



[www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org)

Accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies  
/ National Organization for Competency Assurance  
(NCCA / NOCA)

**BOARD ELECTION EDITION**

# THE DIPLOMATE

## Job Analysis Earns NCCAOM Place on Prestigious 'Honor Roll'



**New Oriental Medicine  
Certification and  
Modular Examinations**

**Ballot Enclosed  
Due by September 12**



National Standards of Competency for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

# THE DIPLOMATE

11 CANAL CENTER PLAZA, SUITE 300  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

## Board of Commissioners

Daniel Jiao, MS, Dipl. Ac. & CH  
*Chair*

Alice McCormick,  
MDiv, MOM, Dipl. Ac. & CH  
*Vice Chair*

Kabba Anand, Dipl. Ac. & CH  
*Treasurer*

Catherine Dower, JD  
*Secretary*

Bryn Clark, Dipl. Ac. & CH

Ruth Dalphin, MM, CA, Dipl. Ac. & ABT

Mike McKeown, MA, ThM

Qing-Yao Shi, Dipl. Ac. & CH

Helen Zhang, PhD, Dipl. Ac. & CH

Ben Shimberg, PhD  
*Emeritus*

## Staff

Christina S. Herlihy, PhD  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Debra Persinger, PhD  
*Executive Director, Operations*

Jessamyn Brown, MA  
*Director of Test Development*

Danae Busa  
*Administrative Assistant*

Amanda Chapman  
*Eligibility Specialist*

Michael Chung  
*Information Technology Manager*

Lynn Gardner  
*Administrative Assistant*

Tracey Holmes  
*Assistant Director of Administration*

Mina Larson  
*Special Assistant, Executive Office*

Denise Mackey  
*Director of External Relations*

Anne McChrystal, MAEd  
*Director of Recertification*

Andrea Peng, MS  
*Director of Data Management*

Betsy Smith  
*Director of Applicant and State Relations*

Christine Sousa  
*Director of Certification*

Neel Tenali  
*Director of Finance*

Nicola Williams  
*Director of Test Administration*

Alisha Workman  
*Assistant Director,  
Department of Certification*

## CEO Report ..... 3

## Board Report ..... 3

- Message from the Chair
- Boyd's Resignation Accepted with Much Regret

## SPECIAL SECTION: New Oriental Medicine Certification and Modular Examinations

Oriental Medicine Certification Program Introduced.....	4
Modular Examination Equivalency Chart.....	4
New Pre-Graduation Eligibility Requirements Announced.....	4
How Does the New OM Certification Program Affect Current Diplomates?.....	5
Job Analysis Results Published.....	5
Apprenticeship Route Not Accepted for Oriental Medicine Certification.....	6
Examination Modules Required for Certification.....	6
Remedial Education Eligibility Requirement Amended.....	6
Job Analysis Generates New Examination Content Outlines.....	6
New Fee Schedule Adopted.....	7

## SPECIAL SECTION: Election

Vote Using the Enclosed Official Ballot Cards.....	8
--	---

## FEATURE ARTICLES

Job Analysis Earns NCCAOM Place on Prestigious 'Honor Roll'.....	10
NCCAOM Code of Ethics Amended.....	10
HIPAA Update.....	11
NCCAOM Strategic Plan 2002-2007.....	11

## DEPARTMENTS

### News and Notes ..... 12

- New Card Provides Portable Verification of Certification
- NCCAOM Does Not Require Specific Courses for Recertification
- Staffing Update
- NCCAOM Announces New Policy on Combining Education
- Seeking 2003 AOM Day Spokesperson
- NCCAOM Cited in National Publication
- Disciplinary Action
- NCCAOM Administers Examinations Internationally..... 3

### Examination News..... 13

- NCCAOM 2004 Examination Schedule
- New Point Location Format Begins October 2003

### Request for Public Comment..... 14

- School Reports
- Apprenticeship

### Legislative Update..... 15

The Diplomat is a publication of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Editorial offices are at NCCAOM, 11 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314. Tel: 703-548-9004, Fax: 703-548-9079, Email: [info@nccaom.org](mailto:info@nccaom.org).

Contents copyright © 2003 by NCCAOM.

All rights reserved. The NCCAOM logo is a registered trademark of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and may not be copied or reproduced without permission.

Submissions may be addressed to the editor at the above address.



## CEO Report

NCCAOM's election to the American Society of Association Executive's (ASAE) 2003 Associations Advance America Honor Role is truly a matter of great pride! (See article *Job Analysis Earns NCCAOM Place on Prestigious 'Honor Roll'* on page 10.) This award program is described by ASAE as "...a broad awareness campaign designed to impress upon people the value of associations, both to their individual and corporate members and to the larger society." This campaign, "...help[s] spread the word about the many ways associations work to improve the quality of life in America today."



Christina S. Herlihy

ASAE is a membership society of 25,000, "... representing approximately 10,000 associations that serve more than 287 million people and companies worldwide, as well as vendors that offer products and services to the association community." Known as the "association of associations," ASAE is "dedicated to advancing the value of voluntary associations to society and supporting the professionalism of the individuals who lead them." One hundred and ten organizations have been elected to the 2003 Honor Roll. Considering the demographic numbers just cited, to be one of these 110 is no small matter. Additionally, as I look at the list of 110 associations that have been named to the Honor Roll, I am impressed by the fact that we are the only certification board on the list. Furthermore, only two other certification-related projects were honored by ASAE; one completed by a project management company, and another completed by the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA), **our accreditor**.

As I reflect on this award, the congratulatory note received from David Sale, Executive Director of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM), comes to mind. David wrote, "First, how wonderful, of course, for NCCAOM to achieve this recognition. Second, and more broadly, how wonderful for the entire field of AOM because the outstanding achievements, recognition, and leadership of one organization also greatly credits the whole."

Thank you, David, for highlighting this point for all of us! On behalf of the entire profession, I accept ASAE's award with great pride and celebration!

## NCCAOM Administers Examinations Internationally

In response to the growing interest and demand for NCCAOM certification programs, NCCAOM plans to administer its examinations in September 2004 in Argentina. Test administrations planned for China and Korea in 2003 had to be postponed due to the SARS crisis. Future international test dates will be published on NCCAOM's website.

To assess the level of interest from candidates who wish to test at an international site, please contact the Director of Test Administration at [nwilliams@nccaom.org](mailto:nwilliams@nccaom.org) and indicate the city and country in which you request a test site.

## Board Report

### Message from the Chair

As described in this issue of *The Diplomat*, NCCAOM is pleased to announce the introduction of the Oriental Medicine (OM) Certification Program. Our decision to offer this program is an excellent example of Diplomat participation guiding national policy.

Over 1,200 Diplomates responded to NCCAOM's 2002 Job Analysis Survey. If you did not participate in this survey, there are many other opportunities for you to help shape NCCAOM programs and policies, and thus, help shape the profession. The following are some examples:

- You currently have an opportunity to vote for three of the nominees seeking election to the NCCAOM Board. (You will find your ballot and information about the candidates on pages 8-9.)
- You may write items for NCCAOM examinations simply by going to [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org), clicking on the *For Diplomates* section, and then clicking on *Item Writer*.
- You may nominate yourself or others to serve on NCCAOM's examination committees or on task forces formed to address particular issues. (Volunteers should contact Mina Larson at [mlarson@nccaom.org](mailto:mlarson@nccaom.org).)
- As announced in the last issue of *The Diplomat*, NCCAOM has created an Academy of Item Writers, members of which will be appointed for two-year terms, receive customized item writing instruction, and be required to submit a specific number of proposed examination items each year. (Volunteers should contact Jessamyn Brown at [jbrown@nccaom.org](mailto:jbrown@nccaom.org).)
- Diplomates interested in being considered by the Nominating Committee for future Board openings should submit a letter of interest to Mina Larson at [mlarson@nccaom.org](mailto:mlarson@nccaom.org).

