



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

## **AOPA In Advance SmartBrief**

*Breaking News*

May 12, 2015

### **AOPA Headlines:**

**Register for the AOPAversity Webinar Wednesday: The New Player in Town: Understand How the RAC Contract Works**

**Congressman LaMalfa visits Cascade Orthopedic Supply, Inc. Corporate Headquarters in Chico, CA**

**AOPA Supports the Efforts of O&P Businesses During Recent Small Business Administration Hearing**

**Join the Coding Experts in Philadelphia**

**Register for the AOPA National Assembly in San Antonio**

**Jurisdiction A DME MAC Announces Pre-Payment Probe Reviews for L1940 and L4360**

**Donate to Support AOPA's Government Relations Outreach**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Register for the AOPAversity Webinar Wednesday: The New Player in Town: Understand How the RAC Contract Works**

Join AOPA on May 13, 2015 for an AOPAversity Mastering Medicare Webinar that will cover the details of the new Medicare recovery audit contractor. An AOPA expert will address the following issues during the webinar

- O&P ADR limits for RAC audits
- Proper response times for audits
- What type of changes you may expect with the new contractor
- When will the new contract begin
- And a review of the RAC program



AOPA members pay \$99 (nonmembers pay \$199), and any number of employees may participate on a given line. Attendees earn 1.5 continuing education credits by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80 percent. [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.

## Congressman LaMalfa visits Cascade Orthopedic Supply, Inc. Corporate Headquarters

Cascade Orthopedic Supply, Inc. welcomed Congressman Doug LaMalfa of California's 1<sup>st</sup> District, and District Director Lisa Buescher to discuss the challenges facing the changing O&P landscape.

The visit from Congressman LaMalfa succeeds the recent AOPA Policy Forum held March 23-25, 2015 in Washington D.C. where Jeff Collins, President and CFO, rallied at the forum and sponsored a family to join him on Capitol Hill. LaMalfa's visit will include a tour of Cascade and the forthcoming building expansion, a discussion on Cascade's economic impact, and a review of the key governmental legislation affecting the industry. Elite Biomechanical Design, a Chico-based company, will also be joining the visit to express the effects of the changing healthcare policies on their referral sources, company, and patients.



## AOPA Supports the Efforts of O&P Businesses During Recent Small Business Administration Hearing

AOPA applauds and supports the efforts of O&P businesses that participated in the April 27, 2015 Small Business Administration (SBA) hearing regarding Medicare audits and their impact on small businesses. While AOPA did not actively participate in the latest hearing, it has provided important testimony during two several earlier SBA hearings on Medicare audits (once AOPA's President testified and at the other AOPA's Executive Director testified) and supports the efforts of any O&P companies who are willing to take the time and effort to make sure their stories are heard. You can see AOPA's earlier testimonies [here](#). Medicare audits are the single largest threat to the survival of O&P businesses and no stone should be left unturned when pursuing the fair and equitable treatment of honest providers who help restore mobility to patients who require O&P services.

The recent SBA hearing is yet another example of how providers can make sure their voice is heard. AOPA will continue to support the efforts of its members in any activities that support the continued survival of the profession.

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AOPA Mastering Medicare:  
**ESSENTIAL CODING & BILLING SEMINAR**

# MAINTAIN *Your Independence*

**JULY 13-14, 2015**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

EARN CREDITS  
**14 CE**  
PER SEMINAR

Attend the Mastering Medicare seminar to enhance or refresh your coding and billing skills, learn new techniques and stay informed about important Medicare policy changes.

AMERICAN ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ASSOCIATION  
SINCE 1917

The world of coding and billing has changed dramatically in the last few years. The AOPA experts are here for you! The Coding & Billing Seminar will teach you the most up-to-date information to advance your O&P practitioners' and billing staff's coding knowledge.

The seminar includes hands-on breakout sessions, where you will practice coding complex devices, including repairs and adjustments. Breakouts are tailored specifically for practitioners and billing staff. Start the year off right for your business, staff, and patients!

