MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)

MISSION

The mission of the NCCAOM® is to assure the safety and well-being of the public, and to advance the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM) by establishing and promoting national evidence-based standards of competence and credentialing.

VISION

AOM provided by NCCAOM credentialed practitioners will be integral to healthcare and accessible to all members of the public.

VALUES

Testing Excellence

Our organizational mission drives us to produce valid and reliable measurements of competence for the AOM practitioners who seek certification from us.

Integrity

We are committed to upholding basic societal norms of truthfulness and honesty in all our organizational words and deeds.

Trust

We are committed to promoting an organizational environment that allows those who work for the NCCAOM to rely on one another to accomplish the tasks required by our mission. We maintain the same commitment in our joint activities with other organizations with whom we collaborate for the betterment of the AOM community.

Leadership

We are committed to acting responsibly to advance the interests of the AOM community through our certification process. We understand our leadership to be inseparable from our mission of service to the public and to the AOM community.

Community

Volunteerism: We are committed to engaging AOM practitioners in the activities necessary to keep our certification exams and processes relevant to the state of the art of AOM.

Support: We are committed to being a responsible corporate member of the larger community in which we live.

Service

Public Protection: We are committed to safeguarding the public from practitioners who have not demonstrated their competence.

Public Benefit: We are committed to making reliable information available to the public that will help them enjoy the benefits of health services from competent AOM practitioners.

AOM Practitioners (Diplomates): We are committed to improving the reputation for excellence of AOM practitioners who have demonstrated competence through our certification processes.
A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO
A Year of Breakthroughs, Creations, and Partnerships
Kory Ward-Cook, PhD, CAE
NCCAOM Chief Executive Officer

I am proud to look back on an amazing, breakthrough year for NCCAOM. We continue to be an organization that has positively affected so many people and remains positioned to continue the growth of its internal and external capacity based on the decisions and groundwork of the Board of Commissioners, staff, vendors and subject-matter experts serving on the NCCAOM committees, taskforces, and panels.

The NCCAOM Vision Statement reads, “Acupuncture and Oriental medicine provided by NCCAOM credentialed practitioners will be integral to healthcare and accessible to all member of the public.” This new vision supports the integration of NCCAOM National Board-Certified Diplomates™. Three strategic goals emerged as a result of the new mission and vision statements:

1. Integrate NCCAOM credentialed providers into the United States healthcare system
2. Distinguish the NCCAOM as the expert source for acupuncture and Oriental medicine credentialing and competency standards
3. Expand the value of the NCCAOM credentials to assure and advance professional opportunities for NCCAOM Diplomates

In 2016, more momentum and breakthrough milestones for the AOM profession and NCCAOM occurred as a result of our intense efforts toward making progress on the organization’s published strategic goals:

• The California Acupuncture Board unanimously passed a motion to begin using the NCCAOM certification examinations no earlier than January 1, 2019.

The Academy was created within the NCCAOM to focus on expanded services and support for NCCAOM Diplomates throughout their careers.”

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• In July, a Federal Register announcement came forth stating that Acupuncturists will have a separate Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 29-1291) which will appear in the 2018 Occupation Handbook. This SOC will lay the groundwork to bring greater federal recognition of Acupuncturists, as data on this occupation will be systematically collected. For more information please see the BLS timeline and BLS Factsheet.

• In February, the Board of Commissioners passed a motion to form the NCCAOM® Academy of Diplomates. A separately chartered division, with its own Board, the Academy was created within the NCCAOM to focus on expanded services and support for NCCAOM Diplomates throughout their careers.

• Diplomates told us they want the NCCAOM to promote acupuncture and Oriental medicine through public education and advocacy, and to further inform the public and other healthcare providers about NCCAOM Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ as the most qualified to provide acupuncture treatments. As a result, the NCCAOM® Marketing and PR Plan was approved by the NCCAOM Board in February. The release generated coverage from many television, radio, newspaper and internet news sources. As a result of the public education campaign, the NCCAOM created a Press Center for all media to obtain information about NCCAOM, our Diplomates, as well as the practice of AOM. Be sure to follow the PR Campaign Status, which shows what has been posted on our NCCAOM social media sites, as press releases and on the website. 2016 saw 460 unique clip postings which resulted in 9,042,978 total prints in circulation which resulted in 562,445,460 unique visitors to these resultant publications or shared posts on social media.

