



NCCAOM Statement on the Term Oriental Medicine

December 2020

To our Valued Diplomates and Stakeholders,

We hope this letter finds you and yours safe and well.

Many organizations are taking this historical moment to reexamine their identity and culture and to renew and deepen their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. While there are a number of discussions happening within the acupuncture profession regarding these topics, we would like to provide you with our update on the usage of the word "Oriental" in our name.

The NCCAOM is committed to respecting the beliefs and identities of our diplomates, patients, and community. Our Board of Commissioners is actively reviewing the implications of a name change and we will continue to facilitate meaningful engagement with all of our stakeholders as we chart a path forward.

A decision to change our name must be based on a consensus from the profession. Any change would have many implications; one example being the regulatory impact on national and state regulations and statutes tied to the full name of our organization, "The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine."

A name change would require internal and external coordination across all levels of government and our profession, as well as with the public.

This process will take time and we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. In the meantime, many thanks to you all for your dedication to our medicine.

NCCAOM Board of Commissioners