

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

Spring Update 2022



PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH QUALITY CREDENTIALS

Submitted by NCCAOM CEO, Mina M. Larson, M.S. MBA, CAE  
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## Introduction

This report serves as an update to CCAHM members on activities of the NCCAOM, to include governance, certification policy changes, exam administration activities, advocacy and public education campaign efforts, and other current activities affecting applicants, Diplomates and other stakeholders.

The new [NCCAOM Mission Statement](#) is: *To assure the safety and well-being of the public and to advance and advocate for the professional practice of NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ by promoting established national standards focused on competence and credentialing.*

You can view the NCCAOM's new [Vision and Core Values Statements](#) on our website, as well as the [NCCAOM Diversity Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Statement](#).

## NCCAOM Governance Update

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners (BOC) appointed for 2022 through February 2023 are:

- Iman Majd, MD, MS, EAMP, Dip. ABFM, ABoIM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup> DABMA, - Chair
- Daniel Jiao, DAOM, Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup> – Vice Chair
- Matthew Stanley, CAE - Secretary - **Public Member**
- Janet Zand, O.M.D., Dipl. Ac., C.H., O.M. (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup> - Treasurer
- Nicholas Dougherty, DAOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup> - Member-at-Large
- Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup> - Commissioner
- Jayne Tsuchiyama, D.A.O.M., D.Ac., Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup> - Commissioner
- P. Divya Parikh, MPH, CAE – **Public Member**
- Steven L. Rosenblatt, M.D, PhD, Dipl. O.M.(NCCAOM)<sup>®</sup>, L.Ac. – Commissioner
- Mina M. Larson, M.S., MBA, CAE - CEO

Bios and photos of all current NCCAOM Board of Commissioner members can be found on the NCCAOM website: [NCCAOM 'About': Governance](#).

## Call for Nominations: 2023 NCCAOM Board of Commissioners

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners is a diverse body of volunteers committed to the advancement of our profession and public safety through the certification of our NCCAOM Board Certified Acupuncturists.



We are excited to announce that we are inviting nominations for Professional Member positions to the Board for service commencing in February 2023. Professional Members bring critical real-world experience and insights to the Board and shape policy to the betterment of the profession. This is a wonderful opportunity for NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturists to deepen their professional involvement. We encourage all to apply: our Board is diverse, comprising of a broad range of



ethnicities, ages, and experience and we welcome your nominations or enquiries. **Please note**, previous experience serving on a government or nonprofit board is required. Go to the [Volunteers section of the NCCAOM](#) website for the full [NCCAOM® Call for Nominations for Professional Member Commissioners and Position Description](#) details the additional skills needed as well as the time commitment to serve on the BOC. [Click here](#) for instructions on *Completing an Online Application for NCCAOM Board of Commissioner Professional Member* or, if you have any questions, contact Melissa Dow, Manager of Volunteer Development and Special Projects at [mdow@thenccaom.org](mailto:mdow@thenccaom.org). Deadline for applications is June 30, 2022.

## Professional Development (PDA) Program

PDA PROVIDER BADGE



PDA initiatives in Spring of 2022 include the kick-off of the NCCAOM Recertification / PDA Taskforce, the PDA Newsletter, the PDA Provider Digital Badge, and increased marketing opportunities for our Providers. Visit the [PDA Publications section](#) of the NCCAOM website and read about PDA updates and our featured Providers.

## NCCAOM® Exam Administration



### English Language Certification Exams Administration:

The NCCAOM is offering the English language certification exams in all [Pearson VUE](#) at 100% capacity. Please note all exam candidates will have to follow protocol and precautions based on COVID-19 state laws concerning safety measures. Candidates are encouraged to check with the Pearson VUE testing center where they have scheduled their exams for specific requirements.

All exam candidates are encouraged to review the [2020 Exam Content Outlines](#) (based on the 2017 Job Analysis). The NCCAOM published an article titled [“Creating National Exam Content: The Importance of a Job Analysis Study”](#) in *Acupuncture Today* that explains the job analysis and exam development process for a national certification exam. The NCCAOM conducts a new Job Analysis every 5-7 years and will begin work on a new Job Analysis survey in 2023.

**Foreign Language Exams (FLEs) Canceled for 2022 and 2023:** The NCCAOM canceled the administration of the 2022 and 2023 Chinese and Korean language exams. The earliest the FLEs may be offered is after the completion of the next Job Analysis Study.

## Recruiting Now for 2022 NCCAOM Examination Content Development Committees

The NCCAOM is recruiting NCCAOM Diplomates to serve on the Examination Content Development Committees for Acupuncture with Point Location, Biomedicine, Chinese Herbology



or Foundations of Oriental Medicine. We encourage interested candidates to apply as soon as possible as we are planning our summer meetings. Interested candidates can apply directly via their NCCAOM Diplomate account through the NCCAOM portal. For more details on SME position, [click here](#), and for application submission instructions, please [click here](#).

