

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

**May 2016**





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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 November 2015 through April 2016.

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## NCCAOM Governance Update

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The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners appointed its 2016 Officers at its October 2015 meeting. The 2016 slate of officers began their term at the February 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting. The NCCAOM slate of officers is as follows:

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

David Canzone, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, Dipl. NBAO, DOM - Vice-Chair

Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC - Treasurer

F. Afua Bromley, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)® - Secretary

Carl Jew, M.A., A.B. - Member-at-Large

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

The NCCAOM bid farewell to Susan Chapman, outgoing Public Member Commissioner and Treasurer at its February Board meeting. The NCCAOM is planning to appoint two new *Professional Members* to the Board of Commissioners in 2017. The Board Development Committee encourages nominations from current NCCAOM volunteers who are interested in applying to be a candidate for an open position on the NCCAOM Board. If you would like further information on the nomination process, please contact Melissa Dow, Coordinator of Volunteer and Executive Services at the NCCAOM [Executive Office](#).



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## The Hospital-Based Practice Taskforce (HBPT)

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

The Hospital-Based Practice Taskforce's purpose is to provide information for acupuncturists on the process of credentialing and privileging by conventional medical institutions, and identify specific information that will help licensed acupuncturists to function as independent providers in inpatient and outpatient hospital settings. Over the past year, an eighteen member taskforce has developed *Credentialing of Acupuncturists for Hospital-Based Practice: A Resource Guide for NCCAOM Diplomates*, which is currently in its final review before publication. The Guide will be available to Diplomates very soon. The taskforce's next objectives include a guide to assist administrators who wish to employ acupuncturists in their healthcare system and to also review how Chinese herbal medicine is being used in healthcare organizations, such as the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH. The NCCAOM also plans to convene a subgroup of subject matter experts (acupuncturists working in medical systems and administrators of integrative practice settings) to begin to identify tasks, along with knowledge, skills and abilities associated with working in hospital based practice.

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## The Public and Professional Recognition Awareness Taskforce

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The Public and Professional Recognition Awareness Taskforce was created with the charge 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 early 2016, the Taskforce and staff created the NCCAOM® Marketing and PR Plan (approved by the NCCAOM Board) which is the blue print for the PR and public education campaign. The focus will be 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 has already published several press releases beginning late last year to launch this campaign, which has generated coverage from many internet news sources – please see [NCCAOM News and Media page under Press Releases](#).

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## **NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates**

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A monumental milestone for the NCCAOM occurred in February 2016 when the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners approved a motion to create a separate charter titled “NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates” to further focus on supporting Diplomates in their careers as defined by the NCCAOM Strategic Plan. Having a dedicated division within the organization that has a separate governance structure will facilitate more development of products and services for NCCAOM Diplomates and the Academy will be better positioned to provide greater promotion and advocacy for its Diplomate members. This free membership will be open to all Diplomates. The impetus for creating this separate chartered division of the NCCAOM was to consolidate all of the organization’s membership-type services available to Diplomates and keep the certification services separate. This membership division of the NCCAQOM is not a replacement for the other national organizations who represent all licensed acupuncturists. The NCCAOM is the only national organization that represents the largest number of licensed and NCCAOM certified acupuncturists (Diplomates) – there are over 17,000 active Diplomates out of an estimated 30, 000 actively licensed acupuncturists. A catalyst for this move to create a membership division at this time was triggered by the interest in having one of the national AOM organizations qualify for an organizational seat on the AMA’s CPT Health Care Professional Advisory Committee, since the NCCAOM is the only national organization that meets all the criteria as a qualified organization to represent the profession. The NCCAOM has become the official sponsor of the *Meridians* journal, which is an NCCAOM member benefit.

The NCCAOM Board elected the first Academy Officers at the February 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting:

- David Canzone, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, Dipl. NBAO, DOM – Academy Chair
- Iman Majd, MD, MS, EAMP, Dip. ABFM, ABoIM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, DABMA, ABIHM, Certified GUNN-IMS – Academy Vice-Chair



- Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC – Academy Treasurer
- Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE - Academy CEO

NCCAOM leadership, Kory Ward-Cook, CEO, Eugene London, Board of Commissioners Chair and David Canzone, Chair of the NCCAOM Academy were present at the ASA Leadership meeting in Albuquerque, NM in early March to announce the exciting news. A press release was later distributed and is available on the [NCCAOM website](#).

