The Road Traveled to Our 20th Anniversary

This year marks the celebration of the ACHA’s 20 years of existence. We all know why we personally sought ACHA Board Certification and the road our personal journey’s took in healthcare design, but we should also know how the ACHA was formed and why it was established. This requires a bit of a short history lesson.

Back in 1999, when Bill Clinton was President and the iPhone was still a dream in Steve Job’s mind – a sizeable group of AIA members approached the AIA leadership with the concept of creating a specialized designation in healthcare architecture. While meeting with initial reluctance, dedication and steadfastness from this core group of prominent healthcare architects fostered the acceptance and (ultimately) enthusiasm by the AIA to support the establishment of criteria and a process to certify healthcare architects within the architectural sub-specialty of healthcare design.

Governing the continued development of the newly established ACHA, was its fundamental mission to distinguish healthcare architects through certification, experience, and the application of rigorous professional standards. This 20-year road of development and growth of the College has led to the achievements we recognize today:

- The American College of Healthcare Architects (ACHA) offers the only specialty board certification that is recognized by The American Institute of Architects (AIA).
- The American College of Healthcare Architects (ACHA) certification is recognized by The American Society of Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

There is often confusion however, that the ACHA is an AIA sponsored Knowledge Community - however there are no memberships to the ACHA, only Certificant Holders.
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credentialed through an independent process involving a portfolio review, an assessment by peer architects, and a rigorous examination. Currently 500 have earned this certification and remain strong and active in both their chosen design specialty as well as sharing their expertise with peers and clients around the world. For example:

- Did you know the ACHA maintains an open directory of ACHA Certificant Holder’s viewable by clients and potential clients seeking such expertise, as well as offering them further assistance through the ACHA Speakers Bureau?

- Did you know the ACHA sponsored White Papers share deeper-knowledge within the architectural community on specialized topics from the use of mock-ups in the design process, to healthcare strategy development and planning, to the use of social media as a tool to influence design and many more subjects through its online Resource Center?

- Did you know the ACHA has formed partnerships with other like-minded professional organizations such as the Facilities Guidelines Institute, the American Society for Healthcare Engineering, the American College of Healthcare Executives, The Advisory Board Company and the Association of Peri-Operative Registered Nurses.

So, if you are a new Certificant Holder - welcome to the College! If you are considering taking that next step in your developing healthcare design career, then ask any of our 500 current Certificants for directions down that road to success!

Matthew Kennedy, ACHA, EDAC, LEED BD+C
In honor of our 20th anniversary, ACHA is reducing the application fee from $400 to $20 until February 1, 2020 when the price will increase to $200. As part of the “20 for $20” initiative, you have the chance to join the 2020 Class of Board Certified healthcare architects. This is a unique opportunity.

Being an architect certified by ACHA shows our clients and colleagues expertise in healthcare design, gives access to professional resources, and helps build your network. ACHA is the only professional certification for healthcare architects recognized by the AIA and ASHE; there is even an initiative to place ACHA certification requirements into our clients’ RFPs.

Do you or a colleague need more time and experience to become eligible? For 2020, the Candidate fee is $20 for architects interested in certification and have up to 5 years to achieve all eligibility requirements.

**Certification Eligibility Pathways**

**Pathway 1: Candidate Program**
Do you not yet meet all the exam eligibility requirements? No problem! Be a part of the Candidate Program. No portfolio or exam application required. You will receive monthly updates on the College, exam prep course reminders, and special invitations to ACHA-only events. Remain a Candidate for up to 5 years for $25/year (only $20 in 2020). [For more details or to sign-up as a Candidate, click here.](#)

**Pathway 2: Direct Certification**
Do you meet all the exam eligibility requirements? Submit a Portfolio Package and upon approval, then apply for the exam. If you meet all the eligibility requirements, you do not need to become a Candidate prior to submitting the portfolio materials then applying for the exam. After the Portfolio Package is approved, you will have up to 5 years to pass the exam before resubmitting a Portfolio Package.

**2020* Exam Fees & Important Dates:**
- Portfolio Package & Exam Application Early Bird Deadline: February 1
  - November 1, 2019 to February 1, 2020: $20 fee.
- Portfolio Package & Exam Application Regular Deadline: April 1
  - February 2, 2020 to April 1, 2020: $200 application fee.

*In 2021, application and examination fees will return to $400.


We encourage all Certificate Holders to celebrate with the College by sharing this information with colleagues so that they can take advantage of this once in a lifetime benefit!
President’s Message

Exciting Times!

