

# NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Activity Report for the CCAOM Meeting

October 2016



*Public Protection Through Quality Credentials*



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## Introduction

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This report serves as an update to the CCAOM members on activities of the NCCAOM®, as requested, to include governance, status of the *NCCAOM® Hospital Based Taskforce*, *NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates*, an update on the California Acupuncture Board's Audit of the NCCAOM Exams and other activities on behalf of the AOM profession that have occurred during the months of May 2016 through mid-October 2016. Also included are updates related to 2017 exam administrations.

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## NCCAOM Governance Update

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The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners appointed its 2017 officers at its October 2016 meeting. The NCCAOM is pleased to announce the 2017 slate of officers, who will begin their term at the February 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting:

Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)® - Chair

Eugene London, DAOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, L.Ac. – Vice-Chair

Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC - Treasurer

Carl Jew, M.A., A.B. (NCCAOM)® - Secretary

Iman Majd, MD, MS, EAMP, Dipl. ABFM, ABoIM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, DABMA, ABIHM,  
Certified GUNN-IMS - Member-at-Large

You can find the bios and photos of all NCCAOM Board of Commissioner members on our website [2016 NCCAOM Board of Commissioners on the NCCAOM website under About Us, NCCAOM Governance.](#)

One new Commissioner *Professional* member and a new Commissioner *Public* member were appointed and both will begin their first term at the February 2017 meeting. Janet Zand, O.M.D., Dipl. Ac., Dipl. C.H., Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)®, L.Ac., has over twenty-five years of private practice experience in acupuncture, herbal medicine, homeopathy, and nutrition. Dr. Janet Zand was the co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Zand Herbal Formulas, Inc. and is the co-author of *Smart Medicine for a Healthier Child, A Parent's Guide to Medical Emergencies, and Smart Medicine for a Healthier Living* (Avery



Publishing, 1994, 1997, 1998, respectively). Matthew P. Stanley is a Government Affairs Consultant, Association Management Executive, and Engaged Community Leader. He is currently the Vice President, Government & Association Relations: AEGIS Associates, LLC. The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners and staff welcomes Zand and Stanley to the NCCAOM leadership.

The NCCAOM Governance Committee is continuously searching for and recruiting volunteer talent to serve on NCCAOM Committees and Taskforces. If you would like further information concerning the NCCAOM's volunteer positions and process, please contact Melissa Dow, Executive Assistant at the NCCAOM [Executive Office](#).

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## **The Hospital-Based Practice Taskforce (HBPT)**

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*Credentialing of Acupuncturists for Hospital-Based Practice: A Resource Guide for NCCAOM Diplomates* is a new Academy member benefit. The purpose of this guide is to assist acupuncturists who are interested in practicing in a hospital-based inpatient or outpatient setting which requires credentialing. This document includes information on why the guide was developed, what many hospital administrators and credentialing committees may request for documentation to be a credentialed provider, and an overview on the extent of privileges once an acupuncturist is credentialed. A free download is available to NCCAOM Diplomates and Academy members. All other interested parties can purchase this resource Guide for a small fee. [Download HBPT Guide](#).

A new taskforce has been appointed, the *Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine in Hospital Practice (TCHM HPT)* to create a situational analysis of where and how TCHM is being used in healthcare organizations systems in the USA; and to learn about possible challenges or potential interest to expand the usage of TCMH in hospital settings. The Taskforce's first step is to conduct a survey questionnaire that will identify TCHM usage and personnel background data, as well as to illustrate standards and issues currently accepted at other hospitals for TCHM practice. This survey is scheduled to be conducted in November.

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## **The Public and Professional Recognition Awareness Taskforce**

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The Public and Professional Recognition Awareness Taskforce's initial charge has been completed. Their duties were to:



- Conduct a situational analysis of past, current, and proposed public information and awareness activities in the AOM profession.
- Provide recommendations to the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners on what specifically the NCCAOM can do, independently and/or as a strategic partner with other organizations, to promote our Diplomates and the AOM profession.

