

Noteworthy

June 2006



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

Change to Residency Standards

The commission voted at their business meeting on June 10, 2006 to make a change to one of the standards that governs the program staff. Standard PS8 deals with who may supervise the resident during patient care. The commission voted to add that an individual must have been certified for a minimum of three years when supervising patient care. This new standard is effective July 1, 2006. The new standard reads as follows: "Orthotic and/or prosthetic care is the responsibility of the program and must be provided by or under the direct supervision of a qualified ABC-certified practitioner, with a minimum of three years post ABC certification, in the discipline being supervised."

Status Reports Mailed

Status reports were mailed to residents and resident sites in May/June. These status reports provided information on what NCOPE currently has on file, including contact information and fee payment as well as evaluation forms on file for residents. If you did not receive a report, please contact Dominique Mungo at dmungo@ncope.org.



NCOPE Amends Bylaws

In response to NCOPE's growth, NCOPE voted at their meeting on June 10, 2006 to amend their bylaws. Specifically, **Article 3 – the Board and Article 3 – the Board, Section 1(b) – Powers**. The commission voted to have individuals placed on the board of directors via nominations rather than appointments from other O&P organizations. NCOPE's composition will be as follows:

- One person whose practice is a member in good standing in the patient care facility or education & research institutions categories from AOPA.
- One person who is a member in good standing in the active members category from the Academy.
- Two people who are certified at the practitioner level and in good standing by ABC
- Two people who are current residency directors from active residency programs accredited by NCOPE
- Two people as chosen by a majority vote of O&P CAAHEP accredited programs
- One person as chosen by a majority vote of O&P technician level programs accredited by NCOPE
- Two people from the public at large

A call for nominations will be posted in August for NCOPE positions that are available for the upcoming year.

Strategic Report To Be Published

NCOPE held a meeting in February 2006 in Scottsdale, AZ to discuss strategic ideas for movement to the master's level for O&P education. This meeting was as a result of the education summit meeting held in April 2005. The report is expected to be available and on-line in August 2006.

University of Texas Continued Accreditation

The University of Texas at Southwestern applied for continued accreditation of their O&P bachelors program. The program was site visited in February and the report was reviewed in June. The commission voted to recommend continued accreditation of the program for the next five years to the CAAHEP board of directors. The CAAHEP board will review NCOPE's recommendation in July.

New Residency Application Being Created

NCOPE is in the process of updating and changing the application for facility practices to apply for residency accreditation. This application will allow NCOPE to gather more information on the type of program being offered and in turn provide that information on-line to prospective residents. The current application does not allow for an in-depth description of the residency program.

Mark Your Calendar

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming dates:

- **September 1, 2006**
Application deadline for ABC examinations
- **September 26, 2006** NCOPE business meeting
- **September 27, 2006** Residency Director Workshop, Hollywood, FL
- **September 27-30, 2006** AOPA National Assembly, Hollywood, FL
- **October 5 -6, 2006** Technician examinations, Spokane, WA

AOPA Launches New Online O&P Job Board

AOPA has launched an interactive O&P Job Board at <http://jobs.AOPAnet.org>. This resource for O&P professionals serves as the O&P employment network for job seekers.

Job seekers can create career profiles, post resumes, search for jobs by state and keyword and apply for jobs directly through the Web site, **completely free of charge**.

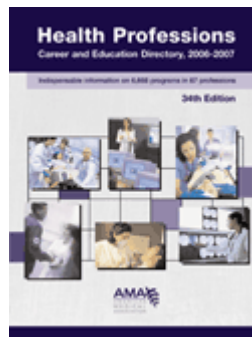
Questions? Contact Jennifer Kingery at jkingery@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0876, ext. 253.



Health Professions Directory Available

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

Program data is displayed in a chart format, allowing you to quickly and easily compare various programs. Data includes 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.



Median Program Request Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation

The Median School of Allied Health in Pittsburgh, PA requested withdrawal of their accreditation of their technician level program. It had been on inactive status for the two year limit. The school was bought in 2004 and changed its primary focus to veterinary education. NCOPE voted at its meeting in June to voluntarily withdraw Median's accreditation. Any students that graduated from the Median technician program will still be able to gain transcript information.

NCOPE and AOPA Working on Needs Study

A committee with NCOPE and AOPA representatives was formed at the start of 2006. The goal is for a new study to be completed on the future needs for the profession of O&P. This study will focus on the levels of practice within O&P including practitioners, fitters, technicians and CPeds. Requests for proposals went out in May and several completed RFP's have been received and are being reviewed. The goal is to have the study completed and published by December 2006.

Have a great summer!

