

NCCAOM[®] Activity Report for the CCAOM Meeting

May 2015





Introduction

This report serves as an update to the NCCAOM members on the numerous activities of the NCCAOM® to include governance, certification, testing, and PDA services; legislative activities; and NCCAOM policy updates.

NCCAOM Governance Update

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners appointed its 2015 officers at its Board of Commissioners meeting in October 2013. The NCCAOM is pleased to announce the reappointments of Eugene London, DAOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, L.Ac., as Chair; and David Canzone, DOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, Dipl. NBAO, as Vice-Chair, Susan Chapman as Treasurer and Jan SteGermaine as Secretary to the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners. The NCCAOM wished a fond farewell to Tess Hahn, OMD, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, a Professional Commissioners member for the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners, who retired after serving the maximum nine consecutive years, as per NCCAOM governance policy.

Two new Public Member Commissioners began their first term at the February 2015 meeting. Steven Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC, is Professor of Pathology at Oregon Health & Science University where he serves as Laboratory Director of Clinical Chemistry, Toxicology and Immunology. He also serves as Vice President and Laboratory Director for DiabetOmics, Inc. Steve completed his undergraduate education at Youngstown State University, received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and completed a two-year fellowship in clinical biochemistry at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Prior to joining the NCCAOM Board, he served on the boards of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry and the American Board for Clinical Chemistry. The second new Public Member, Carl Jew, M.A., A.B., also joined the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners in 2015. He is currently on the faculty of City College of San Francisco and serves as the Dean of two of the College's seven centers including Civic Center and John Adams Center, the College's healthcare training campus. Carl completed his undergraduate education at the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's Degree in Counseling from San Francisco State University.



Prior to joining the NCCAOM Board, he served on the boards of Donaldina Cameron House, a multi-service agency in San Francisco's Chinatown, and the Marinwood Swim Club.

You can find the bios and photos of the full [2015 NCCAOM Board of Commissioners on the NCCAOM website under About Us, NCCAOM Governance.](#)

As a result of its strategic planning process (please see information below), the NCCAOM is currently interviewing prospective members for one-year appointments to two new NCCAOM taskforces for 2015. Below is a description and charge for each taskforce:

Hospital-Based Practice Taskforce 2015 – Which is charged with identifying credentialing and privileging guidelines for acupuncturists seeking employment in hospitals and/or integrative practice settings and to identify skills needed for licensed acupuncturists to become credentialed and privileged providers in inpatient and outpatient hospital settings. To assist with this initiative the NCCAOM will be partnering with the Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (ACCAHC) to develop tools for acupuncturists and hospital administrators to understand the hiring practices for complementary practitioners seeking to be employed in integrated healthcare settings.

Public and Professional Recognition Awareness Taskforce 2015 - This taskforce is charged with development of a plan for the NCCAOM to provide education about acupuncture and Oriental medicine, with a focus on the value of seeking NCCAOM board certified acupuncturists, to the public and other healthcare providers.

Strategic Planning

After 18 months of strategic planning, and in consideration of what NCCAOM stakeholders identified as pressing issues, the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners adopted the following *new* mission and vision statements:



- **Mission statement:** *To assure the safety and well-being of the public and to advance the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine by establishing and promoting national evidence-based standards of competence and credentialing.*
- **Vision Statement:** *Acupuncture and Oriental medicine provided by NCCAOM credentialed practitioners will be integral to healthcare and accessible to all members of the public.*

In order to meet the intent of the new mission statement to continue to promote national standards of competence through NCCAOM credentialing and to actively assure the safety and well-being of the public, the NCCAOM will play a more deliberate role in advancing the professional practice of its Diplomates, keeping in mind its vision of having NCCAOM credentialed practitioners be integral to healthcare and accessible to all members of the public. The NCCAOM Board and staff are listening to our constituents and seek to emphasize our commitment to our Diplomates by more directly assisting them to be successful throughout their career. The following new strategic goals have been adopted for the next three to five years:

- **Integrate** *NCCAOM credentialed providers into healthcare in the United States.*
- **Distinguish** *NCCAOM as the expert source for AOM credentialing and competency standards.*
- **Expand** *the value of NCCAOM credentials to assure and advance professional opportunities for NCCAOM Diplomates.*

The NCCAOM Board and staff have met to create specific strategies for the implementation of each of the above goals as well as outcome measures that will demonstrate the successful execution of each of the goals. We will be notifying our Diplomates and other stakeholders of the progress towards each goal such as the gaining of an independent standard occupational classification code for “Acupuncturists” within the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and progress on facilitating more opportunities for Diplomates to work in both private and public healthcare and wellness practice settings, etc.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Update

The NCCAOM has received confirmation from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that the proposal (comment) to provide “Acupuncturists” with a unique Standard Occupational Classification Code



that was submitted to the BLS in response to the May 22, 2014 Federal Register notice announcing the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) revision for 2018 has been assigned docket number 1-0144. NCCAOM has also been notified by the BLS staff that the SOC Policy Committee (SOCPC) will review each comment and make recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) throughout 2015 and OMB is expected to review the SOCPC recommendations in late 2015. It is expected that the SOCPC will be completing the occupational definitions and the SOC manual by the end of 2016 and will be publishing the 2015 SOC Manual in spring 2017.

