

Noteworthy



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

University of Texas Moves to Master's Level

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas (UT) has been approved by the university to create and offer a Master of Prosthetics and Orthotics (MPO). They will take their first master's class in May 2010 and the Bachelor of Science program will be phased out May 31, 2011. NCOPE would like to congratulate UT's faculty and staff on making the movement to the master's level two years in advance of the requirement.

Site Visitor Training Seminar at Academy's Meeting in Atlanta

NCOPE will host on Thursday, March 5, 2009 from 1:05 pm – 4:00 pm a training seminar on the process of participating as a team member for on-site reviews and evaluations of educational programs seeking initial or continued accreditation. Individuals that are current faculty members of accredited programs as well as clinicians of currently accredited residency programs are invited to attend. Detailed information will be available on NCOPE's web site in early January.

Education Program Annual Fees Increase in 2009

The NCOPE board of directors voted in February 2008 to increase the educational programs annual accreditation fee to \$1,000. Notices were provided to all programs informing them of the change in March 2008.

NCOPE and ABC Site Visited By ISPO for Category I Recognition

ABC and NCOPE applied for Category I (Cat I) recognition by the International Society for Orthotics and Prosthetics (ISPO) in the fall of 2008 and was site visited by a team in December. Cat I is one of three categories and is designed by the level of training and patient contact. The Cat I includes education, clinical hours and terminal examination.

The Cat I profile complies with guidelines established by the World Health Organization (WHO) for training O&P personnel in developing countries for prosthetic and orthotic services. The initial roots of the WHO training guidelines originated at the United Nations.

The inspection process included the following:

- A comprehensive review of the accreditation process for primary O&P education (submission of a self-study)
- One inspection of a current CAAHEP accredited program (representative of all CAAHEP programs as a proxy)
- Inspection of an NCOPE accredited residency site
- Inspection of the ABC examination process

Attainment of the Cat I would benefit the profession by fostering the possibility for student/faculty exchange as well as recognition of the US educational and credentialing process.

The ISPO board of directors will review and act upon the education committee's recommendation in February 2009.

NCOPE would like to thank the following organization's staff and faculty for their time and assistance during the site visit:

- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
- Hanger P&O, Ft. Worth, TX
- Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, Dallas, TX
- American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Alexandria, VA

Baker College of Flint Granted Continued Accreditation

Baker College of Flint in Flint, MI was approved in September for continued accreditation of their O&P technician program. Their next comprehensive review, including a self-study and on-site visit will be in 2013.

St. Petersburg College Awarded Initial Accreditation

St. Petersburg College in Tampa, FL has been awarded initial accreditation of their O&P bachelors program by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This status was awarded based upon NCOPE's review of the programs' self-study and on-site evaluation. They will undergo a comprehensive review in 2011.



Fitter Programs to Pay Fees in 2009

The NCOPE board of directors approved in September 2008 to charge orthotic fitter, post-mastectomy fitter and therapeutic shoe fitter programs an annual approval fee. All currently approved programs were informed in writing in September. The annual approval fee will be \$150 per program. In addition, the board approved a new application fee that will be effective January 1, 2009. For any programs that apply for approval by NCOPE at the fitter level, the application fee will be \$300.

Pedorthic Committee under NCOPE in 2009

Finalization of bringing the pedorthic education community under the NCOPE organization is near completion. Starting in 2009 NCOPE will house the Committee on Approval of Pedorthic Education (CAPE). This committee will be comprised solely of credentialed pedorthist and will include several individuals from the currently approved pedorthic courses. It is anticipated that in 2009 meetings will be spent on finalizing an administrative evaluation process for current and future pedorthic education programs. NCOPE wants to welcome all of the pedorthic educational community!

Master's Curriculum Guide Draft Near Completion

The NCOPE board of directors reviewed an initial draft of the master's level Curriculum Guide in September. The board had some suggestion prior to approving the draft. O&P educators are scheduled to meet on Friday, March 6, 2009 in Atlanta, GA to finalize the draft. Once the NCOPE board approves the draft, it will go out to communities of interest for comments.

Legacy Projects

The NCOPE board of directors approved the idea and concept of encouraging residents to complete "legacy projects." The concept was presented by Alicia Davis, CPO, FAAOP from the University of Michigan (U of M). U of M created these projects as a way for residents to enhance their experience and to give back to residents who come behind them. Information and sample projects can be accessed at www.ncope.org and hit the "Legacy Project" button.

Technician Educators Working on Curriculum Guide

Educators from all of the currently accredited educational programs have been invited to participate at a meeting set for January 24-25, 2008 in Dallas, TX. The group will be reviewing and developing the first Curriculum Guide for the technician level education programs. This is the first step in creating CAAHEP educational standards.

New Innovations On-line Evaluation System

As reported in the July 2008 issue, NCOPE has contracted and is piloting a new on-line evaluation and tracking system for all residents who registered with a start date of June 1, 2008 and beyond.

There have been a few bugs to work out in this process and it seems to be running better now. NCOPE does wish to apologize to certain residency directors who did not receive their individual notice of this pilot program. Due to miscommunication NCOPE did not inform some sites (residents and supervisors) of this program. We appreciate your patience with NCOPE's staff as we pilot this new program. NCOPE feels that this system will

provide NCOPE as well as the profession with valuable data on the resident's 12-month experience.

It is expected that this will become the process for evaluating residents in the future. If you have a current resident and are not aware of this new on-line program and/or have not received your information, please contact Dominique Mungo at dmungo@ncope.org or 703-836-7114 ext. 237.

Application for Reaccreditation Being Reviewed

NCOPE has received the application for continued accreditation from the Newington Certificate Program. It is currently being reviewed by the Self-study Review Committee.

Additional Materials for Joliet Junior College under Review

NCOPE is currently reviewing additional materials requested per the application for initial accreditation of a technician level program at Joliet Junior College in Illinois.

New Board Members in 2009

NCOPE would like to welcome three new board members who will start their three-year term on January 1, 2009:

- Frank Friddle, Jr., CO, FAAOP
- Arlene Gills, CP, LPO
- Jennifer Richards, CPO, CPed., FAAOP

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members

NCOPE would like to thank the following board members rotating off the board:

- Bryan Malas, MHE, CO
- Bill Beiswenger, CPO, FAAOP
- C. Michael Schuch, CPO, FAAOP