Please get involved because your contributions will make a difference!

### Boyd's Resignation Accepted with Much Regret

It is with much regret that NCCAOM accepted the resignation of David Boyd, PhD, LAc., Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. CH. Having served on the NCCAOM Board since 2001, Boyd resigned his seat due to expanding responsibilities at his place of employment.

During his two-year tenure on the Board of Commissioners, Boyd served in a number of positions. He was a member of the Finance, Eligibility, Nominating, and External Relations Committees. Most notably, Boyd served as NCCAOM Treasurer from 2001 to 2002.

"David played an integral role on the NCCAOM Board. His enthusiasm, intelligence, and experience benefited the NCCAOM in many ways," said NCCAOM CEO Christina Herlihy, PhD. "David will be greatly missed and remembered for his many contributions to the Board."

David Boyd earned a Dip.TOM from Pacific Institute of Oriental Medicine, a PhD from Yale University, and a BA from the University of Alabama, Birmingham.



Daniel Jiao



David Boyd



# Oriental Medicine Certification Program

## Oriental Medicine Certification Program Introduced

NCCAOM will inaugurate a new Oriental Medicine (OM) Certification Program at the end of this year. We will begin accepting applications in December from individuals who wish to earn the credential *Diplomate in Oriental Medicine (Dipl. OM)*. Our current programs in acupuncture, Chinese herbology, and Asian bodywork therapy will continue to be offered. The OM Certification Program will be offered for the following reasons:

- Almost 95% of the graduates of the population that we serve *now* earn a Master of Oriental Medicine (OM) degree (the majority degree awarded in the past was Master of Acupuncture);
- Graduates of OM degree programs currently have to earn three separate credentials if they wish to be credentialed in the various branches that fall under the OM umbrella (one in acupuncture, another in Chinese herbology and a third in Asian bodywork therapy);
- Because of the discrete and independent nature of our current certification programs, candidates are required to demonstrate competence in fundamental OM theory *each time* they sit for an exam in *each* of the programs that fall under the OM umbrella. This “re-demonstration” of proficiency is redundant and adds an unnecessary burden to both candidates and the NCCAOM; and,
- In our current system, those that become certified in the discrete branches of OM are subsequently required to *maintain* certification in *three* separate programs.

In addition to the above considerations, our recent job analysis survey revealed that 92% of respondents practice in the area of Chinese herbs. Unfortunately, our data shows that only one-third of those that certify in acupuncture return to demonstrate competence in herbs. In that our mission is to “protect and benefit the public,” our ability to offer a manageable, cost effective, “one-stop program” that would encourage applicants to certify in all areas of OM, *including Chinese herbology*, is seen as an action that is in the best interest of the public.

The NCCAOM is able to offer the new OM Certification Program at this point in time since, as part of the post-job-analysis reorganization of our exam content outlines, we are restructuring our examinations into a modular format. Under the guidance of Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP), and in consultation with our Job Analysis Advisory Panel and Examination Development Committees, we will offer five exam modules beginning in June 2004. These five modules reflect the major categories of OM practice as defined by the job analysis. Depending on the credential a candidate wishes to earn (Oriental medicine, acupuncture, Chinese herbology or Asian bodywork therapy), after meeting separate eligibility requirements, s/he will be required to complete the prescribed set of modular examinations that correspond with the desired credential. Again, this structure will allow those that wish to earn the OM credential to: (a) *not* have to re-test in fundamental OM theory three separate times; nor (b) recertify in three separate certification programs.

Various articles in this edition of the newsletter further explain the aspects of the OM Certification Program such as eligibility, examination modules and content outlines, fee structures, and how the new program may impact you. Further information will be available in the Candidate Handbook explaining the detailed components pertaining to each certification program.

## Modular Examination Equivalency Chart

Beginning in June 2004, all NCCAOM examinations will be offered in a modular format. The following chart is provided as a guide to assist you in understanding how the new modular system will replace our current exam format. It will also allow you to determine the equivalency of examinations that you may have already completed.

Current Format		New Modular Format
Acupuncture Comprehensive Written Examination	=	Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module (FOMM) Acupuncture Module (AM)
Point Location Examination (PLE)	=	Point Location Module (PLM)
Chinese Herbology Examination	=	Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module (FOMM) Chinese Herbology Module (CHM)
Asian Bodywork Therapy Examination (ABT)	N/C*	Asian Bodywork Therapy Examination (ABT)

N/C\* = NO CHANGE

## New Pre-Graduation Eligibility Requirements Announced

Under the Formal Education Route of Eligibility, applicants may apply to take NCCAOM's examinations as *pre-graduates* by documenting the completion of a minimum number of hours of education. (Note: Graduation from an accredited program is a requirement for certification.)

These new pre-graduation eligibility requirements will go into effect December 1, 2003 — the first day of the application cycle for the June 2004 examinations.

### Pre-Graduation Eligibility Requirements for Acupuncture

Applicants must document the completion of a minimum of 1,450 hours of education. This education must include a minimum of 1,100 didactic hours and 350 clinical hours.

### Pre-Graduation Eligibility Requirements for Chinese Herbology

Applicants must document the completion of a minimum of 2,000 hours of education. This education must include a minimum of 1,650 didactic hours (of which 350 hours are Chinese herbology specific) and 350 clinical hours.

### Pre-Graduation Eligibility Requirements for Oriental Medicine

To be approved for the *Foundations of OM, Acupuncture, Point Location, and Biomedicine Modules*, applicants must document the completion of a minimum of 1,450 hours of education. This education must include a minimum of 1,100 didactic hours and 350 clinical hours.

To be approved for the *Chinese Herbology Module*, applicants must meet the eligibility requirements for the *Foundations of OM, Acupuncture, Point Location, and Biomedicine Modules* **plus** complete an additional 350 didactic hours specific to Chinese herbology and an additional 200 clinical hours.



# Oriental Medicine Certification Program

## How Does the New Oriental Medicine Certification Program Affect Current Diplomates?

The year 2004 will be exciting and memorable for NCCAOM as we implement a new certification program in Oriental Medicine. Details on why OM certification is being offered can be found in this issue of *The Diplomat* on page 4.

The following information is provided to help current Diplomates better understand the implications of this new OM program. Please refer to our website as well as future candidate handbooks for further delineation of the OM certification program.