The OMB intends to release a second Federal Register notice in spring 2015 with the proposed 2018 SOC structure. The NCCAOM will be posting further updates as we received them in this timeline in the [NCCAOM Working with the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). The NCCAOM would like to thank all organizational leaders and volunteers who contributed to creation, review and finalization of this final document. In addition, the NCCAOM appreciates receiving all of the support letters that demonstrate collaboration and unity among the AOM professional organizations and supporters for this most important initiative.

NCCAOM Certification Policies Update

Recertification Program Changes As of January 1, 2015: Policy Changes

The Recertification Application fee is now \$250.00 per certification program, effective January 1, 2015. The policy changes that are now in effect as of January 1, 2015 include the following:

- The core domain area (Acupuncture and Oriental medicine coursework of the Recertification Program) has now been expanded to include biomedicine, patient communications, legal and compliance coursework.
- The Practice Enhancement category under the optional section of Professional Enhancement Activities has been eliminated. Coursework completed in the category of Practice Enhancements prior to January 1, 2015 will still be accepted for a maximum of six (6) PDA points.
- The optional *Professional Enhancement Activity, Exercise Tai Chi/Qi Gong*, is now limited to a maximum of four (4) PDA points. Activities completed in the category of *Exercise Tai*



Chi/Qi Gong prior to January 1, 2015 will still be accepted for a maximum of ten (10) PDA points.

- The optional *Professional Enhancement Activities*, *Additional NCCAOM Certification*, and *Passage of the NCCAOM Biomedicine Exam* have been combined. The new Professional Enhancement Activity category is Passage of An NCCAOM® Certification Exam for a maximum of 20 PDA points. Activities completed in the categories of Additional NCCAOM Certification and Passage of the NCCAOM® Biomedicine Exam prior to January 1, 2015 will still be accepted for a maximum of twenty (20) PDA points each.

For more information, we have announced the Revised Recertification Program on the [NCCAOM website](#)

Clarification of Education Requirements for NCCAOM® Certification

As more and more [states add Chinese herbology](#) to their scope of practice, the NCCAOM® has received an increased number of questions from candidates and Diplomates concerning: 1) clarification of education requirements for initial certification, and 2) conversion to Oriental Medicine certification; specifically as it relates to Chinese herbology education for exam eligibility. In 2015, the NCCAOM incorporated clarification of the policies in the *NCCAOM® Certification Handbook* which is available on our website at www.nccaom.org under the “Forms” tab. The [NCCAOM® Pre-Graduation Verification Form](#) will include as of May 1, 2015 an attestation, to be signed by the school official, stating that the student approved for the Chinese Herbology exam will graduate from a Master’s level program in Oriental Medicine. [All school officials received direct communications with additional details on May 1, 2015](#). If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Nemeth, School Liaison Representative at jnemeth@thnccaom.org or by phone at (904) 674-2474.

Conversion from Acupuncture and/or Chinese Herbology to Oriental Medicine Certification:

The application fee is reduced to \$100.00. The process and requirements have been modified. Please refer to the *NCCAOM® Recertification Handbook* for details.

A Look Ahead to What’s Coming As of January 1, 2016 for the Recertification Program:

- CPR will be required as a stand-alone requirement in addition to 60 PDA points.



- Two (2) PDA points will be required in each of the core domains of **Safety** and **Ethics**. (Reminder: 2015 remains unchanged. Four (4) PDA points are required in the domains of Safety and/or Ethics.)
- Diplomates certified in both Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology prior to 2004, who apply for conversion to Oriental Medicine certification, will be required to either pass the Biomedicine certification examination or submit 60 biomedicine continuing education units or coursework earned within four years of the application date.
- In an effort to encourage Diplomates use of evidence-based medicine, to stay current in their practice, and to foster greater research literacy, the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners approved a new *Professional Enhancement* activity, *Self-Directed Learning*, which offers one PDA point with a maximum of four points per recertification cycle for reading research articles and case studies. Additional information will be posted on the website and in the *NCCAOM® Recertification Handbook* soon.

The NCCAOM encourages Diplomates to complete a mix of online and face-to-face professional development classes in order to foster more exchange of information with colleagues, meet with other AOM professionals and healthcare providers with similar professional interests, and foster a sense of community and networking among AOM practitioners.

As always, please visit the NCCAOM website under “*What’s New*” on the homepage to stay current with NCCAOM policy and procedure changes and other news pertinent to AOM professionals.

2015 Exam Administration and Development

In the interest of getting more questions with updated point location images and increasing the number of updated exam items to be used for scoring on the exams, the NCCAOM will be administering computer based linear exams, which will accomplish these goals more quickly. The [Acupuncture with Point Location \(ACPL\) exam](#) will be offered in a fixed form (linear) computer based exam starting with a November 9-21, 2015 administration, and will continue for an 18-month period. There will be a minimum of three and possibly four, two week administration periods in 2016. Administration of the adaptive ACPL exam will not be offered after September 30, 2015 or



throughout 2016. Registration for all ACPL adaptive exam dates will close on July 31, 2015. [All school officials received direct communications with additional details on May 1, 2015.](#) This information will also be posted on the NCCAOM website under [Applicants/Approved Candidates/Examination Information General](#) as well as under “What’s New” on the NCCAOM website homepage www.nccaom.org.

