The AACMA mentoring program is an initiative to support the sustainability of the profession and to bridge the gap between new graduates and experienced practitioners.

Our mentorship program is unique – it is the first mentoring program in the field of traditional Chinese medicine in Australia. It is offered exclusively to AACMA members at no charge.

The mentoring program promotes and supports the professional and personal development of our members while it facilitates a mutually beneficial relationship between mentees and mentors.

It is a great way for mentees to develop their skills and expand their knowledge and confidence in their chosen modalities.

AACMA student members who are in their final year of study before graduation, or members who are within two years after graduation qualify to register as mentees for the mentoring program.

Mentors are required to be full practising AACMA members with at least five years’ experience in the field of Chinese medicine. Practitioners who are interested in becoming mentors also need to successfully complete a short AACMA Mentor Orientation Program.

Please see our list of FAQs below for more information. You are welcome to contact us at events@acupuncture.org.au if you need any further details on this special initiative.

Who is eligible to be a mentee in the Mentoring Program?

AACMA members who are within two years after graduation are eligible to apply.

Practitioners who are within one year after graduation also pay a reduced AACMA membership fee of $120 for the first calendar year.

Can I register as a mentee in the Mentoring Program if I do not yet have my CMBA registration?

Registration with the AACMA mentoring program can be a conditional offering before graduating students are registered with CMBA.

Graduating students are encouraged to obtain a ‘Letter of Completion’ from their educational institution before applying to the AACMA mentoring program.
institution as such a letter will be required for CMBA registration and AACMA membership.

**Can I choose my own mentor?**

Once you are admitted to the program as a mentee you will receive the list of available mentors. You will be able to view their short biographies and areas of special interest and then chose with which mentors you would like to enter into a mentoring relationship.

It is up to the mentee to contact the potential mentor by email to introduce themselves and to arrange an initial meeting in person or, if this is not possible, by phone or webcam. If you both agree to enter into a mentoring relationship then you must complete an AACMA Mentoring Agreement and submit it to the AACMA Events Officer at events@acupuncture.org.au.

**What if I find an AACMA member who is not a registered mentor in the program, but I would like to be by mentor?**

If a mentee prefers to enter into a mentoring relationship with an AACMA member who has not registered as an AACMA mentor, the mentee may encourage the potential mentor to register for the program. Once they are approved as a mentor, the mentee may submit an AACMA Mentoring Agreement to work with that mentor under the program.

**Who is eligible to be a mentor in the Mentoring Program?**

Practitioners must be full practising AACMA members to act as mentors in the program, and have at least five years of experience in the field of Chinese medicine.

Mentors must be willing and able to commit time to the mentoring relationship, with the aim of supporting the personal and professional development of the mentee.

They have to be aware of the role and responsibilities of a registered Chinese Medicine practitioner in Australia and have a genuine interest in contributing to the wider development of the Chinese Medicine profession, and:

undertake and complete a brief AACMA Mentor Orientation Program.

**Are there any instructions available to mentors/mentees?**

To support the mentoring relationship between mentors and mentees, participants receive a program manual and undertake a mentor orientation program. Mentors are expected to complete the mentor orientation before the start of mentoring practice. A range of supportive documents (Mentoring agreement form, Meeting record sheets, Evaluation form etc.) is also provided.

**What is Mentoring?**

Mentoring is a supportive and developmental relationship that involves change in the form of personal and professional growth. It is ultimately unique to the individuals involved, who create and measure the progress and success of the relationship according to self-determined personal and professional goals. Although the mentoring relationship is based upon the developmental needs of the mentee, it is a reciprocal one in which both mentee and mentor may learn and grow.

**What time commitment is expected of a mentor/mentee in this Mentoring Program?**

The AACMA Mentoring Program is designed to be flexible so that mentees and mentors can largely set the parameters of the relationship. Communication methods, frequency and areas of focus within the relationship are determined by the participants in order to make the most of the development and ongoing learning of the mentee.
Mentors in the program will provide information about themselves, including their location, clinical interests, and how frequently and in what ways they will be able to communicate with their mentees. Mentees will be able to look at the provided summaries of the available mentors and nominate the mentor that best suits them and their learning needs.

AACMA does not provide a fixed schedule for participants to adhere to. However, the relationship will be facilitated by AACMA with structured opportunities for the mentor and mentee to evaluate the relationship goals and its progress.

**What can I expect from the mentoring relationship?**

Mentees and mentors are encouraged to meet or communicate regularly and to choose the nature and content of their meetings and communications according to the areas and goals that best suit them both.

At meetings with your mentor, you can expect to get to know each other, setting and discussing your progress towards your personal and professional goals, and discuss any areas you would like particular assistance with. It is important that mentees know they must be self-directed and take responsibility for what they would like to receive out the mentoring partnership.

**What type of CPD points can I obtain by participating in the Mentoring Program?**

The Mentor Program is a Formal CPD activity with an appropriate contract/agreement and documentation.

The CPD points in the Mentoring Program can come under formal and professional issues. Participants must follow current CMBA and AACMA guidelines regarding CPD in order to gain CPD points.

Mentors are required to complete an Orientation Program, which is a professional issues activity and which provides six professional issues CPD points.

**Do I have to pay to participate in the AACMA Mentoring Program?**

No, it is a free AACMA membership service. Participation as a mentor is voluntary.

**Who can I contact for more information about the AACMA Mentoring Program?**

Contact the AACMA Events Officer on (07) 3457 1815, or by email: events@acupuncture.org.au