• In our quest to help Diplomates integrate into the current healthcare system, NCCAOM created the Credentialing of Acupuncturists for Hospital-Based Practice: A Resource Guide for NCCAOM Diplomates, which is also a new Academy member benefit. The purpose of this guide is to assist acupuncturists who are interested in practicing in a hospital-based inpatient or outpatient setting which requires credentialing. A free download is available to NCCAOM Diplomates and Academy members. Download HBPT Guide.

• Partnerships have been a key tool to identify areas of collaboration such as public education and advocacy in which we can join forces to promote our medicine. As a result, several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) were created and signed in 2016 with the following entities:

  » American Society for Acupuncture (ASA): The NCCAOM continues to support the (ASA) through its work with state associations and an MOU has formalized our collaboration in various projects to include public relations and support for states.

  » European Traditional Chinese Medicine Association (ETCMA): We have been working with ETCMA through participation at events such as TCM Kongress in Germany, to promote AOM in the international arena and to collaborate on projects to benefit the unification of AOM with the European countries.

As we continue our progress, we move forward the accomplishments for 2016 so that we can build on our commitment to our Diplomates, to promote their credential and create more opportunities for them to expand their careers. We do this by challenging the status quo, being an agent of change and always searching for ways for improvements by adding value to our services. Change is a process, not an event. ▲
A Message from the Chair of the NCCAOM and the Chair of the Academy of Diplomates

Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl.Ac. (NCCAOM)®, Lac.
Chair, NCCAOM Board of Commissioners

Iman Majd, MD, MS, EAMP, Dip. ABFM, ABoIM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®
Chair, NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates

EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION
Since 1982, the NCCAOM has been conducting national board exams for acupuncturists. The NCCAOM is the only national board certifying agency for acupuncturists. The importance of this should not be taken lightly nor for granted. Having national board exams is a crucial element in educating the public, policy makers, legislators, and regulators. The American Medical Association and all of the individual specialty boards have done an amazing job of selling the concept that every consumer should seek a “board-certified” physician, to assure the best quality care they receive. Hospitals, clinics, and consumers all know they want a “board-certified” physician. This same demand for competency must be established for consumers seeking an acupuncturist. Board certification protects consumers by establishing minimum competencies for practice, and it protects practitioners from those who do not have the level of training necessary to demonstrate those standards.

The best protection for our profession is having national board standards. Regulators and employers appreciate simplicity and clarity. National evidenced based standards of competence and credentialing are imperative for confidence by consumers.

In early 2016, the Board of Commissioners established the NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates to allow the NCCAOM to expand the services it had been providing to Diplomates, who expressed a desire for “help with public education.” The Board of Commissioners agreed that the organization educate consumers, legislators and other healthcare professionals.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK
In July, the BLS (Bureau of Labor and Statics) announced a Standard Occupational Code for Acupuncturists (SOC 29-1291), to be published in the 2018 edition of the BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook. This was the culmination of years of work by the NCCAOM and supported by numerous AOM organizations and other individuals. Federal recognition of our profession as an independent profession allows for the potential for expanded job opportunities.

We continue to strive for excellence as we recognize the heavy responsibility we share in curating the NCCAOM and the Academy of Diplomates. »

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UNIFYING STANDARDS
In 2015, the California Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES), on behalf of the California Acupuncture Board (CAB), conducted an audit of the NCCAOM examinations and examination processes. NCCAOM staff, under the expert, diligent guidance of our CEO, fully cooperated in a thorough and professional manner. The audit report affirmed substantial equivalency between the California Acupuncture Licensing Exam and the NCCAOM exams. In June 2016, the CAB voted unanimously to adopt the NCCAOM exams for California licensure as early as 2019.

COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT
In January 2016, the NCCAOM held its first Ethics and Safety Symposium in Orlando, FL. The primary purpose was to help practitioners understand and manage the risks and obligations to maintain public safety and high ethical standards with the unveiling of a revised Code of Ethics.