Exam of the NCCAOM® Foreign Language Exams (FLEs):

Although the number of candidates requesting Foreign Language Exams (FLEs) continues to remain low, the NCCAOM will continue to offer the FLEs again in 2015. Candidates can register for the 2015 FLE administration periods with Pearson VUE which will be held during the following exam periods:

- **Chinese Exam Administrations:**
 - **June 15 – 27, 2015** Pearson VUE registration closes **June 26, 2015** (Registration is now open).
 - **September 21 – October 3, 2015** Pearson VUE registration closes **October 2, 2015** (Registration opens March 1, 2015).
- **Korean Exam Administration**
 - **September 21 – October 3, 2015** registration opens **March 1, 2015**. **Pearson VUE registration closes August 1, 2015** (Registration is pending a sufficient number of exam candidates).

All candidates who intend to take the *NCCAOM® FLEs* in Chinese or Korean must complete the [NCCAOM® Foreign Language Examination Notification Form](#) found on the NCCAOM website. The NCCAOM Examination Content Outlines study tool has been translated into Chinese and Korean for your benefit and is now posted on the NCCAOM website under the [Forms](#) tab.

NCCAOM® Reinstatement Exams: The NCCAOM® Reinstatement Examinations administration periods are scheduled for:

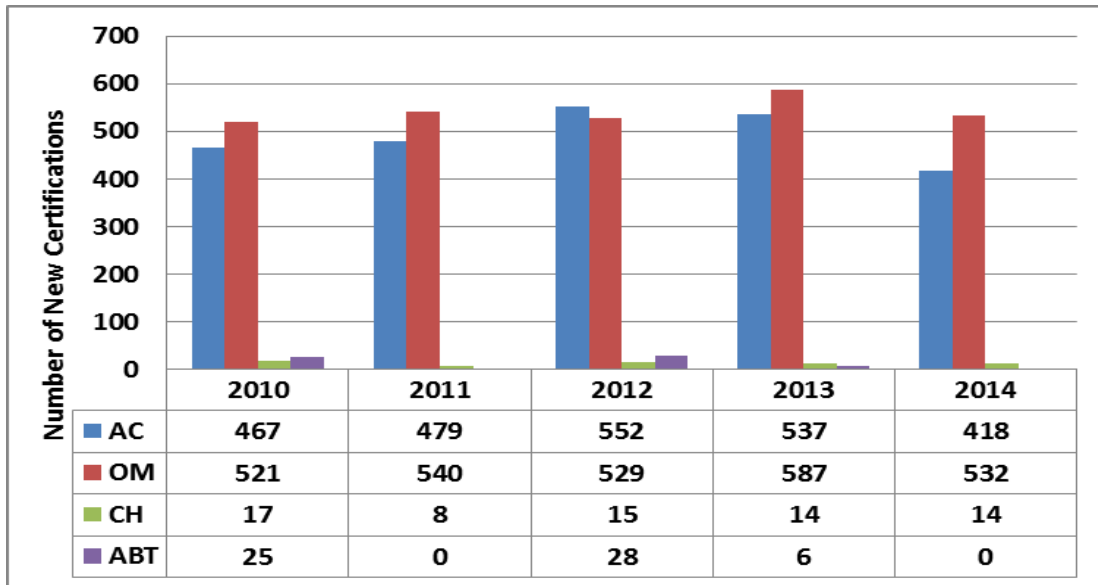
- March 2-14, 2015
- June 15-27, 2015
- September 21 – October 3, 2015



NCCAOM Certification and Examination Metrics

Certification Services Graph 1 shows the number of new certifications awarded from 2010 through 2014 by certification program. The number of applications continues to be flat or declining slightly.

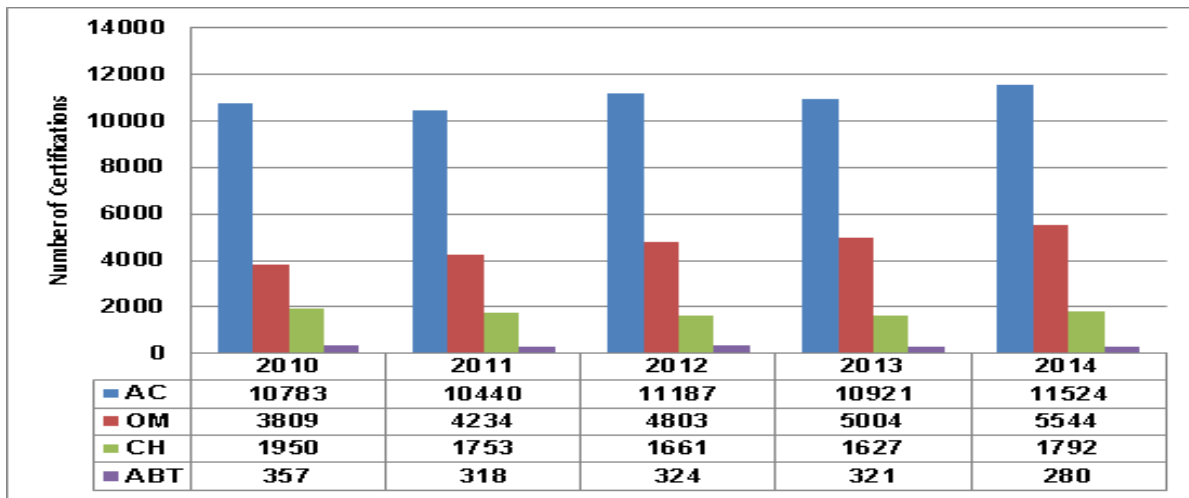
Certification Services Graph 1: NCCAOM Number of New Certifications Awarded By Year



Below is the number of active NCCAOM certifications by program. You can see from the graph that the NCCAOM Oriental Medicine Certification program continues to grow and the number of active certifications held by Diplomates overall has also grown by 7% between 2013 and 2014. As of December 31, 2014 NCCAOM has 19,140 active certifications held by Diplomates worldwide. Refer to Graph 2, below.