We are embarking on a new era - another 20 years of Board Certification and healthcare architecture leadership. As we look back on our accomplishments, we applaud and thank all the visionaries and certificants that have led us to where we are today.

We are 501 Certificate Holders and 52 Candidates strong. We have set ourselves apart with the ACHA credential. We are here because the credential is the value.

My involvement in ACHA began 14 years ago. I stopped by the ACHA booth at a conferences to see how I could help make a difference and advance my early architectural career. I found additional value in the collegiality of the College’s mission by networking with my peers and industry leaders. I was exhilarated knowing I was part of something bigger — advancing what we can do and are doing as healthcare architects.

We have many initiatives heading into the new year. By focusing on these three guiding principals, we will launch ACHA into the next decade: 1) Actively Invite, 2) Nurture Alliances, 3) Polish Processes.

**Actively Invite:** ACHA has been and will always be inviting architects to certify their specialized healthcare experience and knowledge with the ACHA credential. I invite us all to participate in that actively. Your encouragement and actual invitation to the newly licensed architect, seasoned peer, or graduate student, may be the nudge they need. Similarly, I invite you, certificants, to be active in your ACHA community. Sharing in our diversity and creative thought within our committees is the fuel we need. This year we launch our Recruitment and Retention Committee, where the goal is increase active engagement. We also are launching our “Town Hall” gatherings where ACHA invites you to share your experiences, stories and visions.

**Nurture Alliances:** We are a proud part of the Four Pillars where we all share in the advancement of health and healing. Our collective mission is continued education, certification, and improved healing environments. We are honored to be recognized by ASHE as part of their recommended team of certified professionals. Together, we nurture each other’s primary focuses and ultimately bring value to our shared health providers.

**Polish Processes:** As our world changes, we must adapt with it. We are consistently thinking of ways to polish our processes, stay relevant and reach out. In 2020, we will continue our increased social media presence, especially with our 20th Anniversary celebration. So we invite you to plug into our social media outlets if you are not already. We plan to explore ways for applicants and Candidates to engage in certification pathways in new and encouraging ways that might align with the NCARB certification process. Other opportunities include refining our career arch process unveiled at our Annual Luncheon and more streamlined certification software to make interacting with us easier.

As an organization, we are bigger and stronger than our individual parts, and with your help, I know we will see and experience exciting times ahead. Join me and hold on!

Vince Avallone, AIA, ACHA
2020 ACHA President
David Allison Bestowed 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award

At the recent Healthcare Design Conference in New Orleans, over a hundred ACHA Certificate Holders gathered for the College’s Annual Luncheon to honor David Allison, FAIA, FACHA with the ACHA Lifetime Achievement Award. The announcement of the award has been a part of the Annual ACHA Luncheon for the past 16 years, and it is the highest honor that the College can bestow on an architect in recognition of a significant body of work of lasting influence on the theory and practice of healthcare architecture.

We learned of the specific events in David’s career and how his achievements exemplify the purpose of this award when the story of his achievements were shared at the luncheon. David has demonstrated this influence through his leadership as an educator, researcher, Founding Fellow and active supporter of the ACHA and the AIA/AAH.

We recognize David’s lasting influence in the theory and practice of healthcare architecture, and what helped us learn, and helped those just beginning their healthcare design careers in the audience learn - is that David’s career has always been about education, leadership and service:

- As Alumni Distinguished Professor of Architecture and Director of Graduate Studies in Architecture + Health at Clemson University, David has guided the program to prominence within higher education, building on the shoulders of the late educational pioneer George C. Means, Jr., FAIA. Research studies in which David has participated span from new concepts in patient room design to analysis of space grossing factors. He has led research efforts through his funded research projects and through his leadership of the HFREP and the Coalition for Health Environments Research programs formerly sponsored by the Academy.

- Mr. Allison was a Founding Fellow of the ACHA. His professional organization contributions have include current service on the ACHA Board of Regents, and past leadership in the AIA Academy of Architecture for Health Board, the Academy Foundation. In addition, for more than ten years, David has led the annual Architecture + Health Educators Summit, at which he chairs a major roundtable meeting for all U.S. healthcare architecture programs to exchange ideas and advance the quality of education.

- In 1990, when Frank Zilm, D.Arch, FAIA, FACHA and the late Arthur N. Tuttle, Jr. had developed the concept of a student design charrette, they approached David to help initiate this idea. David led and established the AIA/AAH Steris Student Design Charrette as one or the most successful components of Academy meetings, and the successors of the early charrette program have continued to thrive at both major annual national meetings for decades.

- Most major healthcare architecture firms have graduates from the Clemson program. David’s students include Rhodes scholars and other international students, spreading the knowledge of good healthcare design throughout the world.

