January 8-10, 2016 ▪ EAU Palm Beach Resort & Spa ▪ Palm Beach, Florida

Speaker Biographies

Vinit Asar, MBA

Mr. Vinit Asar currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hanger, Inc. He began his career with Hanger in 2008 as Executive Vice President of Hanger Orthopedic Group Inc. He has nearly 20 years of extensive global experience developing new health product and service businesses and growing existing organizations, both organically and through acquisitions. Additionally, he has held positions in finance, global product management, sales and marketing, and product development at Johnson and Johnson. Mr. Asar holds a BS in Business Administration from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI and an MBA from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA.

Stephen Blatchford, MBA

Mr. Stephen Blatchford is the CEO of Chas A Blatchford & Sons Ltd. He is the fourth generation to hold this post and has been CEO for over 28 years. During his tenure the company has grown consistently both within and outside the UK. He previously served on the board of directors for the National Centre for Prosthetics and Orthotics and has held three posts with the British Healthcare Trades Association including being Chairman for a three year term. His education accomplishments include an MBA and an MSc in Computation after his Mathematics degree.

David Boone, PhD, MPH

Dr. David Boone has spent the past 30 years as an innovator, developer, researcher and instructor in rehabilitation and bioengineering. A frequent lecturer at academic medical centers on a range of prosthetic and rehabilitation topics, and a widely published author, he is credited with multiple technology patents, and seven national awards for engineering achievement. Recently, he was the inventor and lead developer of the new Triton Smart Ankle from Otto Bock Healthcare, GMBH and the Europa+ prosthetics outcomes assessment system. Dr. Boone received his Ph.D. in Bioengineering from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and became one of first American Ph.D.s with formal training and clinical experience in prosthetics.

James Campbell, PhD, CO, FAAOP

Dr. James Campbell is the Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) at Hanger Clinic. He currently serves as President on the AOPA board of directors and is on the National Assembly Planning Committee. He is very active in leading AOPA's outcomes and research initiates. He is a past member of the board of directors at the Academy, and has served as the Editor in Chief for the Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics from 2000-2003, and is currently a reviewer for several journals. Dr. Campbell earned a PhD from the Bioengineering Unit at Strathclyde, with his research focused in the area of spinal cord injury and paraplegic ambulation.

Jeff Collins, CPA

Mr. Jeff Collins is the President and Chief Financial Officer of Cascade Orthopedic Supply, Inc. and has been a member of the Cascade executive team since March 2002. Under his leadership, Cascade has grown more than fivefold to become the largest independent distributor serving the prosthetic and orthotic industry in the US and Canada. Before joining Cascade, Jeff was a financial analyst for Waste Management, Inc. and worked in public accounting for KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Jeff holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a concentration in Accountancy from California State University, Sacramento and is a California certified public accountant. He serves as Treasurer on the AOPA Board of Directors and is the president of the California O&P Association and past president of the Orthotic and Prosthetic Activities Foundation. Jeff is active in both state and federal advocacy on behalf of the O&P profession.

Charles E. Cook, Jr.

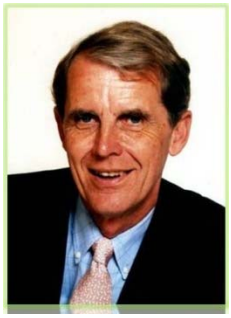
Mr. Charles E. Cook, Jr. is considered one of the nation's leading authorities on U.S. elections and American political trends. He founded the independent, non-partisan *Cook Political Report* in 1984 and now, with a staff of six, has become – in the words of the New York Times – "a newsletter that both parties regard as authoritative."

The late David Broder of the *Washington Post*, long known as the dean of the Washington press corps called Charlie, "perhaps the best non-partisan handicapper of congressional elections," while the *Wall Street Journal* once called him, "the Picasso of election analysts." In the 80s and 90s, Charlie was a weekly political columnist for *Roll Call* and a political analyst for CNN.

