



What's happening at the College of Acupuncturists of Alberta

Update for Members

December 2023



As 2023 draws to a close, and I look back on the previous year, I find myself feeling grateful for Council and my staff for all of their work in achieving the accomplishments we've seen this year.

Some of the highlights that stick out to me include publishing our first Strategic Plan and Business Plan; holding our first townhall; producing and publishing a variety of educational videos for our members; developing, consulting on, and publishing new Standards of Practice; developing an updated Code of Ethics; and surveying members and students on registration renewal, the continuing competence program, and exams and implementing improvements based on the results.

My hope is that our members have seen a positive impact from these initiatives as well.

Please take a moment to read the items below, which illustrate some of our most recent work here at the College.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Erin Stroud
Executive Director & Registrar



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ACUPUNCTURE PROFESSION



Colleges and Associations
Our History and Who We Are Today

What We Do

A deeper understanding of the difference between a College and an Association empowers acupuncturists to more effectively navigate their profession, including when questions or concerns may arise.

[Watch this short 3-minute video](#) to understand more about this history and what it means to you.

Who We Are

Ever wonder what your membership fees are used for?

The College uses membership fees to fund programs and services that ensure safe, effective, and ethical care.

This increases public confidence in acupuncture services and reassures regulated members that other acupuncturists in their field are expected to operate in a manner that upholds the integrity of their profession.

[Watch this short 5-minute video](#) below to learn more about what we do.



What We Do

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

College Closed December 25-January 1

During the Christmas season, the College will be closed from Monday, December 25 to Monday, January 1, with staff returning to the office on Tuesday, January 2.

On behalf of myself, my staff, and the Council, I would like to extend warm wishes to all of our members for a wonderful holiday season.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Visiting Schools

In early October, I met with leaders at all educational institutions that offer acupuncture programs in Alberta. These meetings allowed us to share information on emerging events in the profession and to provide additional context to the schools on the Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examinations.



Helping Prepare Students for their Acupuncture Career

On October 5, I had the pleasure of presenting to acupuncture students in their final year of study at Grant MacEwan University. Students learned more about the role of the College in their future profession, ethics, and the importance of the Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examinations.

I was impressed with the students. They asked intelligent questions and had a clear enthusiasm for acupuncture. I am confident about the future of the profession.

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



We have submitted our 2022-23 Annual Report to the Minister of Health and have also published it on the College's [website](#).

I encourage any member who is interested in the activities at the College to take a look. It includes information on our Regulatory Committees, exam and registration data, an update on our business goals, and more.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Jenney White Hearings Director and Corporate Services Coordinator



I am pleased to announce that Jenney White has been positioned to the College's Hearings Director. In her new position, she will also carry on with some of her duties in her previous role as the Registration and Examination Coordinator.

With a tenure since September 2017, Jenney has gained a lot of expertise in many program areas at the College. Jenney strives for excellence through meticulous planning, organization, and effective communication.

She is currently pursuing the Foundations of Administrative Justice Certificate, and her commitment extends to serving on the CARB-TCMPA Appeals and Accommodations Committee.

Beside her professional realm, Jenney is a devoted single parent to two daughters, a dog, and a cat. Outside her work, she finds joy in her passion for animals, drawing, gardening, and bike rides with her daughters.

I have full confidence that Jenney will excel in her new role.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Regulatory Committee Members

I am also happy to announce our new Regulatory Committee Members that were appointed in March 2023.

Regulatory Committee members play a critical role at the College: they contribute their two most precious resources - time and expertise - to make a tangible and meaningful impact on the future of the College and the acupuncture profession in Alberta. They have a positive impact on ensuring public safety and in helping the quality of life for Albertans fortunate enough to utilize acupuncture.

I extend a gracious thank you to all of our Committee members below:

Acupuncture Education Program Review Committee

Lindsay Babcock
Heather Fulker
Jaeger Gustafson
Xinning (Cindy) Huang
Sarah Martins
Jingxin Sun*

Competence Committee

Helen Anderson
Ming Wai Chan
Tammy Lalonde
Veronica Lee
Siying Wu

Complaints Review and Hearings Committee

Skye Van Munster
Shaomei Shen
Jiulin Wang
Lacey Wigness
Tamara Dolinsky*
Chelsea Roth*

Registration and Exam Committee

James Chung
Echo Dawn Houle
Katherine Talbot
Shengping Zhao
Kathryn Kurash*
Betty Lew*

* Newly appointed in October 2023

A WORD FROM COLLEGE STAFF

Congrats to Our New Acupuncturists



Frank Yeh
Director of Competency and Education

This year, the College held two Alberta Acupuncturists Registration Examinations (AARE) sessions--one in April and another in October. I would like to recognize the training institutions and all of the students who challenged the exams for their hard work and dedication.

The College values transparency. To that end, see below for some statistical information regarding this year's exams.

- Number of students who challenged one or more exam(s) in 2023: 106
 - o Number of students who challenged exams in April: 72¹
 - o Number of students who challenged exams in October: 53¹
- 2023 AARE pass rates² were:
 - o Pan-Canadian Exam: 85%
 - o Safety Exam: 100%
 - o Modalities Exam: 91%
 - o Acupuncture Points Exam: 80%
- The pass rate for the two 2023 national Pan-Canadian exams was 85%.
- For the October exam sittings, the Pan-Canadian exam returned to in-person testing. Candidates reported a better experience at the in-person testing centres (80% reported a good/very good experience) than the previous candidates who took their test via online proctoring (59% good/very good).
- 74 candidates are eligible to register following the 2023 exams.

We also conducted exam surveys after both exam sittings. Thank you to all candidates who take the time to provide their thoughts. We will be using what we learned to continue to improve future exams.

A special congratulations to all students who passed the exams and are expected to become acupuncturists early next year! We look forward to working together with you to improve the health of Albertans through acupuncture.

¹ There are students who challenge exams in multiple sessions. Reasons include retaking exams or challenging some components in each session.

² Pass rates do not include retake candidates.

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