**Join your Colleagues July 13-14 in Philadelphia!**

***Top 10 Reasons to Attend***

1. **Get Your Claims PAID**
2. **Increase Your Company's Bottom Line**
3. **Stay Up-To-Date On Billing Medicare**
4. **Code Complex Devices**
5. **Earn 14 CE Credits**
6. **Learn About Audit Updates**
7. **Overtake Denials**
8. **Submit *YOUR Specific Questions Ahead of Time***
9. **Advance Your Career**
10. **AOPA Coding & Billing Experts with over 70 Years of Combined Experience**

**REGISTER**



Don't miss the opportunity to experience two jam-packed days of valuable O&P coding and billing information. [Learn more and see the rest of the year's schedule here.](#)

# AOPA National Assembly

2015

OCTOBER  
7-10

San Antonio  
TEXAS • USA

The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

## AOPA Brings the Big Picture Together in San Antonio, Texas!

Practitioners, physicians, technicians, fitters, students, educational instructors, facility owners, marketing personnel, residents, office managers, billing specialists, researchers, manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of O&P products and services should come to San Antonio to stay on the edge of their profession and to mix and mingle with other top professionals from across the country and around the world. Up to 36 CE credits will be available at this fabulous AOPA National Assembly.



## Registration is Open

for the 2015 AOPA National Assembly,  
Oct. 7-10, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas.

### Plus, at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly,

- **CHOOSE FROM FIVE EDUCATION TRACKS** providing you with an expanded menu of relevant education for orthotists, prosthetists, pedorthists, technicians, and business managers.
- **ATTEND SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS** focused on Gait, Neuro-Orthopaedics, Upper Limb O&P, Socket Fit, Treatment of Dyscascular Foot Disease and more that will further sharpen your clinical skill.
- **PARTICIPATE IN TOP-TECHNICAL EDUCATION**, including hands-on demonstrations of 3-D printing.
- Partake in an innovative **FOUR DAY PEDORTHIC EDUCATION** track focused on diabetic treatment, wound care and other pedorthic care from a faculty of physicians, wound care experts and diabetes educators that will put you far ahead of the game in your pedorthic patient care delivery.
- Participate in unprecedented **BUSINESS EDUCATION** featuring experts in O&P business management, documentation, coding and billing, healthcare reform and marketing.
- **LEARN THE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO AVOID RAC/ PRE-PAYMENT AUDITS** and succeed if you are audited. Hear the current impact of OTS Orthotic Codes on your business. Review recent audit results, and learn how to turn challenges into opportunities, and strategies into revenue without breaking the rules.

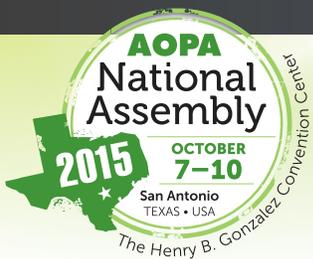


### Make the Alumni Connection

When completing your Assembly registration, be sure to include your graduating school and year so you can be invited to connect with other alumni from your school. (Even if it is the school of hard knocks, connect with your classmates.)

- Connect with your classmates through Mobile App – your school will be set up as a networking group
- Proudly wear your school button which will be provided at registration
- Join your friends at the Welcome Reception where you will find a table and message board for your school.
- Meet your friends at informal social gatherings.

To register online, visit [www.AOPAnet.org](http://www.AOPAnet.org), and also find updates and additional information.



## All Star Line-up includes:



**Keynote Presentation by Governor Abbott (invited).** Receive a Texas size welcome to the 98th Annual AOPA National Assembly from Texas Governor Greg Abbott (invited). A native Texan, Abbott was born in Wichita Falls and raised in Duncanville. After graduating from The University of Texas with a B.B.A. in Finance, he received his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Shortly after graduating from law school, he was partially paralyzed by a falling tree while jogging. He and his wife, Cecilia, a former school teacher and principal, have been married for 30 years. They live in Austin with their daughter, Audrey.



**Rahila Ansari, MD,** currently serves as Assistant Professor of Neurology at the V.A. Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a dedicated clinician scientist with a particular interest in helping patients with neurological weakness.



**Louis J. DeCaro, DPM, FACFAP,** is a Podiatric Physician who specializes in pediatrics with a special interest in sports medicine and biomechanics for both adults and pediatrics. Dr. DeCaro is President and fellow of the American College of Foot & Ankle Pediatrics (ACFAP).



**Patrick DeHeer, DPM,** is Board-certified in foot and ankle reconstructive surgery. He is a leader in the field of podiatry with years of experience treating the full spectrum of foot and ankle ailments.



**Michael Dillon, PhD,** is a Senior Lecturer at the National Centre for P&O and an affiliate of the Musculoskeletal Research Centre, La Trobe University. He specializes in transfemoral prosthetics and ischial containment socket designs. He currently serves as President of ISPO Australia.