NCCAOM staff met with state associations and state legislators on behalf of legislating acupuncture regulation in numerous states. The NCCAOM assisted both financially and with staff time and expertise with Kansas and Wyoming laws and rules promulgation.

The NCCAOM continues to develop and maintain communication with individual state acupuncture associations, the American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA) — a federation of many state organizations, as well as cultural professional organizations such as the American Traditional Chinese Medical Association. The NCCAOM continues to collaborate with organizations on specific projects where goals or objectives are aligned, such as co-sponsoring with ASA a representative at the International Standards Organization (ISO) meeting in Italy. The NCCAOM will send one of its commissioners to the 2017 ISO meeting in Hong Kong to ensure the international direction of acupuncture services is aligned with the interest and scope of practice of our licensed acupuncturists at home.

PUBLIC EDUCATION
Throughout 2016, the NCCAOM has continued to promulgate positive stories and press releases about the profession and benefits of AOM. In 2016 alone, the potential audience impact/exposure was over 128 million (Source: Echo Media). The promotion of the Find a Practitioner page on the NCCAOM and Academy of Diplomates websites has seen huge increases in the number of searches for Diplomates.

ADVANCING THE PROFESSION
The NCCAOM continues to hold its standards for excellence in continuing to maintain its own National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) certification. NCCA Standards were developed to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public. Certification programs accredited by NCCA must document adherence to essential elements of a high-quality, reliable program.

The Board of Commissioners has lofty aspirations for our profession in the coming years. We continue to strive for excellence as we recognize the heavy responsibility we share in curating the NCCAOM and the NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates. There are opportunities in the challenges and crises that we face as a country and our profession is uniquely suited to be a significant part of the solution. The time has come.

The best protection for our profession is having national board standards.
2016 Board of Commissioners

The 2016 Board of Commissioners included nine Commissioners (seven Professional members and two Public members) and a non-voting Chief Executive Officer.

Eugene London
Chair

David Canzone
Vice Chair

 Steven Kazmierczak
Treasurer

 Afua Bromley
Secretary

Kory Ward-Cook
CEO

Jan SteGermaine
Commissioner

 Zonglan Xu
Commissioner

 Iman Majd
Commissioner

Denise Hsu
Commissioner

Carl Jew
Commissioner
2016 NCCAOM Management

Kory Ward-Cook, PhD, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

Mina Larson, MS, MBA
Executive Deputy Director

Irene Basore
Director, Finance and Administration

Jennifer Nemeth, MEd
Director, Certification and Diplomate Services

James McHugh, MSAE
IT Manager

Pamela Frommelt, MS
Certification Exam Development and Assessments Specialist

Yvonne Sanders, MS
Certification Exam Development and Database Specialist

Olga Cox
Manager, Marketing and Diplomate Relations

Mark Garcia
IT Support Analyst

Melissa Dow
Executive Assistant

Ruosi Lee
PDA Assistant

Victor Lugo
Office Administrator

Stephanie Mills
Regulatory Affairs and Research Specialist

Ameera Ayubi
Credentialed Manager

Rick Robbins
Controller

E. Honestine Phillips-Williams
Finance Assistant

Tracey Cummings
Certification Services Coordinator

Heidi Wingate
Certification Services Coordinator
2016 Governance

Board of Commissioners
Eugene London, Chair
David Canzone, Vice-Chair
Steve Kazmierczak, Treasurer
Afua Bromley, Secretary
Kory Ward-Cook, CEO
Jan SteGermaine
Denise Hsu
Carl Jew
Iman Majd
Zonglan Xu
Mina Larson, Staff Support
Melissa Dow, Staff Support

Executive Committee
Eugene London, Chair
David Canzone, Vice-Chair
Steve Kazmierczak, Treasurer
Afua Bromley, Secretary
Kory Ward-Cook, CEO
Carl Jew, Member-at-Large
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison

Academy of Diplomates Executive Committee
David Canzone, Chair
Iman Majd, Vice-Chair
Steve Kazmierczak, Treasurer
Kory Ward-Cook, CEO
Mina Larson, Staff Support

