



Report of the Group on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Gro-MRAs)

Executive Summary

In 2005 the BOC and the CATA became signatories to the first Mutual Recognition Arrangement for the athletic training and athletic therapy professions. The result was an agreement whereby an individual who holds either the BOC or CATA credential may make application for the others' national examination. The BOC and the CATA recognize qualified individuals as eligible to challenge their examination because of their status as a credential holder in good standing by one of the organizations.

It was understood by both groups (BOC and CATA) that the legal right to practice is ultimately, determined by the appropriate State or Provincial Regulatory agency. While this arrangement did not guarantee the individual would be granted the necessary immigration papers and permission to work, it made possible a mechanism for individuals to become certified and therefore eligible for work in another national jurisdiction.

Over the past 5 years the BOC has assisted ARTI in the development of their examination content. There is a great deal of similarity among the organizations education and credentialing programs for athletic trainers and athletic therapists. ARTI has a long-range goal of having their education programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) in the US. Because of the 2005 BOC-CATA agreement, and in light of the globalization of the workforce, there have been discussions related to mutual recognition of ARTIs athletic rehabilitation therapists.

In the spring of 2012 Group on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Gro-MRAs) was formally established to review the certification programs of each organization to determine areas of commonality and identify areas of differences for discussion. Additionally the group was charged to make recommendations to the respective governing bodies (Boards) whether to extend the bilateral MRA to become a trilateral agreement.

Representatives of ARTI, BOC and CATA met first via a Skype call then used electronic mail and the common Drop Box app to facilitate document exchange. The group began by reviewing the essential elements of the certification programs of each organization using the same matrix previously described in the 2005 BOC-CATA MRA report. Additional discussion and investigation developed around the effects the BOC-CATA agreement has had on those individuals who have taken advantage of the MRA.

In the spring of 2013 representatives from each group met in Toronto during the 47th CATA Annual Conference. Joining the group were representatives from the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy (WFATT), the WFATT having begun the process to develop *Standards for Athletic Training/Therapy Educational Programs*. The Working Group wanted to ensure that recommendations were made with information on the future plans of the WFATT. The BOC also shared their plan to move forward with an international credential based on the Global Practice Analysis.

In addition to the review of programs, the BOC and CATA conducted a survey of those individuals who had used the MRA to challenge the exam of the others' organization. The result of the survey and examination of exam data helped inform the recommendations of the group.

Recommendations of the working group:

1. The ARTI, BOC and CATA Boards should recognize an individual who has earned the credential of the other organizations each for the purpose of meeting the education eligibility requirements for their certification program.

2. Adequate information for certification candidates must be published that clearly describes the format of the exam, the logistics for practical/field exams, and scoring so that each candidate can adequately prepare for an exam.
 - a. It was noted that BOC candidates challenging the CATA exam had difficulty in the urgent care portion of the exam.
3. A jurisdictional exam and/or transitional pre-exam information may be needed. While there is a significant overlap in the respective scopes of practice, a jurisdictional exam may be necessary to ensure candidates for the exam are aware of the differences. The group identified a number of reasons including:
 - a. Although there are similarities of the scopes of practice there may be different emphasis regionally (e.g., the management of heat illnesses is in ARTI's scope of practice yet it is not something that undergraduate students are routinely exposed to).
 - b. The differences in legal requirements/responsibilities (e.g., US States may describe their own scopes of practice).
 - c. International candidates must demonstrate that they are familiar with the rules/regulations/roles/responsibilities of the local organization. Due to the limited ability of an exam to evaluate knowledge and skill for clinicians, this area may need additional assurance to protect athletes and patients.
4. The governing bodies should continue their interaction and participation with the WFATT's working group developing the *Standards for Approved Athletic Training/Therapy Education Programs*.
5. A process should be created to monitor the arrangements on an annual or biannual basis; each partner association would appoint a representative to the MRA group. That group would be mandated to collect and report on the results of exams taken as per the arrangement on an annual basis. Consideration should be given to a survey conducted every three years to monitor the experience of those access the arrangement.
6. The parties to the arrangement should develop a process for the formal renewal and/or the rescinding of the arrangement by any or all of the parties.

