

NCCAOM[®] Activity Report for the CCAOM Meeting

October 2017





Introduction

This report serves as an update to CCAOM members on activities of the NCCAOM®, as requested, to include governance, certification policy changes and other activities. Updates on the *NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates*, NCCAOM support for state associations, the NCCAOM Job Analysis study, and other activities affecting the AOM profession that have occurred from May through November 1, 2017 are included. The 2018 administration schedule for all NCCAOM exams is also provided.

NCCAOM Governance Update

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners (BOC) appointed its 2018 officers at its October 2017 meeting. The NCCAOM is pleased to announce the officers, who will begin their term at the February 2018 BOC meeting:

- Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)® - Chair
- Zonglan Xu, MD(China), Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)® - Vice Chair
- Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC - Treasurer
- Carl Jew, M.A., A.B. (NCCAOM)® - Secretary
- Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE - Academy CEO

One new Commissioner *Professional* member was appointed and will begin his first term at the February 2018 meeting. Daniel Jiao, DAOM, L.Ac., Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)®, previously served on the NCCAOM BOC as Chair for three years and nine years as a Commissioner from 1998 – 2006. Dr. Jiao currently serves as a credentialed acupuncturist with the Sutter Home, Palo Alto Medical Center Foundation Medical Group in the Department of Integrative Medicine. He has served as the chief instructor for Oriental Medicine in the Medical Acupuncture Program at Stanford University. In addition, he taught in the Department of Health Sciences at California State University at Long Beach. Presently, Dr. Jiao is a part-time director in the Doctoral Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine at the American College of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine. He previously served as a consultant for the California State Acupuncture Board and site-visit team member for the State Accreditation Committee. Jiao also continues serve part-time as a



faculty at the American College of TCM's California Institute of Integral Studies.

Bios and photos of all current NCCAOM Board of Commissioners members on the NCCAOM website: [NCCAOM Governance: NCCAOM Board of Commissioners](#).

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](#).

NCCAOM 2017 Job Analysis

The NCCAOM job analysis survey launched on June 30 and was accessible online through August 28. The survey was open to all AOM practitioners, and email invitations were sent to approximately 33,000 licensed acupuncturists as well as members of all NCCAOM constituent groups. All NCCAOM Diplomate participants earned Professional Development Activity (PDA) points, and the NCCAOM also awarded four iPad Minis and a \$250 American Express gift card to randomly-drawn participants who entered to win after completing the survey. There were nearly 3,300 unique log-ins to the survey (representing approximately 10% of the invited participants), which is an excellent response rate for an unsolicited online survey. Thanks to the extensive communications on the need for certified and licensed acupuncturists to complete the survey, the number of respondents was doubled the number of total respondents, compared to the 2013 JA Survey.

The Job Analysis Panel reconvened for a face-to-face meeting in early November to review the results of the survey. The Panel finalized the new content outlines for the Foundations of Oriental Medicine, Biomedicine, Acupuncture with Point Location, and Chinese Herbology certifying examinations.



The updated examination blueprints will be published by the end of 2017 and will go into effect in 2019. A full report of the results from the Job Analysis Study will be available on the NCCAOM website in February 2018.



The Public Relations and Education Campaign

The NCCAOM has continued the organization's public education campaign to promote NCCAOM National Board Certified Acupuncturists™ through multiple press releases and articles that we covered by media outlets through the months of June through October.

The press releases included the following newsworthy items:

- [NCCAOM Applauds the National Association of Attorneys General Initiative in Fight Against Opioid Crisis](#), and
- [The Joint Commission Introduces Revised Pain Assessment and Management Standards](#).

These press releases and other NCCAOM media activities and social media consumer awareness campaign can be viewed by going to our newly created *Public Education Campaign* page by [Clicking here](#). The campaign provides a monthly recap of media and social media activities featuring NCCAOM and Diplomates. NCCAOM is working with Echo Media Group on day-to-day public education and media activities.

In addition, the NCCAOM has developed [the Opioid Crisis page](#) devoted to providing information and news generating from our Diplomates and the profession regarding acupuncture services benefiting opioid addiction and pain management. This page is featured on [the Academy Ongoing Projects](#) page highlighting important NCCAOM ongoing projects benefiting the profession. The most current version of the [NCCAOM® Academy Fact Sheet](#) can be found on the NCCAOM website.

All NCCAOM Fact Sheets are periodically updated, please also see the recently updated NCCAOM Information for [California Licensed Acupuncturists Fact Sheet, updated November1, 2017](#).

If your school is sponsoring an event or have newsworthy item to promote, please contact PublicRelations@thenceaom.org.

Resource for School Officials



Our new NCCAOM website also includes a page specifically [for school officials](#) where you can find the 'Helpful Resources' box with hot links to 'Forms and Applications' as well as 'Important Documents'. We encourage you to look at the tiles under the "School Administrator's Tool Box" for *NCCAOM Policy Changes* and much more. We welcome your feedback on this new landing page for our updated website.

NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates



The NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates Board elected the 2018 Academy Officers at the October 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting:

- Iman Majd, MD, MS, EAMP/L.Ac., Dip. ABFM, ABoIM, Dipl. ABMA, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, – Academy Chair
- Eugene London, DAOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®, L.Ac. - Secretary
- Steve Kazmierczak, Ph.D., DABCC – Academy Treasurer
- Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE - Academy CEO

The NCCAOM has updated the [NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates Fact Sheet](#) that answers questions about the Academy. The fact sheet will continue to be updated as additional information becomes available. All NCCAOM Fact Sheets can be found in the '[Press Center](#)'.

As all active NCCAOM Diplomates are a member of the Academy, School Officials should remind their graduating students that the NCCAOM offers benefits to Academy members.

To enjoy all of the Academy benefits as an NCCAOM Diplomat, please visit [the Academy Benefits page](#) via the new [Academy website](#) launched earlier this year. NCCAOM is particularly pleased to have two major resources for credentialing and hiring acupuncturists in hospital-based practice as part of the NCCAOM Academy Benefits.



Government Relations Update

The NCCAOM is working with Louisiana, Washington and Pennsylvania to require NCCAOM certification as a pre-requisite for certification. In addition, the NCCAOM additional information to the District of Columbia per their request to require NCCAOM certification for incoming applicants. The NCCAOM has seen a rise in states who are increasing standards to include requesting information for certification maintenance as a prerequisite for state licensure.

In addition, the NCCAOM is continuing to support the Kansas Association of Oriental Medicine (KAOM) and the Kansas Board of Healing Arts to accept applications for licensure from existing and new practitioners as their rules and regulations process is being finalized.

The NCCAOM has continued its support of state associations and acupuncture regulatory agencies to prevent the practice of dry needling by physical therapists. NCCAOM has written letters Massachusetts and Florida and is testifying at the Physical Therapy Board hearing with FSOMA on November 8 in Orlando. The *NCCAOM Dry Needling Position Statement and Fact Sheet* ([available on the NCCAOM website](#)) was developed by the NCCAOM staff and Board of Commissioners and unveiled at the FSOMA annual conference in August. This dry needling position statement is available to schools and other constituents.

The weekend of November 3-5, 2017, the NCCAOM had a booth and provided information at the Pacific Symposium, the NCCAOM Facts, mentioned previously in this report were distributed. The NCCAOM thanks the ASA for their distribution of the flyer – [Acupuncture: A Key Solution for Treating America's Painkiller Epidemic](#) to conference attendees. This collaborators on this document are: ANF, NCCAOM and ASA.

NCCAOM® Exam Administration and Development

Foundations of Oriental Medicine (FOM) Exam Administration: The NCCAOM Foundations of Oriental Medicine exam will be offered year-round in adaptive format beginning February 1, 2018. The Biomedicine, Acupuncture with Point Location, and Chinese Herbology exams will continue to be offered in adaptive format throughout 2018. Please note, that in 2019, when the new certification



exam content outlines go into effect, the NCCAOM will be administering all of the exams in a computer based linear format.

Foreign Language Exams (FLEs): Although the number of candidates requesting Foreign Language Exams (FLEs) remains very low, the NCCAOM continues to offer the FLEs, if there are enough candidates to reliably score the exams. See below for the 2018 FLE administration periods and exam registration dates.

Exam Language	2018 Exam Dates	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
Chinese	June 18–30, 2018	11/01/17	06/29/18
	October 1–13, 2018	11/01/17	10/12/18
Korean	June 18–30, 2018	11/01/17	04/30/18
	October 1–13, 2018	11/01/17	07/31/18

The NCCAOM exam content outlines are available in Chinese and Korean and are posted on the [Examination Information](#) page of the NCCAOM website. Click on Foreign Language Exams and scroll to the bottom of the page for hyperlinks to the translated content outlines.

Reinstatement Exams: The NCCAOM offers Reinstatement exams to former Diplomates who have let their certification in Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology, or Oriental Medicine terminate. For information on applying for certification through the Reinstatement Route, see the NCCAOM website for information on the [Reinstatement Process for Terminated Constituents](#). See below for the 2018 Reinstatement Exam administration periods and exam registration dates.

2018 Exam Dates	Registrations Begin	Registrations Complete
March 19–31	11/01/17	03/30/18
June 18–30	11/01/17	06/29/18
October 1–13	11/01/17	10/12/18

NCCAOM Certification and Examination Metrics



Annual and semi-annual NCCAOM® *Comprehensive Examination Statistics Comparison Reports*, broken down by certification exam, are maintained on the NCCAOM website in an area specifically designed for [School Officials](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the tile, Exam Statistics Comparison Report. The NCCAOM® Program Performance Reports [order form and ordering instructions](#) are also available from the School Officials page in the ‘Helpful Resources’ box on the right of the page. The [most current report is through June 30, 2017](#).

NCCAOM Certification and Recertification Policies Update



NEW!