Finance/Audit Committee
Steve Kazmierczak, Chair
Afua Bromley
Carl Jew
Jan SteGermaine
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Irene Basore, Staff Liaison
Rick Robbins, Staff Support

Governance Committee
David Canzone, Chair
Afua Bromley
Carl Jew
Iman Majd
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison
Irene Basore, Staff Support

Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee
Michael Taromina, Chair
Scott Cormier
Cathy Goldstein
Valerie Hobbs
Afua Bromley
Lisa Sumption, Guest
Stephanie Mills, Staff Liaison
Mina Larson, Staff Support

Eligibility Committee
Zonglan Xu, Chair
Afua Bromley
Christine Chiang
Denise Hsu
Gayl Hubatch
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Ameera Ayyub, Staff Liaison
Heidi Wingate, Staff Support

Recertification Committee
Jan SteGermaine, Chair
David Canzone
Denise Hsu
Maryanne Travaglione
Jennifer Stone
Bingzeng Zou
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Nemeth, Staff Liaison
Tracey Cummings, Staff Support

Council of Examination Development Committee
Maryanne Travaglione, CEDC Chair and Chair, ACPL EDC
Denise Hsu, ACPL EDC Board Liaison
David Miller, Chair — BIO EDC Chair
Daniel Jiao, FOM EDC Chair
Iman Majd, Board Liaison, FOM EDC and BIO EDC
Anne Jeffries, CH EDC Chair
Zonglan Xu, Board Liaison, CH EDC
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pam Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

Acupuncture with Point Location Exam Development Committee
Maryanne Travaglione, Chair
Denise Hsu, Board Liaison
Ruth Dalphin
Jonathan Daniel
Cui Han, Member
Juli Walls Olson, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

Foundations of Oriental Medicine Exam Development Committee
Daniel Jiao, Chair
Iman Majd, Board Liaison
Joan Boccino
Shaozhi Li
Janet Zand, Guest
Leslie MacKenzie-Graham Getty, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

Chinese Herbology Exam Development Committee
Anne Jeffries, Chair
Zonglan Xu, Board Liaison
Christine Chang
Yuxin He
Greg Carey, Member
Lamya Kamel, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

Public and Professional Recognition Awareness Taskforce
Afua Bromley, Co-Chair and Board Liaison & Jason Hao, Co-Chair
Marilynn Allen
Sheillie Goldstein
Daniel Jiao
Zhizhong Nan
John Scott
Janet Zand
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Olga Cox, Staff Liaison
Mina Larson, Staff Support

Biomedicine Exam Development Committee
David Miller, Chair
Iman Majd, Board Liaison
Janet Zand
Patricia Miller, Guest
Katherine Dang, Guest
Bahia Al-Salhi Olsens, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

PDA Advisory Panel
Zonglan Xu, Member and Board Champion
Eric Buckley, Member
Janet Borges, Member
Amy Seer, Member
Lorne Brown, Member
Cynthia Neipris, Guest
Virginia Heishman, Guest
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Nemeth, Staff Liaison
Ruosi Lee, Staff Support

Traditional Chinese Herbology Medicine Hospital Practice Taskforce
Iman Majd, Chair
William Egloff
Galina Roofener
Sheillie Rosen
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Nemeth, Staff Liaison

Chinese Herbal Dispensing and Compounding Safety Taskforce
John Scott, Chair
Jane Wilson
Michael McGuffin
Bill Egloff
Sheillie Rosen
Eric Buckley
Amy Seer
Steve Kazmierczak
Zonglan Xu
Jan SteGermaine
David Canzone
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Nemeth, Staff Liaison
The NCCAOM remains in a strong financial position as of December 31, 2016. The financial ratios continued to reflect a highly favorable position needed to sustain the organization’s programs and services to candidates, Diplomates, and other stakeholder groups with an increase in net assets of $277,282.

The NCCAOM maintained our required nine-month reserves as of December 31, 2016, as per NCCAOM governance policy. Net assets at the end of 2016 were $4,359 million. The NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates membership division was created, and a percentage of assets were earmarked for various projects to benefit Diplomates. All active Diplomates are members by virtue of certification maintenance (there are no membership fees).