### If I am a Dipl. Ac., will I have the option of remaining a Dipl. Ac. after my current certification period?

- Yes

### If I am a Dipl. Ac. what must I do to become a Dipl. OM?

- Meet current ACAOM curricular requirement specific to Chinese herbology
- Pass the Chinese herbology module
- Pass the biomedicine module **OR** demonstrate completion of 45 educational units (one hour = one unit) in biomedicine, attained within six years prior to applying
- Demonstrate completion of 21 educational units (one hour = one unit) in bodywork, diet and exercise, attained at any point prior to applying
- Pay a \$300 application fee and applicable examination fees

### If I am a Dipl. CH, will I have the option of remaining a Dipl. CH after my current certification period?

- Yes

### If I am a Dipl. CH, what must I do to become a Dipl. OM?

- Pass the acupuncture module
- Pass the point location module
- Pass the biomedicine module **OR** demonstrate completion of 45 educational units (one hour = one unit) in biomedicine, attained within six years prior to applying
- Demonstrate completion of 21 educational units (one hour = one unit) in bodywork, diet and exercise, attained at any point prior to applying
- Pay a \$300 application fee and applicable examination fees

### If I am a Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. CH, will I have the option of remaining a Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. CH after my current certification period?

- Yes, but you will pay two recertification fees instead of just the one you would pay if you were a Dipl. OM

### If I am a Dipl. Ac. and a Dipl. CH, what must I do to become a Dipl. OM?

- Pass the biomedicine module **OR** demonstrate completion of 45 educational units (one hour = one unit) in biomedicine, attained within six years prior to applying
- Demonstrate completion of 21 educational units (one hour = one unit) in bodywork, diet and exercise, attained at any point prior to applying
- Pay a \$50 application fee and an examination fee, if you choose to test rather than complete educational units

### If I am a Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH, and Dipl. ABT, will I have the option of remaining a Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH and Dipl. ABT after my current certification?

- You may recertify as a Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. CH and Dipl. ABT, but you will have to pay three recertification fees instead of just the one you would pay if you were a Dipl. OM

### If I am a Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH, and Dipl. ABT, what must I do to become a Dipl. OM?

- Pass the biomedicine module **OR** demonstrate completion of 45 educational units (one hour = one unit) in biomedicine, attained within six years prior to applying
- Pay **NO** application fee. Pay examination fee, if you choose to test rather than complete educational units

### If I am a Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. ABT, will I have the option of remaining a Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. ABT after my current certification period?

- You may recertify as a Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. ABT, but you will have to pay two recertification fees instead of just the one you would pay if you were a Dipl. OM

### If I am a Dipl. Ac. and Dipl. ABT, what must I do to become a Dipl. OM?

- Meet current ACAOM curricular requirement specific to Chinese herbology
- Pass the Chinese herbology module
- Pass the biomedicine module **OR** demonstrate completion of 45 educational units (one hour = one unit) in biomedicine, attained within six years prior to applying
- Pay a \$50 application fee and applicable examination fees

### If I am a Dipl. CH and Dipl. ABT, will I have the option of remaining a Dipl. CH and Dipl. ABT after my current certification period?

- You may recertify as a Dipl. CH and Dipl. ABT, but you will have to pay two recertification fees instead of just the one you would pay if you were a Dipl. OM

### If I am a Dipl. CH and Dipl. ABT, what must I do to become a Dipl. OM?

- Pass the acupuncture module
- Pass the point location module
- Pass the biomedicine module **OR** demonstrate completion of 45 educational units (one hour = one unit) in biomedicine, attained within six years prior to applying
- Pay a \$50 application fee and applicable examination fees

### If I am a Dipl. ABT, will I have the option of remaining a Dipl. ABT after my current certification period?

- Yes

## Job Analysis Results Published

NCCAOM's award-winning Job Analysis of the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Profession, conducted in conjunction with Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP) will be published in its entirety on NCCAOM's website ([www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org)) in July 2003. This survey is the largest study of the OM profession in the United States. Questions regarding the Job Analysis may be directed to Jessamyn Brown at [jbrown@nccaom.org](mailto:jbrown@nccaom.org).



# Oriental Medicine Certification Program

## Apprenticeship Route Not Accepted for Oriental Medicine Certification

Individuals applying for certification in Oriental medicine must apply through the Formal Education Route of Eligibility. Although apprenticeship remains a route of eligibility for individuals applying for certification in acupuncture and Chinese herbology, *apprenticeship is NOT a route of eligibility for certification in Oriental medicine.*

Diplomates who have completed an apprenticeship for acupuncture and/or Chinese herbology certification(s) can apply for certification in Oriental medicine using their apprenticeship hours.

## Examination Modules Required for Certification

Beginning in June 2004, NCCAOM will convert from its current examination format to a modular system. It will offer the following menu of modules:

- Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module (FOMM) .....125 items
- Acupuncture Module (AM) .....90 items
- Point Location Module (PLM) .....25 items
- Chinese Herbology Module (CHM) .....120 items
- Biomedicine Module (BIOM) .....50 items

Candidates applying for NCCAOM certification in acupuncture, Chinese herbology, or the new Oriental medicine program, will be required to complete a prescribed set of examination modules in order to earn the desired credential.

The following table describes the examination modules that candidates must pass in order to attain certification.

NCCAOM Certification Program	Required Examination Modules
Diplomate in Acupuncture (Dipl. Ac.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module (FOMM)</li> <li>• Acupuncture Module (AM)</li> <li>• Point Location Module (PLM)</li> <li>• Biomedicine Module (BIOM)</li> </ul>
Diplomate in Chinese Herbology (Dipl. CH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module (FOMM)</li> <li>• Chinese Herbology Module (CHM)</li> <li>• Biomedicine Module (BIOM)</li> </ul>
Diplomate in Oriental Medicine (Dipl. OM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module (FOMM)</li> <li>• Acupuncture Module (AM)</li> <li>• Point Location Module (PLM)</li> <li>• Biomedicine Module (BIOM)*</li> <li>• Chinese Herbology Module (CHM)</li> </ul>
* Current NCCAOM Diplomates may either pass the biomedicine module OR demonstrate completion of 45 educational units (one hour = one unit) in biomedicine, attained within six years prior to applying.	

## Remedial Education Eligibility Requirement Amended

With the introduction of the modular system of certification examinations, effective June 2004, candidates will be required to attain fifteen hours of education and/or supervised clinical experience specifically related to the module *after* it has been failed three times in order to retest in that module.

## Job Analysis Generates New Examination Content Outlines

New content outlines resulting from the recently completed job analysis are announced for the menu of examination modules that will be implemented in June 2004. The outlines below will appear in greater detail in future candidate handbooks, as well as on the NCCAOM website.

Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module (FOMM) 125 items (3 hours)	
Content Categories	Approximate Item Allocation
1. Questioning	6%
2. Assessment	15%
3. Analysis and Diagnosis	35%
4. OM Treatment, Planning, Principles, and Strategies	39%
5. Professional and Safety Issues	5%

Acupuncture Module (AM) 90 items (2.5 hours)	
Content Categories	Approximate Item Allocation
1. Diagnostic Techniques and Treatment and Planning	41%
2. Treatment	41%
3. Treatment Evaluation	18%

Point Location Module (PLM) 25 items (1 hour)	
Content Category	Approximate Item Allocation
1. All acupoints may be assessed	100%

Chinese Herbology Module (CHM) 120 items (3 hours)	
Content Categories	Approximate Item Allocation
1. Planning and Treatment	65%
2. Implementation	14%
3. Safety	8%
4. Treatment Evaluation	13%

Biomedicine Module (BIOM) 50 items (1.5 hours)	
Content Categories	Approximate Item Allocation
1. Questioning	20%
2. Western Medical Assessment	60%
3. Legal, Professional, and Safety Issues	20%



# Oriental Medicine Certification Program

## New Fee Schedule Adopted

Associated with the introduction of the modular examination system in June 2004, NCCAOM fee structures have been modified and are announced in the Fee Schedule. These fees, along with a new system of payment remittance, will go into effect December 1, 2003 — the first day of the application cycle for the June 2004 examinations.

