



NCCAOM
Diplomate
E-News You Can Use
Summer 2021



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Advocacy Update

By Molly Giammarco, Senior Manager, Government Relations



The NCCAOM® Advocacy team 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.

Advocacy News

Acupuncture for Our Seniors Act (H.R. 4803) Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives

The NCCAOM is pleased to collaborate with ASA to announce that U.S. Congressional Representative Judy Chu (D-California) introduced [H.R. 4803, the Acupuncture for Our Seniors Act](#) on July 29. H.R. 4803 would authorize Medicare to recognize qualified acupuncturists as Medicare providers. This would enable eligible acupuncturists to provide covered acupuncture services to Medicare beneficiaries (those 65+) without supervision.

Medicare currently covers acupuncture services for chronic lower back pain, but acupuncturists cannot provide this service to Medicare patients without supervision. Medicare provider status for acupuncturists would enable eligible acupuncturists to provide covered services to Medicare beneficiaries without supervision and allow acupuncturists to bill Medicare (acupuncturists currently must bill the service or incident to the supervising practitioner for any Medicare services they provide).

The NCCAOM supports H.R. 4803, which would increase access to qualified acupuncturists, enable acupuncturists to provide covered acupuncture services to



Medicare beneficiaries, and help grow the profession. The NCCAOM is working with the ASA to advocate for H.R. 4803 and is doing strategic outreach to select Congressional offices at this time. In the coming months, you will be provided with more information on how you can help support H.R. 4803 and get involved in the NCCAOM and ASA's grassroots efforts.

Please see the [NCCAOM's and the ASA's Fact Sheet](#) and [Press Release](#) for more information about H.R. 4803.

To read the full Advocacy Update please [click here](#).

NCCAOM PDA Course Highlights

The [NCCAOM® PDA Course Highlights](#) is a slider at the top of the NCCAOM website featuring *NCCAOM® Approved PDA Courses*. The courses featured on this slider are pre-approved for NCCAOM PDA Points. The NCCAOM® PDA Course Highlights is an easy way to find online PDA Courses and upcoming seminars. For your convenience, the NCCAOM® PDA Course Highlights is updated monthly and always features the latest courses.

To view, the [NCCAOM® PDA Course Highlights click here](#). PDA Providers interested in how to advertise in the [NCCAOM® PDA Course Highlights click here](#).



Digital Badges: The 21st Century Credential

By Olga Cox, Chief Operations Officer



The shift to digital environments has a major impact in nearly every facet of our daily lives including how we promote and advance our jobs and our achievements. The NCCAOM is using the latest digital technology to showcase and promote our NCCAOM Board Certified Acupuncturists through Digital Badging.

A [Digital Badge](#) is a digitalized record of an individual's knowledge and achievements. Each badge holds integrated data and when clicked upon, displays that data showcasing the credential earning criteria, endorsements, and evidence of mastery in a profession.

Digital Badging is also known as “digital credentialing” provide jobseekers with a method to accurately portray their skillsets and also provide employers with a reliable means to assess the applicant's qualifications and potential fit within a company. In the online world of job searching, an individual with digital credentials is viewed six times more often than one without.

The NCCAOM is proud to offer Digital Badges for all active NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ as well as for our current PDA Providers.

Digital Badges are a great marketing tool to promote your NCCAOM Board Certification and your practice. Use them in your email signature, on your website, Facebook page, or in any online medium. The NCCAOM Digital Badges are a great way to show the world your NCCAOM credentials.

The Badge Detail Page for Diplomates showcases your:



1. NCCAOM Certification
2. Original certification issue date
3. Earning criteria including:
 - Education and training.
 - Certification maintenance requirements.
 - Adherence to Code of Ethics.

The Badge Detail Page for PDA Providers showcases:



1. PDA Provider Name and number.
2. Earning criteria to become a PDA provider.
3. Requirements for approved courses.
4. A listing of approved course(s).

Being able to represent your achievements digitally is imperative for marketing yourself and your practice in this everchanging economy. Digital credentials quickly inform patients, future employers and others that you are nationally board-certified and possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to practice with less time on proving your qualifications.

[Digital Badge Set Up Instructions for Diplomates](#)

[Digital Badge Set Up Instructions for PDA Providers](#)



Permanent Reinstatement Route

An NCCAOM Reinstatement Taskforce was convened in August 2019 and charged with developing a permanent Reinstatement Route to NCCAOM Certification that embodies best practices of certification agencies while maintaining NCCA standards.

The new permanent reinstatement route will be more rigorous than the regular recertification process. The Taskforce met regularly to create a blueprint for the new permanent NCCAOM Reinstatement Route that was approved by the NCCA In July, 2021.