As part of fulfilling its objectives, during 2015 and 2016, the Taskforce and staff created the *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Marketing and PR Plan* (approved by the NCCAOM Board in February of 2016) which is the blue print for the PR and public education campaign. The focus has been to provide Diplomates the tools they need to promote their credentials and their careers as well as to distinguish themselves from other healthcare practitioners who also practice acupuncture. The NCCAOM published several press releases over the last year to fulfill the campaign goals, which has generated coverage from many internet news sources – please see [Press Releases under the News and Events page on the NCCAOM website](#). In addition, the NCCAOM created a Press Center for all media to obtain information about NCCAOM and AOM. The [Press Center](#) is featured on the website and is accessible to media, Diplomates, students and school official contacts.

The NCCAOM also devoted a single webpage to *cupping* during the August Olympic coverage. The [Science of Cupping](#) and the [NCCAOM Update of Cupping](#) features the expanded coverage related to this topic as result of NCCAOM media outreach.

The NCCAOM recently celebrated AOM Day 2016 on October 24<sup>th</sup> via the [AOM Day website](#), which featured many AOM Day events throughout the country. The NCCAOM also sent out a [press release](#) for AOM Day to all national and regional media.

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## **NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Academy of Diplomates**

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The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners has approved the charter for the *NCCAOM<sup>®</sup> Academy of Diplomates* and thus amended the NCCAOM Bylaws to include the approved charter. Having a dedicated division within the organization that has a separate governance structure will facilitate more development of products and services focused on helping Diplomates to be



successful in their careers. The Academy will be better positioned to provide greater promotion and advocacy for its Diplomate members. This free membership is awarded to all active Diplomates. The Professional Development Activities department will move to the Academy along with the organization's membership-type services currently available to Diplomates. This will keep the certification services separate from the Academy.

The NCCAOM has developed an [NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates Fact Sheet](#) that answers questions about the Academy. The fact sheet will be updated as new information becomes available.

The School Officials should remind their graduating students that the NCCAOM offers to Academy members complete online access to the current and past issues of *Meridians: The Journal of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (JAOM)*. *Meridians: JAOM* is a peer reviewed, quarterly journal featuring scientific research that adheres to a Medline compliant format. It also includes commentaries on notable, current topics; book reviews of new releases that are written by and for practitioners or researchers; short “clinical pearls” on topics that are treated at clinics; and case reports that more extensively discuss treatments that are assessed by acupuncture colleagues.

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## **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Update**

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The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) announced via the federal Register that “Acupuncturists” will now have an independent Standard of Occupational Code (SOC). The new code for Acupuncturists, SOC – 29-1291, will be included in the next edition of the *BLS Occupational Handbook*, which will be published in 2018. The NCCAOM has developed a list of frequently asked questions, with information about this recent announcement from the BLS. [Click Here to read full BLS Q & A](#)

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## **Government Relations Update**

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The NCCAOM is excited to announce that Kansas is now the 46<sup>th</sup> state with an AOM practice act. The legislation, which is now become law, was approved May 2016. Please see the [NCCAOM press release](#).



The NCCAOM is working with South Dakota, Alabama, and Wyoming on obtaining a practice act.

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## 2016-2017 Job Analysis Blue Ribbon Panel

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The NCCAOM is preparing for the next Job Analysis (JA) which will be conducted in 2017. The first meeting of the Panel will take place the weekend of December 2-4. Currently the NCCAOM is seeking nominations of individuals who are practicing acupuncturists, especially needed are practitioners from CA, Colorado, Florida, Texas, Washington, Oregon, and Massachusetts. To obtain a description of the JA Panel activities, timeline and list of openings e-mail.

[examcontent@thenccaom.org](mailto:examcontent@thenccaom.org).

Please send any nominations to Dr. Kory Ward-Cook at [kwardcook@thenccaom.org](mailto:kwardcook@thenccaom.org) by November 15, 2016, please copy Melissa Dow, Executive Assistant at [mdow@thenccaom.org](mailto:mdow@thenccaom.org).

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## NCCAOM® Exam Administration and Development

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**Acupuncture with Point Location Exam Administration (ACPL):** The NCCAOM is pleased to announce that the Acupuncture with Point Location exam module will be offered year-round in adaptive format starting February 1, 2017, which means that candidates who have received their authorization to test letter (ATT) from NCCAOM certification services, can schedule to take this examination year-round. Registration for the 2017 ACPL exam administration will open on December 1, 2016.



