

AZ Acupuncture Board Quarterly Newsletter

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AZ Acupuncture Board of Examiners,
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You can apply for a vacant seat on the Board at bc.azgovernor.gov

The Boards Mission

The mission of the Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Arizona by regulating and maintaining standards of practice in the field of acupuncture.

2019 Meeting Schedule

September 25, 2019 - Flagstaff
October 23, 2019 - Tucson
November 27, 2019

Board Members

Jamie Fitzgerald – Acupuncturist, Chairperson
Mario Fontes – Acupuncturist, Secretary
Mindy Hayden – Acupuncturist Member
Tali Lehavi – Public Member
Susan Williams – Public Member
Rosemary Zimmerman – Licensed Chiropractor
Vacant – Public Member
Vacant – Acupuncturist
Vacant – Licensed per chapter 8, 13, 14, 17 or 29

Meet the Board

Chairperson Jamie Fitzgerald, LAc

I hold a Master's degree of science in traditional Chinese medicine and was honored to complete my internship at the prestigious Zhejiang Medical University in Hangzhou China. During my internship, I specialized in TCM Internal medicine, Acupuncture, Tui Na, and Gynecology.

Currently, I am chairperson of the State of Arizona Acupuncture board of Examiners as well being both a locally & nationally board accredited practitioner. I am also a certified continuing education provider for both The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork and The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine.

I began my journey in whole body medicine 18 years ago by earning my Reiki Masters in the Mikao Usui Lineage of the Japanese healing method. While practicing Reiki I attended ASU for my undergraduate studies. Soon after I began at the Southwest Institute for the Healing Arts became certified as a Master massage therapist & Natural aesthetician.

Wanting to further dedicate my life to the study of natural health, I moved to California and earned a Master's degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine, from Five Branches University in Santa Cruz, CA.

Since returning to Arizona to practice, I have founded both The Healing Point Acupuncture & Herbal medicine clinic and Desert Sage Wellness Center in Ahwatukee AZ. Along with my amazing business partner, Mindy Hayden, I have co-founded both East Valley Community Acupuncture Clinic in Gilbert, AZ as well as Wise Phoenix Continuing Education.



Secretary Mario Fontes, DACM, LAc, CCH

Dr. Fontes is the Clinic Director at Natural Medicine and Detox in Phoenix Arizona. He is classically trained in Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, Neuro Linguistic Programming, Colon Hydrotherapy, Clinical Nutrition, Laboratory Assessment and Detoxification strategies.

Dr. Fontes serves on both the Arizona State Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medicine Examiners & State of Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners. He is clinical Faculty at the American Medical College of Homeopathy and Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture.



Online Renewals

As you may know the Board has gone ONLINE with Initial License Applications and Renewals allowing you to file applications online and pay for them with your debit or credit card or e-check at www.elicense.az.gov/ . To log in for the first time you will need a security code which was sent to you in May and June last year. If you need the code again contact the Board and we would be happy to provide it to you.

You may also request duplicate license certificates, license verifications, and address changes through "Service Requests" on the website. All correspondence from the Board will come through email in the future including, renewal notices, expiration notices, license renewal Stubs, etc.

We are working with our vendor to improve the system and increase the functionality. If you have any comments or suggestions do not hesitate to email us.

Licenses/Certificates Issued

April

Jennifer Aquilina	Jeanette Campbell	Talib Schwartz
Suzana Rizvanolli	Carol Kessler	Sara Hansen
Jennifer Treadwell	Susan Williams - Auricular Certificate	Russell Hausstee - Auricular Certificate

May

Kirsten Jacob	Cherron Dow- Chacon	Jose Tomas
Inna Engler	Brennan Vandeveld	Tamara Aukon
Robin Jackson	Keith Simmons	Cyntha Miller Potter - Auricular Certificate

June

June Meeting Cancelled		
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Chemical Dependency Programs (CDP)

Current Statute requires that Auricular Acupuncturists operate only in a Chemical Dependency Program approved by DHS or by this Board.