## NCCAOM Policies Update Reminder



### NCCAOM Official Pass/Fail Notification Letters

The *NCCAOM Examination Official Pass/Fail Notification Letter* will be viewable this summer on the Candidate/Diplomate's online portal. You will no longer need to wait for the U.S. Postal service to deliver the official notification.

As you are aware upon completion of the adaptive examination, the computer at the testing center will display a preliminary pass/fail status. The candidate is asked to acknowledge that this is a preliminary notification. The official NCCAOM pass results letter does not display a numerical score; however, the failed exam result letter provides a numerical **scaled score** and a breakdown of sections indicating areas of weakness. Candidates will now be able to track, in their Certification Account, the official results for their most recent examination completed within two weeks of having finished the exam.

## Upcoming NCCAOM Webinars



**STUDENT WEBINAR:** The NCCAOM will conduct the Student Webinar on May 10, 2022, at 4:00 pm ET. [Click here](#) to register. If you cannot attend live, don't worry! NCCAOM records all [Student Webinars](#) and places them on our website for future viewing. You will learn the details about:

- Board examination process, application processing times and test approval.
- The dos and don'ts when dealing with exam scheduling.
- Learn about the exam score verification to state acupuncture licensing boards.
- Explore the interactive map for state licensure.
- Learn the benefits of being an NCCAOM Diplomate.

The **SCHOOL WEBINAR** will take place on September 14, 2022. Watch your email as the event gets closer for information concerning the time the webinar will begin.



## NCCAOM Reinstatement Routes to Active Certification

The [NCCAOM Time-limited Reinstatement Route](#) will expire on **June 30, 2022**. Anyone who was once certified by the NCCAOM and allowed their certification to terminate is eligible to apply. A Reinstatement Taskforce worked together with input from NCCAOM's accreditor, the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA) to create this Route in order for NCCAOM former Diplomates to be able to return to active status through demonstrating competency maintenance by submitting PDAs/CEUs coursework in the [Core Competency categories](#).

The NCCAOM staff have created a [Reinstatement requirement calculator](#), available on the NCCAOM website, to help calculate the number of points and fees for each applicant. Continuing education credit obtained for state licensing can be submitted for this route. For more information a NCCAOM® Time-limited Reinstatement Route to Active Certification [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) has been developed to assist in this process.

## NEW Permanent Reinstatement Route



The NCCAOM will launch the NEW Permanent Reinstatement Route to Active Certification for former Diplomates on July 1, 2022. The New Permanent reinstatement Route is much more rigorous than the Recertification process, therefore, all active Diplomates are encouraged to keep the NCCAOM certification active by recertifying it every 4 years. Watch for the upcoming Diplomat E-News You Can Use which will contain the requirements for reinstatement under this new Route. Under 'Internal News' click on the 'Diplomat Newsletters' button.

## NCCAOM Emeritus-Retired Designation

The NCCAOM is indebted to its long-standing Diplomates who have devoted many years to the practice of acupuncture and herbal medicine and contributed immensely to the NCCAOM and the profession. The Emeritus-Retired designation allows Diplomates who are no longer practicing, to stay involved with the AHM profession and continue their affiliation with NCCAOM. An updated application for Emeritus-Retired Designation is coming soon.

## NCCAOM Offers an Exam Retake Policy

The [NCCAOM Exam Retake Policy](#) eliminates the 5-Time Rule that limits a candidate to 5 lifetime attempts for each exam module allowing candidates to take the NCCAOM exams more than five times based on certain criteria. This criteria for eligibility are based on the length of time since the last failed attempt and the number of failed attempts. NCCAOM has created a calculator where candidates can enter information based on their specific circumstances and will be directed to the eligibility criteria, they must meet to retake the failed Board exam module. For more information email [examattempts@thenccaom.org](mailto:examattempts@thenccaom.org).



## The Official NCCAOM® Exam Prep Center

The NCCAOM offers the [Official NCCAOM® Examination Prep Center](#), the one-stop hub to help students and candidates prepare for the NCCAOM exams. The [Official NCCAOM Practice Tests™ for all NCCAOM exams](#) have now been upgraded on a new learning management platform which provides:

- A new updated, user friendly interface for multiple choice questions
- The opportunity to purchase a package of practice test attempts that can be used to take different Practice Test modules as well as to take the same Practice Test module more than one time.

This allows candidates to access more questions to better prepare for the Board exams. Please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Step-by-Step instructions](#) for details.