### Pay As You Go

For over 20 years, applicants have been required to pay the full application and examination fee when they submitted their application(s). With the introduction of the modular examination format, certification applicants *will only be required to pay the application fee at the point of application*. Once the review process has been completed, approved candidates will be notified regarding the modular examination components for which they are eligible to test. Candidates will then *pay the applicable fee(s) for each of the examination modules for which they register*. (Candidates do not have to register to take all examination modules at one administration; rather, they may choose to spread testing over the four-year life of an application.)

### OM Introductory Discount

As an incentive to encourage individuals to apply for certification in Oriental medicine, the NCCAOM Board has agreed to subsidize the cost of the Chinese herbology examination module by \$150. The discount will be offered for a period of two years. During that time, the Chinese herbology exam module will only cost the candidate \$110 instead of the regular fee of \$260, thus reducing the total cost of OM certification by \$150.

### Examination Retake Fees During Transition

Applicants who apply prior to December 1, 2003 and who must retake any examination module may do so at the current price OR the new price — whichever amount is lower — for one time only. After utilizing one retake opportunity per module, the NEW Fee Schedule will apply.

### Cost Savings

Applicants who previously applied for both acupuncture and Chinese herbology certifications can now demonstrate proficiency in these areas by attaining certification in Oriental medicine. Instead of applying for two separate certification programs, one can now apply for one program and recognize several hundred dollars in cost savings. *In addition, there is the added benefit of having to pay for only one recertification fee rather than for two or more.*

### Retake Fees

Currently, candidates who have to retake an examination pay only the actual cost of the examination. The administrative fees associated with reserving seats at test sites are borne by all applicants in the initial application fee. Under the new fee schedule, candidates who must retake any examination module will be required to pay the applicable examination fee(s) *and* a \$75 administrative fee for *each* module. This \$75 administrative fee incorporates a \$25 processing fee and a \$50 seat reservation fee.

### Diplomate Discount

Current Diplomates who wish to apply for certification in Oriental medicine can take advantage of the following discounts, as applicable:

\* Applicants actively certified in only one NCCAOM program may subtract \$250 from the application fee and pay an application fee of only \$300.

\* Applicants actively certified in two NCCAOM programs may subtract \$500 from the application fee and pay an application fee of only \$50.

\* Applicants actively certified in three NCCAOM programs pay NO application fee.

## Fee Schedule Effective December 1, 2003

Acupuncture		
Application Fee <i>Required when application submitted</i>	Examination Fees <i>Required when registration submitted</i>	Total
	Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module .....250	
	Acupuncture Module.....210	
	Point Location Module .....130	
	Biomedicine Module.....150	
\$375	+	\$740 = \$1,115

Chinese Herbology		
Application Fee <i>Required when application submitted</i>	Examination Fees <i>Required when registration submitted</i>	Total
	Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module .....250	
	Chinese Herbology Module.....260	
	Biomedicine Module.....150	
\$400	+	\$660 = \$1,060

Oriental Medicine		
Application Fee <i>Required when application submitted</i>	Examination Fees <i>Required when registration submitted</i>	Total
	Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module .....250	
	Acupuncture Module.....210	
	Point Location Module .....130	
	Biomedicine Module.....150	
	Chinese Herbology Module ..... (110)* 260	
\$550	+	\$1,000 = \$1,550 (850)* (\$1,400)*

\* Candidates applying for Oriental Medicine certification who test in Chinese herbology prior to December 2005 are entitled to an NCCAOM Board subsidized discount of \$150 on the Chinese herbology examination module. Thus, during the two-year discount period, the OM examination subtotal is \$850 and the total OM certification fee is \$1,400.

Asian Bodywork Therapy (NO FEE CHANGE)		
Application Fee	Examination Fee	Total
	Asian Bodywork Therapy Examination .....350	
\$400	+	\$350 = \$750



## Election - Vote Using the Enclosed Official Ballot Card



In this election, you have an opportunity to select individuals to fill three seats on the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners. Once elected, the new Commissioners will serve a three-year term and will be eligible for reelection to a maximum of two additional three-year terms.

### Seats One AND Two —

Diplomates may vote for two of the three individuals running for the practitioner member seats.

### Seat Three —

Diplomates may vote either “for” (Yes) or “against” (No) the incumbent candidate running in an uncontested election.

Only official ballots will be accepted. Illegible, incomplete, or incorrectly marked ballots will be discarded. All ballots must be *received by* the auditing company on or before September 12, 2003 in order to be counted.

### Bryn Clark, Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH

Bryn Clark was appointed to the NCCAOM Board earlier this year to fill the seat vacated by David Boyd, Dipl. Ac. & CH. Clark's appointment ends December 2003. Clark is in private practice in Beverly, Massachusetts; has served as a lecturer in Chinese herbology for the Tai Sophia Institute in Maryland and for the Academy for Five Element Acupuncture in Florida; and wrote Pennsylvania's first Oriental medicine degree program as a consultant to the Won Institute for Graduate Studies in Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Acupuncture Society of Massachusetts and the past president of the Acupuncture Society of Pennsylvania. Clark earned an MAC from the Traditional Acupuncture Institute (now the Tai Sophia Institute) and a BA from Tufts University.



**Bryn Clark**  
Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH

#### Personal Statement:

*My appointment to a vacated seat on the Board six months ago has allowed me the opportunity to learn the complexities of the NCCAOM, and I have been able to make significant contributions of my expertise in areas needed by the Board. My knowledge of Japanese and Five Element styles brings a key “minority” representation, and my experience as a former shiatsu practitioner and teacher of Chinese herbology has aided the development of new Oriental Medicine modular exam components. I hope to be re-elected in order to put my political experience to work in further defining optimal standards for acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioners that will foster unity within the profession, establish our medicine as a central form of U.S. health care, and achieve parity with other medical professions.*

### Robert John Stine, Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH

Robert Stine is Medical Director of the Lodge Adolescent Unit at Four Winds Hospital in Katonah, NY. He is licensed to practice acupuncture and medicine in New York.

Stine holds an MTOM degree (2000) from Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, an MD degree (1983) from the New York Medical College and a degree in Human Behavior and Institutions (1977) from the University of Chicago. He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, and cites “graduating PCOM” and “opening my OM practice” as career highlights.



**Robert Stine**  
Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH

#### Personal Statement:

*I have been in the ‘Western’ world of adolescent psychiatry for 20 years. Six years ago I was sitting a ‘Morbidity and Mortality’ meeting, where western docs try to figure out why a patient died. They examine evidence down to microscopic levels. What struck me was their determination to discover why the patient died so it wouldn’t happen that way again. Dying somehow broke the rules of their game, and they were confused. Something vital was missing from that discussion, something which I now know as ‘Qi.’ It was the search for the missing piece that led me to study Asian medicine and pursue my MTOM.*

*My bias in Asian Medicine is traditional, which may seem odd coming from a western background. Whether I see psychiatric or medical patients, my diagnosis starts with the ten questions and is always deeply rooted in the tongue and pulse. For me, western medicine is the complementary medicine to be used in cases of emergency. In a time where there is a rush to blend these two medicines, I see each of their strengths as unique and feel strongly that their traditions should be kept separate and each nourished as a cherished friend.*



## Election - Vote Using the Enclosed Official Ballot Card



### Bo Thomas Ost, Dipl. Ac.



**Thomas Ost**  
Dipl. Ac.

Thomas Ost is an acupuncturist and researcher at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Shadyside Hospital and UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, both of which are in Pittsburgh, PA. He also has a private practice in Washington, PA and is licensed as an acupuncturist by the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine.

