



Diplomate Spotlight:

Ian Cyrus, D. Ac., MS, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)[®], Dipl. ABT (NCCAOM)[®], L.Ac.



The NCCAOM is pleased to introduce a former Diplomate who has recently returned to active status through the new Time-Limited Reinstatement Route. Ian Cyrus tells his story and why he felt it was important to reinstate his multiple NCCAOM certifications.

NCCAOM Question 1: What attracted you Acupuncture medicine?

Answer: I began martial arts training at age 10. My teachers in various disciplines would often make references to AOM as a basis to fully understand martial arts. I began my journey with Shiatsu under the tutelage of Saul Goodman, director of the International School of Shiatsu in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. I then had an extensive apprenticeship under Dr. Randall Carney, A Japanese trained acupuncturist. I was then able to participate in the NCCAOM exam. At that time apprenticeship was a viable route to certification.

Q #2: Where do you practice?

A #2: Currently, I am in private practice. My practice, Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Center is located at Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania.

Q #3: Initially, what was your impression of the NCCAOM as a newly Certified Diplomate?

A #3: When I first became an NCCAOM Diplomate in 1998, it was the only way to prove competency nationally beyond school and or apprenticeship.

Q #4: Why did you terminate your NCCAOM certifications.

A # 4: I terminated my certifications due to personal hardships. I simply could not afford to pay for CEU/PDA courses and certification.



A # 5: Why did I think it was important reinstate NCCAOM Certification?

A #5: It is important to maintain certification because, in most states it is required for licensure. It is also required by most Federal agencies and national programs such as the Veterans Administration (VA) and some insurance companies. National Board certification brings credibility to our role in the national healthcare community. Just about every healthcare profession requires board certifications and its maintenance through ongoing education (CEU's/PDA's).

Q #6: How easy was it to go through the NCCAOM reinstatement process?

A #6: It was not easy because I still had to meet established requirements such as CEU's/PDA's in key areas, current CPR certification, and Clean Needle Technique (CNT) update. Not to mention the cost of reinstatement. Nevertheless, it was worth it given the weight it carries.

Q #7: Do you have a subspecialty or special interest as part of your practice?

A #7: My practice focus is the treatment and management of myofascial pain and dysfunction and sports related injuries. My practice is an evidence based. I rely on randomized control trials (RCT) to guide my clinical decisions and inform my patients to gain their confidence.

Q #8: What trends do you see in the AOM profession?

A #8: I see inclusion in traditional medical care settings such as hospitals and clinics. I see parity with respect to participation in the nation's major insurance programs. I see full participation in Medicare and other government programs.

Q #9: What might someone be surprised to know about you?

A #9: I am a former FBI Special Agent and an ordained Buddhist Monk in the Seon (Korean) and Tien (Vietnamese) traditions.

Q #10: What do you do when you are not working?



A # 10: When I am not working, my time is spent parenting my son, teaching martial arts, and music (jazz piano).