



NCCAOM
Diplomate
E-News You Can Use
Holidays 2019



Reflection and Gratitude for A Monumental Year

by Mina Larson, M.S., MBA, CAE



As we celebrate the 2019 Holiday Season and reflect on this momentous year, the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners, staff and I wish to express our gratitude to all of our NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturists, candidates, state association leaders, school representatives and other colleagues for your feedback and collaboration. This input helps us expand and improve services and increase resources for you. I

have had the pleasure of talking to many of you at the various conferences and school presentations I attended. Just by listening and taking notes, I have collected information on how the NCCAOM, as a credentialing organization, can benefit its Diplomates. We are also appreciative to the many Diplomates who completed the NCCAOM Diplomate Satisfaction Survey earlier this year. You can read about the results of this survey [here](#).

Based on valuable feedback from former Diplomates, [American Society of Acupuncturists](#) (ASA) leadership and members as well as other stakeholders, the NCCAOM Reinstatement Route was launched on December 10, 2019. This temporary 18-month route allows Former Diplomates (who at one time held NCCAOM certification and are now in terminated status) to return to active status without having to take the Reinstatement Exam. As more practitioners rely on their NCCAOM certification for employment, hospital privileges, etc., our staff and Board have worked tirelessly for the past several months to create the NCCAOM Reinstatement Route. Former Diplomates interested in reinstating their certification can find all details [here](#).

The emphasis to streamline and simplify our certification and recertification process while upholding our [National Commission for Certifying Agencies](#) (NCCA) program accreditation is paramount to the NCCAOM Board and me. As a result, we will also be introducing a much more advanced and less time-consuming method for recertification next year. Please look for announcements about the new continuing education automated tracking system in the next newsletter. You can read about the advances in the new automated PDA program system that was introduced earlier this year by going to the [NCCAOM's PDA Program Update article](#).

Finally, we are also grateful to be able to collaborate with organizations such as ASA and other national and state associations to advance this medicine in the federal and



state arena. There have been great accomplishments this past year as a result of our collaborative advocacy work and we will continue our partnerships in 2020. Please go to our [Advocacy Update](#) for more details.

As we close out 2019 and this remarkable decade of growth, it is important for me to again emphasize that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without your comments, suggestions and support. As we enter a new decade, we look forward to strengthening partnerships and making new ones to further the profession and the success of our Diplomates in the coming years.

Advocacy Update



The NCCAOM® Advocacy team consisting of Government Relations staff and volunteers continues to represent NCCAOM certification, Diplomates, and stakeholders by providing information to promote acupuncture services to state and federal policymakers to include the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as well as other stakeholder groups.

[For a full NCCAOM Advocacy Update click here.](#)



NCCAOM PDA Points for CPR Course



The NCCAOM would like to inform you of a policy change regarding the CPR course required for NCCAOM Recertification. Effective December 1, 2019, CPR courses submitted for recertification will automatically receive four (4) PDA points towards the 60 PDA points requirement. Now your CPR course will fulfill the CPR requirement and provide PDA points for NCCAOM Recertification.

New Certificate of Qualification Coming Soon



The NCCAOM will launch its first voluntary, certificate of qualification, the Chinese Herbal Compounding and Safety Certificate of Qualification (CHCS COQ) in early 2020. Further information on this NCCAOM professional development activity qualifies those who complete it to earn 10 PDA points, towards recertification, as follows:

- 3 PDAs in AOM- Chinese Herbology,
- 3 PDAs in Biomedicine.
- 2 PDAs in Safety, and
- 2 PDAs in Ethics.

For more information please see the announcement on the NCCAOM website in the [Professional Development Page](#) of the Education section of the website.



Diplomate Satisfaction Survey Results

By Olga Cox, NCCAOM COO

Since 2005, the NCCAOM has been conducting *the Diplomate Satisfaction Survey* minimally every other year. The primary purpose of this survey is to obtain valuable feedback from our NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturists regarding their satisfaction with our services and products, as well as providing us with comments and suggestions that will help the NCCAOM offer more benefits to our Diplomates in the future. As a result of the feedback that we received from the previous satisfaction surveys, the NCCAOM created:

- New rebranded website www.nccaom.org with enhanced navigation;
- New [AOM News and Resource Center](#) to promote the use of AOM for various ailments;
- New [NCCAOM Advocacy Center](#) to highlight our advocacy efforts as well as to provide NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ with an [Advocacy Toolkit](#) of documents that can be used in their own advocacy and grassroots efforts.

The 2019 Diplomate Satisfaction Survey was conducted from September 1 to October 7, 2019. The survey was sent to all active Diplomates with an email address on file (approximately 17,634 Diplomates). Several reminders were sent to participants to complete the survey.

A total of 1,462 Diplomates responded to and completed the survey. The NCCAOM would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the 2019 Diplomate Satisfaction Survey. The results of this survey will serve as a new benchmark as NCCAOM continues to strive for increased customer satisfaction.