The permanent NCCAOM Reinstatement route will not require a high-stakes exams. Continuing education requirements based on a certification expiration date must be met, and an initial safety evaluation. If the former Diplomate has been terminated over 8 years, a Safety Final Assessment will also be required. The new route is currently under development and will be implemented on July 1, 2022

Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Day 2021

By Chris Minar, SMS, Coordinator, Digital Marketing and Communications



Acupuncture & Herbal
Medicine Day



Each October 24th, the Acupuncture community celebrates the remarkable history, effects and impact of acupuncture and herbal medicine on countless people worldwide.

As we all move forward and continue to endure the ravaging effects of COVID-19, the NCCAOM would like to honor the past and appreciate the present for [Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Day 2021](#). The impact of the past year has been staggering. Now, more than ever, acupuncture and herbal medicine must be brought forward as a critical tool in breaking barriers to increase access and the treatment of underserved communities. It is ever more important to encourage research and educate the public about what the acupuncture and herbal medicine profession can do to treat and care for patients.

In addition to concerns of the looming pandemic, the issues of systemic racism, inequality and bias have been brought to the front lines of social discourse all around the country following the historic protests that 2020 brought.

Ours is a profession of healing. It encompasses body, mind and spirit. As healers, you can also be at the forefront of the discussion to address all these issues. As healers, you must also be willing to look within so that you may speak and teach and heal from a place of compassion and understanding; to see the world with new eyes.

[Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Day](#) is a vehicle by which all acupuncture practitioners have a powerful voice.

Through creativity, you can show the world your strength, resiliency, and healing power despite the turmoil we have endured. Through the events of Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Day, you can break barriers and encourage the treatment of underserved communities by helping to educate these communities on the healing of Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine. You can demonstrate to your patients that you are making strides to become a truly compassionate and skilled, culturally competent practitioner.

NCCAOM and ASA have provided marketing platforms to boost exposure and shed light on your efforts to be part of this historic time.

To encourage your participation in this year's [Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Day](#) celebration, the NCCAOM and ASA have planned a [Photo Contest for AHM Day 2021](#). There will be four categories with a theme and a winner in each category. The categories are:

1. Treating underserved communities
2. Education (Public Awareness or Mentoring)



3. Breaking Barriers (establishing acupuncture in new venues or increasing access or promoting state legislation)
4. Research on the continued efficacy of our medicine

Combining themes is encouraged.

Participants may submit more than one photo and/or in multiple categories

Photos must be at high resolution (300dpi) and no smaller than 1080 x 1080 pixels.

Stay tuned for a Photo Voting Contest kick-off announcement.

Take this amazing opportunity to be a catalyst for change. Be a bridge of healing for a hurting world. Be a part of Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Day, 2021.

NCCAOM Volunteer Spotlight: featuring Maryanne Travaglione DAOM, L.Ac., Dipl. OM (NCCAOM®),

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. In this newsletter we are featuring one of these dedicated and valued volunteers, Dr. Maryanne Travaglione, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)®.



Maryanne Travaglione has been one of our longest serving volunteers for the NCCAOM, beginning her service in 2003, at total to date of eighteen years. She became a Commissioner on the NCCAOM Board from 2004-2006 and has served on several different committees since then, including the Bylaws Committee, CNT Taskforce, External Relations Committee, Eligibility Committee, PEDC, PDA Advisory Panel, Recertification Committee, for a number of years, and the Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module which soon became the FOM Exam Development Committee. Maryanne helped create the FOM EDC which she now Chairs, in addition to Chairing the Council of Examination Development Committees (CEDC).

Dr. Travaglione received her DOM in 2009 preceded by her Masters in OM in 1993 from PCOM, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She has been an Associate Professor at



both Mercy and Touro Colleges in New York City as well as a Department Chair, Clinical Supervisor and Lecturer at Pacific College of Oriental Medicine for a span of twenty-two years. More recently, Maryanne has been a lecturer in virtual learning environments for various Doctoral programs and has been a contributing author to various publications.

She is NCCAOM Board Certified in Oriental Medicine and holds licenses in New York and California.

The NCCAOM is grateful for her faithful years of volunteer service to our organization. Her dedication to the work of the NCCAOM and the profession are outstanding examples of excellence in healthcare and volunteer work.

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

Maryanne Travaglione: I was teaching at Pacific College of Oriental medicine and was asked to participate in an item writing weekend. Dr. Christina Herlihy was the NCCAOM CEO at the time, and I was so impressed by her leadership skills that I thought I could learn a great deal from being around her and decided to then to participate. Unfortunately, Christina died within the year, so I didn't get enough time to learn her leadership secrets but did remain with the team she had in place which included the present CEO Mina Larson and the leadership of exam development, Pam Frommelt and Yvonne Sanders.

To read the full Volunteer Spotlight please [click here](#).

To visit the new Volunteer Spotlight web page please [click here](#).