For over a decade and a half he has been writing a weekly column for the National Journal Group and serving as a political analyst for NBC news, with his team working on election nights at their decision desk in New York. In 2010, Charlie was the co-recipient of the American Political Science Association's prestigious Carey Mcwilliams Award for outstanding contribution to our understanding of politics. In 2013, he was a resident fellow at the institute of politics at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Allen Dobson, PhD

Dr. Allen Dobson is a health economist and President of Dobson | DaVanzo. Before he co-founded the firm, Dr. Dobson spent eighteen years with The Lewin Group where he was Senior Vice President and directed the Health Care Finance Group. In this position, Dr. Dobson led numerous large scale studies for both Federal and private sector clients. Prior to work at The Lewin Group, Dr. Dobson served as Director in the Office of Research at CMS (then the Health Care Financing Administration) when the Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (PPS) was being developed and implemented. Dr. Dobson has studied Medicare's various PPS for over twenty-five years and has directed numerous efforts to model the impact of Medicare and Medicaid payment policies on health care providers using a variety of statistical and econometric methodologies. He also worked for 10 years for CMS advising on the methodology for determining physician practice expenses, and most recently on Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) policy. He has published his work widely, including in the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, Inquiry, Journal of Managed Care, Health Affairs, and Health Care Financing Review. Dr. Dobson is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the University of Washington in Seattle, and earned his Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.


Thomas F. Fise, JD

Mr. Thomas Fise executive director of AOPA. Mr. Fise holds a J.D. degree from the University of Maryland and a Master of Laws degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He has extensive non-profit trade and professional organization management experience. Prior to AOPA, Mr. Fise was the owner and principal of an association management company focused on the management of non-profit medical specialty organizations. In that capacity, he worked simultaneously as executive director of ten different physician organizations in the fields of cardiovascular surgery, general surgery and plastic surgery and was the executive director of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG).

Rebecca Hast

Ms. Rebecca Hast has been the President at Linkia LLC. (a subsidiary of Hanger Orthopedic Group Inc) since November 2005. Recently, Rebecca has been named to the position of Chief Compliance Officer for the Hanger enterprise and will fully assume that role in 2016. Prior to joining Hanger, Ms. Hast was with United Healthgroup Incorporated and held a variety of positions from 1999 to 2004. She left United Healthgroup as Senior Vice President, Account Development for the Dental Benefit Providers. Prior to United Healthgroup, Ms. Hast held management and leadership positions with Magellan Health Services, Inc. Ms. Hast holds a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Pittsburgh.

Jason Highsmith, PT, DPT, PhD, CP, FAAOP

Dr. Jason Highsmith is the Deputy Chief of the Research & Surveillance Division for the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence in the US Department of Veteran Affairs and Associate Professor at the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of South Florida. He currently serves as President of the Academy and is a Captain in the US Army Reserves.

Jared Howell, MS, CPO

Mr. Jared Howell currently serves as the Director of Baylor College of Medicines Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics Program. Prior to the creation of the program at Baylor, Jared served as the Assistant Director of Prosthetics at Northwestern and started a clinical practice in Pennsylvania for Ability Prosthetics and Orthotics. Jared's education includes an undergraduate degree in Manufacturing Engineering from Brigham Young University, Prosthetic and Orthotic Education from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and a graduate degree from Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering in Product Design and Development. In addition to clinical care, Jared dedicates time to clinically relevant research, education, business and product development. In 2011, he founded a small product development start-up to explore the development and design of products for the health care field, and has since spun off and co-founded 3 additional companies focused on providing innovative solutions and services for consumers and O&P providers.

Kenton R. Kaufman, PhD, PE

Dr. Kenton R. Kaufman is the W. Hall Wendel Jr. Musculoskeletal Research Professor, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Director of the Biomechanics-Motion Analysis Laboratory, and Consultant in the Departments of Orthopedic Surgery, Physiology and Biomedical Engineering at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, USA. He is a registered professional engineer. Dr. Kaufman's primary area of research is musculoskeletal rehabilitation science. Throughout his career, he has been funded by NIH, NSF, and DOD for projects aimed at improving the mobility of disabled individuals. He has published over 200 scientific peer-reviewed papers, and holds 6 US patents and one international patent. Dr. Kaufman has received numerous awards and honors for his work, including the American Society of Biomechanics Borelli Award for outstanding career accomplishment and Research Award from the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists. Dr. Kaufman is a Past President of the American Society of Biomechanics. He is a founding member and Past President of the Gait and Clinical Movement Analysis Society. He is a Fellow in the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, American Society of Biomechanics, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He currently serves on the Medical Advisory Board for the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association. His work has been cited in the Washington Post, Preventive Medicine, Men's Health, and WebMD. He has also appeared on the nationally syndicated shows "Medical Edge" and "Bottom Line on Your Health".

Senator Bob Kerrey

Senator Robert "Bob" Kerrey served as the 35th Governor of Nebraska from 1983 to 1987 and as a United States Senator from Nebraska from 1989 to 2001. Before entering politics, he served in the Vietnam War as a United States Navy SEAL officer and was awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH) for heroism in combat. During the same action for which he was awarded the MOH, he was also severely wounded and lost the lower part of one leg which precluding further naval service. Kerrey was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1992. He retired from the Senate in 2001. Today Bob Kerrey is Managing Director at Allen & Company in New York.