Ost has a master's degree in TCM from Yo San University in Los Angeles (1998) and pre-med degrees from SSVN in Norrkoping, Sweden (1994) and Santa Monica College in Santa Monica, CA (1993). He is a member of the

American Association of Oriental Medicine.

Ost lists several career highlights, including a *Natural Health Magazine* survey published in December 2001 in which Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh was ranked fourth among U.S. hospitals offering acupuncture and complementary medicine. At the time, Ost was the only acupuncturist working at Allegheny General. Other career highlights cited by Ost include: obtaining inpatient privileges at UPMC Presbyterian and Shadyside Hospitals; serving as NCCAOM's national practitioner spokesperson at AOM Day events held at the National Press Club and in other media venues; and working with professional athletes in Pittsburgh.

#### Personal Statement:

*I will continue to bring the message of the Board forward, strengthen its foundation, and work toward building relationships within the profession and, more importantly, throughout the medical community as a whole.*

*To build a strong profession, we need to build a strong bridge and speak a language that is both concise and educational. I would like to strengthen the understanding and importance of clinical research in our schools and in the acupuncture community. Our profession is routinely challenged in the media and the medical community relative to the efficacy and scientific basis of our outcomes. In working with physicians and other health care providers, the need for dialog has become more evident to me and has been a motivating factor for me when considering running for a seat on the Board. The opinion that acupuncture has no scientific basis is painful to me, and the view that TCM is a placebo effect needs to change. These are just a few of the areas where I would like to work collaboratively with community and professional groups to bring about awareness and growth to our profession.*

### Kabba Anand, Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH



**Kabba Anand**  
Dipl. Ac., Dipl. CH

Kabba Anand is the President of Ohana-Hale Acupuncture, Inc., based in Maui, HI. He is the founding Director and President of Acuplan Hawaii, Inc., which is Hawaii's first Acupuncture Independent Practice Association (IPA) and serves on the medical staff of the Maui Memorial Medical Center.

Anand studied acupuncture at Southwest Acupuncture College in Sante Fe, NM and the Oriental Medical Institute of Hawaii, and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Antioch College in Yellow

Spring, OH. He is a professional affiliate of the Society for Acupuncture Research and a member of the American Association of Oriental Medicine (AAOM) and Hawaii Acupuncture Association (HAA).

Anand has researched and drafted legislation reintroducing acupuncture coverage under Motor Vehicle Insurance in Hawaii, which became law in 1997. He chaired the Steering Committee for the proposed Department of Complementary Medicine, Maui Memorial Hospital, which led to medical staff privileges for acupuncture, chiropractic, naturopathy and massage. Anand served as a member of the Acupuncture Advisory Board: Physical CAM Therapies for Chronic Low Back Pain Project, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (under the direction of Dr. David Eisenberg).

Currently, Anand serves as Treasurer of the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners and served as Chair of the Board from 1999 to 2002. He has also chaired the OM Task Force as well as the External Relations and Review and Discipline Committees.

#### Personal Statement:

*I am honored to have served NCCAOM for five years. I have witnessed extraordinary growth and transformation during my tenure. I have been called upon to sit as Chair for three years and gained new skills and understanding during that time. I participated in the NCCAOM Job Analysis Advisory Committee, and chaired two meetings of the Oriental Medicine Task Force. I continue to devote much of my time and energies to support the growth and integration of AOM locally, nationally, and globally. I look forward to a final term as Commissioner, participating in the completion of projects currently in process and working with the exceptional team of staff and Commissioners serving NCCAOM.*



# Features

## NCCAOM Code of Ethics Amended

Amendments to the NCCAOM Code of Ethics were adopted by the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners in May 2003.

One of the crucial obligations of an NCCAOM Diplomate is to abide by the Code of Ethics at all times. This is why NCCAOM has always updated the Code of Ethics to reflect new regulations that take place at the state and federal levels, as well as changes within the OM profession.

The NCCAOM Code of Ethics is printed in its entirety below. Items listed in bold lettering represent the recently approved changes.

### NCCAOM CODE OF ETHICS

All practitioners certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine must be committed to responsible and ethical practice, to the growth of the profession's role in the broad spectrum of American health care, and to their own professional growth. Candidates for certification agree to be bound by the NCCAOM Code of Ethics.

#### Commitment to the Patient

##### I will:

1. Respect the rights, dignity, and person of each patient.
2. Render to each patient the highest quality of care and make timely referrals to other Oriental medicine providers or health care professionals as may be appropriate.
3. Avoid treating patients when my judgment or competence is impaired by untreated chemical dependency or physical or mental incapacity reasonably believed to be hazardous to the safety of the patient.
4. Accept and treat all those seeking my services in a nondiscriminatory manner.
5. Keep accurate records of history and treatment and respect the confidentiality of those records or any other personal information imparted by the patient in accordance with law, **including compliance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Rules implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).**
6. Keep the patient informed by explaining treatments and outcomes and avoid making promises with regard to outcomes that will create inappropriate expectations.
7. Follow the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulations regarding the protection of human subjects in research studies and clinical trials (45 CFR Part 46).
8. Follow U.S. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Office for Protection from Research Risks, National Institutes of Health, Revised September 1986).

#### Commitment to the Profession

##### I will:

1. Continue to work to raise the standards of the profession.
2. Use appropriate professional mechanisms to report ethical and professional practice violations.
3. Maintain the highest standard of ethical and professional practice to the benefit of my patients and the profession.
4. Provide accurate, truthful, and nonmisleading information in connection with any application for licensure, certification, or recertification.
5. Answer all questions in any examination based only on my own knowledge at the time, with no cheating.
6. Report to NCCAOM or appropriate licensing authorities any information I have or obtain about any violations of the code of ethics, including but not limited to the providing of false, inaccurate, or misleading information or cheating by myself or others.

#### Commitment to the Public

##### I will:

1. Provide accurate information regarding my education, training and experience, professional affiliations, and certification status.
2. Refrain from making public statements on the efficacy of Oriental medicine that are not supported by the generally accepted experience of the profession.
3. Respect the integrity of other forms of health care and other medical traditions and seek to develop collaborative relationships to achieve the highest quality of care for individual patients.
4. Refrain from any representation that NCCAOM certification implies licensure or a right to practice unless so designated by the laws in the jurisdiction in which I practice.
5. Use only the appropriate professional designations for my credentials.

### Job Analysis Earns NCCAOM Place on Prestigious 'Honor Roll'

NCCAOM is once again in the spotlight for achieving a prestigious award for its 2002 Job Analysis. The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) informed NCCAOM that it has been elected to the 2003 Associations Advance America Honor Roll, which is a national awards competition sponsored by the Washington DC-based association.

NCCAOM's 2002 Job Analysis is the largest survey ever conducted of acupuncture and Oriental medicine practice in the United States. "Fulfilling our mission to protect and benefit the public, NCCAOM, in consultation with Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP), will use the results of the survey to guide the exam development process that supports our certification programs in acupuncture, Chinese herbology, Asian bodywork therapy, and Oriental medicine," said NCCAOM CEO Christina Herlihy, PhD. "We are thrilled to receive this award and we will continue to set the standard of excellence in the Oriental medicine arena."

Now in its 13th year, the coveted ASAE awards program recognizes associations that propel America forward — with innovative projects in education, skills training, standards-setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship, and community service. Although association activities have a powerful impact on everyday life, they often go unnoticed by the general public, according to ASAE.

ASAE President Michael S. Olson commended the work that has been completed by NCCAOM and encouraged them to continue with their *winning programs*. He added, "NCCAOM's program truly embodies the spirit of the Associations Advance America campaign. It is an honor and an inspiration to showcase this activity as an example of the many contributions associations are making to advance American society."

The ASAE award certificate received by NCCAOM appears on the front cover.



# Features

## HIPAA Update

NCCAOM has recently received numerous calls from concerned Diplomates about the application of HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) to their practices. In an attempt to alleviate the confusion surrounding the HIPAA requirements, this article will briefly describe the most salient features of this act in an attempt to assist our Diplomates in complying with this important regulation.

HIPAA was enacted to serve three purposes: (1) to make health insurance more portable for individuals who change jobs; (2) to simplify healthcare record keeping by requiring standardization and eliminating paper work through the use of unique health identifiers that HIPAA will create; and (3) to enhance patient privacy and confidentiality.

Implementation of the first two components of HIPAA will have immediate relevance to those **Diplomates who, for insurance reimbursement purposes, electronically submit one or more of the following eight categories of information:**

1. Claims submissions
2. Enrollment checking
3. Eligibility verifications
4. Healthcare explanation of benefits
5. Health plan premium payments
6. Health claims status
7. Referral certification and authorizations
8. Coordination of benefits

If you perform any of the above submissions electronically, you qualify as a "covered entity" under HIPAA; therefore, you must abide by all of its regulations. You would also be included if you hire a third party to perform these duties. If you fall into this category, the national HIPAA standards will also require that you use an authorized coding system to file claims.

In January of this year, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) approved the use and testing of "ABC (Advanced Billing Concept) codes" as a proposed modification to the HIPAA standards. ABC codes are similar to CPT and CSPCS Level II codes currently used by physicians and other healthcare practitioners, but according to Alternative Link, the company that created the codes, the ABC codes do a better job of describing alternative medicine, nursing, and other integrative healthcare practices. The deadline to petition for the right to use ABC codes was May 29, 2003, but interested practitioners are encouraged to log onto [www.alternativelink.com](http://www.alternativelink.com) where they will be guided as to how they may still register to use these codes.

The final portion of HIPAA, which addresses privacy protection and patient rights, is the most crucial, and applies to all healthcare providers to some degree. All NCCAOM Diplomates should be aware of the requirements pertaining to patient privacy and rights since noncompliance can result in fines and penalties. These new rules regarding patient privacy became effective April 14, 2003 and are currently being enforced. Below is a description of the rights:

- Patients are entitled to see a copy of their records.
- Patients are entitled to receive a copy of their records.
- Patients are entitled to make an amendment in the file to their patient health information.
- The practitioner has a right to deny inclusion of amendments in the patient's file.
- The patient has a right to disagree with the practitioner's refusal of inclusion.

## NCCAOM Strategic Plan 2002-2007

In September 2002, the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners and executive staff convened for a strategic planning session in Richmond, VA. Under the guidance of Knapp and Associates of Princeton, NJ, the following strategic plan for the next five-year period was developed and adopted:

### Public Protection

NCCAOM will strive to develop innovative programs to protect the public on matters relating to the safe practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine.

### Quality Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Certification Programs

NCCAOM will continuously strive to improve its certification and recertification programs, including developing new services for applicants, candidates, and Diplomates.

### NCCAOM Certification Recognition

NCCAOM will promote NCCAOM credentials to the public and other key stakeholders.

### Legislative and Regulatory Relations

NCCAOM will work to achieve and maintain recognition and understanding of the NCCAOM credentials in United States jurisdictions at the federal, state, and local levels.

### Professional Relations

NCCAOM will foster professional relationships with related organizations and other stakeholder groups.

### International Opportunities

NCCAOM will track and evaluate international opportunities and promote NCCAOM credentials to the global community.

- The practitioner has a right to rebut the patient's disagreement, but at any time a file is sent out, a copy of that rebuttal must be included.
- The patient has a right to a privacy notice from the practitioner providing care. (The patient can object to certain information given to him/her in the privacy of his/her office, and the practitioner can comply with this or refuse to treat the patient.)
- Among the many forms that a practitioner must use is an authorization form that must be signed by the patient any time information is given out about the patient for purposes other than billing.

According to the HHS, "Whether a practitioner is a 'covered entity' or not, they must maintain privacy by ensuring that they have established policies and procedures, which includes training their staff to protect patient privacy." Part of this responsibility also consists of maintaining client files in a secure and safe place that is only accessible by staff members who have been fully trained and are knowledgeable of the HIPAA privacy regulations.

It is the responsibility of each practitioner to fully understand the HIPAA requirements and to comply accordingly. This article serves only as an informational piece to familiarize the Diplomate with some aspects of HIPAA. For more information about HIPAA, you can access the HHS web page at [www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/). If you would like further clarification regarding the ABC codes, you can contact Dale Miller at Alternative Link at (505) 875-0001 ext. 206 or [www.alternativelink.com](http://www.alternativelink.com).



## News and Notes

### New Card Provides Portable Verification of Certification

In March of this year, NCCAOM began sending wallet-sized identification cards with the letter notifying Diplomates of their certification or recertification.

The card contains the Diplomate's name, credential awarded, certification number, and certification expiration date. These identification cards are being sent in addition to the certificates, which normally take six to eight weeks to print.

"Growing numbers of Diplomates are moving out of their one-person offices to provide treatment in hospitals, clinics, prisons, and other centers, and the new wallet-sized card provides them with an identification they can conveniently carry at all times to demonstrate their NCCAOM certification," commented NCCAOM CEO Christina S. Herlihy, PhD.

Diplomates who are not applying for recertification in the near future and wish to request an identification card now, may do so by completing the ID Request Form that will appear on our website. Please note that there is a \$5 service charge. The \$5 fee will also apply to those requesting a replacement card. Contact Danae Busa at [dbusa@nccaom.org](mailto:dbusa@nccaom.org) or (703) 548-9004, ext. 3290 for more information.



### NCCAOM Does Not Require Specific Courses for Recertification

Currently, some institutions and/or individuals are offering courses to Diplomates stating that these courses are required by NCCAOM for recertification. ***NCCAOM advises Diplomates that these courses are NOT a mandatory requirement for NCCAOM recertification.***

At this time, NCCAOM does not label a course as a "requirement" for recertification; rather, all courses in the area of acupuncture and Oriental medicine that meet NCCAOM's continuing education guidelines count towards the 60 PDA points necessary for recertification.

On its website, NCCAOM lists more than one-hundred programs that have been pre-approved and determined to be acceptable for PDA points. Periodically, new programs are added to the list, which can be found at [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org) under the heading "Continuing Education Providers." (*Please note: courses that are not pre-approved by the NCCAOM may also be acceptable.*)

NCCAOM also reminds Diplomates that, at present, the requirements for recertification are the same as they have been for the past 20 years, with just one exception — as of November 2002, Diplomates are no longer required to satisfy a practice requirement. Prior to that time, in order to be recertified, Diplomates needed to demonstrate the completion of 60 PDA points *and* had to practice at a minimum level of 250 patient visits during at least one 12-month period in the preceding four years.