David’s affirmation of this award comes by unanimous recommendation by the ACHA Past Presidents Council and unanimous approval by ACHA Board of Regents

These accomplishments put him alongside previous ACHA Lifetime Achievement Award recipients such as Phil Tobey (2018), John Pangrazio (2017), James Diaz (2016) and Ralph Hawkins (2015). And as a current Alumni Distinguished Professor of Architecture and Director of Graduate Studies in Architecture + Health at Clemson University, David continues to guide and shape the course of healthcare design though continued education and leadership on projects, service and (especially) inspiration to the professions’ upcoming generation of healthcare design leaders who will continue to honor the legacy that David has helped to establish.

Congratulations to David and many thanks for his leadership and contributions to our industry and to those that serve our nation.

For more details on David’s accomplishments, and how to nominate the next candidate for the ACHA Lifetime Achievement award – visit: http://www.healtharchitects.org/Pages/Lifetime-Achievement-Award.aspx
Fellows Class of 2019

The ACHA Council of Fellows was founded to advance the unique qualities of the profession of healthcare architecture by demonstrating and celebrating achievements of national significance. Fellowship is one of the highest honors bestowed upon a certificant of The American College of Healthcare Architects, who has shown distinction in fulfilling one specific category of nomination of their work and has demonstrated a nominee’s individual impact in healthcare facility architecture.

The College celebrated its 2019 Class of Fellows at the Annual Luncheon.

Congratulations to:

• R. David Frum, FACHA
• Michael Kang, FACHA
• Bryan Langlands, FACHA
• Paul Macheske, FACHA
• Louis Meilink, FACHA

*Fellows photographed with Bill Hercules, ACHA 2019 Past President*
George J. Mann Receives Presidential Citation

The ACHA Presidential Citation was presented to George J. Mann, AIA in recognition of his tireless service, leadership, mentoring, teaching and dedication, & for his profound impact on the profession of architecture and the healthcare industry that has improved health around the world.

The Citation was presented on November 3, 2019 by John W. Rogers.

The Presidential Citation Policy was approved by the Board of Regents in November. The policy states, “From time to time, the President may become convinced that publicly and formally highlighting the achievements of an individual or organization may serve the best interests of the ACHA. The President, in consultation with the Executive Committee and/or other applicable committees may recommend to the Board of Regents that a special public and formal recognition be conferred on an individual or organization.”

The Presidential Citation may be for any reason benefiting the College by (but not limited to):
- Extending public influence about the value of ACHA Board certification;
- Recognizing significant individual achievements toward the end of a non-certificant’s career; and
- Recognizing sustained financial or in-kind contributions of an organization’s support of the ACHA.

ACHA Annual Luncheon

2019 President John Rogers, FAIA, FACHA

New 20th Anniversary Booth

George J. Mann receives Presidential Citation from 2019 ACHA President John Rogers.
ACHA is proud to be among those ASHE recommends for certification in the industry!

ASHE RECOMMENDS A CERTIFIED TEAM

Health care facilities are complex and require specialized knowledge to design, build and operate. ASHE recommends the entire team be certified in the health care field.

ashe.org/certifications
ACHA Certificant Spotlight: Sylvia Botero, AIA, ACHA

How did you first get started in healthcare architecture?
Healthcare is in my genes: I was born into a family of medical professionals. My grandfather, with whom I was very close to as a child was a surgeon. He ran a medical practice out of his home, which treated salt miners and their families in a rural town in Colombia. As result, a great part of my childhood was spent observing how his practice functioned. However, it was not until I joined RBB Architects (an institutional architectural firm that focuses on healthcare) over 36 years ago that my childhood exposure to the field of healthcare came full circle. I started RBB as a very junior draftsperson back in the early 80s, worked my way up to partner in early 2000, and in 2015 I became RBB’s president. It has been a privilege to spend my entire professional life in healthcare. It has been a most rewarding career and I feel most fortunate to be in the most exciting market sector in the field of architecture.

What motivates and excites you about healthcare architecture, planning and design?
I am excited to be able to participate in the creation of healing environments. As a community, healthcare architects can make a real difference in patient outcomes by creating safe, therapeutic and nurturing spaces. My greatest motivator is RBB’s leadership and staff, who believe that the work we do is profoundly important, and that it is our responsibility to continuously improve the quality of healthcare design. We know we can make a positive impact in people’s lives. A few years ago, RBB received an email from a woman who was a cancer patient at one of our centers. She told us that while searching the web for information on a local event, she discovered that RBB designed the Cancer Center where she was being treated. She told us she had never paid attention to the layout or architecture of the center, but when she came across our website describing what we hoped to achieve, she realized that we had attained those goals wonderfully. She wanted to say thanks and let us know that it does make a difference. Stories like this, makes my entire career worthwhile.

