

Noteworthy

February 2006



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

Outcome Standards Approved

The new outcome based education standards for the practitioner level were approved at CAAHEP's winter meeting in January. An open hearing to review public comments on the draft from communities of interest took place on Thursday, January 26. The CAAHEP board approved them on Saturday January 28th.

NCOPE spent the past two years working on drafting new standards in the outcome based format as required by CAAHEP. ABC and the Academy both endorsed the standards late last year. The final step was the open hearing and final adoption by the CAAHEP board. Any perspective program seeking accreditation will be required to meet these new standards. Currently accredited programs will be required to be in compliance with the outcome standards when their accreditation cycle is up for review.

Two Practitioner Programs Host Site Visit

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX hosted a site visit of three team members on February 22-23, 2006. The program was up for reaccreditation of their practitioner bachelors level program and had made application in 2005.

St. Petersburg College applied for initial accreditation in 2005 and a site visit has been scheduled for April 17-18, 2006. The program is new and offers a bachelors level program for orthotists and prosthetists.

NCOPE Hosts Education Strategic Session

NCOPE hosted a one day meeting on February 11, 2006 in Scottsdale, AZ. The purpose of the meeting was to further investigate the recommendation from the Summit Meeting in April 2005 to move entry-level education of orthotists and prosthetists to the master's level.

Representatives from ABC, the Academy and AOPA were invited and in attendance as well as representatives from the physical therapy and physician assistant community. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Harry Douglas. A report is being drafted and will be available for review. NCOPE will be working diligently on moving entry-level education to the recommended level of a master's.

Health Professions Network Spring Conference

The Health Professions Network (HPN) will be hosting their spring conference March 16-19 in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of the meeting is "Investing In Healthcare's Human Capital." Some topics to be discussed at the meeting include:

- Supporting and expanding public health research
- Cultural competency in allied health
- Accessibility, quality and efficiency of the health care system

For additional information visit <http://www.healthpronet.org>

School Accreditation Status

In process of accreditation

- Eastern Michigan University
- St. Petersburg

Practitioner Programs

- California State – accredited (2010)
- University of Texas – accredited (currently under review for reaccreditation)
- University of Washington – accredited (2009)
- GA Tech – accredited (2009)
- Newington – accredited (2007)
- Century College – accredited (2010)
- Northwestern – accredited (2006)

Assistant Program

- OSU- Okmulgee – accredited (2006)

Technician Programs

- Baker's College – accredited (2008)
- Century College – accredited (2006)
- Francis Tuttle – accredited (2006)
- Spokane Falls Community College – accredited (2006)



Mark Your Calendar

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming dates:

- **March 1 – 4, 2006** Academy Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- **March 1, 2006** Application deadline for ABC examinations
- **March 2, 2006** NCOPE Resident Director Workshop
- **April 20 - 22, 2006** CAAHEP Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO
- **May 11-12, 2006** Technician examination, White Bear Lake, MN
- **May 20, 2006** ABC written and written simulation exams
- **June 16-17, 2006** Prosthetic ABC CPM exam, Chicago, IL
- **June 23-24, 2006** Orthotic ABC CPM exam, Chicago, IL
- **September 1, 2006** Application deadline for ABC examinations
- **September 27-30, 2006** AOPA National Assembly, Hollywood, FL
- **October 5 -6, 2006** Technician examinations, Spokane, WA

Resident Daily Log

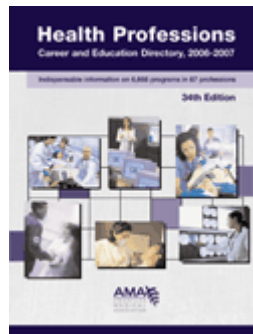
NCOPE would like to clarify and state for the record that a resident must maintain a log of all cases in which he or she is involved. You can find that requirement in Standard RR2.b. of the residency standards. The style and format of the log may vary, but should be detailed enough to identify the level of involvement the resident had with the patient.

The log, however, is not to be turned into NCOPE. The log is a tool for the resident to aid in identifying the range and scope of clinical experiences you have received. If you have any questions concerning the log, please do not hesitate to contact NCOPE at info@ncope.org.

Health Professions Directory Available Soon

The new 2006-2007 edition of the AMA's Health Professions Career and Education Directory will be printed soon. This updated edition includes information on 6,666 educational programs in 67 professions.

Program data will be displayed in a chart format, allowing you to quickly and easily compare various programs. Data will include class capacity, start dates, program length(s), yearly tuition cost, academic award(s) granted, and availability of evening/weekend courses. To order your copy, call 1-800-621-8335.



ABC Moving Towards Computer Based Testing

ABC is currently moving towards computer based testing for the written and written simulation examinations. The goal is to administer the first set of exams in the fall of 2006.



Federal Funds Cut for Allied Health

In the recent HR 3010 appropriations bill approved by Congress, programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act were reduced by 51.5% compared to the previous year's funding levels.

The Section 755 Allied Health and Other Disciplines Program were cut 55.3%. Programs such as rural training, and health education training centers were eliminated entirely. The Health Careers Opportunity Program experienced an 88.9% reduction.

Nearly Half of US Lags in Science Education

Nearly half of the 50 states received grades of "D" or "F" in a new review of stateside academic standards for K-12 science education.

States that earned an "A" were California, Virginia, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Indiana, New York and New Mexico.

Experts contend that poor science education threatens the nation's reputation as a worldwide leader in research and health care.

