

# President's Message



Dear Fellow CHID Certificants, Industry Partners and Colleagues,

Reflecting on these past several months, I would never have anticipated that in 2020 we would be dealing with a global pandemic that continues to have a profound impact on our personal and professional lives. During this time of uncertainty, my hope is that you and your families are all well.

As difficult as these times are, I am proud to say that the healthcare interior design community has elevated their level of creativity and innovation to address the challenges presented by COVID-19. Now, more than ever, CHIDs are demonstrating the required competencies, knowledge and skills to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of patients, residents, and staff in hospitals, clinics, and residential care facilities. Along with our industry partners, CHIDs are playing an important role in transforming healthcare environments. The design applications used to create safe spaces, now translate across a variety of industries for the protection of the greater public. The work that we are all doing today, will greatly influence future trends not only in healthcare, but all interior design.

**While our personal and professional lives continue to adapt, our reliance on each other has never been greater.**

Staying connected is a major focus. As face-to-face meetings are uncertain for now, AAHID and CHIDs are participating in a variety of virtual, outreach pursuits. AAHID has implemented a [COVID-19](#) section on the website to communicate activities of interest. AAHID has provided an outlet for communication of free webinars, educational events with CE credit, and our industry partners' initiatives. If you have industry news or activities you would like to post, AAHID encourages you to [submit](#) relevant content to share for the greater good of the healthcare interior design community as well as post in the AAHID [LinkedIn](#) Group.

Beyond board activity, AAHID has hosted several virtual, organizational events to provide both a professional and social platform for sharing and increasing the relevance of CHID certification. We've conducted Zoom calls with our founders and new CHIDs, and with the support of the AAHID board, CHIDs are in the process of organizing regional virtual events to connect and network with other local certificants. If you have an idea for a virtual forum, we encourage you to share it with [AAHID](#).

The ability to use technology such as Zoom, and Skype provides a multitude of opportunities to get together and keep everyone informed. Technology is also advantageous in carrying out the AAHID mission. Last year, when AAHID changed the application and exam process to provide candidates with more flexibility, and convenient means to attain certification, we just couldn't know how important that change would be. No longer requiring the CHID certification exam be administered at testing centers, candidates can now take the exam in the comfort and safety of their own home. AAHID is pleased to announce that just over 50 individuals have submitted their application for the fall 2020 CHID certification exam. Coming off a year of unprecedented growth, this is an impressive number of applicants, signifying a growing interest from healthcare interior designers who choose to distinguish themselves with the CHID credential. As one exam window closes, another one opens. AAHID is taking [applications for the fall 2021 exam](#). Please remember to tell your colleagues about the value of the CHID credential, and most importantly how you are making a difference in ensuring the safety of healthcare design.

The AAHID board continues to navigate uncharted territory as we learn to adjust to the impact of COVID-19. As always, AAHID remains focused on advancing the Academy's strategic priorities. You can be part of this journey too. AAHID is currently seeking volunteer leaders to serve on the upcoming 2021-2022 Board of Directors. Board applications are now being accepted. If you have a desire to contribute to the ongoing development of AAHID, [submit your application](#) by September 1, 2020.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the continued support from all [AAHID Industry Partners](#). AAHID is pleased to welcome our two newest Silver Level partners – MedViron and Trespa. And, a special thank you goes out to Stance Healthcare for elevating to Gold Level status.

I look forward to our continued collaboration. Together, we are making a difference. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carol Doering".

Carol Doering, CHID, IIDA, LEED AP  
2020 President, AAHID