Introduction

The Group on Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Gro-MRAs) is a cooperative venture of the [National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc.](#) (BOC) the [Canadian Athletic Therapists Association](#) (CATA) and [Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland](#) (ARTI). The Gro-MRAs is committed to achieving their objective in a transparent fashion. The objective of the WGMR is:

To examine the mutual recognition of athletic training/athletic therapy and athletic rehabilitation therapy credentials for the purpose of providing a recommendation to the respective governing authorities of each organization as it pertains to eligibility to challenge each organization's examination.

History

In 2005 the BOC and the CATA became signatories to the first Mutual Recognition Arrangement for the athletic training and athletic therapy professions. The result was an agreement whereby an individual who holds either the BOC or CATA credential may make application for the others' national examination. The BOC and the CATA recognize qualified individuals as eligible to challenge their examination because of an individual's status as a credential holder in good standing by one of the organizations. It is understood that the legal right to practice is still, ultimately, determined by the State or Provincial Regulatory agency. While this does not guarantee the individual would be granted the necessary immigration papers and permission to work, it made possible the mechanism for individuals to become certified and therefore eligible for work in another national jurisdiction.

Over the past 5 years the BOC has assisted ARTI in the development of their examination content. There is a great deal of similarity among the organizations education and credentialing programs for athletic trainers and athletic therapists. ARTI has a long-range goal of having their education programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

Because of the 2005 BOC-CATA agreement, and in light of the globalization of the workforce, there have been discussions related to mutual recognition of ARTI's athletic rehabilitation therapists. This recognition would need to be trilateral; between the BOC, CATA and ARTI.

Structure for the Group

- Each organization will designate an individual as their primary representative.
- The freeware Dropbox will be used as a common document sharing site for all parties
- The BOC staff will provide access information and project support for Gro-MRA volunteers

Process

ACTIVITY	DATE(S)
First conference call meeting	✓
Development of preliminary questions and agreement on assessment tools	✓
Collection of data (Feedback from each group per the tools/templates)	✓
Gap analysis report and discussion	✓
Develop PRELIMINARY recommendation document	✓
Conference Call PRELIMINARY recommendations document	✓
PRELIMINARY recommendations (<i>presented for discussion and comment to the appropriate governing authorities of each organization.</i>)	✓
DRAFT recommendations discussion with respective governing Boards	✓
Revisions to recommendations	Winter 2013-14 <i>(if necessary)</i>
Redistribute	February 2014 <i>(if necessary)</i>
FINAL documents presented for adoption by respective governing Boards	Spring 2014
Establish implementation schedule	
Signing of arrangement documents and implementation of arrangement	Late Summer 2014

*ARTI, BOC and CATA Boards meeting via conference/Skype call

*CBoCAT face to face meetings are bi-annual – could come together via teleconference

Areas of Investigation and Discussion

1. Mission and vision of credentialing organizations

CATA	ARTI	BOC
<p>The CATA is a progressive not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and delivery of the highest quality care to active individuals through injury prevention, emergency services and rehabilitative techniques.</p> <p>The Association is a leader within the Sport Medicine Community of Canada through its continuing development, implementation and monitoring of professional standards.</p> <p>In collaboration with other allied health professionals, the CATA creates a healthier environment that encompasses the needs of the active community through to the high performance athlete</p>	<p>The aim of Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland is to promote and maintain the health and physical wellbeing of individuals in all sporting, physical and occupational activity.</p>	<p>Vision of the BOC: <i>To be the worldwide leader in credentialing</i></p> <p>Mission of the BOC: <i>To provide exceptional credentialing programs for healthcare professionals to assure protection of the public</i></p>

2. Eligibility

CATA	ARTI	BOC
<p>http://www.athletictherapy.org/en/certification.aspx</p>	<p>http://arti.info/certification/</p>	<p>http://bocatc.org/candidates/exam-eligibility</p>
<p>CATA Membership</p>	<p>ARTI Membership</p>	
<p>Professional liability insurance</p>	<p>Professional liability insurance</p>	

