



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

## AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

November 18, 2014

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### **Prosthetists: Help UTSA Engineering Students Design a Prosthetic Foot**



A group of engineering students from the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) is working to develop a prosthetic foot for their senior design project. They are also teamed up with the Center of Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship Competition. Experienced prosthetists can help by answering a few questions and sharing insight on K3 prosthetic feet, their practice, and validation for some of the improvements they are trying to make.

The online survey is located [here](#).

Those who assist will receive more information and the results once the competition is over. The group is also seeking prosthetists that are willing to try the new foot. The foot is described as follows:

*Our prosthetic foot "Thetis" is a carbon fiber K3 rated foot that will allow for increased distribution of stress preventing rupture or delimitation, improved gait, and will integrate new design features to provide the ability to use one foot for varying levels of activity.*

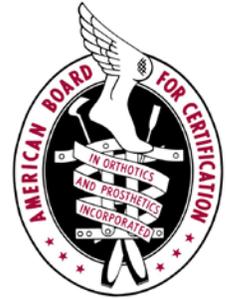
For more information or questions, please contact George Barrera at [sei.thetis@gmail.com](mailto:sei.thetis@gmail.com)

**Take**  
**the Survey**

## ABC Announces New Leadership for 2015

The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc. (ABC) announces new leadership for its 2014-2015 Board of Directors effective December 1.

- James H. Wynne, CPO, FAAOP – President
- Christopher J. Fairman, CPO – President Elect
- Eric Ramcharran, CPO – Secretary Treasurer
- Curt A. Bertram, CO, FAAOP – Immediate Past President



Joining the board are James H. Hughes, CP and Larry D. Word, CPO, FAAOP.

Returning board members are Dennis W. Dillard, C.Ped., CTO; Jeanine Doty, CPO, CFm, RN; Dennis J. Janisse, C.Ped.; Stephanie D. Langdon, CPO, FAAOP; Timothy E. Miller, CPO; Deborah Merritt Plescia, CPO; and Anthony Sertick, Jr., JD (Public Member).

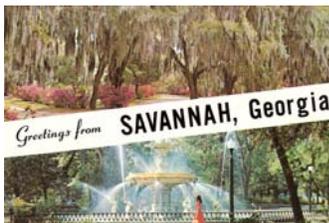
## Announcing Two Mastering Medicare: Essential Coding & Billing Seminars for 2015

AOPA is pleased to announce that the first two Essential Coding & Billing Seminars of the new year will be held in Savannah, GA from February 9-10, and in Philadelphia, PA from July 13-14.

AOPA experts provide the most up-to-date information to help O&P practitioners and office billing staff learn how to code complex devices, including repairs and adjustments, through interactive discussions with AOPA experts, your colleagues, and much more. This advanced two-day event will feature breakout sessions for practitioners and office staff, to ensure concentration on material appropriate to each group.

The registration rate is \$525 per attendee for members, and \$725 for non-members. For additional attendees from the same office, a discount is offered: \$475 for members, and \$675 for non-members.

**Register  
Now**



### **Embassy Suites Savannah | February 9-10 | Savannah, GA**

AOPA has reserved a block of hotel rooms at the [Embassy Suites Savannah](#), for the rate of \$129 per night for reservations made before January 18th, based on availability. Reserve your room by calling 1-800-362-2779.



### **Hampton Inn Philadelphia Center City-Convention Center | July 13-14 | Philadelphia, PA**

AOPA has reserved a block of hotel rooms at the [Hampton Inn Philadelphia Center City-Convention Center](#), for the rate of \$149 per night for reservations made before June 19, based on availability. Reserve your room by calling 1-800-426-7866.

AOPA offers 4 seminars per year, so stay tuned for other seminar dates and locations.

## Call for Papers: Become a Presenter at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly



### Share Your Expertise \* Advance Your Career \* Improve Patient Care Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Diego, Texas

AOPA is seeking high-quality education presentations for the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual AOPA National Assembly.

Your submissions, based on sound research and strong empirical data, will set the stage for a broad curriculum of highly valued clinical and scientific offerings at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly. All free paper abstracts for the 2015 AOPA National Assembly must be submitted electronically. Abstracts submitted by e-mail or fax will not be considered. All abstracts will be considered for both podium and poster presentations. The review committee will grade each submission via a blind review process, based on the criteria below and reach a decision regarding acceptance of abstracts.

- Relevance, level of interest in topic
- Quality of Scientific Content
- Quality of Clinical Content

**Clinical Free Papers** – Those wishing to present an Orthotic, Prosthetic or Pedorthic Free Paper should [submit here](#) to have their paper considered for presentation at the 2015 Assembly. The top scoring papers will compete for the prestigious Thranhardt Award.