## Practice Tests Packages

New pricing allows a user to pay for a number of Practice Test ATTEMPTS. The Practice Test module (ACPL, FOM, BIO, CH)\* is chosen by the user at the start of each test attempt.

Package	Price
1 Practice Test attempt	\$70
2 Practice Test attempts	\$133
3 Practice Test attempts	\$190
4 Practice Test attempts	\$239

**Faculty Members:** It is recommended that ACAOM Approved Schools Faculty members sign up for these practice tests to familiarize themselves with the process.

**Diplomates:** These practice tests are also open to NCCAOM Diplomates who can earn 5 PDA points for successfully passing one practice test per recertification cycle. To access the NCCAOM Official Practice Tests, please follow the link: <http://www.nccaom.org/nccaom-exam-preparation-center/>. Do not hesitate to contact Olga Cox at [ocox@thennccaom.org](mailto:ocox@thennccaom.org).





## NCCAOM Chinese Herbal Compounding and Safety (CHCS) Certificate of Qualification (COQ)

The CHCS COQ is a **voluntary** online certificate program consisting of 10 assessment-based modules. The program provides FDA Good Manufacturing (GMP) Guidelines, review of FDA regulations, as well as many helpful resources. The CHCS COQ is open to all licensed acupuncturists and herbalists, students, lab technicians, herb pharmacy compounders and any other office staff who compound herbal formulas in their office or retail dispensaries. For successfully completing this herbal program, enrollees receive ten (10) PDA points and the NCCAOM® CHCS COQ Badge for displaying their additional education in Chinese herbal safety. For more information, please watch the [Chinese Herbal Compounding and Safety \(CHCS\) COQ webinar](#) or sign-up today at <https://www.nccaom.org/education/professional-development/> .

### Advocacy Highlights



The NCCAOM continues to partner with American Society of Acupuncturists and our professional government relations and advocacy team to advance the recognition and career advancement of NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ nationally. The GR team serves as liaison for all advocacy-related matters for the NCCAOM. The most recent Advocacy update concerned the inclusion of acupuncturists by CMS. This topic will continue to be a primary focus of the GR team. The GR team is also the primary contact for NCCAOM Diplomates' advocacy-related questions. For details on NCCAOM advocacy activities [click here](#).

The NCCAOM and ASA also have been offering townhall meetings with updates on progress for the Medicare initiative. The latest town hall meeting was featured on April 27, and it can be viewed on our website. All Town Hall meetings were recorded, posted on the NCCAOM website and can be replayed. [Town Hall Meeting Recordings](#) are available [here](#).

In addition, the NCCAOM is working with the ASA on responding to federal agency comments such as the CDC, which are featured on the [NCCAOM website](#).

Watch [Latest News](#) on the NCCAOM website home page for all upcoming and to catch-up on recent past events.

### School Resources and Public Education Campaign

All school liaisons and officials are encouraged to visit the [School Official Resources](#) page to stay updated on information regarding certification, exam services and





procedures and latest news on policies that affect schools and students.

[The NCCAOM Press Center](#) is devoted to providing information to reporters and other interested parties with access to all information about the NCCAOM in one place. Information about our public education campaign and recent NCCAOM in the news can be found [here](#).

**NCCAOM Social Media Sites:** The NCCAOM continues to promote its Diplomates and the acupuncture profession via its [LinkedIn Page](#) as well as on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and our new Instagram channel. On these pages stakeholders can find events, news, research studies and activities related to Acupuncture Medicine. The most viewed, liked (👍) and shared posts are links to articles on the use of Acupuncture Medicine in treating illness and improving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. School officials are encouraged to submit content of interest to be considered for social media posting to Olga Cox at [ocox@thenccaom.org](mailto:ocox@thenccaom.org).

#### **Acupuncture Medicine Day:**

Please stay tuned for announcement on activities for AM Day 2022. We will be encouraging schools to sponsor events for this year's AM Day.

#### **NCCAOM School Liaison**

The 2021 *NCCAOM® Program Performance Reports (PPR)* were emailed on March 22, 2022, to schools who had placed their order. School administrators are reminded they can still order the 2021 PPR. The 2022 mid-year and year-end PPR reports may also be ordered now, by submitting the form that is available from the School Officials page [found here](#) on the NCCAOM website.



Olga Cox, Chief Operating Officer and Jennifer Nemeth, Director of Education & Professional Development have developed a “*Steps to NCCAOM® Certification*” teleconference for graduating students. The presentation assists graduating students in how to create an online NCCAOM account, submit an application, and tips to sit for the exams. Working with the students has been very successful and rewarding. If a school is interested in working with NCCAOM to provide the teleconference for their graduating class, please contact Jennifer at [jnemeth@thenccaom.org](mailto:jnemeth@thenccaom.org).

**Thank you for your support!**