3. Coursework*

- *Curriculum must meet the minimum theoretical and applied knowledge in the following areas:*
 - Risk Management and Injury Prevention (including environmental care)
 - Acute Care (urgent and non-urgent interventions)
 - Pathology of Injuries and Illnesses
 - Orthopedic Clinical Examination and Diagnosis/Assessment (extremities and spine)
 - General Medical Conditions Examination and Diagnosis Medical Conditions & Disabilities
 - Human Anatomy & Physiology,
 - Exercise physiology
 - Kinesiology/biomechanics
 - Therapeutic Modalities (sample list of modalities)
 - Rehabilitation and Conditioning Techniques (extremities and spine, including manual therapies) Conditioning and Rehabilitative Techniques – soft tissues, manual therapy
 - Psychosocial Intervention and Referral
 - Professional Responsibilities and Ethical Practice
 - Research and Evidence Informed Practice
 - Pharmacology, drugs and ergogenic aids (therapeutic and performance enhancing)
 - Nutrition
 - Health Care Administration and Management (business principles – knowledge of local rules and healthcare system)
- The athletic training/therapy educational program shall also include clinical/practical experience opportunities for students, completed under the supervision of a qualified clinical instructor. Clinical/Practical experience provides students with the opportunity to practice, refine performance, and further demonstrate mastery of clinical/practical skills
- *When competencies or standards change, how would changes be reflected in the credential recognition process? In the agreement? - changes are public domain documents*
 - The profession is going to evolve over time and it is important not to restrict that, while at the same time keeping an agreement manageable.
 - Proposed changes in competencies could be highlighted to the other organizations in the agreement to assess possible implications on the agreement. This may also provide progressive ideas for the other membership organizations that they may choose to implement over time

* *It was understood by the Gro-MRAs group that candidates for certification would need foundational coursework in – Human Anatomy & Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Psychology, Chemistry, and, Biomechanics or Kinesiology – (Appendix B. 2009 WFATT Congress – Report on Educational Programs)*

4. Standards of Professional Practice/Code of ethics

CATA	ARTI	BOC
Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct	Code of Ethics	BOC Standards of Professional Practice

5. Education Program Accreditation

CATA	ARTI	BOC
Accreditation Application	Honors Degree (NFQ level 8) ARTI accredited 3rd level institution.	CAATE Accreditation Standards

6. Assessment Tools/Psychometrics

- *Are the psychometric standards of each exam comparable?*

CATA	ARTI	BOC
		BOC Reports on the Exam

- *Exam blueprints "job analysis" or "role delineation studies"*

CATA	ARTI	BOC
Domains and Educational Process	Educational Competencies	BOC RD/Practice Analysis, 6th Ed.

- Are there knowledge and skill sets that are unique to their jurisdictions that would require interested candidates to take further training if they expect to be successful with the certification process in that country?

CATA	ARTI	BOC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates need to become familiar with the expectations and procedures related to our practical exams. Rehearsal practice would be very helpful • The CATA puts a lot of emphasis on emergency on-field injury management (first responder) • International students would have to become familiar with Canadian 	Knowledge of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different work place settings • roles and responsibilities of membership • scope of practice and legal/ethic responsibilities • membership requirements • the Professional practice and discipline guidelines and procedures 	Administration – law, state and federal

laws and CATA scope of practice, code of ethics and disciplinary guidelines		
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We believe that currently a jurisdictional exam would be needed. There is a lot of overlap in the respective scopes of practice however a jurisdictional exam is necessary for a number of reasons including:

- *Confidence of the local body in the ability of international candidates*
- *In the similarities of the scopes of practice there may be different emphasis regionally (e.g. the management of heat illnesses is in ARTI's scope of practice yet it is not something that undergraduate students are routinely exposed to)*
- *Differences in legal requirements/responsibilities*
- *International candidates must demonstrate that they are familiar with the rules/regulations/roles/responsibilities of the local organization*

7. Accessibility to Examinations

- *Are the resources and exam formats of each group able to handle the potential for an increased numbers of candidates?*
- *CATA*
 - *Currently the number of BOC certified candidates taking the CATA exam is manageable*
 - *Practical examination is bottleneck*
- *BOC.*
 - *BOC exam is computer delivered so increased numbers is not a problem given current numbers of potential candidates.*
- *ARTI*
 - *Able to handle potential for increased numbers of candidates*
 - *Would need to make available resources (or directions to resources) to prospective candidates from other jurisdictions.*

CATA	ARTI	BOC
Overview of Certification Process	Candidate Handbook	Candidate Handbook

8. Discipline

CATA	ARTI	BOC
Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct	Code of Ethics	BOC Disciplinary Guidelines

- *Disciplinary actions are reported publicly.*

CATA	ARTI	BOC
Disciplinary Action Reports Disciplinary actions are reported in the public	Where appropriate, actions will be reported on ARTI website	BOC Publication Cert Update

domain on our website		
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9. Continuing Competence