**Foundations of Oriental Medicine (FOM) Exam Administration Changes:** The Foundations of Oriental Medicine exam is required for all three certification programs. In the interest of increasing the number of updated exam items to be used for scoring on the exams, the NCCAOM will be administering computer-based, fixed form (linear) Foundations of Oriental Medicine (FOM) exams during the second half of 2017 which will accomplish the goal more quickly.

The FOM exam module will be offered in a fixed form (linear) format for two, 2-week exam administration periods during **August 14-26, 2017 and November 6-18, 2017.**



Administration of the year-round, **adaptive FOM exam module will conclude after June 30, 2017.** Registration and rescheduling for all FOM adaptive exam dates will close on May 31, 2017. Register as soon as possible for dates up through the end of June 30, 2017.

Exam Name	2017 Exam Dates	Registration Opens	Registration Closes
<b>Foundations of Oriental Medicine Adaptive (Exam Code: 841110)</b>	January 1 – June 30, 2017	Now open	May 31, 2017
<b>Foundations of Oriental Medicine Linear (Exam Code: 841010)</b>	August 14-26, 2017	April 1, 2017	August 25, 2017
	November 6-18, 2017	August 25, 2017	November 17, 2017

[Click here](#) to access the NCCAOM website page which provides additional information, such as a link to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) concerning the changes to the FOM exam administration or a table that shows a comparison of the adaptive and linear format administrations.

**NCCAOM® Foreign Language Exams (FLEs):** Although the number of candidates requesting Foreign Language Exams (FLEs) continues to remain low, the NCCAOM continues to offer the FLEs. See below for the 2017 FLE administration periods and exam registration dates:

Exam Name	2017 Exam Dates	Registrations Begin	Registrations Complete	Exam Fees
Chinese	June 12-24, 2017	11/01/16	06/23/17	\$500
	Sept. 25 - Oct. 7, 2017	11/01/16	10/06/17	\$500
Korean*	June 12-24, 2017	11/01/16	04/30/17	\$500

\*Enough candidates must register to move forward with the Korean administration.

The NCCAOM Examination Content Outlines study tool has been translated into Chinese and Korean for the benefit of applicants and is now posted on the NCCAOM website under the [Forms](#) tab.



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

Exam Name	2017 Exam Dates	Registrations Begin	Registrations Complete
All Reinstatement Exams	March 13-25, 2017	11/01/16	03/24/17
	June 12-24, 2017	11/01/16	06/23/17
	Sept. 25 - Oct. 7, 2017	11/01/16	10/06/17

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### California Acupuncture Board’s Audit of NCCAOM's Exams

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In 2015 the California Acupuncture Board (CAB) requested that the CA Department of Consumer Affairs’ Office of Professional Educational Testing Services (OPES) conduct an audit of the NCCAOM Examinations. As a result, the CAB passed a motion at its June CAB meeting to request the CA legislature to make a statute change so that the CAB *will begin requiring the NCCAOM exams for licensure in CA, no earlier than January 1, 2019.*

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### NCCAOM Certification and Examination Metrics

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The most current annual [NCCAOM® Comprehensive Examination Statistics Report](#) (January 1 – December 31 comparison of 2014 and 2015) is broken down by certification route. The NCCAOM is now providing only annual (based on a calendar year) Program Performance Reports to the schools.

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### NCCAOM Certification and Recertification Policies Update

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**NEW! Apprenticeship Route:** Due to the low volume of applicants enrolling for certification through Route 3: *Apprenticeship for United States and International Applicants* (less than 1% from 2012 – 2015) the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners (BOC) voted to eliminate Route 3 for certification as of December 31, 2021. The apprenticeship program must be completed and the





application for certification through Route 3: *Apprenticeship for United States and International Applicants* must be received by the NCCAOM no later than December 31, 2021. Route 4: *Combination of Formal Education and Apprenticeship for United States and International Applicants* will remain in effect.