As reported in the last issue of *The Diplomat*, a subcommittee of the NCCAOM Board is considering all the perspectives on recertification standards that the Board has received over the past two years. Diplomates are encouraged to visit [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org) for regular updates about recertification and to submit comments to [info@nccaom.org](mailto:info@nccaom.org). (Please type RPF in the email subject line.)

### NCCAOM Staffing Update

Mina Larson currently holds the position of Special Assistant to the Executive Office. In this capacity she handles special projects as well as media relations. Prior to joining NCCAOM, Larson served as the executive assistant to former California Governor Pete Wilson. Her experience also includes working for the California legislature for many years as a media spokesperson and legislative aide. She is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento with a dual degree in Journalism and Government and has completed two years of law school at the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



Mina Larson

Danae Busa joined NCCAOM as an Administrative Assistant, working primarily in the Recertification Department. Busa is a 2002 graduate of the College of William & Mary where she earned her BA in East Asian Studies while also editing an international studies journal, working on a variety of projects to increase the diversity of the student body, teaching traditional Filipino dances, and playing rugby. She came to NCCAOM after studying for a semester at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. The daughter of a U.S. Foreign Service officer, Busa spent much of her childhood abroad in Panama, Honduras, South Korea, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.



Danae Busa



## News and Notes

### NCCAOM Announces New Policy on Combining Education

Effective immediately, candidates applying for certification under the Formal Education Route of Eligibility, who have earned **degrees** in acupuncture and Oriental medicine from accredited as well as non-accredited schools, may complete the coursework that will allow them to meet NCCAOM's **current hour and curricular requirements** at ACAOM-accredited or candidate schools.

The supplemental education cannot exceed 450 hours and may be obtained at more than one ACAOM-accredited or candidate school. All applications in this category will be reviewed by NCCAOM's Eligibility Committee.

This policy will apply to applicants who have gone through a Foreign Education Credential Review and been denied for insufficient hours, **as well as** applicants who have completed a U.S. acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine program that does not meet NCCAOM's current hour and curricular requirements.

### Seeking 2003 AOM Day Spokesperson

NCCAOM is seeking a high-profile spokesperson to participate in 2003 AOM Day activities. Last year's participation by Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Kris Benson and his acupuncturist, Thomas Ost, Dipl. Ac., was very successful. If you have a high-profile client that you believe would make a good spokesperson — with his or her permission — please submit your suggestion to NCCAOM. For additional information, please contact Betsy Smith at [bsmith@nccaom.org](mailto:bsmith@nccaom.org).

### NCCAOM Cited In National Publication

*The Washingtonian* magazine's June 2003 edition contained an article entitled *Watch Your Back*. The author suggested that those suffering from back pain seek relief from qualified health-care practitioners. NCCAOM was cited as "one of the...most respected associations for acupuncturists," and readers were directed to the NCCAOM website to access a list of qualified practitioners.

### Disciplinary Action

NCCAOM reserves the right to take disciplinary action against certified practitioners. Disciplinary actions that may be taken include, but are not limited to: (i) ineligibility for certification or recertification; (ii) probation pending completion of specified conditions such as monitoring, counseling, or remedial education; (iii) written reprimand (formal expression of disapproval retained in the Diplomat's file but not publicly announced); (iv) censure (formal expression of disapproval that is publicly announced); (v) suspension of certification for a designated period; or (vi) termination/revocation of certification.

In accordance with NCCAOM's disciplinary procedures, the following actions have been taken:

- Philip A. Argus - cert. # 000195 - probation until April 2, 2004
- Albert C. Chow - cert. # 008006 - certification suspended
- Carolyn Jaffe - cert. # 001857 - certification suspended until April 30, 2005
- William H. Lee - cert. # 002420 - certification suspended until April 2, 2006
- Jian Min Lu - cert. # 005142 - probation until March 19, 2004

Additional information regarding the NCCAOM Disciplinary Program and Code of Ethics is available on the NCCAOM website, [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org).

## Examination News

### NCCAOM 2004 Examination Schedule

Exam Date	Application Deadline*	Registration Deadline
February 21-22, 2004	November 21, 2003	January 4, 2004
June 19-20, 2004	March 19, 2004	April 30, 2004
October 16-17, 2004	July 16, 2004	August 27, 2004

**\*All application materials, including supporting documents and fees, must be postmarked no later than the application deadline.**

### New Point Location Format Begins October 2003

The Point Location Examination (PLE) Development Committee met in June 2003 with NCCAOM's testing contractor, Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP), and NCCAOM staff, in preparation for the introduction of the new PLE format. In the last issue of *The Diplomat*, we reported that a new Point Location Examination (PLE) will replace the current format in October 2003. This new and improved format eliminates the use of adhesive labels, reduces the flipping of test booklet pages, and provides the preprinted location of acupuncture points on a series of diagrams that candidates must identify from a list of approximately 390 points.

Like the PLE format that has been used to date, the new format recognizes the fact that, in some cases, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Five Element Theory have different locations for the same point. If such points appear on the exam, the two different locations will be shown on the relevant diagram so that students of both theories can be tested for their knowledge of point location.

In consultation with subject-matter experts, the NCCAOM Board, and several professional testing companies, NCCAOM was able to develop a point location examination that is comparable to the current format. Additionally, this format has been reviewed and tested by several focus groups, including Diplomates in Acupuncture who had taken the current PLE in the past two years, and candidates taking the PLE for the first time.

More information on the new format is available on our website, [www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org). Click on "New Point Location Examination (PLE) Format Approved" in the right hand corner under the heading, "What's New."

For those applying for the October 2003 PLE administration, the application deadline is July 25, 2003 and the registration deadline is September 5, 2003. The submission of all application materials, including supporting documents and fees, must be postmarked no later than July 25, 2003.



## Public Policy

### Should individual school reports showing performance on NCCAOM examinations be made available to the public?

The NCCAOM wishes to solicit comments from interested parties regarding the public release of reports that describe student performance on NCCAOM examinations by school.

Reports outlining performance on NCCAOM examinations are currently distributed on an annual basis to acupuncture and Oriental medicine schools in the United States, and with the school's permission, to the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM). These reports describe cumulative pass/fail and first time testing/retake information for candidates from each of the schools. Individual candidate confidentiality is always protected and schools only receive data pertaining to their own students/graduates.

In considering this issue, the Board asks that the following points be considered:

- The NCCAOM's responsibility to protect and benefit the public.
- Whether the task is better performed by another organization. If so, by whom and how?
- Should the release of information be limited to certain groups (e.g., licensing boards, CCAOM member schools, non-accredited schools, prospective students calling for information, school ranking lists published by the media).

The Board values the perspectives shared by the professional community on matters that relate to standards of quality and competence. Please send all comments and correspondence to:

PUBLIC COMMENT — School Reports  
 NCCAOM  
 11 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 300  
 Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Fax: 703-548-9079  
 e-mail: [info@nccaom.org](mailto:info@nccaom.org)  
*(be sure to put PUBLIC COMMENT — School Reports in the subject line)*

### Should NCCAOM eliminate the apprenticeship route of eligibility for certification in acupuncture, Chinese herbology, and Asian bodywork therapy by June 2007?