The NCCAOM is developing FAQs that will answer questions about the Academy, which will be available on the NCCAOM website by the end of this summer.



NCCAOM Board of Commissioners and staff unveil the Academy of NCCAOM Diplomates at their February Board meeting in San Francisco, CA.

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## NCCAOM® Exam Administration and Development

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The NCCAOM exam content outlines and item writing are developed based on the results of an NCCAOM® *Job Analysis* that surveys the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's) of the AOM profession every four years. The NCCAOM exams are not influenced by school curricula or the types of programs offered by individual U.S. schools. The NCCAOM does not set academic standards nor approve institutions or curriculums. The NCCAOM is the organization that provides the AOM profession's entry-level certification and examinations which verifies that an individual has the basic core competencies to practice acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine safely and efficaciously. 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). All examination content is based on a validation of tasks, knowledge, and skills performed by entry level acupuncturists through the job analysis process. The next job analysis will take place in 2017.

**Acupuncture with Point Location (ACPL) Exam Administration Changes**

The ACPL exam module is currently being offered in a fixed form (linear) format through Spring 2017. Registration is now open for the August 1 – 13, 2016 administration period and will close on August 12, 2016.

There are two remaining, 2-week exam administration periods scheduled throughout 2016. Below are the dates as well as the date each registration opens and closes.

Exam Name	2016 Exam Dates	Registration Opens	Registration Closes
<b>Acupuncture with Point Location – Linear</b>	August 1-13, 2016	5/6/2016	8/12/2016
	November 10-23, 2016	8/12/2016	11/22/2016

[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 ACPL 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 2016 FLE administration periods and exam registration dates:

Exam Name	2016 Exam Dates	Registrations Begin	Registrations Complete	Exam Fees
Chinese	June 13-25, 2016	11/02/15	06/24/16	\$400
	Sept. 26 - Oct. 8, 2016	11/02/15	10/07/16	\$400
Korean*	June 13-25, 2016	11/02/15	04/30/16	\$400

\*A sufficient number of candidates must register in order 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:** There are two remaining scheduled 2016 NCCAOM® Reinstatement Examinations administration periods:

- June 13-25, 2016
- September 26 – October 8, 2016

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

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. The full report was reviewed during the February 26, 2016 meeting of the CAB. The purpose of the audit was twofold:



1. To determine whether the NCCAOM examinations meet the professional guidelines and technical standards as outlined in the Standards for Educational and Psychological testing (2014); and
2. To determine the extent to which the content of the four NCCAOM exams reflects the content specified in the test plan from the 2015 California Acupuncture Occupational Analysis (OA).

Results of the psychometric review revealed that overall the NCCAOM exams appear to meet professional guidelines and technical standards; and that the NCCAOM exams sufficiently assess the areas of Oriental medicine theory, formulating diagnostic impressions, acupuncture treatments and herbal therapy. It was also noted that the NCCAOM exams do not appear to address some areas on the OA such as integration of Eastern and Western theory, gathering facts about the patient's environment that may impact the patient's condition, collaboration with other healthcare providers and patient education. It was also noted that the NCCAOM exams, as expected, do not assess CA laws, regulations, and CA Health & Safety Codes, or practice standards specific to CA.

