

Noteworthy

July 2008



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

NCOPE Moving To On-Line Residency Evaluation System

The NCOPE board of directors voted in February to pilot an on-line tracking system for resident evaluations. This software will facilitate the documentation process and assist in quantifying the Resident experience. This new on-line program, hosted by New Innovations, will be effective for any resident that registers on or after June 1, 2008. Information has been mailed to residents, under separate cover, providing specific details and instructions on how this new on-line resident tracking system will work.



New Masters Program Seeks Candidacy Status

The University of Pittsburg has applied for candidacy status for an orthotic and prosthetic master's level program. Candidacy is the first step required in the process of pursuing accreditation. The program will provide additional information in order for the application to move forward. NCOPE is excited to see the development of a new program.

Technician Level Approved to come Under CAAHEP System

NCOPE applied to the CAAHEP board of directors in April to add the technician profession under the CAAHEP system. The CAAHEP board approved the request. In the future all programs that teach and award a degree or certificate at the technician level will be accredited under the CAAHEP system.

The first step will be to bring the current technician standards into the CAAHEP template and process. Several of the technician educators have agreed to start the process of drafting the technician curriculum guide that is needed before technician standards can be drafted within the CAAHEP system.



NCOPE and AOPA to Co-Sponsor Career Fair during AOPA

National Assembly

NCOPE and AOPA will be co-sponsoring the first ever Career Fair on Friday, September 12, 2008 from 8:00 am – 9:30 am, in Chicago, IL. The objective of the fair is to provide information on the opportunities locally and nationally available to the future O&P workforce – the professionals currently pursuing an education or currently registered in a residency program.

The first 30 minutes will include brief talks by the following groups:

- AOPA – value and importance of trade association membership
- NCOPE – next step immediately after school
- ABC – next step after completion of residency
- BOC – next step after school or residency
- AAOP – value and importance of professional society membership

The balance of the time will include a continental breakfast and the ability to network with association representatives as well as residency sites and other potential employers.

We encourage any currently enrolled O&P student or currently registered resident to attend this important session.

If you have any questions about the fair, please contact Robin Seabrook at rseabrook@ncope.org

Orthotic Fitter

Program Approved

NCOPE reviewed the application for the orthotic fitter program at Oklahoma State University – Okmulgee. The orthotic fitter course has been approved and meets the education eligibility requirements for certification by ABC.

Resident Directors Workshop at AOPA National Assembly

NCOPE will be sponsoring a resident faculty and directors workshop on Wednesday, September 10th during the AOPA National Assembly. The title of the workshop is “How the ABC Practice Analysis Can Positively Affect Your Residency.” It is scheduled from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. A flyer will be mailed out in August to all of the currently accredited NCOPE residency sites. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Seabrook at rseabrook@ncope.org

Notice for Florida O&P Residents

As of July 1, 2008, all persons wanting to achieve clinical experience as an NCOPE resident in Florida must first apply to the Florida Board of O&P for approval and registration. Residents are no longer exempt from the licensure law.

The Florida Association of Orthotists and Prosthetists (FAOP) has offered to provide residents with information you may find helpful in applying to the Board.

If you would like to receive more information and be placed in a resident information group, please email faopoffice@verizon.net and put NCOPE Resident in the subject line.

Reminders for Residents

NCOPE would like to remind all residents that it is their primary responsibility to assure “all is well” with their residency. The following is a brief listing of topics to be aware of:

- Assure that you pick a program that is a current NCOPE accredited site. If it is not, make sure they have already applied to NCOPE before accepting or starting your residency.
- Submit the registration form within 30 days of starting the program.
- Submit and make copies for your records of each quarterly evaluation.
- Submit your directed study topic and abstract within six months of starting the residency program.
- When submitting your directed study make sure it is accompanied by the signed release form.
- Submit the cover sheet for your directed study, also identifying if you would like the project passed along to the Academy for review and consideration of the “Best of the Resident” series.
- Contact your regional network director if you have any questions or concerns about your residency.
- Make sure that all paper work has been submitted to NCOPE on or before ABC’s application deadlines of March 1st, June 1st and September 1st.



Academy Moves!

The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (Academy) relocated their offices in early July to Washington, DC. Their contact information is:
1331 H Street, NW
Suite 501
Washington, DC 20005
202-380-3663
202-380-3447 (fax)



Site Visit Scheduled

The O&P technician program at Baker College of Flint, in Flint, MI has been scheduled for a site visit by a team for reaccreditation on August 5-6, 2008. The program reapplied for continued accreditation in early 2008. The site team’s report will be reviewed at the NCOPE board’s next meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 in Chicago, IL.

Team Reports Schedule for Review by NCOPE Board

The on-site visit report prepared by the team that evaluated the Oklahoma State University – Okmulgee O&P technician program is set for review on a conference call Wednesday, July 23rd. This is the final step, pending no major issues with the report, in awarding accreditation to the program.

Northwestern Site Visit Report to be Reviewed in September

The on-site visit report prepared by the team that evaluated the Northwestern University O&P post-bachelors certificate program will be reviewed by the board on September 9, 2008 in Chicago, IL.