The NCCAOM wishes to solicit comments from interested parties regarding the elimination of the apprenticeship route of eligibility by June 2007. A June 2007 closing date means that individuals entering an apprenticeship after June 2004 would no longer be eligible for certification. Elimination of the apprenticeship route would also close the combination route of eligibility, thus resulting in only one avenue to certification — that is, formal education.

The NCCAOM Board has decided that the apprenticeship route of eligibility will not be available for its new Oriental medicine program, which will be introduced in December 2003. The only exception is that NCCAOM Acupuncture and/or Chinese herbology Diplomates previously certified via the apprenticeship route of eligibility will be eligible for OM certification.

In considering this issue, the Board asks that the following points be considered:

- NCCAOM's responsibility to protect and benefit the public.
- Is apprenticeship training better suited to particular branches of Oriental medicine?
- If apprenticeship remains as a route of eligibility, should it be limited to apprenticeships completed in the United States?

The Board values the perspectives shared by the professional community on matters that relate to standards of quality and competence. Please send all comments and correspondence to:

PUBLIC COMMENT — Apprenticeship  
 NCCAOM  
 11 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 300  
 Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Fax: 703-548-9079  
 e-mail: [info@nccaom.org](mailto:info@nccaom.org)  
*(be sure to put PUBLIC COMMENT — Apprenticeship in the subject line)*

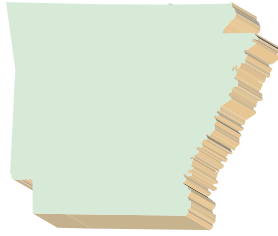


# Legislative Update

*NCCAOM has responded to the following state issues:*

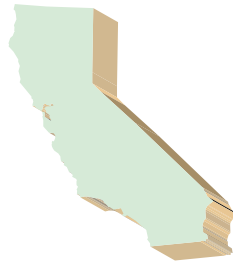
## Arkansas

NCCAOM presented testimony regarding SB115. We testified in opposition to this legislation that would allow a non-accredited examination to be recognized as an alternative to the national examination. SB115 died in the House Committee, which means that Arkansas will continue to require the passage of the NCCAOM examinations in acupuncture and Chinese herbology.



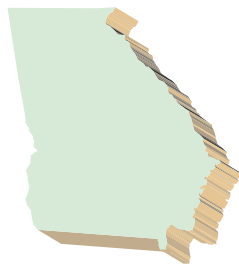
## California

The Milton Marks Little Hoover Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy is in the preliminary stage of evaluating our national examination in acupuncture as a replacement for, or as an addition to, the California examination. We provided information to James Mayer, Executive Director of the Little Hoover Commission, on NCCAOM history, accreditation, examination development and other areas of importance, to familiarize Mr. Mayer with our organization. We are looking forward to the assessment and possible adoption of national standards by the State of California.



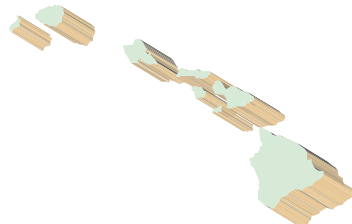
## Georgia

A letter was submitted to the Georgia State Acupuncture Association to comment on a proposal to consider authorizing chiropractors to practice acupuncture with as few as 300 hours of acupuncture education. Staff participated in a conference call in May with the Georgia Acupuncture Advisory Committee of the Composite Board of Medical Examiners to provide information and respond to questions.



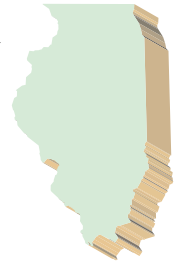
## Hawaii

Information was provided to the Board of Acupuncture regarding the formal education route of eligibility and the foreign education credentials review process.



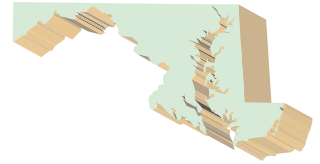
## Illinois

Legislation is pending in Illinois that would ban the use of ma huang (ephedra). The Illinois State Acupuncture Association requested a letter of support from NCCAOM that would allow NCCAOM Diplomates to continue to use ma huang as part of their treatment modalities.



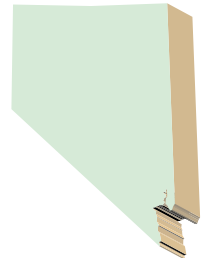
## Maryland

We testified in support of SB117, which would have changed Maryland law to require both graduation from an accredited school and passage of the national examination in acupuncture. Maryland currently requires *either* graduation from an accredited school or the passage of the national examination.



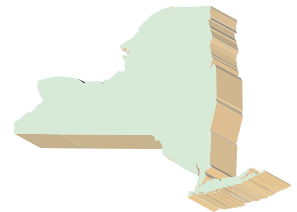
## Nevada

Information was provided regarding the comprehensive nature of the NCCAOM examinations to both the Assembly and the Senate Commerce and Labor Committees in response to Bill AB21. Information was provided on the new modular examination format, particularly the module on biomedicine, and the OM certification. Nevada currently requires the NCCAOM acupuncture and Chinese herbology examinations.



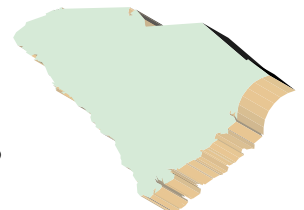
## New York

Information was submitted to Senate and Assembly Higher Education Committee members at the request of Diplomat Michael Gaeta, Chairman of the Acupuncture Society of New York (ASNY) regarding two bills that would have allowed podiatrists or chiropractors to practice acupuncture with as few as 300 hours of training.



## South Carolina

NCCAOM submitted testimony in support of Bill H.3891 that modifies existing legislation to allow NCCAOM certified acupuncturists to practice acupuncture independently without supervision or referral from a medical doctor or dentist. South Carolina already requires NCCAOM certification in order to obtain a license to practice.





# Legislative Update

## Virginia

We responded to a request from the Acupuncture Society of Virginia regarding House Bill 2221. Information was provided to the Virginia Board of Medicine, Advisory Board on Acupuncture, regarding NCCAOM policies and procedures for foreign education credentials review. Staff attended a meeting of the Advisory Board on Acupuncture in May to answer questions concerning NCCAOM requirements for certification through the formal education route of eligibility. Staff also reported on the new format of the Point Location Examination and the modular examinations scheduled to be introduced in 2004.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Argentina

Mario Schwartz, the representative from the Argentina College of Acupuncture (the body that reviews and licenses acupuncturists in Argentina), met with NCCAOM staff to discuss the possibility of bringing our examination to Argentina for licensure purposes. Mr. Schwartz has proposed September 2004 as the month in which to administer the examination in Argentina for the first time and we shall be working with him over the next few months to negotiate the terms of such an agreement.

### Ontario Association of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine

Prompted by a media report of a public health problem in Ontario, Canada, allegedly due to acupuncture, NCCAOM contacted the President of the Ontario Association of Acupuncture to discuss the possibility of using the NCCAOM acupuncture examination program in Ontario. We submitted a follow-up letter with further information on our certification programs that will be reviewed as they begin to establish regulations for the licensure of acupuncturists.



**THE DIPLOMATE**  
 11 CANAL CENTER PLAZA, SUITE 300  
 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314  
[www.nccaom.org](http://www.nccaom.org)

PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Merrifield, VA  
 Permit No. 6068