

Noteworthy

May 2000



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

NCOPE Creates a Student/Resident Committee

At the board of commissioners meeting on March 14, 2000, the *Student/Resident Representation Committee* was formed. As NCOPE's programs continue to grow and mature and residency becomes the standard, the need to hear from the individuals receiving NCOPE's services is vital. This committee will correspond via conference calls and will bring forth any issues and concerns they feel are relevant for the commission's consideration.

The committee for 2000 is as follows:

- **R. Michael Russell, CPO**, Chairman, Current Commissioner
- **Eric Miller**, Current Resident
- **Paul Irving**, Current Student
- **Bill DeToro, Jr.**, Resident in exam process
- **Tony LaFrance, CPO**, Certified practitioner trained under residency

If there are issues you feel the committee should address, please feel free to contact Robin Seabrook via email at rseabrook@ncope.org. The committee will be having their first conference call in late May.

ABC's Exam Sequencing Changes

Effective January 1, 2001, candidates for the ABC practitioner certification examinations are required to successfully complete the written and written simulation examinations prior to registering for and taking the clinical patient management examinations.

This policy does not affect those candidates approved for the certification process prior to the effective date. For questions concerning this policy change, contact Cathy Carter at ccarter@opoffice.org

Students Use the Web to Seek Resident Positions and List is Not Accurate

Nearly every student seeking a residency position will access NCOPE's web site at one time or another (www.ncope.org). The web site lists all currently accredited residency sites that are active and hiring residents. NCOPE has received quite a few complaints this spring from students seeking a residency position who used the list off the web. A large number of residency sites listed were not accepting residents this year.

NCOPE contacts every residency site at the start of the new year requesting each site to identify their status of active (hiring) or inactive (not hiring) for that current year. Letters were mailed on December 17, 1999 to all sites. The sites were requested to verify and update NCOPE on their status. If we did not hear from you, then your status remained the same.

Students actively use the list posted on the web. If you are a residency site, NCOPE recommends and requests you connect to the web and see if your site is accurately listed. If your site is listed and you are not hiring or if you are not listed and are hiring *please* contact Freddie Fonvielle at ffonvielle@ncope.org for a correction.

NCOPE wants to offer the students the most accurate and up-to-date list as possible. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

Congratulations!

NCOPE would like to congratulate all of the graduates this May and past December from O&P educational programs. We look forward to working with you during your residency!



Title Change

NCOPE is happy to announce a title change for Freddie Fonvielle. Ms. Fonvielle has been NCOPE's administrative assistant since the creation of NCOPE in 1991. She has been instrumental during the development of NCOPE and specifically the residency program.

In recognition of her outstanding dedication to NCOPE and to more accurately reflect her role, Ms. Fonvielle has been named *Residency Coordinator*. Ms. Fonvielle coordinates all of the residency sites during their application process and works with each and every resident from the point of registration to the completion of the residency. Any questions regarding residency may be directed to her at ffonvielle@ncope.org.

CAAHEP's Annual Meeting

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs held their annual meeting April 28-29, 2000 in San Antonio, TX. NCOPE brought forth two recommendations for accreditation to the CAAHEP Board of Directors. At the meeting, the following programs were granted accreditation by CAAHEP:

- **University of Texas**, Dallas TX - *accreditation*
- **Century College**, White Bear Lake, MN - *provisional accreditation*

These were the last two programs to fall under the CAAHEP system. All graduates from all programs are required to complete an NCOPE accredited residency program to meet ABC eligibility requirements for certification.

Changes to the Primary Education Standards Expected

It has been seven years since the "new" educational standards were developed and adopted by NCOPE. The Standards Committee's primary goal this year is to review all of the studies and information available to make any recommended changes to the current set of educational standards used by all of the accredited O&P schools. One specific study, which will be vital in the work of the committee, will be ABC's newly published *Practice Analysis of the Disciplines of Orthotics and Prosthetics*.

The process will include NCOPE commission approval/adoption with public comments by a community of interest, including the O&P educational programs.

The Boards of NCOPE's sponsoring organizations, ABC and the Academy, will need to adopt the new standards with a final document moving forward to CAAHEP for their approval. The goal is to have a new set of standards adopted by all groups by October of 2000.

Evaluation of Residency Program is Required

If you are finishing your residency do not forget to provide NCOPE with an evaluation of your residency experience. Forms are in the *Resident Handbook* or in the facilities *Accreditation Manual*. These forms are required in order to complete your residency and to be eligible to sit for ABC's examinations.



Get Those Registration Forms In!

Remember you must be registered as a resident within the first 30 days of starting your residency program. If more than 30 days go by your residency start date will be delayed.

Residency Site Profiles

NCOPE is developing the ability for residency sites to write a profile about the experience they can offer a resident on NCOPE's web site. The details are still being worked out, however, we expect it to be operational by mid June.

NCOPE will issue a password to the residency site, which provides them access to the website so they may add a paragraph description about their residency program. This will allow students seeking positions to better fit their needs with those needs of the residency site. Residency sites will also be able to identify if they are actively hiring or not. This should help eliminate a site being contacted when they are not seeking a resident.

Commission to hold Summer Meeting

NCOPE's board of commissioners will hold their summer meeting on July 21-22, 2000 in Chicago, IL.

New Technician Program Applies

NCOPE has received the application for accreditation of an O&P Technician Program at Frances Tuttle Area Vocational Technical School in Oklahoma City, OK.

Associates Level Program Granted Provisional

Century College made application in the winter of 1999 and received provisional accreditation in March 2000 from NCOPE for the associate level in O&P.

Just the Facts

Residents passing rate on ABC's examinations in 1999 were higher than the overall pass rate. The attached table highlights the pass rates.