

# Noteworthy

February 2001



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

## Foreign Educated Students Must Have Equivalency to Bachelors Degree

Students educated outside the United States, who already hold a degree or education from another country, must have their education evaluated to determine equivalency to degrees in this country prior to applying for an O&P certificate level program. That evaluation must state the degree is equivalent to a baccalaureate degree for admission into an O&P certificate program. NCOPE's standards require that an individual already have a baccalaureate degree to be admitted into a certificate program.

If no evaluation is performed and the student proceeds with education (CAAHEP O&P program) and training (residency) they will be denied the opportunity to take the ABC examinations. NCOPE has been made aware of two cases where students graduated from one of our programs, attended a residency and applied for the ABC exams. The students were denied eligibility because their education was determined not to be equivalent to a baccalaureate degree and therefore they did not meet ABC's eligibility requirements.

In addition, it is a requirement in the residency standards that a student have a baccalaureate degree prior to being accepted as a resident. Residency directors are reminded to verify that potential residents do have a baccalaureate degree or equivalency (for foreign educated students). This can be confirmed with transcripts and with a credential evaluation report.

## Hey You, Yes You!

If you are a practitioner, resident or student please mark your calendar for Friday, March 9, 2001 at 10:30 am. During the Academy's Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX, ABC and NCOPE will co-sponsor a talk titled "The New ABC CPM Exam." This informative session will answer questions like "Did you hear they took fabrication out of the CPM exam?" or "What are they teaching the students in school these days - I need an employee who can use his hands and his brain" or "It's a one day exam now - what can they test in one day?" The speakers will answer these and other questions related to the ABC exam and NCOPE residency program.



## New Form Required for Residency

Effective January 1, 2001 directors are required to fill out an attestation form on the resident's technical competence. This form will be required prior to the resident's completion of the program and may be mailed with the final evaluation form. Letters and the form were mailed to all accredited residency programs on January 8<sup>th</sup>. If your residency program did not receive the form please contact Freddie Fonvielle, Residency Coordinator at [ffonvielle@ncope.org](mailto:ffonvielle@ncope.org).

## Come to the Residency Director Workshop

NCOPE will be sponsoring a workshop for residency directors on Wednesday, March 7, 2001 from 2 pm - 5 pm during the Academy's Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX. The title is "Integrating a Resident into Your Clinical Practice." Objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- To learn a variety of methods of how established resident directors have integrated a resident into their clinical practice
- Receive an update on NCOPE activities and resident pass results on ABC's examinations
- To have an exchange of questions, concerns and ideas regarding establishment of a residency program
- To learn about ABC's *Practice Analysis of the Disciplines of Orthotics and Prosthetics* and how this report of contemporary practice relates to clinical practice and the residency program.



## Reminder

If you are a resident, you must register with NCOPE within the first 30 days of the start of your residency program.

## CAAHEP Annual Meeting

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) will hold their annual meeting April 20-21, 2001 in Minneapolis, MN. This year's theme is "2001: A Health Care Odyssey The Quest for Quality." Meeting highlights are as follows:

- Keynote presentation by Dr. Lonnie Bristow, former President of the American Medical Association and member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Quality of Health Care in America
- "Getting Ready to Take the Journey into Distance Education" to be presented by Michael Lambert, Executive Director of the Distance Education Training Council
- "Initiative to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities" to be presented by a representative from the American Public Health Association

## Relocation of NCOPE Office

Space has been secured for NCOPE with ABC and AOPA in Alexandria, VA. It is only a few blocks from the current location. The move should take place in mid May. The new address will be provided via Noteworthy and cards to all residency programs, residents, students and schools.

## Academy Relocating

The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (The Academy) will be relocating their office space in mid May. They will be in their own office space suitable for their budget and staff size. They will be in the Alexandria area and communication between all of the organizations should not be impacted.

## ABC Examination

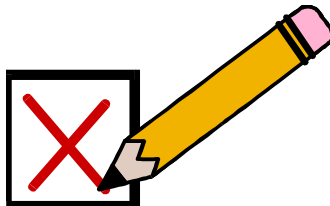
### Application Deadline

March 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for applying to take your ABC examinations for the spring written, written simulation and the summer CPM exams. All residents must have completed their residency by March 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be eligible for the ABC exam. You must have all your paper work in to NCOPE and be listed as having completed a residency before ABC will credential you to take the exams.

What exactly does NCOPE need to have on file for you? The below list outlines the items needed.

- ✓ \$1,000 registration fee
- ✓ Three quarterly evaluation forms
- ✓ Final evaluation form confirming completion of the residency program by the resident director
- ✓ Research project/paper
- ✓ Evaluation of residency program by resident
- ✓ Technical attestation form (new as of Jan. 1, 2001)

NCOPE is able to "release" you as a resident who completed a residency program after all of the above have been submitted. Reports are provided to ABC on a regular basis updating the status of residents.



## Do Not Submit Your Daily Log to NCOPE

Residents do not have to submit their daily log to the NCOPE office. The daily log is a tool for the resident during the duration of the residency program. It helps assist the resident in identifying areas of deficiencies in exposure to procedures.

## Help Students Find Residency Positions – Its as Easy as 1-2-3!

NCOPE requests that all residency programs help us help the students find a residency position by using the NCOPE web site to list the program's hiring status. In the fall of last year, NCOPE made significant changes to the web site. This is a very easy and user-friendly process to edit your sites profile. For only a one-time \$50 fee (this fee off-sets the web development cost) sites can be issued a password. This password allows the sites to mark a hiring button as well as provide a profile about the program they offer. This assists students seeking positions by identifying those sites that are currently hiring.



## The ABC and Academy Boards to Review/Adopt

### NCOPE's Standards

NCOPE made and adopted changes to the primary education standards in November 2000. The changes made by NCOPE were highlighted in the December issue of *Noteworthy*. The CAAHEP process requires NCOPE's sponsors (ABC and The Academy) to adopt the changes as well. Both groups are scheduled to have a board meeting during the Academy's Annual Meeting in March and will review the standards with the recommended changes at that time. Once the boards adopt they proceed to the CAAHEP board for review and adoption in April during their Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN.