



NCCAOM  
*Diplomate*  
*E-News You Can Use*  
*Autumn 2020*



## Message from the CEO's Desk

*By Mina Larson, CEO, M.S., MBA, CAE*



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We have reached the 2020 holiday season and are close to the end of the year. The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners and staff hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Though all of us have had to face so many challenges this year, I would like to take a moment to pause and look ahead to a brighter future and a better 2021. The 2020 Holiday season may look different for many of us this year, but this should not stop us from appreciating the spirit of togetherness this time of year inspires.

As we reflect on this unprecedented year, the NCCAOM responded in kind by adjusting our plans to provide all stakeholders with relevant information and support, while working closely with the leadership of American Society for Acupuncturists to provide these resources as outlined below:

- [\*ASA NCCAOM weekly Townhall meetings\*](#)
- [\*COVID-19 resources for practitioners and applicants\*](#)
- [\*Economic stimulus and federal updates\*](#)
- [\*Medicare recognition initiative and roadmap\*](#)
- *Up-to-date communications to all stakeholder groups affected by the pandemic*
- *Increased customer service and improved recertification process*
- *Advocacy Updates in newsletters and website*

In addition, we celebrated a special Acupuncture Medicine (AM) Day this year focused on the safe return to practice of thousands of qualified board-certified and state licensed acupuncturists throughout the country. These AM Day celebrations included:



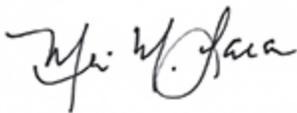
- [AM Day Video Contest](#) embracing three categories: Acupuncture Safety during COVID, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Acupuncture, and/or Acupuncture Accessibility and Community Engagement.
- The ASA and NCCAOM came together again to celebrate Diversity and Community in the Acupuncture Profession via an informative [Webinar Event](#) comprised of four separate panel discussions to help practitioners learn how cultural competency can positively affect patient safety and efficacy of treatment.

You can read the in-depth article in this issue of the newsletter.

You can also find an article in this newsletter about the new launch of the [Continuing Education \(CE\) Banking project](#) that has streamlined and enhanced the NCCAOM recertification processes. We welcome your feedback as you recertify.

All of us at the NCCAOM are truly grateful for your support and collaboration, especially during this year. We wish you a peaceful, happy, and safe Holiday and look forward to continuing our work together in 2021.

Sincerely,



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

## Advocacy Update

*By Molly Giammarco, Senior Manager, Government Relations*





The NCCAOM® Advocacy team represents NCCAOM certification, Diplomates, and stakeholders by providing information to promote acupuncture services to state and federal policymakers, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as well as other stakeholder groups.

### COVID-19 Response and Advocacy

The NCCAOM continues to monitor policy related to the pandemic and inform its Diplomates about COVID-19-related relief available to the profession. Monitored issues include the CARES Act extensions, federal COVID-19 stimulus packages, the Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program opportunities and protocol, and state and federal pandemic unemployment insurance.

The NCCAOM continues to update its [COVID-19 Resource Page](#), which provides Diplomates information about available resources, state and federal initiatives, and guidance for seeking small-business support. In continuing to monitor COVID-19-relief measures, the NCCAOM GR team developed, “[Continued Guidance for COVID-19 Economic Relief for Acupuncturists](#)” to update Diplomates on available COVID-19-relief options and help Diplomates navigate loan-forgiveness options.