**Janos Ertl, MD,** is Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Indiana University School of Medicine and the Chief of Orthopaedics at Wishard Memorial Hospital, IUSM. Dr. Ertl is a board-certified, orthopaedic surgeon who specializes in Adult Trauma and Sports Medicine.



**John Ferguson, L/CPO,** is the Chief Prosthetist at the Center for the Intrepid Military Medical Center and adjunct faculty for the Army Baylor Doctoral PT Program and the UT Southwestern P&O Program. While at Brooke Army Medical Center he and his staff continue to treat the most complex patients seen as a result of battlefield injury.



**Goeran Fiedler, PhD,** currently serves as Assistant Professor in the Master of Science in Prosthetics & Orthotics (MSPO) program at the University of Pittsburgh. He holds graduate degrees in Clinical Engineering, Biomechanics, Health Sciences, and performed his Post-doctoral training at the University of Washington Department of Rehabilitation Medicine.



**Robert S. Gailey, PhD, PT,** is a professor at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy. He also has a joint appointment as a Health Science Researcher with Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center and is the Director of the Functional Outcomes Research & Evaluation Center and is a Special Advisor to the Department of Defense for amputee rehabilitation.



**Andrea Ikeda, MS, CP,** currently serves as a research prosthetist at the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center. She received her MS in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia.



**Katia Langton, MD, CPed,** is Doctor of Chiropractic and Certified Pedorthist. She speaks regularly to health care practitioners and policy-makers on the need to implement and standardize foot screenings and comprehensive assessments for Diabetic and high risk feet to prevent foot complications and sustain costs in health care as this disease progresses globally.



**Teri Rosenbaum-Chou, PhD,** received her doctorate in bioengineering at the University of Utah. Her post-doctoral work involved prosthetic outcomes research within the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department at the University of Utah.



**Elizabeth Russell Esposito, PhD,** is a Biomechanics Researcher at the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center. She specializes in lower extremity biomechanics with a focus on prosthetic technology and secondary injury prevention.



**Urs Schneider, PhD, MD,** is head of the Fraunhofer Orthopedics Research Department in Stuttgart. He is a medical doctor and leads an interdisciplinary engineering team with research focused on improved mobility solutions in rehabilitation and orthopedic surgery.



**J. Megan Sions, PhD, DPT, PT, OSC,** specializes in evaluation and treatment of muscle and joint dysfunction and vestibular disorders with special interest in the management of spinal pain and disorders, particularly in older adults.



**Jason Wilken, PT, PhD,** is the Director of the Military Performance Lab at the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center. He is an Adjunct Faculty member for the Army-Baylor University Doctorate Program in Physical Therapy, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



**Diana Veneri, EdD, PT,** research agenda includes teaching methodologies in physical therapy education and treatment interventions for persons with neurologic impairment. Most recently, she is developing a research project to study the effectiveness of education materials created specifically for persons with above-knee amputation in developing countries.



## About San Antonio

You will enjoy the location of this year's National Assembly—the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and adjacent hotels are located directly on San Antonio's famous Riverwalk. In addition to shops, restaurants, and nightlife—you'll find the Rivercity Mall and plenty of dining, museums and art. Whether you choose a leisurely stroll, or a ride on one of the riverboats, take time to enjoy San Antonio's famous Riverwalk.



### San Antonio Welcome's National Assembly Attendees

Show your badge at a long list of restaurants, airport shops and entertainment facilities to receive special discounts ranging from **FREE APPETIZERS to 20% DISCOUNTS to TWO FOR ONE ADMISSIONS**. Check out the list at [bit.ly/sanantonio2015](http://bit.ly/sanantonio2015).

### Meeting Location and Hotel Accommodations

The 2015 AOPA National Assembly will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 200 East Market St., San Antonio, TX 78205. Located adjacent to the Grand Hyatt, Marriott and Westin hotels, and just 8 miles away from the San Antonio International Airport. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. AOPA has reserved a block of rooms at the Grand Hyatt (adjacent to the Convention Center), at the Marriott

and the Westin (across from the Convention Center). The room rate is \$229.

Visit [bit.ly/assemblyhotel](http://bit.ly/assemblyhotel) to secure your hotel reservation and learn about travel discounts available on Southwest Airlines as well as discounts on ground transportation.