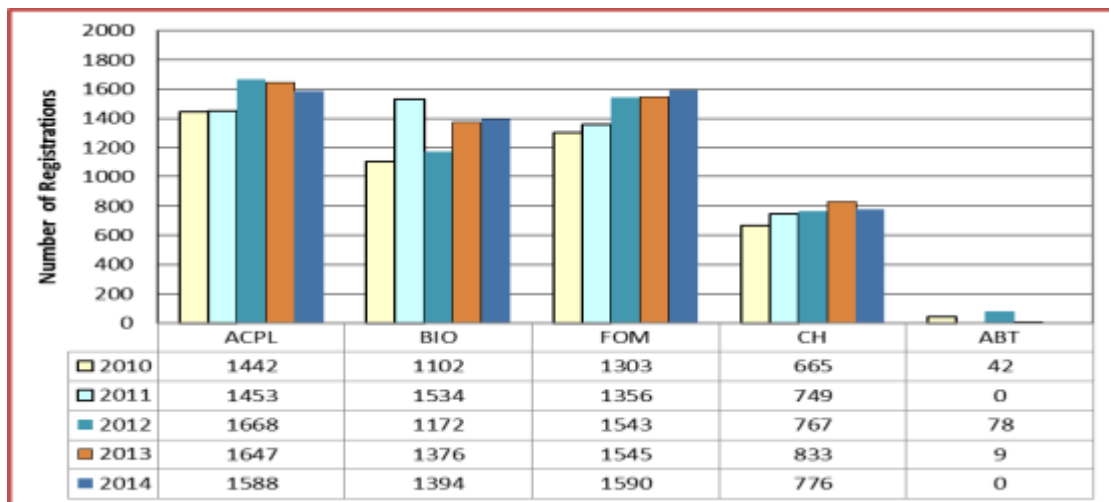


Certification Services Graph 2: Number of Active Certifications by Program Type



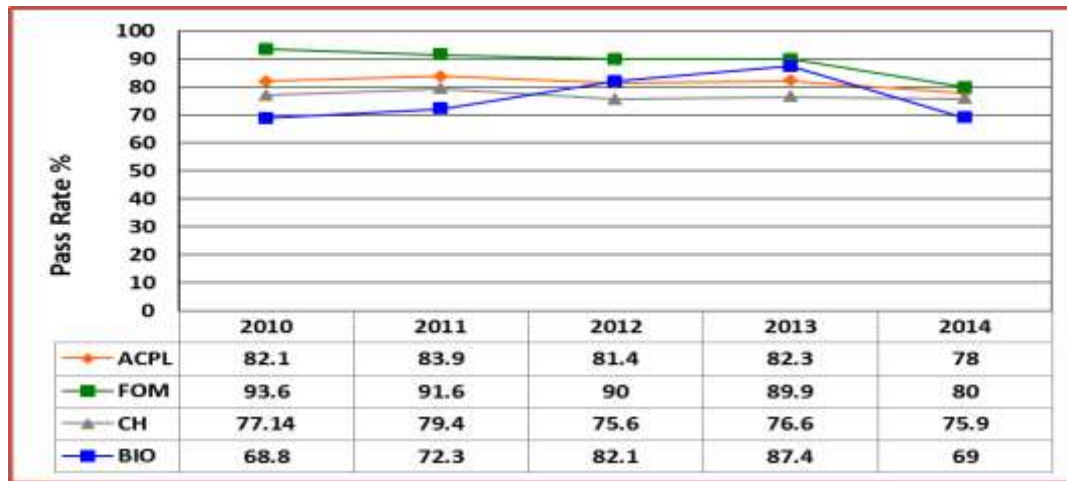
The Testing Graph 1, below, shows that overall, the number of exams administered is not growing. As explained above as a concern, applicants from ACAOM schools is down slightly, overall, the last several years even though there are more state regulatory boards adding the licensure requirement of passage of the Biomedicine and Chinese Herbology exams. The NCCAOM looks forward to hearing from ACAOM and CCAOM about their metrics on student enrollments and attrition.

Testing Graph 1: English Exam Registrations by Year and Module



Below are the annual exam pass rates for the most recent period of 4 years, compared. The 2014 pass rates reflect content identified by the 2013 Job Analysis and the subsequent new cut scores for all exams.

Testing Graph 2: Examination Pass Rates All Examinees 2010 – 2014¹




Key: ACPL = Acupuncture with Point Location
FOM = Foundations of Oriental Medicine
CH = Chinese Herbology
BIO = Biomedicine

NOTE¹ New cut scores, following the 2013 Job Analysis went into effect in 2014

The most current [NCCAOM[®] Examination Statistics Report](#), broken down by types of test takers, during 2014, can be found on the NCCAOM home page in the Resources Center - Links box.