As part of the NCCAOM public education and media campaign strategic initiatives, the NCCAOM expended $66,443 to increase the awareness of acupuncture and Oriental medicine and the visibility of NCCAOM certified Diplomates. This campaign promotes the NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ to the public, employers and other healthcare practitioners.

The Statement of Activities shows a total income of $4,041,150 which is an increase over 2015 total revenue of $3,941,559. The 2016 increase was primarily due to the higher number of Diplomates that recertified in 2016, as expected for their renewal cycle.

Accordingly, total expenses of $3,986,125 for 2016 are slightly lower than the 2015 total expenses of $3,993,284. The NCCAOM staff’s continued efforts to implement effective and efficient measures to control costs have also contributed to lower-than-budgeted total expenses. Figure 1 shows the total income, and Figure 2 demonstrates total expenses by major budget categories for 2016. Figure 3 shows the total income and expenses by major categories. The figures show the percent of revenue and expenses by major budget categories for 2016.

Figure 1: Total 2016 Income by Source

- Application Fees: 5%
- Examination Fees: 4%
- Recertification Fees: 20%
- PDA Provider Fees: 29%
- Administrative Fees: 42%

Figure 2: Total 2016 Expenses by Program

- Exams Administration: 23%
- Recertification: 31%
- Diplomate and Candidate Services: 11%
- Board and Committees: 17%
- External Relations: 14%
- General Administration: 4%

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Figure 3: Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets 2015 Compared to 2016: Year End December 31, 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Examination Fees</td>
<td>$1,627,490</td>
<td>1,702,250</td>
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<td>Practice Test Fees</td>
<td>20,555</td>
<td>440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Fees</td>
<td>941,878</td>
<td>804,860</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recertification Fees</td>
<td>1,066,385</td>
<td>1,170,040</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDA Income</td>
<td>211,683</td>
<td>221,836</td>
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<td>Publication Income</td>
<td>9,366</td>
<td>10,713</td>
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<td>Administrative Fees</td>
<td>64,202</td>
<td>131,011</td>
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<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
<td>$3,941,559</td>
<td>$4,041,150</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Examination Administration Costs</td>
<td>$1,492,833</td>
<td>1,242,715</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recertification Costs</td>
<td>433,051</td>
<td>425,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diplomate and Candidate Costs</td>
<td>561,978</td>
<td>662,828</td>
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<td>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</td>
<td>$2,487,862</td>
<td>$2,331,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPERATING REVENUE, NET</td>
<td>$1,453,697</td>
<td>$1,709,691</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board &amp; Committees Costs</td>
<td>278,569</td>
<td>563,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Relations Costs</td>
<td>132,136</td>
<td>162,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and Administrative Costs</td>
<td>1,094,716</td>
<td>929,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER INCOME</td>
<td>($51,724)</td>
<td>($55,025)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER INCOME (LOSS)</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$82,252</td>
<td>($222,257)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets</td>
<td>934,811</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OTHER INCOME (LOSS)</td>
<td>1,017,063</td>
<td>(222,257)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(1,066,877)</td>
<td>(277,282)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</td>
<td>$5,150,544</td>
<td>$4,081,756</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</td>
<td>$4,081,757</td>
<td>$4,359,038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year In Review – 2016 Highlights

JANUARY
- New revised Code of Ethics and Grounds for Professional Discipline went into effect.
- NCCAOM held its first Code of Ethics Symposium.

FEBRUARY
- Membership Organization “NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates” is born February 21, 2016.

MARCH
- Kory Ward-Cook and Eugene London presented NCCAOM at the ASA meeting.
- Kory Ward-Cook presented testimony at the Joint Oversight Hearing for the California Acupuncture Board on March 14, 2016.

APRIL
- Item Writing Workshop
YEARS IN REVIEW – 2016 HIGHLIGHTS continued

MAY
• Kory Ward-Cook, Mina Larson, and Afua Bromley attended ASAE Governance Leadership Workshop.

JUNE
• Kory Ward-Cook and Eugene London represented NCCAOM at CAB Meeting.

JULY
• Acupuncture earns unique occupational code from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
• Biomedicine Exam Development Committee met in Chicago.
• Chinese Herbology Exam Development Committee met in Chicago.

