

Noteworthy

November 2007

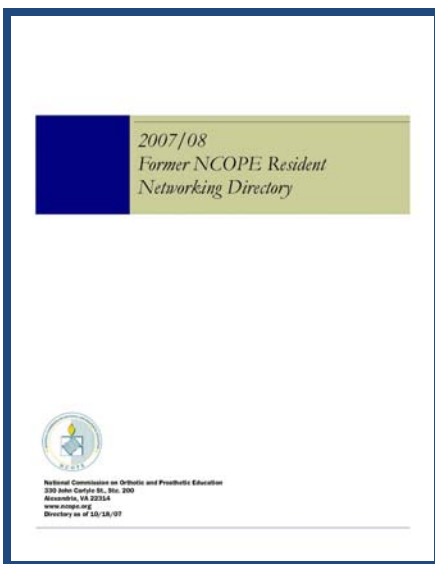


National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

Former Resident Networking Directory

NCOPE is pleased to provide a new resource for students that are looking for residency programs. An electronic directory of former NCOPE residents has been compiled and published. Students may contact the individuals listed in the directory with questions they have regarding the residency program.

In the summer of 2007, NCOPE mailed out a survey to over 1,000 former residents asking if they would like to be included in the directory and if students may contact them. The response was very positive. Some former residents even offer some tips or advice to students seeking a residency. A copy was provided to all of the currently accredited CAAHEP programs via email. A copy of the networking directory is under the resident tab on NCOPE's website at www.ncope.org.



Moving to the Professional Masters Level Update

Movement to raise the minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree in O&P to a master's level degree in O&P has been moving this year at a rapid pace. The NCOPE board of directors voted at their meeting in March 2007 to require all newly created programs that seek accreditation to apply at the master's level in 2010 and beyond. The currently accredited programs will need to transition to the master's level in or before 2012.

In 2007 two meetings of O&P educators were held to create a master's level curriculum guide. A third meeting is scheduled in February 2008 to complete the document.

To read additional information on the movement to the master's level, check out NCOPE's website at www.ncope.org. The following resources are available:

- Working draft of the master's curriculum guide
- Educational Timeline and movement to master's level for O&P
- Extensive Q&A on movement to the master's
- NCOPE's strategic planning report on movement to master's level education
- 2005 Education Summit Report

Directed Study Statement Form

The NCOPE resident's research project is now called a Directed Study. As of January 1, 2007, all residents are required to submit a signed "Resident Directed Study Statement Form" with the submission of their project. With submission of the *Directed Study*, the resident is agreeing with the following:

- All legal requirements have been met, and if an IRB approval is required, it has been obtained
- Informed written consent has been obtained by all human subjects
- All HIPAA requirements have been met
- Have not participated in scientific misconduct (i.e., plagiarism)

The form is on-line at NCOPE's web site at www.ncope.org under Resident and then forms.

Reaccreditation of Technician Level Programs

NCOPE conducted three on-site visit and reviews of self-studies from three technician programs this past year.

NCOPE is pleased to announce that the following technician programs have been granted reaccreditation:

- **Century College**, White Bear Lake, MN
- **Francis Tuttle Technology Center**, Oklahoma City, OK
- **Spokane Falls Community College**, Spokane, WA

The programs' next comprehensive review including an on-site visit will occur in 2012.

NCOPE Approving Fitter Level Education

Effective July 1, 2007, NCOPE assumed from ABC the role and responsibility of approving orthotic fitter education courses, mastectomy fitter education courses and therapeutic shoe education courses. The ABC board of directors approached NCOPE in the fall of 2006 requesting that NCOPE assume this responsibility since it aligns with our mission of overseeing orthotic and prosthetic education.

A letter was mailed to all currently approved programs informing them of the change. Any course looking for approval can find an application and information about the required criteria for approval at www.ncope.org

NCOPE and ABC to Pursue Recognition for Category I

NCOPE and ABC will collaborate in 2008 to apply to the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) for recognition of the current US education and certification process for orthotists and prosthetists. ISPO has several defined categories of O&P care providers that are internationally accepted, with Category I being the highest level and the level associated with orthotists and prosthetists.

The process will entail the submission of an application identifying our educational standards, curriculum, accreditation process and the ABC certification examination process. It is expected that a team would visit the US and review the educational, residency and ABC examination processes. It is believed that if recognition of the US process is attained this would aid our future graduates in their ability to work and teach internationally as well as provide the US with international exposure with important organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

No concrete date has been set on when the application will be submitted but the goal is to pursue it sometime in 2008. If you would like further information on ISPO go to <http://www.ispo.ws/index.php>



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 you apply to take the ABC exams.