New Products and Services from the NCCAOM

NCCAOM Social Media Sites: The NCCAOM continues to promote its Diplomates and the AOM profession via its [Facebook Page](#) and [LinkedIn Page](#). The staff continues to announce events, news, research studies and activities related to AOM on these pages. During this past year NCCAOM has been able to evaluate the content that resonates most with our Facebook ‘Fans’ and LinkedIn ‘Followers’. The NCCAOM video contest *Because It Works* (which was launched in conjunction with AOM Day 2014) was a huge success with total outreach of 28,257 individuals. The NCCAOM is already planning for the 2015 AOM Day video contest launch in early summer.

The most viewed, liked  and shared posts are links to articles on the use of AOM in treating illness and improving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. As a result of the video contest, the



NCCAOM also launched its [YouTube Page](#) in September 2014 posting the entries of the video contest and will be planning to continue this promotion throughout 2015.

AOM Day: The NCCAOM established, and continues to maintain the AOM Day website at www.aomday.org. In 2014, the NCCAOM partnered with several organizations (please see a full list of partners on the [AOM Day website](#)). While reflecting on the 2014 AOM Day celebration, it's important to look at the bigger picture of the impact made throughout the nation and worldwide by this special day. As a result, we thank every participant for being a part of this great movement in bringing to light the amazing benefits of AOM.

In 2014, many strategies were employed to emphasize and encourage practitioners to showcase their skills and compassion through AOM Day activities. The [AOM Day website](#) was updated and refreshed to reflect the following activities:

- New, [free marketing tools](#) developed by the Council of State Associations (CSA) and Acupuncture Media Works, were offered for the benefit of practitioners;
- A video contest "*Because It Works*";
- A [Facebook](#) page dedicated to AOM Day;
- An interactive [Patient Testimonials](#) page on the AOM Day website;
- A national [press release](#) sent to media outlets to promote AOM Day events;
- An enhanced [AOM Day events directory](#) searchable by state;
- A designated area to promote AOM Day [state associations](#) and [school AOM Day events](#);

These additional tools and resources resulted in incredible outcomes. The video contest "*Because it Works!*" a brand new initiative, was launched to further enhance AOM Day celebrations and to further educate the public about the efficacy of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. We hope to see even more activity during next year's "*Because It Works*" video contest!

According to the information provided by *ReleaseWatch Report*, a vendor who specializes in monitoring and tracking the exposure of press releases, the AOM Day press release was picked up by 1,400 news agencies across the globe, including major market business journal digital news rooms such as: the *Miami Herald*, *WFMZ NEWS*, *The SUN*, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, *La Mega 97.9 FM*, *Global Newsweek*, the *Wall Street Select*, and the *Chronicle Union News*. In addition to the U.S. AOM Day media exposure, international newsrooms to include: South Korea, Denmark, Mexico, Canada, United Kingdom,



Australia, India, Russia, Singapore, Belgium and Pakistan also featured articles about AOM Day celebrations.

As a direct result of NCCAOM's outreach to our Diplomates, AOM schools and state associations, there were 104 [Programs and Events](#). This was the greatest response since the inception of the AOM Day website in 2002. Events were submitted by both national and international practitioners (Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and Pakistan), schools, associations and organizations. The events included free educational classes and lectures, open houses and tours, a 'happy hour' with herbal tastings, heavily discounted or even free treatments, aromatherapy, community acupuncture sessions, tai chi/ qigong classes and much more!

The AOM Day website will begin to be populated with 2015 AOM Day celebration event information commencing late summer 2015 (in conjunction with the delivery of the 2015 *NCCAOM® Diplomat E-News You Can Use* summer issue). We encourage you to start planning today on how to bring AOM awareness to your town and local area



NCCAOM News and Resources Center: As a result of direct feedback from our Dipomates via their satisfaction survey in 2013, the NCCAOM launched the [News and Resources Center on its website](#). This section is devoted to promoting and advancing news and studies that have appeared in the media that emphasize the benefits of AOM and its efficacy for various ailments. Due to the growing interest in the development of complementary and alternative ways to treat mind and body resulting in the increase in public demand in the United States in the last two decades. Acupuncture and other traditional Oriental medicine therapies are gaining popularity at a rapid rate. This is why we are empowering consumers to make informed healthcare decisions. This section is an excellent source for consumers to learn how acupuncture and Oriental medicine can help alleviate or relieve different health conditions and the NCCAOM Find a Practitioner Directory will help to locate NCCAOM certified acupuncturists and practitioners of Oriental medicine who are in good standing throughout the nation and worldwide.

News articles and research/ study articles in this section are sorted by health condition in chronological order and have previously been published in other media publications or websites. We would love to hear your feedback and we would also encourage you to share any previously



published articles that promote AOM to feature in this section. For more information, please contact [Olga Cox](#).

NCCAOM on the Go: Each year NCCAOM continues its concerted effort to improve outreach to our valued Diplomates, the AOM schools and state associations. One example of our out-reach program is to attend state and regional AOM conferences where NCCAOM staff host an exhibit booth. The purpose of attending these conferences is to provide applicants, candidates and Diplomates face-to-face access to NCCAOM staff, who are able to provide information about NCCAOM's work to advance the AOM profession and to demystify the rumors regarding NCCAOM exams and certification process.