AUGUST
• NCCAOM Exhibit Booth at Florida State Oriental Medicine Association (FSOMA) in Tampa, FL.

SEPTEMBER
• Foundation of Oriental Medicine Exam Development Committee met in Chicago.

OCTOBER
• NCCAOM celebrated and launched AOM Day activities via the AOM Day website.

NOVEMBER
• Kory Ward-Cook and Mina Larson participated in the ICE Executive Summit in Utah.
Certification Activities

During 2016, there were 1,463 new certification applicants — a decrease of 240 applications compared to 2015. Figure 1 shows the number of new applications received per year between 2012 and 2016*. Approximately 90% of all individuals applying for certification with the NCCAOM are educated in the United States. The number of certification examinations administered between 2012 and 2016 for each examination module is shown in Figure 2. The number of English language exams administered increased in 2016 as compared to 2015 by 267. A total of 30 NCCAOM Chinese Foreign Language Examinations were administered during two, two-week administration periods in 2016.

Figure 1: Total New Applications for Certification by Year 2012 – 2016

![Figure 1: Total New Applications for Certification by Year 2012 – 2016](image)

Figure 2: Number of NCCAOM Examinations Administered by Exam Type: 2012 – 2016

![Figure 2: Number of NCCAOM Examinations Administered by Exam Type: 2012 – 2016](image)

continues
CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES continued

All states that regulate acupuncture (with the exception of California) require at least the passage of the Foundations of Oriental Medicine (FOM) and Acupuncture with Point Location (ACPL) examinations for licensure. Forty-six states plus the District of Columbia recognize NCCAOM certification or exams for licensure (see Figure 3) and 11 states require passage of the Chinese Herbology (CH) examination for licensure. Figure 4 shows the states that include CH in their scope of practice for acupuncturists. Currently, 32 states require passage of the Biomedicine exam in addition to the FOM and ACPL examinations. In order to protect the public, the NCCAOM works closely with state regulatory boards to add the requirement for passage of BIO and, for those states that have Chinese Herbology in their scope of practice, the CH exams for licensure.

### Figure 3: States Use of NCCAOM Certification or Exams for Acupuncture Licensure as of December 31, 2016

- **States that use NCCAOM Examination(s)**
- **States that require NCCAOM Certification**
- **States with No Acupuncture Practice Act**
- **California Licensing Examination**

*Chinese Herbology or Oriental Medicine certification is required to practice herbs
**Kansas AOM Practice Act will go into effect in 2017
***California will implement NCCAOM exams requirement no earlier than January 1, 2019

### Figure 4: States that Include Chinese Herbs in the Scope of Practice and Require Passage of the NCCAOM Chinese Herbology Examination as of December 31, 2016

- **States that include Chinese herbs in the scope of practice for acupuncturists**
- **States that include Chinese herbs in the scope of practice and require Chinese Herbology Exam**
- **States that don’t include Chinese Herbs in their scope of practice**
- **States that don’t have a Practice Act**

continues
CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES continued

Figure 5 shows the active NCCAOM Diplomates per state. The NCCAOM Find a Practitioner Directory is a useful tool to locate a certified Diplomate by city and state, or by ZIP Code. At the end of 2016, NCCAOM had 17,122 active Diplomates worldwide holding 18,547 active certifications. The NCCAOM maintains the State Licensure Requirement Table that shows requirements for state licensure in each state. Figure 6 shows the new certifications awarded from 2012 through 2016. There were 100 fewer new certifications awarded in 2016 compared to 2015.

