

Noteworthy



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

ISPO Approves NCOPE and ABC for Cat I Recognition

NCOPE and ABC received official word from ISPO having their combined pathway approved and recognized as an ISPO Category I (Cat I) Professional Pathway in Prosthetics and Orthotics. ABC and NCOPE applied for 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. 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.

NCOPE and ABC will each be issued a certificate of recognition for a period of five years. ISPO maintains a register of Category I professionals in their office located in Copenhagen.

For any students that graduate from a CAAHEP accredited program, complete an NCOPE residency program and pass the ABC exams in both orthotics and prosthetics after December 2008 your name will be forwarded to ISPO. More information on ISPO can be found at <http://www.ispoweb.org/>



Approval of Pedorthic Education under NCOPE

Effective January 1, 2009, the approval of pre-certification courses for the profession of pedorthics is under the organizational umbrella of the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE). The Commission on Accreditation of Pedorthic Education (CAPE) dissolved as a corporation and now functions as a committee under NCOPE. All previously accredited CAPE programs are now NCOPE approved.

Negotiations between the two organizations took place throughout 2008. Under NCOPE there will be a committee named the "Committee on Approval of Pedorthic Education" (CAPE). This committee will be comprised of only credentialed and/or licensed pedorthists and pedorthic educators. CAPE will be the content experts for all pedorthic education and will provide recommendations to the NCOPE board of directors for approval of pedorthic programs. This committee will also actively review and recommend changes and/or improvements to the application process and educational criteria. The system in place is nearly identical to the system NCOPE participates in with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

NCOPE looks forward to working with the pedorthic profession by providing approval services for the pre-certification courses.

Orthotic/ Prosthetic Education & Research Foundation

Announces Awards

The Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation (OPERF), Inc. is now soliciting applications for the 2009 OPERF Award Program. The Award Program is designed to encourage and stimulate research at all levels in the O&P profession. Thanks to generous donations from O&P professionals, business owners, manufacturers, and organizations, more than \$35,000 in awards are being offered in 2009. Five awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 are now available. Current residents are encouraged to consider the following category:

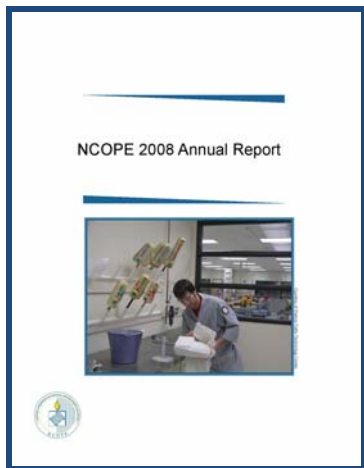
2009 OPERF Resident Travel Awards

The OPERF Resident Travel Award Program is designed to support the travel of prosthetic and orthotic residents to the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) Annual Meeting & Scientific Symposium so that they may present their NCOPE (National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education) required residency research (i.e., Directed Study) project. The \$1000 Travel Awards will be given to deserving O&P residents seeking to share the results of their directed study at the Annual Meeting. Two Resident Travel Awards will be offered in 2009.

O&P residents and students are encouraged to apply and check out the additional awards being offered. Details regarding the OPERF Award Program, specific award descriptions, submission instructions, deadlines, and application forms may be found on the OPERF website at www.OPERF.org.

NCOPE's 2008 Annual Report Complete

NCOPE has published electronically its 2008 Annual Report. The report highlights the activities and accomplishments of NCOPE during 2008. It provides a financial snapshot of how NCOPE ended 2008. The report can be found at http://www.ncope.org/assets/pdfs/2008_annual_report.pdf



NCOPE to Hold Strategic Planning Meeting

NCOPE will host a strategic planning session on July 18-20, 2009 in Portland, OR. It has been several years since NCOPE has reviewed and reevaluated their mission and strategic initiatives. A professional facilitator has been hired. In an effort to have a diverse experience from an historic and contemporary perspective, NCOPE has invited previous chairs as well as newly certified practitioners that serve on NCOPE's regional residency liaison committee.



Accreditation Update

The following is an update on accreditation activities for programs applying for accreditation or reaccreditation:

- University of Pittsburgh has applied for Candidacy Status for a masters level program in O&P. A focused site visit is scheduled for April 1, 2009.
- Newington Certificate Program has applied for reaccreditation and their application is currently being reviewed by the Self-Study Review Committee.
- University of Washington was granted a six month extension on submission of their application for continued accreditation. The application will now be due in November 2009.
- Northwestern University was placed on probationary accreditation status. Students graduating under this status are eligible to attend a residency and pursue ABC certification.
- St. Petersburg College hosted a team for a focused visit on March 18, 2009 to verify a progress report from 2008.
- Joliet Junior College site visit was postponed until further information is provided to NCOPE.

Technician Summit Held

Educators from all of the currently accredited educational programs attended a technician summit meeting on January 24-25, 2008 in Dallas, TX. The educators worked specifically on creation of a technician curriculum guide and drafting a set of CAAHEP standards for the technician level. The goal is to bring these drafts to CAAHEP in 2009 and start bringing all of the currently accredited programs under the CAAHEP system.

New Innovations Evaluation System

As reported in 2008, NCOPE has contracted and is continuing to pilot an 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 in the system but NCOPE believes most of them have been worked out. The board will review at their business meeting in July the issue of making this a mandatory requirement for all residency sites and residents.

If you have or are a current resident and are not aware of this on-line program and/or have not received your information, please contact Dominique Mungo at dmungo@ncope.org or 703-836-7114 ext. 237.

Movement to Master's Level Standards

NCOPE is still on target to have new CAAHEP standards adopted and implemented for any new programs that pursue accreditation in place by January 1, 2010. The curriculum guide is still in development but is expected to be out for public comment this summer.

Nominations to NCOPE's Board of Directors

In May, NCOPE will formally seek nominations to the Board of Directors. Information concerning the nomination process will be posted on NCOPE's web site by May 30th. There will be several board positions available starting January 1, 2010.