You may have seen the NCCAOM banners at one or more of these events in 2014:

- February: Southwest Symposium (AOMA) in Austin, TX
- March: Great River (NWHSU) in Bloomington, MN
- April: Acupuncture Association of Colorado (AAC) in Boulder, CO
- June: Oregon Association of Ac & OM (OAAOM) in Portland, OR and Michigan Association of Ac & OM (MAAOM) in Ann Arbor, MI
- August: Florida Society of Ac & OM (FSOMA) in Tampa, FL
- October: World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Society (WFAS)
- November: Pacific College of OM (PCOM) in San Diego, CA

In conjunction with these external events NCCAOM staff, Jennifer Nemeth, Associate Director External Affairs and PDA and newly appointed school liaison delivered presentations to students and faculty regarding the NCCAOM certification process at:

- Northwest Health Sciences Institute in Bloomington, MN
- Colorado School of TCM in Denver, Co
- Oregon College of Oriental Medicine in Portland, OR
- Kings Park University in Alexandria, VA
- American College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in Houston, TX



The NCCAOM is open to having staff present in-person at conferences and schools near you when in your area. To schedule a visit from NCCAOM staff, please contact Jennifer Nemeth, at jnemeth@thenccaom.org.

If the NCCAOM is not scheduled to come to your area this year we would be pleased to arrange a one-on-one live webinar presentation where students and faculty can dialogue with NCCAOM staff to ensure their questions are answered. Please remember that the recorded Webinars are always available on the [NCCAOM Website](#).



NCCAOM Webinars: The NCCAOM will again sponsor several webinars over the course of 2015 to educate and inform its different stakeholder groups about NCCAOM policies, procedures and services. The webinars scheduled to date are:

- State Regulator/CSA Webinar – Scheduled for **Summer 2015**
- School Liaison Webinar – Scheduled for **May 2015**
- Student Webinar – Scheduled for **September 2015**
- Diplomate Webinar – **Fall 2015**

Please note that all of NCCAOM's completed webinars are posted on [the NCCAOM website](#).

NCCAOM Conference Exhibits:

NCCAOM staff hosted an exhibit booth at the following events in 2014 and 2015 (year-to-date):

- Southwest Symposium; February 2014 at Austin, Texas
- Great River Symposium; March 2014 at Northwestern Health Sciences University in Minneapolis, Minnesota Florida Society of Oriental Medicine; August 2014 at Renaissance Tampa, Florida.
- World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies (WFAS) and the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS). October, 2014 at Houston, Texas
- Pacific College of Oriental Medicine; November 2014 at San Diego, California
- State Association Conferences for Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, and Virginia
- Florida Acupuncture Education Day, Tallahassee, Florida – March 10, 2015



NCCAOM Diplomate Satisfaction Survey:

The NCCAOM will be conducting another *NCCAOM[®] Diplomate Satisfaction Survey* in late Summer early Fall. Diplomates can look for this survey in August or September 2015.

New Professional Development Activity (PDA) Categories



In 2014, the PDA program continues to steadily grow. Staff interprets that the branding of the PDA program courses coupled with the increase of standards in 2011 has helped bring more recognition to the program both nationally and internationally. It is expected that the PDA program will continue to grow as Diplomates prefer to register for PDA approved courses and receive live-time credit for their PDA points toward NCCAOM recertification. In doing so, the PDA Search Engine has increased in popularity. We anticipate that the number of continuing education sponsors applying to become PDA Providers will continue to grow as the demand by Diplomates grows. NCCAOM has provided State Associations and other 501(c)3 organizations that are providing community services for the public discounts on PDA provider applications and course review.

NCCAOM State Legislative Activity

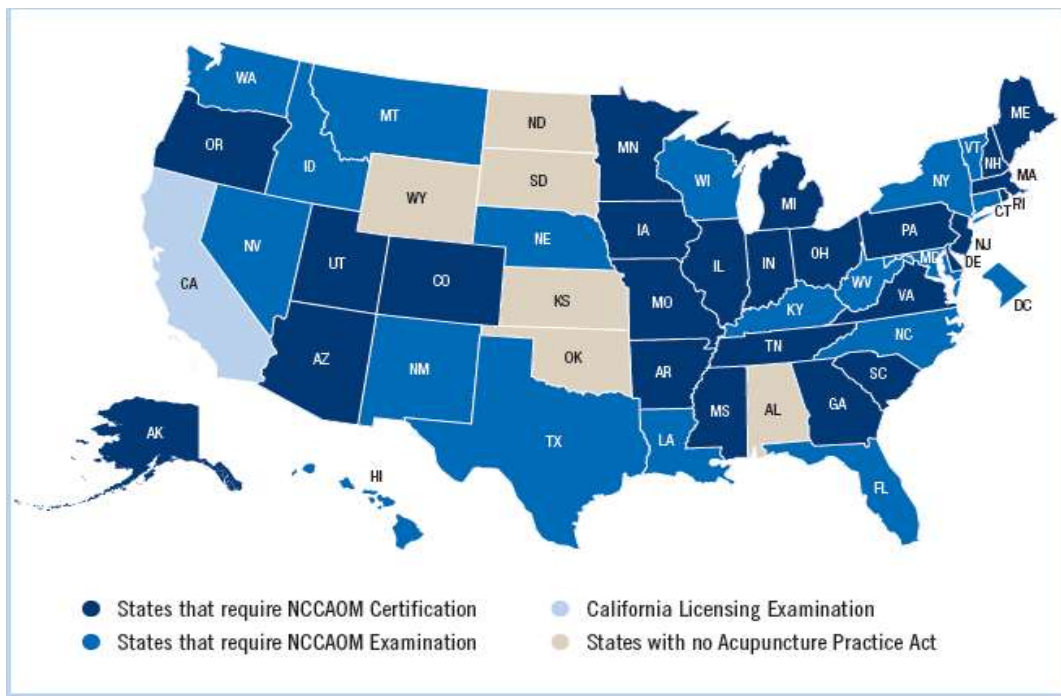
NCCAOM regulatory affairs staff continues to stay very busy providing information to state regulatory agencies to support national standards in AOM. All states that regulate acupuncture (with the exception of California) require at the least passage of the Foundations of Oriental Medicine (FOM) and Acupuncture with Point Location (ACPL) examinations for licensure. At the end of 2014, 43 states plus the District of Columbia recognize NCCAOM certification or exams for licensure (See Map 1, below), and 8 states require passage of the Chinese Herbology (CH) examination for licensure. Map 2, below, shows the states that include Chinese herbal medicine in their scope of practice for acupuncturists. Currently, 32 states require the passage of the Biomedicine (BIO) exam in addition to the FOM and ACPL. There are currently 25 states that require full NCCAOM certification, minimally in acupuncture; some states require certification in Chinese herbology or Oriental Medicine as well.