Also, as previously announced beginning **January 1, 2017** all applicants for NCCAOM certification applying through Route 3: Apprenticeship United States and International are required to satisfactorily complete at least two academic years (60 semester credits) of formal education (see the [NCCAOM® Certification Handbook](#) pg. 18 for details) in addition to the required apprenticeship contact hours. The 60 semester credits must be completed in areas such as healthcare related coursework or life sciences from a non-vocational institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education or an equivalent accrediting agency in the country in which the education was received. The academic transcript must be submitted, in English, to the NCCAOM directly from the academic institution.

**U.S. Formal Education Route - Pre-Graduation Requirements:** School officials have the final say in approving their students to sit for the NCCAOM examinations prior to graduation. Please encourage your students to consult with administrators and faculty regarding internal school policies. The process for a pre-graduate to apply and be eligible for the NCCAOM certification exams are shown in the below:

1. The student completes the required hours listed in the table below.
2. The student submits the *NCCAOM® Application for Certification*.
3. The school submits the *NCCAOM® Pre-Graduation Verification Form* and the student’s academic transcript to NCCAOM.
4. Once the documents and school official verify that the student meets the pre-graduation requirements, the NCCAOM staff will approve the applicant to begin sitting for the examinations and the applicant becomes a “candidate” for Certification.

NCCAOM Examination Modules	Clinical Hours Required	Total Hours Required
FOM – ACPL – BIO (exams may be taken in any order)	410 hours	1,600 hours Includes clinical hours
CH	410 hours	2,500 hours Includes clinical hours



5. Please remind your students that they must request their graduation transcript be sent directly to the NCCAOM by the school as one of the final steps to complete the certification process.

**Cancellation or Rescheduling an NCCAOM Examination:** Please share the following information concerning NCCAOM exam cancellation and rescheduling with your students:

*The candidate must contact Pearson VUE at [www.vue.com](http://www.vue.com) to cancel and/or reschedule an examination at least 24 hours in advance or the payment will be forfeited. Pearson VUE will email the candidate a cancellation confirmation number. It is imperative the candidate keep this number in case of a cancellation dispute.*

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## School Liaison Contact Information

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Jennifer Nemeth, Continuing Education Director, is the contact person for schools. Jennifer has visited schools, working to provide seminars for students concerning the NCCAOM certification process. Jennifer can be reached by phone at 904-674-2474 and by email at [jнемeth@thnccaom.org](mailto:jnemeth@thnccaom.org) or [School Liaison](#) from the “Contact Us” page of the NCCAOM website [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org). **The NCCAOM encourages all school officials to contact Jennifer if they have had a change in administration or school liaison staff or contact information to ensure accurate and timely communication regarding issues such as exam dates, etc.**

The NCCAOM requests that the school liaisons encourage students and faculty at your school to 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. School officials are further encouraged to use the NCCAOM resources for examination preparation. Often candidates for the NCCAOM exams do not know about the **NCCAOM® Examination Study Guides** which are available for free on the NCCAOM website.

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## NCCAOM Updates and Events

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**The NCCAOM Certification Program Reaccreditation:** To assure that high standards for NCCAOM certification continue to be met, the NCCAOM’s certification programs in Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology and Oriental Medicine are accredited through the National Commission for



Certifying Agencies (NCCA). The NCCAOM will undergo the reaccreditation process for all three programs in 2017. The NCCA has updated their accreditation standards in 2016. The NCCAOM must now provide a rationale, either qualitative and/or quantitative on all eligibility routes to certification.

**Handbooks and Applications:** All NCCAOM handbooks and applications (Certification and Recertification) have been updated. They can be found under the [“Forms”](#) tab from the website homepage.

**External Relations Meetings:** Since May 2017 the NCCAOM participated in the International Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health, in NV and FSOMA, held in Orlando, FL.

**NCCAOM Social Media Sites:** The NCCAOM continues to promote its Diplomates and the AOM profession via its [Facebook Page and LinkedIn Page](#) as well as its new [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. Stakeholders can find events, news, research studies and activities related to AOM on these pages. 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. Schools are encouraged to submit contents of interest to be considered for social media posting to Olga Cox at [ocox@thenccaom.org](mailto:ocox@thenccaom.org).

If you have specific questions about this Update, please contact Dr. Ward-Cook via email at [executiveoffice@thenccaom.org](mailto:executiveoffice@thenccaom.org).