However, DHS does not approve treatment programs and a prerequisite of licensure with DHS is that the agency must be Medicare-approved. As acupuncture is still viewed by Medicaid, Medicare, and most private insurance companies as complementary, integrative, or alternative medicine, it is generally not a covered service and so many of these agencies do not offer auricular acupuncture as a treatment option.

In light of the opioid epidemic that has become a serious public health concern nationally and here in the State of Arizona, the Board has decided to set forth specific criteria chemical dependency programs that wish to seek approval from the Board that can provide auricular acupuncture services through the employment of an auricular acupuncture certificate holder under the supervision of a licensed acupuncturist.

The Board has already approved three chemical dependency programs which are listed on the website. An application for approval can be found along with requirements for approval on our website at: <https://acupunctureboard.az.gov/chemical-dependency-programs>

Nursing Board Advisory Opinion

The Arizona Nursing Board scope of practice committee has recently approved Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners to perform "Acupuncture treatment to the appropriate patient population as outlined in [their] advisory opinion." The advisory opinion requires "Documentation of satisfactory educational requirements from an approved acupuncture training program"

The Advisory Opinion closes by stating: "Acupuncture can be safely performed by an APRN with specialized training, skills, ongoing training and knowledge in acupuncture thus ensuring patient safety and the use of acupuncture treatment protocols that are empirically based. The clinical discipline of acupuncture is practiced by a trained APRN who has met the criteria for both the General Requirements and Course of Instruction.

This advisory opinion **CAN NOT** be construed as approval for the APRN to use the title "Licensed Acupuncturist" as defined in A.R.S. §32-3923"

A copy of the advisory opinion can be found on their website at: <https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/AO%20Acupuncture%20Procedures%20Performed%20by%20APRNs%2001.30.2015.pdf>

Legislation of Interest

SB-1062

Requires that the Board have an "Address of Record" for every licensee and certificate holder that may be disclosed to the public. You are also required to have an email address or phone number on file with the Board to be provided to a patient who is seeking medical records.

HB-2118

Requires the Board to regulate the unauthorized (unlicensed) practice of Acupuncture or Auricular Acupuncture and makes it a class 5 felony to practice without a license/certificate. It also provides requirements for the Board when an allegation of unlicensed activity comes in.

HB-2569

Creates a new "Universal Recognition" licensing path where an applicant who established residency in Arizona and who holds an active license in good standing in another state and who has never had a license disciplined may gain licensure here after having submitted license verifications and completing a Fingerprint background check and without providing all of the regular documentation for licensure such as transcripts, CNT Certificate, etc.

This legislation does not allow individuals from other states to work in Arizona without an Arizona License

SB-1086

Authorized the Board to issue a temporary license to a qualified individual to work in this state on a short-term basis for teaching a course, seminar or class, working during the process of receiving a full and active license, working while traveling with a sports or athletic team or providing free services during a declared state or national disaster.

Disclaimer

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Your input is valuable to us. If there is something you feel would help to be included in this newsletter please email the Board office.

Quick Tip

License Certificates are required to be posted in a conspicuous location in the reception area of your place of employment. When you receive your renewal notification stub by email you should cut out the small square with the updated expiration date and place it in the corner of your wall certificate to update the Certificate.

Did you Know?

R4-8-103. Change of Mailing Address, E-mail Address, or Telephone Numbers

Licensees and Certificate Holders shall notify the Board, in writing, within 30 days of any change of mailing address (giving both the old and the new address), e-mail address, or residential, business, or mobile telephone number. Failing to do so may result in an allegation of unprofessional conduct.

R4-8-502. Recordkeeping

An acupuncturist shall:

1. Make a complete, legible, and accurate record of each patient to whom an acupuncture treatment is given. The acupuncturist shall ensure that a patient record is in English and includes:
 - a. Name of the patient,
 - b. Patient history,
 - c. Dates of treatment,
 - d. Treatment given, and
 - e. Progress made during acupuncture treatments; and
2. Maintain a patient record for six years after the last treatment of the patient or as prescribed at A.R.S. § 12-2297, whichever date occurs later.