In order to protect the public the NCCAOM works closely with state regulatory boards to add the requirement for passage of the Biomedicine exam, and for those states that have Chinese herbal



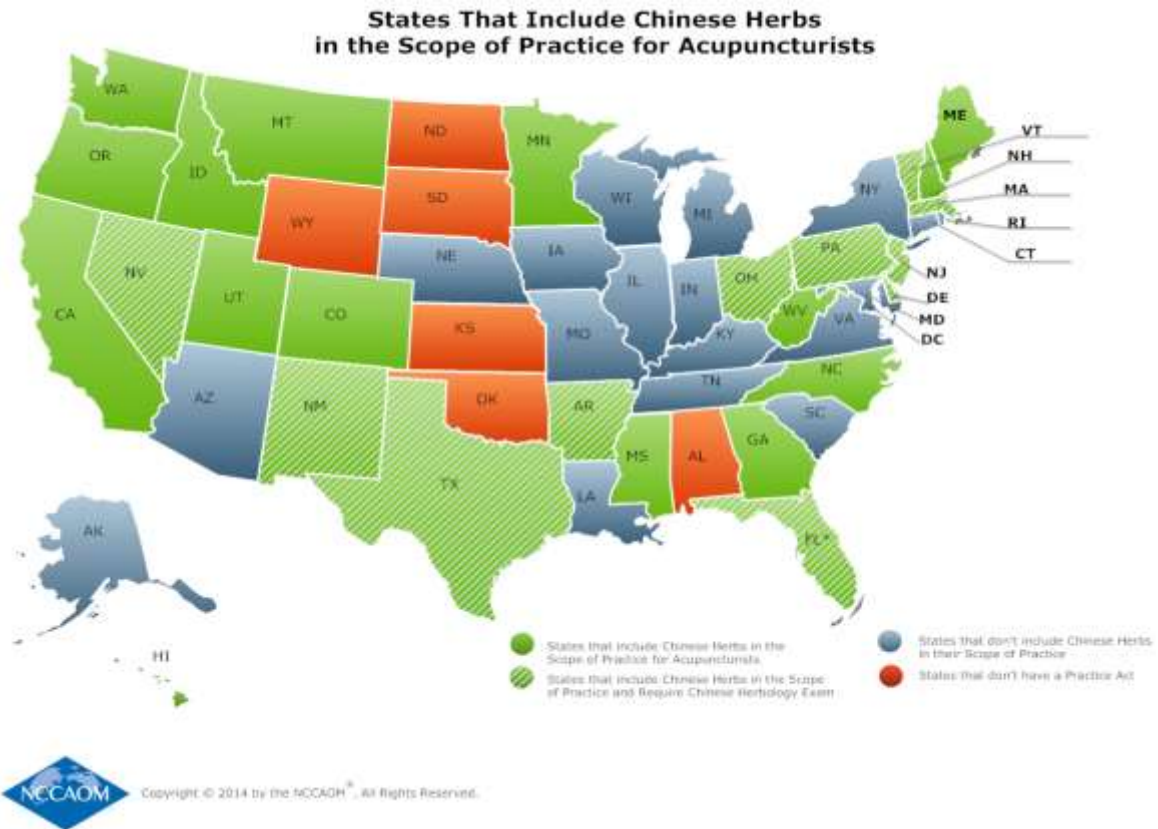
medicine in their scope of practice, the NCCAOM encourages the licensing board to require the NCCAOM Chinese Herbology exam for licensure. Please note that state licensing boards set the prerequisite for licensure to practice acupuncture. It is up to states to set these requirements for the safe practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. NCCAOM qualifies practitioner through its examination and certification process and states rely on this process to ensure that licenses are competent to practice safely. More information is available about our role with state regulatory agencies via our factsheet [NCCAOM's National Standards Fact Sheet: Meeting National Standards through its Examinations and Certification Process](#)

Map 1: States that Recognize NCCAOM Certification or Examination for Licensure (As of December 2014)