Read more about the NCCAOM’s advocacy efforts at the [NCCAOM Advocacy Page](#). Please contact the [NCCAOM Advocacy team](#) with any questions regarding the NCCAOM’s Advocacy efforts and ways to get involved.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

## NCCAOM Recertification: CE Reporting Success!



### PDA/CE Banking Update

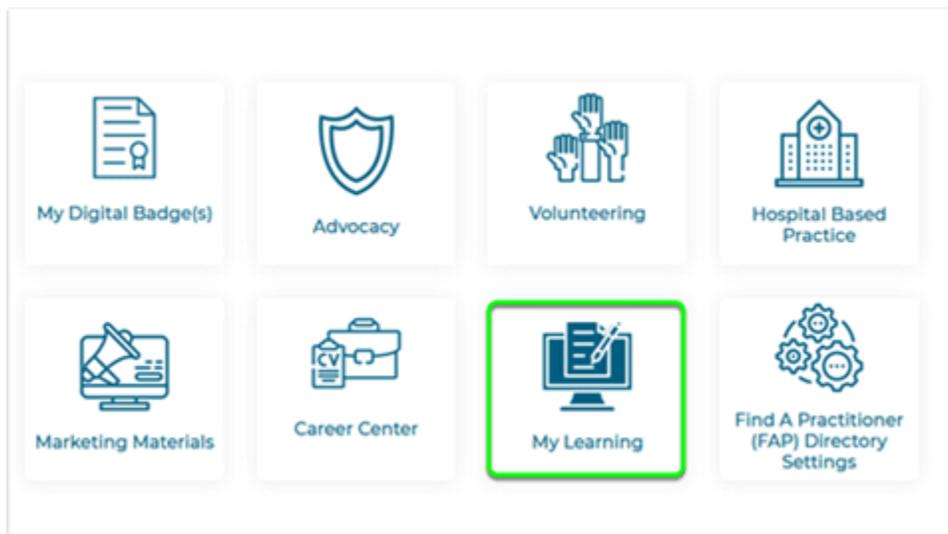


The NCCAOM began the CE Banking project in early 2020 and we are pleased to announce the new service is a big success! How CE Banking works: when the PDA Provider emails the NCCAOM® PDA Certificate of Completion to the Diplomate, the online management system automatically reports the PDA points to the Diplomate’s NCCAOM® Recertification Transcript. This means that the Diplomate no longer will



need to report their PDA points manually. The new CE Banking system is being implemented incrementally to Providers with approved courses and due to be fully completed by the end of 2020.

Although the NCCAOM® PDA Certificate of Completion will continue to be distributed by PDA Providers, some confusion has occurred with Diplomates receiving their certificate via email. Listening to our stakeholder’s concerns and suggestions, the NCCAOM has created a new Diplomat benefit called “My Learning”. Located in the certification account, Diplomates can click the “Diplomat Benefits” orange button at the top of the profile and on the next page they will see the “My Learning” section.



This new benefit houses all the PDA Certificates earned by the Diplomat since CE Banking implementation that was correctly recorded in their account.

Certification					
Show 10 Entries		Search: <input type="text"/>			
Certificate #	Course #	Provider Name	Course Completion Date	Certificate Date	Certificate Download
188902	PDA-165166-39	Standard Process, Inc.	10/24/2020	11/10/2020	<a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Print</a>
179174	PDA-1184-19	East West Healing Center	10/18/2020	10/21/2020	<a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Print</a>
175395	PDA-1184-20	East West Healing Center	09/22/2020	09/29/2020	<a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Print</a>
173662	PDA-168520-9	Illinois Nutrition Consultants	09/13/2020	09/15/2020	<a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Print</a>
163088	PDA-764-39	NCCAOM	06/19/2020	08/17/2020	<a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Print</a>
32604	PDA-168520-6	Illinois Nutrition Consultants	11/02/2019	11/06/2019	<a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Print</a>

Showing 1 To 6 Of 6 Entries Previous **1** Next

The new feature will provide an easy search function enabling the Diplomat access to any of their PDA Certificates with the ability to download or print a copy. In addition, this new benefit will provide the Diplomat with immediate access to all issued PDA certificates, resolve email problems, and increase customer satisfaction. [Check it out!](#)



## Acupuncture Medicine<sup>1</sup> Day 2020



Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 marked the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Acupuncture Medicine Day. This year's observance is particularly important and unique. Never has our profession faced the challenges that 2020 has presented. However, as a profession we can have a strong voice, can be a catalyst for change and can be a bridge of healing in our hurting world.

During this challenging and uncertain time, it is reassuring to know that qualified board certified and state licensed acupuncturists are open and available to treat a variety of conditions and ailments to include pain, stress, mental disorders, immune issues, and general well-being. To elevate public awareness that there are over 35,000 licensed acupuncturists treating these ailments throughout the U.S., the American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA) and the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup> collaborated to promote nationwide observations of the 17th annual Acupuncture Medicine (AM) Day which took place on Oct. 24. In honor of AM Day, both organizations joined forces to elevate acupuncture services as a nonpharmaceutical, safe, effective and economically feasible treatment for so many of the ailments that are plaguing Americans today such as stress, immune issues, PTSD, and depression in the face of this global pandemic.



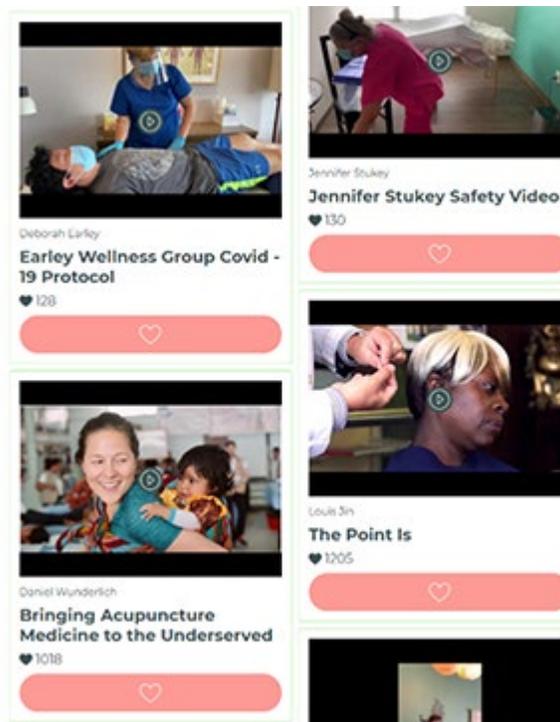
To help demonstrate how the acupuncture profession is overcoming some of the important challenges that we faced in 2020 the ASA and NCCAOM co-hosted the [\*Acupuncture Medicine Day Video Contest\*](#). Video entries were encouraged to demonstrate the following three categories: Acupuncture Safety during COVID, Demonstrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Acupuncture, and/or Acupuncture Accessibility and Community



Engagement. The winning videos were selected by public voting and an NCCAOM and ASA panel of judges.

The video chosen to best embody Acupuncture Safety during COVID is [Earley Wellness Group COVID-19 Protocol](#) by Deborah Earley. [The Point Is](#) by Louis Jin was chosen to best embody Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Acupuncture. In the Acupuncture Accessibility and Community Engagement category the winner is [Bringing Acupuncture Medicine to the Underserved](#) by Dan Wunderlich.

Congratulations to the winners! Thank you to all our entries for your time and effort to make this celebration shine! All video entries are available on the [NCCAOM YouTube channel](#). All the approved entries received 2 PDA points for submitting an approved video. PDA certificates are now easily accessible under the [My Learning tab of the NCCAOM Portal](#).



In honor of Acupuncture Medicine Day, the ASA and NCCAOM came together to celebrate Diversity and Community in the Acupuncture Profession on October 24th from 11AM EDT - 4:30 PM EDT. This [Webinar Event](#), comprised of four separate panel discussions, was designed to help practitioners learn how cultural competency can positively affect patient safety and efficacy of treatment within our local communities and through global outreach. This event offered the opportunity to earn up to 4 PDA points. Thank you to all who joined us for this informational day as we continue to celebrate Acupuncture Medicine’s diversity and community! [Click here for webinar replay!](#)





NCCAOM and the ASA also partnered with many state and local acupuncture organizations in an effort to have the Acupuncture Medicine Day holiday officially recognized. This year Acupuncture Medicine Day was officially proclaimed a holiday in [Washington D.C.](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Michigan](#), [Vermont](#), and [Wisconsin](#). Thank you to the ASA and our partnering state and local acupuncture associations.