Figure 5: Number of NCCAOM Active Diplomates Per State

Figure 6: NCCAOM New Certifications Awarded by Year for Each NCCAOM Certification Program 2012 – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acupuncture</th>
<th>Oriental Medicine</th>
<th>Chinese Herbology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTALS
2012 = 1,096
2013 = 1,138
2014 = 5,348
2015 = 959
2016 = 859

continues
CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES continued

Figure 7 shows the percentage of Diplomates due to recertify who completed the recertification process in a timely manner to maintain active certification status with the NCCAOM between 2012 and 2016. A total 4,602 recertification applications were received in 2016. The retention rate of active Diplomates recertifying in Acupuncture remained constant in 2016, while the percent of Diplomates recertifying in Oriental Medicine increased by 4.5% in 2016. Retention of Diplomates of Chinese Herbology certification dropped by 5% in 2016 compared to 2015. A Diplomate who does not complete the recertification process by their expiration date allows their certification to lapse. A former Diplomate in lapsed status who does not recertify within three years of their expiration date is considered terminated. The NCCAOM has discontinued the Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) certification exam, therefore Diplomates who allow this certification to terminate will never have the opportunity to reinstate this credential. Figure 8 illustrates that NCCAOM had 18,547 active certifications held worldwide by 17,122 active Diplomates by the end of 2016. The number of Diplomates certified in Oriental Medicine continues to grow.

Figure 7: Percentage of Diplomates Scheduled to Recertify Who Recertified 2012 – 2016

- Acupuncture
- Oriental Medicine
- Chinese Herbology
- Asian Bodywork Therapy

Figure 8: Active Diplomates in Each Certification Program 2012 – 2016

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016

TOTALS
- 2012 = 17,975
- 2013 = 17,873
- 2014 = 17,984
- 2015 = 18,247
- 2016 = 18,547
Examination Statistics

During 2016, the English language version of the Foundations of Oriental Medicine, Chinese Herbology, and Biomedicine certification exams were administered as computer adaptive examinations. Acupuncture with Point Location module was administered as computer linear exam. All examinations were administered at Pearson VUE Professional Test centers, and the exam scoring and psychometric analyses were conducted by Schroder Measurement Technologies (SMT®).

The examination statistics include data for the following groups of test takers:

- Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) First Time Test Takers (FTTT) are candidates educated in the United States at an accredited or school in candidacy for accreditation.
- International FTTT are candidates who are internationally educated.
- Apprenticeship FTTT are candidates who applied via the apprenticeship route of eligibility.
- School Repeat Test Takers (RTT) is another category of candidate statistics from schools accredited or in candidacy with ACAOM.

The NCCAOM certification exams, which were based on the new content outlines generated from the 2013 Job Analysis, were implemented in February 2014.

Figure 9 shows the consistency of the examination pass rates for all testers in Acupuncture with Point Location between 2012 and 2016. The pass rate for the Foundations of Oriental Medicine examinations decreased again in 2016. The Acupuncture with Point Location examination pass rate is significantly lower in 2016, which may be due to the exam being offered in linear format in 2016.
Professional DevelopmentActivities

Live presentations, both one-day and multi-day, continue to be the most popular courses submitted by NCCAOM PDA providers (as depicted in Figure 10). Conferences have held steady over the past four years. Bulk reviews provide a savings to the provider and continue to grow. As shown in Figure 11, the number of new NCCAOM PDA providers has maintained steady growth over the past three years.

![Figure 10: NCCAOM-Approved PDA Course Types 2013 – 2016](chart1)

![Figure 11: New NCCAOM PDA Providers 2014 – 2016](chart2)
Professional Ethics and Discipline

The function of the Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (PEDC) is to review disciplinary cases that involve our Diplomates, Candidates, and Applicants. Since 2011, a total 226 cases have been reviewed by the PEDC.

Figure 12 illustrates how the number of cases has dropped slightly in the past year, a continuation of the trend since 2014. The PEDC reviewed a total of 28 cases in 2016. This volume is attributed to the PEDC staff diligently cross-checking state disciplinary lists and bringing forth Failure to Report cases involving Diplomates who have failed to notify us of disciplinary action, criminal convictions, or other activities involving their fitness to practice. NCCAOM constituents and the AOM community are aware of the increased surveillance of their activities. In addition, NCCAOM has increased awareness of ethical issues by providing a live teaching symposium detailing common ethics violations and prevention in acupuncture practice.

Figure 13 highlights the different categories of cases from 2011 to 2016. In 2017, the NCCAOM will continue to focus on being proactive with the states to ensure that information is shared among all interested parties. Figure 13 also shows a decrease in almost all case categories. Of particular note is the large decrease in cases related to an administrative order from a school or professional association, which decreased more than 60% from 2015.