

# Noteworthy

September 2002



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

## Resident List-Serve Now Available

The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) has created a list-serve specifically for current residents, residents that have completed and may be in the ABC exam process, current O&P students, certified practitioners and educators that have an interest in residency.

The Resident List-Serve is a forum for exchanging questions or concerns about residency, distributing information on any policy changes to the resident or residency program, sharing research ideas and assistance, etc. If you would like to join the Resident List-Serve, please email [rseabrook@ncope.org](mailto:rseabrook@ncope.org) and type Resident List-Serve in the subject line.

## Regional Residency Network Created

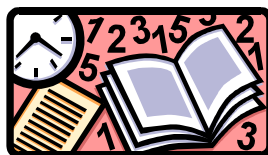
This summer NCOPE piloted the Regional Residency Network (RRN). The commission recognized the need to provide stronger support and communication to all residency programs and residents. Jennifer Richards, CO served as the pilot Regional Director for the Mid-west chapter. She maintained contact 24 residents during their residency. Ms. Richards provided a written report on the success of the pilot for the commission's review this past August. Based upon her experience and recommendation the commission approved the establishment of the RRN program. NCOPE is currently in the process of identifying regions and seeking Regional Directors.

## New Enforcement on Submission of Quarterly Evaluations

It has always been NCOPE's policy that residents must be registered as residents within the first thirty days of starting a residency program or their residency start date will be delayed. NCOPE has also required that quarterly evaluation forms be submitted in a timely manner after the completion of a quarter. Despite these policies, NCOPE continues to receive the submission of quarterly evaluation forms extremely late beyond the completion of quarters. As a result, the NCOPE adopted the following policy statement:

"NCOPE requires that all quarterly evaluations and final evaluations for the residency program be submitted within 30 days of the completion of that particular quarter or the completion of the program. For any evaluation forms received after the 30 day period a delay in the residency complete date will occur along with an administrative fee."

It is NCOPE's goal to assure a quality experience and clinical training by having the resident evaluated quarterly and as such the forms must be provided to NCOPE for the resident's permanent record within 30 days at the end of every quarter. It is the responsibility of the resident to assure NCOPE has and receives the evaluation forms on their behalf, not the resident director.



## Fee Increase for 2003

The NCOPE commission approved fee increases for the residency application and the resident registration fee. These new fees will take effect January 1, 2003. NCOPE has not had an increase in fees since the creation of NCOPE back in 1991. The new fee schedule is as follows:

- Residency Application Fee - **\$300**
- Resident Registration Fee - **\$1,200**



## Fall Residency Directors Workshop

NCOPE is sponsoring a Residency Directors workshop at AOPA's Annual meeting in Chicago, IL. The date of the workshop is Wednesday, October 9, 2002 from 2 pm – 5 pm. The title of the workshop is "Residency Directors – A Research Resource".

- ✓ Please plan on attending the workshop to learn the following:
- ✓ What O&P schools teach on research
- ✓ The role of the residency director in assisting the resident with a research project
- ✓ How to assist your resident in preparing their research project

You can contact NCOPE at [rseabrook@ncope.org](mailto:rseabrook@ncope.org) to receive information concerning the workshop.

See you in Chicago!

## CAAHEP To Hold Fall Meeting

The Commission on Accreditation on Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) will hold their fall meeting October 18-19, 2002 in Schaumburg, IL. The CAAHEP Board of Directors will hold a meeting to consider accreditation recommendations from representatives of the Committees on Accreditation. NCOPE will have two representatives in attendance at the meeting.

## Georgia Tech Starts First Master's Level O&P Program

Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) accepted students and began classes on August 19, 2002 for an entry-level Master of Science program in orthotics and prosthetics. The program provided a preliminary self-study to NCOPE to begin the accreditation process. The program will be housed in the School of Applied Physiology and the Clinical/Education Coordinator is Chris Hovorka, CPO.

## ABC Creates New Website

The American Board for Certification (ABC) will be debuting a new website during AOPA's Annual meeting in Chicago. The new website will have a new look and feel and will include all of the valuable information on certification, facility accreditation and continuing education. The new address for ABC's website is [www.abcop.org](http://www.abcop.org).

## Several Programs to Have On-Site Visits This Fall

Two programs undergoing the accreditation process will host site teams representing NCOPE this fall. The two programs and dates for the visits are as follows:

- ✓ Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee on October 28, 2002
- ✓ Baker College of Flint on November 4-5, 2002

## Negotiated Rulemaking To Start In October

The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Special Payment Provisions and requirements for prosthetics and certain custom fabricated orthotics has been established. This process has been called for under the Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA).

The purpose of the committee is to advise the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on developing a proposed rule that would establish special payment provisions and requirements for providers of prosthetics and certain custom-fabricated orthotics under the Medicare program.

NCOPE will be one of 21 organizations participating on this advisory committee. The first meeting will occur October 1-3, 2002 and the second meeting is scheduled for October 29-31, 2002 in Baltimore, MD.

## November Designated as Allied Health Professions Week

Allied Health Professions Week will be celebrated nationally November 3-9 to honor health care providers working in allied health professions, including O&P.

"Allied health professionals are health care practitioners with formal education and clinical training who are credentialed through certification, registration and/or licensure. They collaborate with physicians and other members of the health care team to deliver high quality patient care services for the identification, prevention, and treatment of diseases, disabilities, and disorders."

More Allied Health Professions Week information and merchandise can be obtained from the following Web sites:

- [www.healthpronet.org](http://www.healthpronet.org)
- [www.asahp.org](http://www.asahp.org)
- [www.NN2.org](http://www.NN2.org)



## OPAF Relocating

The Orthotic and Prosthetic Assistance Fund (OPAF) will be relocating their office as of October 1st to Washington, DC. OPAF's new mailing address and phone number is:

OPAF  
1666 K Street NW, Suite 440,  
Washington, DC 20006  
Phone: 202.223.2878 or 202.223.8878