Teri Kuffel, JD

Ms. Teri Kuffel is a Minnesota attorney and founding owner of Arise Orthotics and Prosthetics in Blaine, Minnesota. She brings significant business experience to the company. She received her juris doctorate from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota and has worked with contract, human resource, and organizational management for the past two decades. Additionally, she is an associate faculty member for Ashford University and Concordia University where she teaches and creates curriculum for legal, business and orthotic and prosthetic practice management courses. Teri is the Minnesota state representative for AOPA and is on the board of directors for the Minnesota Society of Orthotists, Prosthetists and Pedorthists. In 2015 she received the AOPA Legislative Advocacy Award for her continued efforts in state and federal grassroots lobbying on behalf of the O&P profession.

Samuel M. Liang, MBA

Mr. Samuel Liang currently serves as President, COO of Hanger Clinic and has over 30 years of experience in the medical device and pharmaceutical sectors. Prior to joining Hanger, he was at Bayer Healthcare where he was the Senior Vice President and Head of its Radiology & Interventional division. Mr. Liang, has a degree in mechanical engineering and material sciences from Duke University, North Carolina, and a masters in management from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Illinois. Previously, he served as President and CEO of MEDRAD and Vascular Therapies, LLC. He also worked 24 years at Cordis Corporation, a Johnson and Johnson company, in numerous leadership and technical positions.

Michael Lovdal, PhD

Dr. Michael Lovdal is a Partner Emeritus at Oliver Wyman. He has over thirty years of experience providing strategic planning and alignment assistance to clients in consumer products, media, and health services. His health services work has been with payers, providers, public health organizations, medical associations and private equity firms. He currently serves as a Guest Lecturer in Columbia Business School's Healthcare Program. Mike started his career as a Certified Public Accountant. Before joining Oliver Wyman, he served on the faculties of the Harvard Business School and M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Management, teaching courses in corporate strategy and business policy. His consulting career began as a partner in Temple, Barker & Sloane which was the first management consulting firm acquired by Marsh & McLennan. Mike received a B.S. (with high distinction) from the University of Minnesota and an M.B.A. (with distinction) and a Doctorate from the Harvard Business School. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the American Institute of CPAs. He resides in New York City and New Hampshire; has three daughters and three grandkids; and enjoys skiing, boating and motorcycles.

David McGill, JD

Mr. David McGill currently serves as the Vice President of Reimbursement & Compliance at Össur Americas. Since joining Össur in 2006, he has obtained 2 of only 5 reimbursement codes granted by Medicare during that time for lower extremity prosthetics. He provides in-person and web-based presentations to practitioners, business owners, and billing personnel in the orthotics and prosthetics industry. Mr. McGill currently serves on the AOPA and NAAOP Board of Directors.

Prof. Hans Georg Näder

Professor Näder has served as the President and CEO of the Otto Bock Group and Otto Bock Healthcare for over 20 years. He is the grandson of the founding prosthetist, Otto Bock, who started the business in 1919. As the grandson of the company founder, he took over the company at the tender age of 28 from his father, Dr. Max Näder, the son-in-law of Otto Bock. The results are impressive: since that time he expanded the staff more than fivefold to over 7,000 and achieved group turnover of 999.7 million euros in 2013. Under his leadership the company gained a strong international orientation; by now he spends more than half the year on business trips. He calls Duderstadt, his birthplace and company headquarters, his home port. The city's biggest employer, he also privately supports the city's development as well as numerous church and community projects as the initiator of the Duderstadt 2020 master plan. He has been an honorary citizen of Duderstadt since September 2011.

Michael Oros, CPO, FAAOP

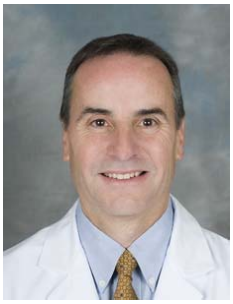
Michael Oros is the President and CEO of Scheck & Siress Prosthetics Inc. He is an ABC Certified and Illinois Licensed Prosthetist and Orthotist and a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists with over 25 years of experience in the field. He's been an AOPA Director since 2011 focusing his efforts on the Survival Imperatives, Operating and Performance committees as well as legislative issues impacting today's providers. Michael has served in the past as chairman of the National Commission on Orthotic Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) serving as Director from 2004-2008. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Iowa, Michael completed the orthotic and prosthetic program at Northwestern University. Michael has also studied at Northwestern University's Kellogg Management Institute. While administrative responsibilities within Scheck & Siress command most of his time and attention, he continues to enjoy providing patient care on a weekly basis.

