multi-disciplinary scientist, Rob Verkerk PhD, has this week been appointed executive director of the Alliance for Natural Health USA (ANH-USA), after acting as its scientific director for the last 15 years.

Multi-disciplinary, sustainability scientist, Dr Rob Verkerk, a pioneer of the natural health movement, founded ANH-Intl in 2002 in the UK, and has been its executive and scientific director ever since. He brings decades of experience and passion to his new role for a not-for-profit organisation that has been at the forefront of defending the right to natural health and freedom of choice since its inception.

He succeeds Gretchen DuBeau Esq, who, after leading ANH-USA for 15 years, has decided to transition to the Board of Directors, where the organisation can continue to benefit from her unique and wide-ranging experience.

In accepting the new position, while retaining his existing position heading up ANH-Intl, Rob Verkerk said, *"I'm thrilled to take the reins at this critical time when governments and big corporations are attempting to tighten the noose on natural health options by restricting access and eliminating choice, despite an enviable track record of safety and effectiveness"*.

Last week's ANH-USA Board decision to appoint Rob Verkerk as its new leader took into account his extensive experience dealing with some of the most draconian threats originating within the European Union, which may also serve as a blueprint for US and other regulators to restrict natural health. Such concerns have also motivated the decision to more closely integrate the operation and function of ANH-USA and ANH-Intl.

Rob Verkerk added, *"Agencies in the US like the FDA and FTC continue to launch attacks on natural therapies or communications about them. Recent examples include bioidentical hormones, homeopathy, and dietary supplements like NMN, NAC and P5P."*

However, the threats to natural health continue to widen. Among them are risks associated with pharmaceutical over-dependence, mandatory vaccination programs, unpredictable risks associated with mRNA vaccine and drug platforms, the erosion of long-standing principles of medical ethics, the suppression of free speech on science, the lack of safety studies on technologies associated with the Internet of Things (IoT), and the toxicity burden from new-to-nature, industrial chemicals.

Outgoing executive director, Ms DuBeau commented, *"It brings me great joy to have been a*

*part of the grassroots movement fighting for our freedom to live freely and naturally, locked arm in arm with our fellow freedom fighters over the past 15 years”.*

*“I’m honoured now,” continued Ms DuBeau, “to pass the baton to Rob Verkerk for the next, exciting era of the organisation’s growth and development.”*

Under Rob Verkerk’s leadership and in response to the scale of the challenges ahead, ANH-USA will be diversifying its strategic approach in 2023 and 2024 and will be expanding the scope of its lobbying work in Congress.

To achieve its ambitious objectives, Rob Verkerk indicated that the organisation will be looking for wider sponsorship and new strategic alliances. He urged companies and organisations with shared interests in natural health to come forward to consider projects and opportunities that will be of mutual benefit.

ENDS.

## **CONTACT**

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## **EDITORS’ NOTES**

### **Other changes in ANH USA leadership team**

At ANH-USA’s recent board meeting on 3-4 April 2023, Ron Hoffman MD, widely recognised as one of America’s most influential complementary and integrative medicine practitioners, as well as being the founder and Medical Director of the Hoffman Center in New York City, was elected President of the ANH USA board.

Meleni Aldridge, executive coordinator of ANH-Intl has sat on the board since ANH-USA’s inception, was appointed as Treasurer.

Jo Twombly remains as Deputy Director, but broadens her role as Head of Policy and Advocacy. This will include responsibility for increasing the scope and impact of lobbying activities targeting policymakers on a diversity of issues affecting natural health.

Tim Reihm also has an expanded function as a director, being appointed as Director of Marketing, Outreach and Development, with broad responsibility for public facing communication, building strategic relationships, and diversifying ANH-USA revenues.

Finally, Michael Ames-Sikora is promoted from Managing Editor to Editorial Director and is now also principally responsible for research on policy matters.

**New executive director's [video statement](#).**

## **About ANH International**

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

The Alliance for Natural Health International (ANH-Intl) is an independent, non-profit organisation founded in 2002 in the UK by acclaimed sustainability scientist, Robert Verkerk PhD. Its mission is to promote and protect natural, sustainable and regenerative approaches to health optimisation worldwide, through the application of good science and good law.

We work to help health systems to transition from their current pre-occupation with the management of 'downstream' diseases to 'upstream' approaches that maintain and regenerate health. ANH-Intl advocates for properly informed consent, the right for citizen choice in healthcare and the right to practice a diverse range of modalities incorporating natural health. It supports individual empowerment, medical autonomy, the rule of law, and respect for, and the protection of, the natural environment.

We seek to increase the adoption of clinically validated, natural and sustainable approaches, taking into account cultural and individual needs and choices. The threat of legal and scientific uncertainty, as well as regulatory and corporate pressure, continues to limit freedom of choice in the field of natural health.

As an international alliance, we collaborate with a diverse cross-section of natural and environmental interests around the world, including scientists, lawyers, medical doctors, other health professionals, politicians, companies and, above all, people.

## **About ANH USA**

[www.anh-usa.org](http://www.anh-usa.org)

The Alliance for Natural Health USA (ANH-USA) is a grassroots advocacy organization aligned with citizens from across the United States who share a common interest in standing up for the right of all Americans who choose to optimise their health using natural and regenerative means, in ways that work to the benefit of both people and planet.

ANH USA works collaboratively with other organisations with similar goals in order to maximize reach and the pressure that can be applied on policymakers.

ANH-USA was formerly known as the American Association for Health Freedom and, before that, the American Preventative Medical Association, the latter being established in response to the public outcry following an armed raid of the offices of Dr Jonathan Wright in 1992. This highly respected, law-abiding physician had over one hundred thousand dollars worth of computers, medical records, and nutritional products seized by the FDA, only to have them returned several years later with no charges ever having been made.