NCCAOM Going Paperless: The next steps in going

paperless will be implemented as of November 15, 2017. All certification and recertification applications currently available for submission online will now only be accepted through the NCCAOM Applicant’s and Diplomate’s online portal or will incur a substantial administrative fee.



After November 15, 2017, paper submission of the NCCAOM® *Application for Certification* and NCCAOM® *Application for Recertification* must include a \$100.00 processing fee.

The NCCAOM is moving forward with paperless application submission in an effort to increase processing efficiencies, reduce risk to our applicants and Diplomates, and help the environment. It is anticipated by mid-year 2018 only electronic applications and transactions through the NCCAOM website portal will be accepted. Throughout 2017, NCCAOM will be partnering with technology experts to ensure that this process is a smooth and seamless one and there will continue to be notifications and updates regarding this initiative. We encourage you to alert school officials and students to go the NCCAOM website to access the [Certification](#) and [Recertification](#) online applications.



All Diplomates recertifying should scan and email their PDA certificates and recertification supporting documentation to recertdocs@thenccaom.org. The subject line of the email should contain the Diplomates first and last name, NCCAOM ID number, certification program, and expiration date.

School Liaison Contact Information

Jennifer Nemeth, Continuing Education Director, is the contact person for school officials. 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 inemeth@thenccaom.org or click on "[Contact Us](#)" from the School Officials page of the new NCCAOM website 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 new NCCAOM website, [What's new in 2017](#) to stay current with NCCAOM policy and procedure changes. 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](#). Please share this information with your students.

Each new NCCAOM certified Diplomate earns the right to use the NCCAOM credential and service mark for their certification. New Diplomates will want to make themselves familiar with the [NCCAOM Trade Marks and Certification Marks Policy](#) (credential and service mark) to ensure proper use.



The NCCAOM is in the process of trademarking the term **NCCAOM Board Certified Acupuncturists™**. We encourage all NCCAOM certified Diplomates to use this identifying term on their business cards, social media sites and website.

NCCAOM Updates and Events

External Relations Meetings: Since May 2017 the NCCAOM participated in the following meetings:

- **Florida State Oriental Medicine Association (FSOMA) Conference:** FSOMA NCCAOM co-sponsored FSOMA at their annual conference in Orlando, Florida in August. Activities included the NCCAOM hosted Breakfast Symposium entitled [NCCAOM Panel Discussion: The State of the Acupuncture Profession](#). NCCAOM Board of Commissioner members Afua Bromley and Zonglan Xu joined by Kory Ward-Cook, CEO led the panel discussion that was moderated by Michael Taromina who took questions from the audience. An AOM update was provided by the Panel as well as questions & answers from the audience regarding challenges faced by the Florida practitioners. Another event drawing a lot of attention was the acupuncture demonstrations performed in the main exhibit hall by a group of Florida Diplomates during Friday's lunch break. Friday evening Michael Taromina, Esq. was the Keynote Speaker at the General Assembly and greeted the practitioners with an enlightening presentation that received a standing ovation for an amazing speech on opportunities for and responsibilities of Diplomates.
- **American Traditional Chinese Medicine Association (ATCMA) Conference:** The 3rd American TCM Congress and Annual Meeting of the TCMA American Alumni Association (TCMAAA) and the American TCM Association (TCMA) was attended by Zonglan Xu, NCCAOM Board of Commissioner and Vice Chair of the NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates, Iman Majd, NCCAOM Board of Commissioner and Chair of the NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates and Kory Ward-Cook, CEO. The NCCAOM sponsored an exhibit booth and co-sponsored a luncheon with a leadership panel consisting of Majd, Xu and Ward-Cook, which was moderated by Marilyn Allen and translated to Chinese by Christine Chang, a NCCAOM EDC Member. The goal for the panel presentation was to inform the participants about the activities and services NCCAOM provides and to announce the formation and goals of the Academy. Emphasis was placed on the value of NCCAOM board certification and how the



NCCAOM certification will be relied on, in the conventional medical systems, as criteria to assist in the hiring of acupuncturists. A Q&A period followed the panel presentation.

In addition, Michael Taromina provided a keynote address and taught the Ethics and Safety workshop at the Vermont Acupuncture Association annual conference in October.

As noted, earlier in this report, NCCAOM staff and CEO, Ward-Cook spent time at the recent Pacific Symposium in San Diego California.

Ward-Cook and Mina Larson have been invited to attend and present at the Pennsylvania Acupuncture Association on November 18, 2017.

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) and must renew their accreditation every five years. The NCCA updated their accreditation standards in 2016. The NCCAOM is in the reaccreditation process for all three programs at this time.

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.



The Official NCCAOM Examination Prep Center: The NCCAOM will be unveiling the NCCAOM Examination Prep center featuring official practice exams for all NCCAOM exams as well as additional practice tools scheduled for early 2018. The additional time is to ensure that the practice test product is user-friendly, and the items meet the caliber of the NCCAOM exams.



If you have specific questions about this Update, please contact Dr. Ward-Cook via email at executiveoffices@thenccaom.org.