[Click here to read the full Diplomate Satisfaction Survey Results.](#)



NCCAOM PDA Program Update

By Jennifer Nemeth, NCCAOM PDA Director



PDA Program Update



Professional development is a crucial activity of almost all healthcare practitioners to include acupuncturists and the NCCAOM is working together with continuing education providers to make the process of recertification more streamlined. The NCCAOM Professional Development Activity (PDA), which is a part of NCCAOM's Department of Continuing Education and Professional Development, oversees the approval of PDA Courses, PDA Course Providers and completion of approved coursework that meets NCCAOM recertification requirements. In turn, the NCCAOM partners with PDA Providers who sponsor quality education courses in the field of acupuncture, Oriental medicine, Chinese herbology, biomedicine and complementary and integrative therapies.

As the NCCAOM is committed to improving the PDA provider and program approval process, Phase One of the *NCCAOM® PDA Provider Management System* began in November 2018 and offers a variety of online services ranging from applying to become a PDA Provider to tracking course applications, active courses and course renewals. One major benefit for the PDA Providers is the automatic online advertising services in the largest AOM course listing: the [NCCAOM® PDA Search Engine](#). A second, optional advertising service is available in the monthly edition of the [NCCAOM® PDA Course Spotlight](#).

Phase Two of the new system began in September 2019 where an online distribution system for the *NCCAOM® PDA Certificate of Completion* was implemented. PDA Providers create a PDA Certificate template and email the certificate to course attendees directly from their NCCAOM online account. The PDA and IT Departments are working with Providers during the current pilot period that will continue until early 2020.

We are excited to announce Phase Three of the automated PDA project that is slated for implementation in early 2020. In this final phase, PDA points for completing an NCCAOM PDA approved course will be automatically entered into the Diplomate's Recertification Transcript. After full implementation of Phase Three, Diplomates will no



longer have to report their courses and upload copies of the certificates! PDA/CE Reporting by PDA Providers will save time and improve customer service for all constituents. More information will be forthcoming on the new Recertification Tracking System in January.

Here are some testimonials from our PDA Providers:

“Major win! Congratulations!!”

“The experience with the new system was actually amazing. It was easy to work with, clear and logical.”

“I’m extremely impressed with the new website!”

“I just have to say - how epic is this new website?! Amazing!!!”

Interested in becoming an NCCAOM® PDA Provider? Check out the [PDA Provider Resource page](#) or email PDA@TheNCCAOM.org for more information and assistance.

Demographic and Exam Content Comparisons Between the 2013 and 2017 Job Analyses

By Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE. CEO Emeritus

Demographic and Exam Content Comparisons Between the 2013 and 2017 Job Analyses. This report provides the readership with a detail accounting of all the changes in the demographic and clinical practice setting variables accounting of all the changes in each certification exam content outline for in 2017 when compared to 2013.

[To read the 2013 and 2017 comparison report,click here](#)



AOM Day 2019 Report

By Chris Minar, NCCAOM Communication Coordinator



This year the NCCAOM marked the 17th annual AOM Day with activities to drive engagement in AOM Day celebrations. The festivities included an update to the [AOM Day website](#), the annual [AOM Day event drive](#), coordinated email announcements and a comprehensive social media campaign. The social media campaign included an AOM Day photo contest to launch the official [NCCAOM Instagram account](#). Finally, a [nationwide press release](#) was circulated to draw media attention and create awareness to the acupuncture and Oriental medicine profession and the celebration of AOM Day. With the support of the acupuncture and Oriental medicine community AOM Day 2019 was a tremendous success.

[Click here to read the full report on AOM Day 2019.](#)

NCCAOM Diplomate Spotlight: Andrea White

In this Fall issue of the NCCAOM Diplomate Newsletter, we recognized October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month by spotlighting one of our distinguished NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists, Andrea White, Dipl. AC (NCCAOM), L.Ac. who is an Acupuncturist at the IPintuition, located in Havertown, PA



Andrea Tarka White, L.Ac., has been in practice for 10 years and is the owner and lead practitioner of Pintuition. After receiving her Master of Science degree in acupuncture from Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, White studied at Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, with clinical rotations at He Ping Li Hospital, Mei Tan Hospital and Tian Tan Hospital in Beijing, China. White works at Mirmont Treatment Center, an inpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Lima, PA, where she provides daily acupuncture treatments for members of the detox community going through acute

withdrawal.

1. It is wonderful that you are an NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturist at Mirmont Treatment Center. How were you able to obtain your position at the Mirmont Treatment Center as an acupuncturist?

When I was going to acupuncture school, I had an externship treating people going through acute withdrawal from drugs and alcohol and it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. When I first began my private practice I was inspired to create a program of my own.

I learned about Mirmont Treatment Center through family and friends, and drafted a business proposal including a summary of how acupuncture could help the facility, the benefits and costs of implementing a program there, and a possible timetable for how and when to start.

Three months after I submitted my proposal I was able to get a meeting with the President and then offered a free demonstration and information session for him and the rest of the staff. Everyone fell in love with the idea of adding acupuncture, so we started right away.

[Read the full interview here.](#)