



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and the American Society of Acupuncturists

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM®) and the American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA). This MOU describes the good faith intentions and expectations of the NCCAOM and the ASA on which both plan to rely; this MOU is not a binding legal contract.

1. The NCCAOM is a national certification organization that promulgates standards and criteria for the practice of Acupuncture Medicine* and administers examinations to candidates for NCCAOM Diplomate certification status. In addition to conducting the above services, NCCAOM also provides services such as public education or advocacy to promote NCCAOM National Board Certification as the standard for competency at the state and federal level. The NCCAOM is not a voluntary membership organization and does not charge membership dues.
2. The ASA is a national professional society comprised of member state associations representing the Licensed Acupuncturist (or state equivalent) group. It promotes the highest standards of practice among this group in the United States. The organization includes but is not limited to, NCCAOM Diplomates. ASA charges membership dues for its services. The ASA will not develop national certification programs. The ASA may promote inclusion of its members into state and federal programs independent of NCCAOM certification status.
3. The NCCAOM and the ASA will each independently offer programs, activities, events, communications and publications to their respective members and stakeholders.
4. The NCCAOM and the ASA will have opportunities to work together on joint programs, activities, events, communications, and publications of mutual interest that advance and promote the profession. Such mutual endeavors may be subject to separate written understandings between the NCCAOM and the ASA.
5. Joint projects of the ASA and the NCCAOM will be directed together by the CEO of the NCCAOM and the Chair of the ASA and all assignments to staff, volunteers and consultants will be directed by the ASA Chair and NCCAOM CEO.

6. The ASA and the NCCAOM will work together to plan and promote activities for Acupuncture Medicine Day, (Oct 24), and the AM Day website.
7. The ASA and the NCCAOM will share their respective resources for the collective pursuit of acupuncturists to be recognized as Practitioners under Medicare to maximize job opportunities and provide a mechanism for continued growth of the acupuncture medicine profession in the US medical system.
8. The NCCAOM employs professional lobbyists and agrees to make these individuals available for consultation to the ASA when working on collaborative federal legislative efforts.
9. Neither the ASA nor the NCCAOM shall have any presumed financial exchanges or project investments between the organizations without a separate, written agreement.
10. Representatives of the leadership of the NCCAOM and the ASA will meet regularly, either in person or virtually, during a time mutually convenient, and no less frequently than once per month, to discuss collaborative projects and initiatives. The ASA Chair and the NCCAOM CEO will assign who is to participate in these meetings from each of their respective organizations depending on the project. The ASA and the NCCAOM will meet once per year to review the terms of this MOU and to update it as needed.
11. This MOU is effective as of the date of the last signatory and is for a term of one year.
12. Any changes to this MOU require at least 30 days' written notice to the other party, as well as the other party's written approval.
13. Either the NCCAOM or the ASA may terminate this MOU upon at least 30 days' written notice to the other party.

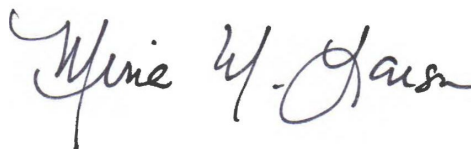
Signatures:



Olivia Hsu Friedman, DACM, LAc

ASA Chair

Date: 11/22/2020



Mina M. Larson, M.S., MBA, CAE

NCCAOM CEO

Date: 11/23/2020

*ASA and NCCAOM are aware of the need to change the term "Oriental". We have replaced Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day with Acupuncture Medicine Day for now until we have the profession's input and agreement.