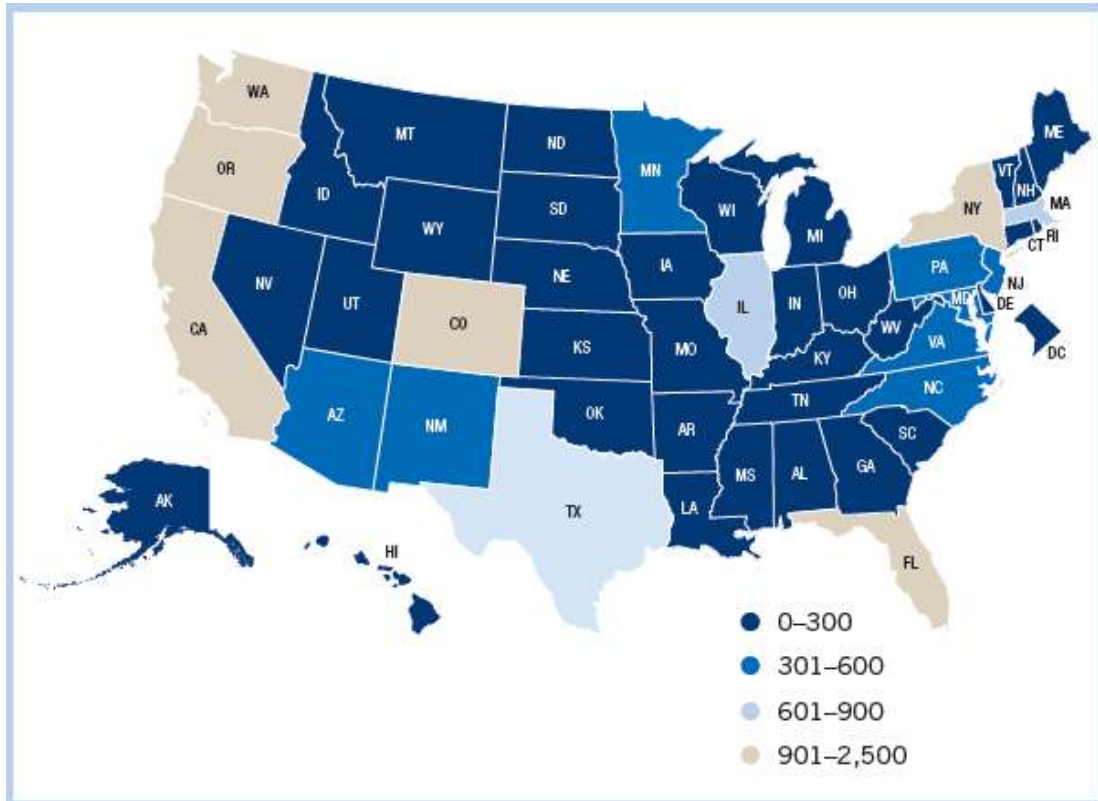


Map 2: States that include Chinese Herbs in the Scope of Practice for Acupuncturists



Map 3, below, shows the number of active NCCAOM Diplomates per state and virtually all states are represented. [The NCCAOM® Find a Practitioner](#) is a useful tool to locate a certified Diplomat by city and state. By the end of 2014, the NCCAOM had over 18,000 active Diplomates worldwide. The NCCAOM maintains the [States Licensure Requirement Table](#) that shows each state in which the NCCAOM examinations are required for licensure and also which states require full NCCAOM certification for licensure.

Map 3: Number of NCCAOM Active Diplomates per State



The NCCAOM state relations department has been very busy with providing testimony, writing letters, and supporting states for the advancement of national standards and greater scope for AOM practitioners. NCCAOM has written letters or provided information against the practice of dry needling by physical therapists for the following states in 2014/2015: Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Vermont. The NCCAOM is also working with Alabama, Kansas, Oklahoma, North Dakota and Wyoming in providing information and services regarding the development of a first practice act for these unlicensed states. The chart below highlights state relation support activities and service for 2014 and 2015.



Table 1: State Relations Activity March 2014 to Present

State	Summary
Alabama	Provided support and information to state association for development of a practice act.
Delaware	Provided information on to state association to oppose dry needling by PTs and provided letter and fact sheet to oppose legislation.
Florida	Provided letter and information opposing dry needling. Provided update to FSOMA members at their annual meeting in August. Attending Acupuncture Legislative Day in March 2015.
Kansas	Sent letter supporting legislation for first practice act and opposing dry needling.
Louisiana	Provided information to state association for updating and increasing scope of practice and standards.
Mississippi	Wrote letters and testified in person for removal of supervision and referral.
New York	Provided information regarding exam options and standards to state association for adding Chinese herbology to scope of practice in legislation.
North Carolina	Provided letter and factsheet opposing dry needling.
North Dakota	Provided information to state association for first practice act legislation. North Dakota passed a first practice act for the practice of acupuncture in March 2014. Please see the press release that NCCAOM distributed announcing this news.
Oklahoma	Working with state association on introduction of legislation for first practice act and getting support for this bill. Revisions were made and bill should be intruded in 2016.
Tennessee	Provided letter and factsheet opposing dry needling



	legislation.
Vermont	Provided letter opposing dry needling legislation to Secretary of State's office.
Washington D.C.	Continued to provide information at Board of Medicine meeting about current NCCAOM requirements and support of expanding scope of practice for acupuncturists.
Wyoming	Worked with practitioners on getting consensus for developing a practice act including securing support for sponsors. Legislation will hopefully be introduced in 2016