- *What are the requirements and guidelines for ensuring continuing competence?*

CATA	ARTI	BOC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletic Therapists are required to maintain their certification every three years. • They must get 21 continuing education units over the three-year period in order to maintain certification. • Have current CPR certification at the level of Health Care Practitioner. • Maintain professional liability insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a record of continuing professional development (CPD) and must meet the minimum CPDs per annum. • Maintain professional liability insurance • If membership of ARTI has lapsed for more than 2 years, an individual will have to retake the certification examination if they wish to regain the ARTC status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Certification • Maintain compliance with the <i>BOC Standards of Professional Practice</i>, • Maintain emergency cardiac care (ECC) certification at Professional Rescuer level • Renewal fees • 50 hours CE are required every two years.

10. Globalization issues

- *What are the immigration issues, if any?*

CATA	ARTI	BOC
<p>Candidates coming to Canada to work will need</p> <p>1. A Visa</p> <p>http://www.cic.gc.ca/engsh/immigrate/skilled/index.asp</p> <p>http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Profile.aspx?val=3&val1=3144</p> <p>2. A work permit</p> <p>http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/apply-who-nopermit.asp#athletes</p>	<p>Candidates coming to Ireland to work will need</p> <p>1. A visa (http://www.inis.gov.ie/)</p> <p>2. An employment permit (http://www.djei.ie/labour/workpermits/index.htm)</p>	<p>Candidates will need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved H1B Visa, • an I-19 Form and • State license

- *What issues relate to the issue of a work visa?*

CATA	ARTI	BOC
Candidates coming to	There are different types of	ATs would most likely be

<p>Canada to work will need</p> <p>A Visa</p> <p>http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/index.asp</p> <p>http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Profile.aspx?val=3&val1=3144</p> <p>A work permit</p> <p>http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/apply-who-nopermit.asp#athletes</p>	<p>work visa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green card 2. Work permit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It must be demonstrated that there is a shortage/need for the issue of the work visa • Candidates must have the appropriate visa • Candidates must demonstrate that they have the relevant qualifications <p>(further details at http://www.djei.ie/labour/workpermits/guidelines.htm)</p>	<p>applying under the H1B Specialty Occupations Visa - http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis</p> <p>For you to qualify to accept a job offer in a specialty occupation you must meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have completed a U.S. bachelor's or higher degree required by the specific specialty occupation from an accredited college or university • Hold a foreign degree that is the equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's or higher degree in the specialty occupation • Hold an unrestricted state license, registration, or certification which authorizes you to fully practice the specialty occupation and be engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment • I-9 form
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11. Uniqueness

- *What have other healthcare professions done to recognize internationally or foreign educated/trained providers in healthcare?*
 - Processes exist in Physiotherapy/Physical therapy between Ireland and USA/Canada. We believe that the process is a little more straightforward between Canada and Ireland

Initial questions based on review of previous MRA document Pre-Toronto Meeting

What can we learn from the BOC-CATA MRA?

- Of those who have used the MRA agreement to obtain credential of BOC or CATA what has the success/failure been? What should we pay attention to in this investigation?
1. Can we possibly start by reviewing the successes and pitfalls of the current agreement between NATABOC and the CATA
 - a. How many members from both NATABOC have challenged the CATA exam?
25
 - b. How many CATA members have challenged the NATA exam? 14
 - c. **What are the success rates in both instances?**
 - d. What has been the employment record for these successful candidates in each respective country?
 - e. Can we conduct a survey of these members to get their feedback? (See Appendix C)
 2. Rather than trying to compare competencies, standards, scope of Practice, code of ethics etc. for each group, could we not establish minimum standards that must be met by an international body seeking mutual recognition?
 - a. This would eliminate the necessity of going through comparisons each time another organization applies for recognition. (*WFATT Education Program Standards-unpublished*)
 - b. Ideally we could come up with one minimum standard that could be recognized globally. However, it may be that we will not be able to agree on one standard. In that case, it may be that countries would have clearly articulated but different minimum standards. The group seeking recognition would simply have to meet the standards as established by each country.
 3. Are we seeking only one globally recognized method of examining candidates or are we open to the recognition of more than one method that other international organizations could choose from knowing that it would be recognized by all partners (or by select countries)?
 - a. The current agreement does not recognize one examination tool as the gold standard.
 4. Currently Canada does not have provincial legislation of Athletic Therapy in any of its provinces. Each province does have a mandate to regulate who “practices” in their province but I suspect this is very loosely enforced.
 5. Regulatory issues: I would be interested in hearing what the experience is in the US with the variety of legislation from state to state.

