

## OBAA FAQs

### **What is the OBAA? And is it open to practitioners outside of Canada?**

As on November 15<sup>th</sup>, the OBAA is officially an international society.

The OBAA was originally created 5 years ago as the Canadian association of Oriental Obstetrical Medicine (CAOOM). Our aim was to connect practitioners who worked with pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum.

The OBAA has been lucky enough to get some amazing [international advisors and research contributors](#), which has fortunately led to enough international interest to change our association officially to the Obstetrical Acupuncture Association (OBAA) and launch as an international society.

### **In your opinion, why should a practitioner consider joining the OBAA? What are the benefits?**

Members benefit from access to our members only section, which is where we archive the latest obstetrical/perinatal acupuncture research, classical cases and commentary, current obstetrical guidelines, as well as educational videos and roundtables. They also join our email forum, which is a great place to discuss difficult cases or ask questions. The OBAA is also here to defend the perinatal/obstetrical acupuncture scope of practice.

### **How does a practitioner apply?**

We have 2 streams. General membership and Senior membership. Click on the [membership application](#) tab and fill out the form at the bottom of the page. A membership director will contact you from there.

### **Why is there an exam?**

We promise, this is not a licensing exam! It is an **open book**, 100 question exam. The main intention of doing the exam is to insure a base level of knowledge before joining the group. This then becomes more about colleagues sharing information and makes the forum much more interesting. If you have been working in this field, you will not have a problem with the exam. There may be a few questions that you need to look up, but we like to think that it will act as a learning experience.

### **How and where do I have to go in order to sit the exam?**

Luckily, we have made this an online exam. Once you apply, we will send a link to the exam, where you will have 3 hours to write it once you are ready.

### **Why do I need birth knowledge if I don't plan to attend (or can't attend) births?**

This is a very fair question. I imagine that many of our members won't be attending births.

No matter what part of pregnancy you treat, the outcome is always a healthy labour and childbirth, as well as a healthy mother and child. Chinese medicine is not a reductionist system, we treat the whole. Even if we don't attend a birth, it is important to insure the patient has a healthy one. To do this, it is important to understand what really happens during labour, so that you can prepare and support your patients for a healthy one.

Just like learning about IVF or cancer treatments, a practitioner always benefits the more information they have.

**Why do I need to attend a prenatal class or doula training?**

Prenatal classes are a great way to understand what options are offered locally for your patients, as far as birth attendant options, delivery options, interventions, as well as local rules and regulations.

Most prenatal educators will let you audit a class for free because in turn, you can become a referral source for them, and they can become the same for you. It can be a great networking tool.

**I want to be listed on the website, so why bother joining if I only meet the 'general membership' requirements?**

We imagine that almost everyone will prefer to be senior member. The only reason we created the dual track membership was to be more inclusive to those who didn't quite meet all the requirements. Maybe you've only been out of school for a year, or you're not going to be able to sit in on a prenatal class until the spring. This way you still get access to all the resources in our members only section, you can take part in the email forum and you can join the community.

Once you are ready, all you need to do is send us the rest of the requirements and you become a senior member. We have purposely made sure that there is no cost to go from general to senior membership, because we want everyone to be able to become a senior member.

**By joining OBAA, do I become a specialist?**

No, joining this association does not make you a specialist, and in many countries calling yourself a specialist is not legally allowed. The OBAA is an association to connect acupuncturist and CM practitioners who work with pregnant patients. The OBAA is about community, education and access to obstetrical/perinatal resources.