This Acupuncture Medicine Day we collectively embraced safety, diversity, and the ongoing fight for equality and inclusivity - our wholistic medicine embraces the wholeness of all beings. The events and celebrations of AM Day 2020 were a great success. Thank you to all who helped celebrate Acupuncture Medicine Day 2020.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Jonathan Daniel DC, DiHom, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup>, L.Ac.

The NCCAOM Committees, Panels and Taskforces, who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners, assist in governing by investigating, deliberating, and analyzing special issues on behalf of the Board.

Some of NCCAOM's committee members have served the organization for many years in varying capacities, on various committees, taskforces or panels or as an NCCAOM Board Commissioner. Their work often goes unseen by the public, but they are an integral part of our organization. Beginning with this newsletter, we will feature one of our volunteers in each issue. We are truly grateful for their work and their service to the NCCAOM.

[Learn more about volunteering with the NCCAOM!](#)



Jonathan Daniel is the first of our Volunteers to kick off our new newsletter feature: The Volunteer Spotlight. We selected Jonathan because of his many years of volunteer service to the NCCAOM. He began his volunteer service in 1993, nearly 27 years ago! His years of service have been consecutive except for a brief break. Among his current committee work, Jonathan previously served on the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners as well as a Globalization Taskforce in 2006 and the Research Taskforce in 2007 and has also served on the board of ASNY.

[Click here to read Dr. Daniel's education and experience.](#)



We are grateful for his many years of quiet dedication to the mission and vision of the NCCAOM and recognize him as a very valuable Volunteer.

***Question 1: What motivated you to apply as a volunteer for the NCCAOM all those years ago?***

**Answer:** I enjoy treating people. It gives me great satisfaction to see people get better from their problems. It is also a great opportunity to learn something more about how to care for people. However, I am not very comfortable with self-promotion. I would prefer that my work would speak for itself. And I have also wanted to make a contribution to the field of complementary or alternative medicine in general, and in particular traditional Chinese medicine in the United States on a wider scale than just being a practitioner.

***Q #2: What kept you coming back as a volunteer?***

**A #2:** My desire to contribute on a larger scale than just being an individual practitioner has continued. Working for the NCCAOM is a great opportunity to contribute to the profession as a whole.

***Q #3: How have you observed growth in the NCCAOM as an organization throughout your years of serving?***

**A #3:** It certainly has grown, for sure. There has always been a question of what the role of the NCCAOM should be. Should it be merely the certifying organization for the practice of traditional Chinese medicine or should its scope also be wider, as a leader in the field, pointing in the direction of enabling traditional Chinese medicine to become a valued, as well as recognized profession in health care in the United States, as well as in the rest of the world. As you can tell by my earlier answers, I tend to favor the latter approach.

***Q #4: What do you wish other people knew about the fields of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine?***

**A # 4:** That it is a whole and complete system of health care, for the prevention and treatment of disease and that its abilities in the prevention and treatment of disease go far beyond what is conventionally considered to be what it is capable of doing.

***Q # 5: What might someone be surprised to know about you?***

**A #5:** Other than being a polymath and an autodidact, there are many things that might surprise people, among them being that I have played many musical instruments. I usually take up learning how to play an instrument based upon a



particular style of music that I want to learn how to play. My first instrument was the guitar, which I started learning when I was 11. I am currently thinking about learning to play on an 88-key keyboard in order to play Ragtime, among other things.

**Q #6:** *What do you do when you are not working?*

**A #6:** I study Talmud, Midrash and Kabbalah and do translations of Kabbalistic works for an organization.