MRA Meeting
25 May, 2013
Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto, ON

Participants:

Glen Bergeron-CATA
Steve Dzubinski – CBoCAT
Enda Whyte – ARTI
Greg Gardner – WFATT
Larry Leverenz - WFATT
Denise Fandel – BOC
Anne Minton – BOC

1. ✓ Introductions (Denise Fandel)
 - 1.1. ✓ Objectives for the meeting
 - 1.1.1. ✓ Agreement on plan to complete recommendations for MRA with goal of announcement at the WFATT World Congress in late summer of 2014
2. ✓ Review preliminary data gathering document (Drop Box Overview document)
3. ✓ Review consensus items
 - 3.1.1. ✓ Mission and vision of credentialing organizations
 - 3.1.2. ✓ Eligibility
 - 3.1.3. ✓ Standards of Professional Practice/Code of ethics
 - 3.1.4. ✓ Accessibility to Examinations
 - 3.1.5. ✓ Continuing Competence
4. ✓ Complete unanswered items from gap analysis
 - 4.1.1. ✓ Assessment Tools/Psychometrics
 - 4.1.2. ✓ Discipline
 - 4.1.3. ✓ Legal Liability Issues
 - 4.1.4. ✓ Globalization issues
 - 4.1.5. ✓ Regulatory issues
 - 4.1.6. ✓ Practice issues
 - 4.1.7. ✓ Uniqueness
5. ✓ Additional Discussions – what have we missed
6. Actions/Next Steps
 - 6.1. What additional information is needed to complete analysis in order to create preliminary recommendations for the group to review
 - 6.1.1. See action items below:

Task	Owner
Creates areas of focus per each countries exam for candidate prep	All
Create list of resources for failing candidates	All
Worksheet or info sheet – step to certification/licensure to educate on mobility of certficants	All
Reinstatement process for certification if credentials lapse	All

Task	Owner
Draft survey of candidates- MRA	Glen
Visa requirement - Canada	Glen
Find US candidates who took exam in CA from Trevor Len	Steve
Assessment statistics and style guides for CBoCAT item writers	Steve
Chart for WFATT website	Larry and Denise
Discipline guidelines – and Attestment statements	Denise
CPE requirement	Denise
Disclaimers	Denise
Subject area list – flesh out for more completeness	Denise

6.1.2. ✓Outline process for dissemination of recommendations in each organization with goal of having recommendations approved

Other ideas that were discussed:

- Article for NATA News – I’m certified why can’t I get a job in XYZ country
- Mobility of faculty
- CPE requirement questions - differences –
 - SAT- Supervisory Athletic Therapist – only in ed. Programs CE
 - Committee member – receive CE in CATA/ARTI– not transferrable for BOC
 - Requirement – minimum 15 of 30 ARTI
 - first responder - ECC
 - 10 EBP – BOC
- WFATT as the single source of transportability information

Appendix C

Summary of CATA survey – candidates challenging BOC exam

CATA certification exam survey

How many years were you an ATC at the time you first took the exam?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	14.3%	1
2	28.6%	2
3	14.3%	1
4	14.3%	1
5 or more	28.6%	2
	<i>answered question</i>	7
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

CATA certification exam survey

How many attempts did it take to pass the NATABOC examination?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	42.9%	3
2	42.9%	3
3	0.0%	0
4	14.3%	1
	<i>answered question</i>	7
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

CATA certification exam survey

How many times have you taken any section of the CATA examination?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	42.9%	3
2	0.0%	0
3	14.3%	1
4	42.9%	3
	<i>answered question</i>	7
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

CATA certification exam survey

Are you now a Certified Athletic Therapist [CAT(C)]?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42.9%	3
No	57.1%	4
	<i>answered question</i>	7
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

CATA certification exam survey

How many times did you attempt each section of the CATA?						
Answer Options	0	1	2	3	4	Response Count
Written Exam	0	7	0	0	0	7
Field practical exam	1	2	1	0	3	7
Clinic practical exam	1	3	1	1	1	7
<i>answered question</i>						7
<i>skipped question</i>						0

CATA certification exam survey

How many times were you unsuccessful in the following?