Which of healthcare’s megatrends will have the greatest impact on your practice? Why?
In our specialized field, what can appear to be a new and good idea can often come and go quite quickly. We need to be careful not to confuse trends with unproven theories that are embraced by our community, and soon after disregarded. The lasting trends I have observed have come as result of Evidence Based Design architecture, of which I am an advocate. The healthcare “megatrend” that will have the greatest impact on our practice is the renewed focus on behavioral health. I see this as a top national priority that had been abandoned for decades, partly due to lack of reimbursement. This trend has incited great interest from the medical, regulatory and healthcare architectural communities. We have seen a transformative shift, with increased access, greater integration between primary and behavioral care in outpatient settings, and the growing use of tele-health and digital platforms. These demands for services that were once difficult to reach especially in rural settings are now more attainable. The result is a renewed excitement in our practice to deliver less restrictive settings and more supportive environments, which once again can make a difference in a patient’s life.
ACHA Announces New Board Member

Liz Normand brings 15 years of experience practicing Healthcare Architecture and working on projects ranging from small clinics to replacement hospitals. Her most notable projects include Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center, Master Planning for Western Connecticut Health Network, and Notre Dame University Department of Psychology. Liz earned her Bachelors of Architecture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo before beginning practice in San Francisco, New York City, and later in Connecticut. She joined Shepley Bulfinch earlier this year and has thoroughly enjoyed becoming part of that team.

Liz is an architect who enjoys the process of building confidence with clients and utilizing a team-based approach to achieve the best designs possible. She especially values design that creates a better experience for staff and patients and enables better outcomes at lower costs and, as a LEED Accredited Professional, works to do so with a lower impact on the environment. She also believes that building up colleagues and sharing knowledge across the profession makes all our projects stronger.

Liz served as the chair of the ACHA Education Committee from 2017 through 2019. Liz is proud and honored to be part of the 2020 Board of Regents.

Welcome New Certificants!

Wayne William Barger, SmithGroup
Carlos Barillas
Emily Bula-Connor, ARRAY Architects, Inc.
Jacob Bunde, Avera McKennan Hospital
Brenda Marie Bush-Moline, BBM
Michael Leonard Compton, RS&H
Erin Cooper, Ballinger
Thai Dinh, Mascari Warner
Tina Louise Duncan, HKS
Jane Everett, BSA LifeStructures
Jodi Feldheim, HDR
Minta Jane Ferguson, Catalyst, A Haskell Company
Christina Grimes, Ballinger
Theresa Harris, Isgenuity LLC
Sara Ann Heppe, PF&A Design
Haewon Kim-Labroad, Howefer Wysocki Architecture
Barry Lann, Grace Hebert Curtis Architects
Angelle Lavergne Terry, WHLC Architecture
Kent Ley, Lee Health
Hua Lin, CannonDesign

Gregory Mare, AECOM
Channing McLeod, tvsdesign
Kristina Nolan, HDR
Christopher Francis O’Brien, Baker Barrios Architects, Inc
Michael O’Connor, Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto
Leigh Patterson, SmithGroup
Bryan Pennington, NK Architects
Julie Piper, Moody Nolan
Jacob Bunde, Avera McKennan Hospital
Brian Polinsky, tvsdesign
Michael Leonard Compton, RS&H
Imrana Quiballo, Anderson Mikos Architects, Ltd.
Bonny Reynolds, Wold Architects and Engineers
Alisa Rice, HKS
Akshay Sangolli, EYP
Diana Scaturro, Office of Statewide Health Planning & Dev.
Richard Sears, Baystate Health
Joel Patrick Trexler, JPT Architects, P.C.
Teresa Marie Wilson, Colliers Project Leaders
Steven Lance Winn, HDR
THE ACHA VISION
» Transforming healthcare through better built environments

THE ACHA MISSION
» To distinguish healthcare architects through certification, experience, and rigorous standards

THE ACHA EXISTS
» To enhance the performance of the practice of healthcare architecture through its certification, continuing education and other programs

THE ACHA PROVIDES CERTIFICANTS
» The distinguishing credentials of a specialized healthcare architect to clients, prospective clients and other architects as well as advanced continuing education

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The ACHA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

RSVP for the Upcoming Exam Prep Seminar:

PDC Summit
ACHA Exam Prep Seminar at PDC in San Antonio
Sunday, March 22, 2020
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Click here to RSVP