Scott Schneider

Mr. Schneider currently serves as Ottobock's Regional President of North America. He began his tenure at Ottobock with the acquisition of TEC Interface Systems in 2003. He has held several assignments both in Ottobock North America, including being Chief Marketing Officer for Ottobock's North American region, as well as at Ottobock's global headquarters in Germany. Mr. Schneider's background includes serving as the co-founder of TEC, a St. Cloud, Minnesota-based business, from 1988-2002. While there, TEC won the 1995 Small Business of the Year award from the U.S. Small Business Administration, and won the 2002 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year regional award and was inducted into its hall of fame. Mr. Schneider's education includes St. Johns University, St. Cloud State and the University of Minnesota, with his studies focusing on medical and prosthetic care as well as journalism, mass communications, and business.

Scott Stapf

Mr. Scott Stapf has served as a Senior Principle of The Hastings Group for over 25 years overseeing all PR/Web/advertising work. Stapf is a former journalist who has served as director of media relations for two national trade associations in Washington, D.C. He has participated in and/or organized media campaigns in 49 of the 50 states. Op-ed pieces written by Stapf have appeared in the Washington Post, the New York Times, USA Today and dozens of other publications. Scott was instrumental in the media outreach during the LCD Campaign which resulted in over 350 news stories being generated about how amputees and prosthetic businesses could be impacted by this policy.



Douglas G. Smith, MD

Dr. Smith is on staff at Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington Medical Center, and Seattle Veterans Administration Medical Center. He also serves as Prof of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Univ. of Washington. Dr. Smith has worked at Harborview for over 20 years, specializing in general Orthopaedic Trauma and in Surgery and Rehabilitation for the Amputee. He is the lead editor for the third edition of the Atlas of Amputations and Limb Deficiencies – Surgical, Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Principles, Published by AAOS. Dr Smith served as the Medical Director for the Amputee Coalition from 2000 through 2008. He has also served as a consultant to the United States Military Amputee Centers from 2002 to the present. He has published numerous papers and book chapters on issues associated with amputation and limb loss. After graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana, Dr. Smith received his medical degree at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He then completed his residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois.

Peter Thomas, JD

Mr. Peter W. Thomas is a principal at the law firm of Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, P.C., a Washington, DC law firm specializing in health care and education. He focuses his practice on health care law, legislation and regulation, medical and vocational rehabilitation, and disability law and policy. He has served since 1991 as general counsel to the National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics (NAAOP), a national non-profit association of orthotic and prosthetic providers and also serves as Washington counsel to the O&P Alliance. Mr. Thomas represents a wide variety of rehabilitation and disability clients and coalitions and serves on a number of boards including the American Trauma Society, the Patient and Family Centered Care Committee of the National Quality Forum, and the Viscardi Center. He routinely advises O&P businesses and practitioners on the billing, fraud and abuse, and regulatory requirements of Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurers. He regularly writes articles for publications serving the O&P profession. Mr. Thomas is admitted to practice law in New York State and Washington, D.C. and attended Boston College and Georgetown University Law Center. He has also been a bilateral BK amputee to since age 10.

Tom Watson, CP

Mr. Tom Watson is President and owner of Tom Watson's Prosthetic & Orthotic Lab Inc. He became ABC-certified in prosthetics in 1980, following studies at Northwestern University at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, both in Illinois. He is a past president of AOPA, a past president of AOPA South Region, and former state AOPA president for Kentucky. Tom has served on AOPA's Government Relations Committee, the Veterans Affairs Committee as well as co-chair for the O&P PAC and is a grassroots lobbyist for the orthotic and prosthetic industry. Locally, Tom is the former mayor of Owensboro and has served as past-chair of the Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, a board member of Industry, Inc., Owensboro Medical Health System, and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. As an above knee amputee since he was injured in his teens, Tom has long supported programs for people with physical disabilities. He is affiliated with the Kentucky and Indiana Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs, the Veteran's Administration, and the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, with particular emphasis on pediatrics and developmental disabilities.

Saeed Zahedi, PhD, OBE

Dr. Saeed Zahedi is the Technical Director of Blatchford and is a visiting professor at University of Surrey. He has worked in prosthetics for 37 years including work on the commercialization of the first microprocessor knee and biomimetic ankle as well as first integrated prosthesis. A member of ISO/CEN Working Group, Dr. Zahedi has won many awards for contributions to science and industry and has published numerous articles.