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	Response Count
Written theory exam	0	0	0	0	0
Clinical practical exam	1	1	1	1	4
Field practical exam	3	0	2	0	5
				<i>answered question</i>	6
				<i>skipped question</i>	1

CATA certification exam survey

On the Clinical portion of the practical examination, how many times were you unsuccessful on each of the subsections?						
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	I passed first time	Response Count
Assessment	1	1	0	0	3	5
Acute rehabilitation	0	1	0	0	4	5
Subacute rehabilitation	0	0	1	0	4	5
Return to sport	1	0	1	0	3	5
Therapeutic modalities	0	1	1	0	3	5
					<i>answered question</i>	5
					<i>skipped question</i>	2

CATA certification exam survey

With which of the following therapeutic modalities were you UNSUCCESSFUL during the clinical portion of the practical examination?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Ultrasound	16.7%	1
Muscle Stimulation	0.0%	0
TENS	0.0%	0
IFC	0.0%	0
Massage	33.3%	2
Cryotherapy	33.3%	2
Thermotherapy	16.7%	1
I passed all my modalities	66.7%	4
	<i>answered question</i>	6
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

CATA certification exam survey

On the Field portion of the practical examination, how many times were you unsuccessful on each of the subsections?

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	I passed the first time	Response Count
Urgent Emergency Care	3	0	2	1	0	6
Non-Urgent Assessment,	1	1	1	1	2	6
Return to Play Decision	1	1	1	0	2	5
Prophylactic support	2	1	0	0	2	5
					<i>answered question</i>	6
					<i>skipped question</i>	1

CATA certification exam survey

How helpful were the following CATA resources in preparing you for the CATA examination?

Answer Options	Not helpful	Slightly helpful	Very Helpful	Did not read or take part	Response Count
Certification	2	4	1	0	7
Textbook list	2	3	1	1	7
Written exam	2	3	2	0	7
Certification Comment	1	0	2	4	7
<i>answered question</i>					7
<i>skipped question</i>					0

Number	Comment	Categories
	I should have sought out more information from CAT(C)'s before I attempted the exam for the first time. The format of the NATABOC exam when I took it was divided into 3 sections (written, written sim and practical), so when it came to sim and practical, specific questions were asked it wasn't open ended like the CATA exam (for instance, athlete down assess.....)	
1	The written exam blueprint is very generic.	
2	Was unaware of these seminars. Did not receive any information about them.	
3	I had been inquiring about seminars or mock scenarios/chances to practice for the practical section but was unable to find any.	

CATA certification exam survey

How helpful was the CATA in facilitating your preparation for the CATA examination?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very helpful	0.0%	0
Slightly	28.6%	2
Not helpful at all	71.4%	5
Comment:		4
		<i>answered question</i> 7
		<i>skipped question</i> 0

Number	Comment:	Categories
1	I don't want to point a finger at the CATA. I should have sought out more information. Although i would suggest the CATA recommend candidates get in contact with individual running prep sessions.	
2	Other than online info there were no practical seminars or opportunities to prepare for the clinical or field portions. Even practice scenarios from previous tests would be helpful. Much like BOC it would also be helpful to have old practice exams and questions to prepare.	
3	I feel that this is a definite weakness of the CATA organization. I felt totally unprepared for my practical examination. I had no idea what to expect for the practical exam at all! I had no idea that the exam was an "oral" exam as well as practical. I think that CATA should not allow BOC certified members to take this exam without an orientation course on the details of the exam and what is expected. Aswell I feel that each international candidate should be assigned an SAT. Without that I feel that the exam is an absolute waste of time and money for an ATC.	
4	It is unfair that Canadian candidates are assigned SATs but International candidates have to seek out their own. Canadian candidates are taught exactly how to pass the exam and told exactly what to expect. Some Canadian candidates are even given the checklists of what they are expected to do on the exam (field and clinical portions).	

CATA certification exam survey

What can we do to assist you in preparing for the CATA exams?