## Schedule At A Glance

### WEDNESDAY

October 7, 2015

7:30 AM – 3:00 PM	Exhibitor Set up
8:00 AM – Noon	Manufacturer Workshops – Tier A
8:00 – 10:00 AM	Manufacturer Workshops – Tier B
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Manufacturer Workshops – Tier C
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Manufacturer Workshops – Tier D
5:15 – 7:15 PM	Welcome to San Antonio Reception

### THURSDAY

October 8, 2015

7:30 AM	Opening General Session and Thranhardt Presentations
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Break in Exhibit Hall
11:00 AM – Noon	Five Concurrent Education Tracks
Noon – 1:00 PM	Lunch in Exhibit Hall
Noon – 1:00 PM	TXAAOP Membership Meeting and Luncheon
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Poster Presentations in Exhibit Hall
2:00 PM	Five Concurrent Education Tracks
5:15 – 6:30 PM	Happy Hour in Exhibit Hall
6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wine Auction

### FRIDAY

October 9, 2015

7:30 AM – 10:00 AM	General Session and Business Meeting
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Break in Exhibit Hall
11:00 AM – Noon	Five Concurrent Education Tracks
Noon – 1:00 PM	Lunch in Exhibit Hall
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Poster Presentations in Exhibit Hall
2:00 PM	Five Concurrent Education Tracks

### SATURDAY

October 10, 2015

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	General Session
8:00 AM – Noon	Exhibit Hall
9:00 AM – Noon	Concurrent Education
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Manufacturers Workshops

## 3 Easy Ways for Early Bird Rates!

### How to Register

Review the registration category descriptions (located online) and complete one registration form for each attendee. For your convenience, there are three easy ways to register.

- 1. REGISTER ONLINE** at [www.AOPAnet.org](http://www.AOPAnet.org) and select registration. Payments must be made by credit card when registering online.
- 2. REGISTER BY FAX** by completing the registration form and faxing it to (401) 765-6677. Please do not mail your form after faxing it.
- 3. REGISTER BY MAIL** by completing the registration form and mail it with payment to 2015 AOPA National Assembly, c/o ExpoTrac Registration Services, P.O. Box 1280, Woonsocket, RI 02895.

## Jurisdiction A DME MAC Announces Pre-Payment Probe Reviews for L1940 and L4360

The Jurisdiction A DME MAC recently announced that it will be initiating widespread pre-payment probe reviews for claims for both L1940—AFO, Plastic or other material, custom fabricated; and L4360—Walking boot, pneumatic and/or vacuum, with or without joints, with or without interface material, prefabricated item that has been trimmed, bent, molded, assembled, or otherwise customized to fit a specific patient by an individual with expertise. Both of these reviews are being initiated as a result of a high volume of claim denials identified by the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) contractor.

AOPA members are reminded that probe reviews are often a preliminary step that often leads to more comprehensive widespread pre-payment reviews. It is extremely important that if you receive a probe review request that you ensure your response is as complete as possible and includes all documentation necessary to support your claim.

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@aopanet.org](mailto:jmcternan@aopanet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@aopanet.org](mailto:dbernard@aopanet.org).

## Donate to Support AOPA's Government Relations Outreach

During the 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio, AOPA will be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting & Auction. This exciting event provides attendees with a unique opportunity to mingle, network, learn about and taste a variety of wines, but most importantly raise awareness of and funds for AOPA's Government Relations outreach programs. Let's keep the tradition of success alive and make the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting & Auction the best ever.



Your special donations are what make this event unique and successful. Your attendance is what makes it fun! Your donation may be one of the gems of your cellar, jewelry, artwork, wine glasses, a bottle of your favorite spirit, cigars, craft beer, etc. We also have a team of personal shoppers who can locate that perfect item for you if you would prefer to make a monetary donation. [The donation form is available here](#). We look forward to seeing you at the 2015 National Assembly and the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting & Auction.

Contact Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org), or (571) 431-0854 with any questions.

## Upcoming AOPA Events

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| May 13, 2015  | <i>The New Player In Town: Understand How the RAC Contract Works</i><br>Webinar Conference<br><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a>     |
| June 1, 2015  | AOPA 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio<br><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a>   |
| June 10, 2015 | <i>Stay out of Trouble: Building a Medicare-Approved Compliance Plan</i><br>Webinar Conference<br><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a> |