**O&P Industry Leaders Attend the Inaugural AOPA Leadership Conference**

On January 9-11th more than 150 O&P industry leaders participated in the inaugural AOPA Leadership Conference held at the Eau Palm Resort & Spa in Palm Beach, Florida. While the stunning views and great weather outside of the meeting room proved to be quite a temptation, the group remained focused on the task at hand; discussing the ways to ensure the continued success of O&P as an industry despite the current and unforeseen challenges the industry faces.

Attendees spent the first morning of the meeting hearing from dynamic speakers who presented a snapshot of what the industry should expect in the future and the strategies that AOPA has developed to address any challenges head on. In the next session, speakers provided global perspective on the future of the O&P industry in a worldwide marketplace. Attendees then broke out into small discussion groups where specific challenges were discussed with a focus on how the O&P industry can prepare for what the future may hold. The group re-convened to share the insight developed during the breakout sessions and then began a second breakout session that focused on various opportunities that the future may hold for the O&P industry. The first day ended with the group coming back together to provide reports on each of their breakout sessions.

The second day of the conference began with a thorough review of the issues that were identified as crucial to the future of O&P during the breakout sessions from the previous day. The program continued with presentations and discussion regarding the future reimbursement landscape for O&P, as well as presentations that focused on perspective from the insurance industry, the role of the FDA in O&P, and the potential for alternate delivery models for O&P services in the future.

Charles Dankmeyer, Jr., CPO ended the conference with a recap of the many accomplishments that had occurred in just one and a half days and encouraged the O&P leaders in attendance to make sure that the discussion did not end after the meeting; that the meeting was just the beginning of many more discussions and efforts to ensure the success of the O&P industry for many years to come.

To learn, more about the inaugural AOPA Leadership Conference, read the preview article that was published in the January, 2015 *O&P Almanac* and look for the full conference recap that will be published in the February, 2015 *O&P Almanac.*