Answer Options	Response Count
	5
<i>answered question</i>	5
<i>skipped question</i>	2

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	#####	Maybe a promotional video on the website that allows candidates a chance to see how the exam is administered.
2	#####	More practice sessions for hands on portion of the exam especially in the west coast and not just for June exam but in prep for the November exam as well
3	#####	Assign an SAT and require meetings prior to exam. ie. skype or in person
4	#####	Make an SAT available to ALL candidates! And although I understand it would be difficult to monitor, ALL candidates should be given the same information (ie. the checklists, etc.) when preparing for the exam.
5	#####	Provide links or contacts for mock scenarios; I struggled the most with incorporating the first responder training into my assessment.

CATA certification exam survey

Based on your experience(s), would you recommend that other international members attempt the CATA exam?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42.9%	3
No	57.1%	4
Comment		5
		<i>answered question</i>
		<i>skipped question</i>
		7
		0

Number	Response Date	Comment	Categories
1	#####	However, international candidates should be able to have an "international status" that does not force them into buying liability insurance they will never use as well as have a discounted membership fee, or why would they take the exam.	
2	#####	Yes only because you apparently need it. I don't think that's fair though much like ACSM if you have the American certification you should be able to be grandfathered into the Canadian cert instead retaking all the exams even though the curriculums are obviously recognized in both countries	
3	#####	I would not recommend any international members to attempt this exam unless under dire circumstances. ie. deportation, having to work in Canada, international job requirements.	
4	#####	I feel that the certifications should be recognized internationally. An NATABOC ATC and a CATA (C)AT should be recognized equally and only provincial/state specific licensure should be considered (pending where an individual is employed).	
5	#####	If they wanted to practice in Canada, yes. Otherwise, no.	

CATA certification exam survey

Please provide any other insights or recommendations that you feel the CATA should consider.

Response Text

The NSCA (National Strength and Conditioning Association) has practice exams that candidates can purchase and take. Something similar to this, possibly video scenario based simulations where candidates must answer questions related to the video would be helpful.

Thank you for taking the time to put together this survey. I appreciate the CATA and the CATA's reciprocity with the NATA which ultimately allowed me to become certified. This enabled me to move back home to Canada and closer to my family. I also believe diversity in our membership will make the CATA stronger.

I think the scenarios that are required during the clinical and field tests are very far fetched I know you want to be prepared for the worst but the scenarios are almost made for you to fail with no correct way to respond and You need to be more informative about what is required during the exam. I had to go to an OATA seminar to find out what specifically the exam was looking for.

I feel in general more respect should be given to those BOC certified candidates by CATA. I truly did not feel recognized as a candidate by the organization. I feel communication and organization was very poor. In emailing the office and other members it generally didn't seem like most people knew what was going on and what was required for international candidates and it seemed the requirements changed randomly. I was made aware that I had to become first responder certified 2 months before attempting my exam for the second time! I was living in northern ontario at the time and these courses are scarce and the one I was enrolled in got cancelled because of a flood and there was no understanding from the organization at all. The standards changed from exam to exam and I was not notified in due time and this resulted in a deficit of my personal income in over 2000 dollars because of time of work and course fees which was totally unexpected. As a post masters degree grad this took a significant toll on my livelihood.I was very determined to pass this test and therefor I racked up a huge credit card bill and I feel this is unfair for international candidates. After tons and tons of emails to SAT's in ontario with no response and also emails to the "west candidate liaison" with no response I grew quite frustrated with the organization and was second guessing my hopes to come back to Canada to work. I think that when I finally nailed down a kind SAT to work with me (even though she cannot have me as an official student) that really shed light on what this test is about.... And what all the students in Canada are training for from the first day of The NATABOC certification exam has switched to strictly computerized testing. This has proven to be extremely beneficial, as the test has black and white answers; you either got the answer correct or you didn't. A candidates practical "hands-on" components should be left up to the accredited institution.

With CATA certification, there is WAY TOO MUCH grey area! TOO many times, skills done are missed- judges asking another if "the candidate did this?"; whether the candidate verbalized it or not. And no matter how the scenario is positioned, I have never known a CATA judge to move around so they can see more appropriately. Also, far too often CATA examiners will judge a candidate the moment he/she enters the room and that can weigh heavily on how the candidate is graded (this information comes from a source who is both a ATC and I believe it would be helpful to know our rights as Temporary International Candidates within the CATA and Canada. I had hoped to volunteer at events or even work paid events while leading up to the exam in order to practice my new first responder training and how it may apply to various assessment situations. Although I tried calling and emailing the CATA, no one responded to my inquiries about what I was legally allowed to do within