**Technician Program** – If you would like your Technical education paper considered for submission in the Technical Track, please to [submit your paper here](#).

**Business Education Program** – Please [submit your business education paper here](#). The top papers will be considered for the prestigious Sam E. Hamontree, CP (E) Business Education Award.

**Symposia** – If you are interested in organizing a Symposium, then please [submit here](#).

**Student Poster Submissions** – Coming Soon

**Technical Fabrication Contest Submissions** – Coming Soon

Contact AOPA Headquarters at (571) 431-0876 or [TMoran@AOPAnet.org](mailto:TMoran@AOPAnet.org) with questions about the submission process or the National Assembly in general.

## Medicare Saved More than \$4 Million Last Week by Providing O&P

This Savings was from *Providing* O&P, not from Taking O&P, or Taking from O&P Providers!

### How did we come up with that number?

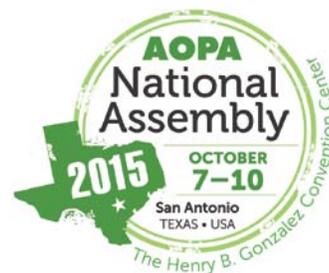
Medicare saves \$632,242.33 EVERY DAY, based on the savings calculated by the Dobson DaVanzo research study comparing similar patients who needed, but did not receive O&P care, with those who did receive care. Read more about the study, and the savings calculator at [MobilitySaves.org](http://MobilitySaves.org)



Share this information with your payers, referral sources, and other clinicians! Download the [brochures and PowerPoint presentations](#).

## 2015 AOPA National Assembly Exhibit Space is NOW AVAILABLE!

AOPA is currently organizing its 2015 National Assembly, which is the country's oldest and largest meeting for the orthotic, prosthetic, and pedorthic profession in the United States. Expand your knowledge, grow your market presence, and advance your career at this unique gathering of high visibility and importance.



- Build your customer base and increase sales by meeting with Owners who actually make the final decisions on purchases.
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build new relationships.
- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening reception in the exhibit hall.
- Take advantage of fun traffic-building opportunities.
- Take advantage of education sessions to learn what's happening with regulatory agencies that affect the success of your product.
- Increase visibility for your company/organization in a targeted market.
- Host a Manufacturer's Workshop and/or Product Preview Theater presentation.
- Speak to AOPA reimbursement experts who can answer all your O&P coding, reimbursement and compliance questions.
- Hear from top researchers and clinicians to learn what products and support is needed from manufacturers.
- Participate in key education programs and plenary sessions.
- Be a part of the largest exhibit hall in the US for the orthotic, prosthetics and pedorthic profession, and much more!

More information on exhibiting can be found [here](#). For any exhibitor questions, please contact Kelly O'Neill at [KOneill@AOPAnet.org](mailto:KOneill@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0852



## Attend the December 10 Webinar: New Codes and Changes for 2015

HIPAA requires all payers to use HCPCS Codes. The end of the year marks the beginning of New Codes and Modifier changes that will be effective January 1st, 2015.

Do you have a plan in place? The ability to make sure your practice is sound may prevent unnecessary audits down the road. As we welcome a new year, join AOPA for a Webinar that will focus on New Codes and Medical Policy Changes for 2015 and why it's an important part of your business operation.

An AOPA expert will address the following issues during the Webinar:

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- Learn about new HCPCS codes effective January 1, 2015.
- Discuss verbiage changes to existing codes and how they may affect your business.
- Find out which codes will no longer be used as of January 1, 2014.
- Discover other changes to the HCPCS system.
- Find out **AOPA's** interpretation of why the changes took place.
- Look at any other pertinent policy/legislative changes your facility should be aware of in order to succeed in 2015.

Take your practice to the next level with **AOPAversity!**

The cost of participating is \$99 for AOPA members (\$199 for nonmembers) and any number of employees may partake on a given line. Attendees earn 1.5 continuing education credits by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80%. [Register online.](#)

Contact Devon Bernard at [DBernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:DBernard@AOPAnet.org) or 571/431-0854 with content questions. Contact Betty Leppin at [BLEppin@AOPAnet.org](mailto:BLEppin@AOPAnet.org) or 571/431-0876 with registration questions.

## Upcoming AOPA Events

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| Dec 10, 2014   | <i>New Codes and Changes for 2015</i><br>Webinar Conference<br><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a>                            |
| Jan 14, 2015   | <i>Fill In the Blanks: VA Contracting and the New Template</i><br>Webinar Conference<br><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a>   |
| Feb 9-10, 2015 | <i>AOPA Mastering Medicare: Essential Coding &amp; Billing Seminar</i><br>Savannah, GA<br><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a> |