The link below has the CAB February 26, 2016 hearing agenda, as well as the taped webcast. It also has the agenda and webcast for the February CAB meeting:

[http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov/about\\_us/board\\_meetings.shtml](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov/about_us/board_meetings.shtml) Shortly after the February CAB Meeting, the CA Joint Senate and Assembly Oversight Committee did a Sunset Review of the CAB. During the hearing, the newly elected CAB Chair and Vice Chair spoke about how they are committed to moving forward with the recommendations of the Oversight Committee. The newly appointed Interim Executive Director of the CAB was introduced and Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, NCCAOM CEO and Mark McKenzie were also asked to testify at this hearing. If you are interested in more details you can listen to the archived video or MP4 recording of the full Acupuncture Hearing Section that began at 1:15 pm PT (Go to the link below and begin the video playback at 3:19 hours into the full hearing to view the CAB Sunset review segment:

[http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=7&clip\\_id=3448](http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=3448)

As a result of the CAB review of the audit findings and based on the proceedings of the Sunset review hearing, the NCCAOM was asked to provide the CAB, via the OPES, responses to follow up questions about the audit and how we might work with the CAB in the future. These follow-up questions were generated during the February 26 th Closed Session of the CAB meeting. Our





responses and documentation will be reviewed at the June 10th CAB meeting in LA, CA. Based on the follow up questions generated by the CAB and the discussions that took place at the Sunset review hearing, it appears likely that the CAB will recognize our examinations for licensure in the future. More information will be available after the June 10, 2016 CAB meeting. If the CAB agrees to move forward with the use of the NCCAOM exams a regulatory change will need to be implemented as well. NCCAOM is hopeful that a decision will be made by late 2016 or early 2017.

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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 data shows all testers educated in formal education programs in the United States, testers educated in formal education programs outside the United States and testers educated through apprenticeship training. For previous full-year reports click on the [NCCAOM® Comprehensive Examination Statistics Report](#) fly-out, found on the NCCAOM website

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## **School Liaison Contact Information**

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Jennifer Nemeth, Director of Certification and Diplomates Services, is the contact person for schools. Many have met Jennifer in the NCCAOM booth while at various conferences or when she 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 [jnemeth@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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**Ethics and Safety Symposium and NCCAOM Panel:** The NCCAOM held its inaugural regional symposium at the Marriott Orlando Lake Mary to promote the launch of the updated Code of Ethics and to offer Diplomates a chance to obtain the required 4 PDA points for Ethics and Safety through a four-hour, power-packed course. The NCCAOM Ethics and Safety course was taught by NCCAOM Professional and Ethics Disciplinary Committee Chair, Michael Taromina. This course will also be available online for those who missed the Symposium. The updated NCCAOM Code of Ethics and relevant documents are available on the [NCCAOM website](#). We encourage schools to download the updated Code of Ethics and relevant documents and share it with students and faculty as all candidates must abide by these documents upon signing the NCCAOM application for certification.

In addition to the course, the NCCAOM hosted a leadership panel comprised of Commissioners Eugene London, Afua Bromley, Iman Majd and CEO Kory Ward-Cook to discuss pertinent topics as well as NCCAOM services and benefits with the audience. This panel will also be available on the NCCAOM website free of charge for 1 PDA point. The NCCAOM hopes to host another symposium by the end of 2016.

**Important Note:** Students who have a prior felony should be cautioned that this legal issue could preclude them from obtaining NCCAOM certification or state licensure. Please see the [NCCAOM® Grounds for Professional Discipline](#) for more information.



Ethics and Safety Symposium and NCCAOM Leadership Panel and VIPs – January 2016, Orlando, FL. Front Row: NCCAOM Commissioners Afua Bromley, Iman Majd, Eugene London and CEO Kory Ward-Cook. Back Row: Florida College of Integrative Medicine Dean of Academic Affairs Tara Reed, FCIM Instructor Lynn Thames, and PEDC Chair and Ethics Symposium Instructor Michael Taromina.

**State Association Meetings:** The NCCAOM participated in several state association meetings, events and conferences which include the FSOMA Florida Acu-Day in March in Tallahassee, Florida and the Acupuncture Society of Virginia Association annual conference in early April in Northern Virginia.

**NCCAOM Social Media Sites:** The NCCAOM continues to promote its Diplomates and the AOM profession via its [Facebook Page](#) and [LinkedIn Page](#). 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@thnccaom.org](mailto:ocox@thnccaom.org)



If you have specific questions about this Update, please address them at the May 18, 2016 CCAOM meeting during Dr. Ward-Cook's presentation or contact Dr. Ward-Cook via email at [executiveoffice@thenccaom.org](mailto:executiveoffice@thenccaom.org).