

Noteworthy

September 2001



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

Quarterly Evaluation Forms Due!

Residents are required to submit their quarterly evaluations to NCOPE within two weeks after the completion of that quarter. There have been some instances where NCOPE did not receive any forms until the end of the residency. This is not acceptable! Please make a copy of your evaluation forms, mail either the copy or original to NCOPE as soon as the quarter is complete.

The residency director is responsible for performing the evaluations and the resident is responsible for submitting them to NCOPE. The director must submit the final evaluation identifying the residents' successful completion of the program.

NCOPE Is 10 Years Young!

NCOPE's ten-year anniversary was in July. NCOPE was reorganized as a separate and independent accreditation agency in July 1991. NCOPE has grown and matured much within the past 10 years.

When asked to reflect on the 10 year anniversary, founding and former chairman, William Barringer, CO, FAAOP stated "the formalization of the O&P educational process put us on the same level as other allied health professionals and truly prepares our people to enter practice with a great background. Ten years later we are seeing the fruits of the original decisions, better test scores, an accepted resident program that has grown and

flourished, more student involvement in the educational process, schools exercising their academic freedom to develop programs that are different yet meet a minimum standards. We can take comfort in the fact that NCOPE still controls the educational future of our profession. The next 10 years will be even more fruitful as our profession becomes more educated and demands that the bar be raised to ensure we have the most competent practitioners in the world."

Michael Brncick, CPO, NCOPE's current chairman added that the value of NCOPE to the profession has also been reaffirmed with the current recommendation to have NCOPE sit at the table during the negotiated rule making process (information on the negotiated rulemaking is highlighted in this edition of *Noteworthy*).

The founding commission worked hard to bring about change to the O&P educational system with new primary educational standards and the creation of residency standards. One commissioner from the original board was quoted as saying recently "I told you not to worry, it would happen."



Starting Your O&P Education!

NCOPE would like to welcome all students that have just started their O&P formal education. We look forward to working with you during your primary education and residency education. If you have any questions while at school or during your residency, please do not hesitate to contact NCOPE at info@ncope.org.

NCOPE Recommended for Seat in Negotiated Rulemaking

NCOPE is one of at least 13 groups that have been recommended by federal conveners to take part in the negotiated rule-making process. This process has been called for under the Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA).

Recommendations were made to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS, formerly HCFA), which will make the final determination on which groups take part in the negotiated rulemaking, or "reg-neg." The rulemaking will determine, in part, the types of providers that will be considered qualified to provide prostheses and certain custom orthoses under Medicare.

Other O&P groups have been recommended as well, they include ABC and BOC as both are named in the law as well as AOPA and the Academy. It is anticipated that the first meeting will be held in early 2002.

Moving Towards Outcome Based Standards

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) held an important workshop in July in Chicago. All Committees on Accreditation (CoA), including NCOPE were informed by the CAAHEP board of directors that all Standards must be placed in an "outcomes" based template by 2007. NCOPE will be moving forward in 2002 to begin the process of drafting O&P practitioner level standards in the new template.

November Designated as Allied Health Professions Week

Allied Health Professions Week will be celebrated nationally November 4-10 to honor health care providers working in allied health professions, including O&P.

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

- www.healthpronet.org
- www.asahp.org
- www.NN2.org
- www.alliedhealth.org



FREE Offer to NCOPE Registered Students and Residents!

The American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) is offering a free Saturday admission to the AOPA National Assembly to all NCOPE registered students and residents. You won't want to miss this first-ever opportunity to attend the largest O&P exhibition in the United States for **FREE**. The annual educational program and trade show will be held this year in Phoenix, Ariz., on Oct. 24-27. For more information contact Tina Moran at tmoran@aopanet.org or call (703) 836-7116, ext. 208.

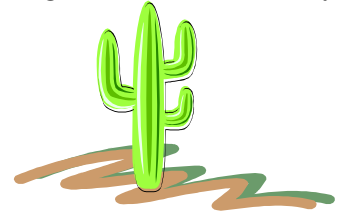
AOPA Assembly To Be Held in Phoenix, AZ

Join your colleagues at the *American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association's 2001 National Assembly* Oct. 24-27, 2001 in Phoenix. This premier O&P industry event is the largest exhibition in the United States, attracting all the leading manufacturers and suppliers of O&P components, devices, tools, supplies and services.

You'll get the chance to earn up to 30 continuing education credits in clinical and business management education by attending this one meeting in beautiful, sun-filled Arizona!

At the clinical seminars, learn the newest techniques for fabrication and hear peer assessments of the latest designs and components used in the industry. Also, find out at our business management sessions how you can maintain a profitable business and still have time to deliver quality patient care.

Visit the AOPA Web site at <http://www.aopanet.org> or call Sheila Pasquini at (703) 836-7116, ext. 234 to have a registration form faxed to you.



NCOPE Resident Director Workshop to be Held in Phoenix

NCOPE will sponsor a resident director workshop on Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. The title of the workshop is "The Business Side of O&P Realistic Expectations of the Resident." Come learn what the current O&P curriculum contains on O&P business, what expectations you should have for your resident and how current directors teach the business side of O&P in their residency program.

An ABC and NCOPE Talk

If you've been wondering how and why the ABC Clinical Patient Management (CPM) Examinations have changed, and how residency fits into the picture, come find out on Friday, October 26 from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm during the AOPA Assembly in Phoenix, AZ.

September 11, 2001



Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.

Unity - Strength - Courage