



AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

July 16, 2015

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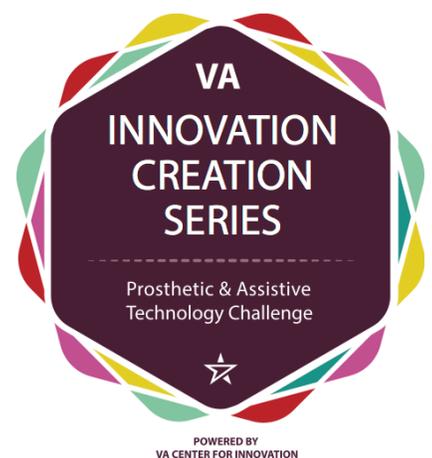
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Volunteer Mentors Needed for Makeathon Event to Support Veterans – Richmond, VA

The [VA Innovation Creation Series](#) is culminating in a [2-day makeathon](#) at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia! At this [makeathon event](#), specific challenges facing our Veterans surrounding prosthetics assistive technologies will be highlighted. Participants will then have the opportunity to pitch or present different problems or painpoints impacting differently-abled Veterans. Based on the pitches, teams will form and prototyping equipment will be provided along with mentorship support from Veterans and technical experts to help you co-design and develop your ideas to ultimately demo on the afternoon of July 29th. Participants will have the opportunity to win up to \$30,000 in cash prizes from Google.org at the event! Check out some press about the VA Innovation Creation Series in the [White House news](#) and [Washington Post](#).



Mentors are needed at the event to help nurture and guide the teams building devices for Veterans. If you live in the Richmond, Virginia area and are available for a small period of time to help mentor at the event during the afternoon of July 28th or morning of June 29th, please contact Andrea Ippolito at Andrea.Ippolito@va.gov.

OPAF Seeking Nominations for Board of Directors

The Orthotic & Prosthetic Activities Foundation (OPAF), serving as the philanthropic arm of the US Orthotic & Prosthetic Community has begun its annual search for individuals who would like to participate within the O & P community through service on the OPAF Board of Directors. Board members serve a three year term and are required to attend at least one of the two face to face board meetings held in conjunction with the AOPA and Academy national meetings. Additionally, directors are expected to be vitally involved in the ongoing work of OPAF & First Clinics with adaptive recreation and to take an active role with all of our fundraising efforts.

Nominees are needed at this time for at least one and up to three seats on the Board of Directors, one of whom must be an ABC or BOC credentialed practitioner.

More information and all nomination materials and instructions can be found on the [OPAF website](#).

Amputee Coalition Celebrates National Conference in Tucson

The Amputee Coalition will celebrate its 29th year at the 2015 National Conference, to be held in Tucson, Arizona from July 23 to July 25. This is the largest gathering of people with limb loss and limb difference, who will be present for educational seminars, networking, clinics, adaptive sports, peer group and support group training and social events.



No other event held for the limb loss community is as highly anticipated or well-attended as the Amputee Coalition National Conference. It is the largest gathering of the limb loss community in the country. For more information on the National Conference, click [here](#).

John "Mo" Kenney Named 2015 "Hero of the Year"



John "Mo" Kenney was recently named 2015 "Hero of the Year" by the American Red Cross Bluegrass Chapter. The Heroes Campaign is a community awareness and fundraising initiative that raises money for critical Red Cross services and recognizes those people making a difference in the community. Campaign donors had the opportunity to nominate volunteers who have made significant, positive impacts in our region.

AOPA member John "Mo" Kenney of Kenney Orthopedics was presented with the 2015 Hero of the Year. Mo is an amputee who has made it his life's mission to serve the community of amputees with quality care. He works both locally and globally on humanitarian missions, seeing amputees who do not have insurance, financial resources, or access to quality care, resulting in the fabrication of customized prosthetics from used and donated parts. In addition to his missions, he partners with Paralympic Athletes to offer an Amputee Walking School, free of charge to amputees, designed to improve their gait and quality of life. He also supports the local Wounded Warriors and the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund.

AOPA Member and Shriners Orthotist Travels to Capitol Hill to Advocate for Son with Mitochondrial Disease

Dino Scanio, CO, LO of Tampa Florida, Shriners Hospitals for Children, has no limits as he raises awareness for his son's progressive Mitochondrial Disease (Myopathy) and the challenges that children with special needs face. Dino and his 9 year old Giovanni arrived to Washington on June 16, 2015 for a weeklong trip as they visited Capitol Hill to advocate for a cure for Scanio's 4 year old son Gianluca and others with this diagnosis, who face a mountain of medical obstacles.

Mitochondrial diseases result from failure of the mitochondria. Mitochondria are responsible for creating more than 90% of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and support growth. When they fail, less and less energy is generated within the cell. Cell injury and even cell death follow. If this process is repeated throughout the body, whole systems begin to fail, and the life of the person in whom this is happening is severely compromised. The disease primarily affects children and is often life threatening/shortening. Symptoms may include loss of motor control, muscle weakness and pain, gastro-intestinal disorders and swallowing difficulties, poor growth, cardiac disease, liver disease, diabetes, respiratory complications, seizures, visual/hearing problems, lactic acidosis, developmental delays and susceptibility.

Father and son presented their story to their Florida representatives. Scanio spoke about the effects of Mitochondrial Disease and how it has affected his life as an orthotist. Four year old Gianluca uses Solid High Profile Ankle Foot Orthoses (AFOs) and is evaluated yearly for bracing needs. He will likely progress into Knee Ankle Foot Orthoses (KAFOs) as the disease advances. Giovanni stood proud next to father as he held a poster board with pictures of his brother and answered legislators and staffers' questions. The Scanios joined others from the state of Florida advocating for a cure. One June 18, 2015 the color green was worn to represent Mitochondrial Disease and was noticed throughout Capitol Hill as hundreds from around the country were joined in the fight to raise awareness.

Scanio comments, *"It's already difficult enough casting your own son for braces but knowing, it will not fix the problem leaves me hallow. It will only get worse and hard to maintain successful bracing"*. The trip ended with life long memories and a sense of optimism. Dino Scanio feels that sharing the struggle families with special needs children face will transcend into finding a cure.



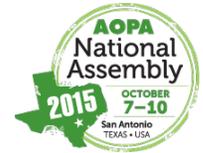
Giovanni Scalia, Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-FL-12, Dino Scalia, CO, LO



Giovanni Scalia & Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-FL-12

AOPA Assembly Spotlight: Exciting Orthotic Symposium with Renowned Panel

Attend the 2015 National Assembly, October 7-10, in San Antonio, TX



Orthotic Symposium: Exoskeleton Systems and Applications Friday, October 9, 2015 ~ 11:00 AM - Noon

Exoskeletal power assist in orthopedic rehabilitation and treatment in neurologic deficiencies will change quality of life and training intensities in the near future. New actuation approaches, control inputs from movement kinetics and kinematic but also biosignals are shown and controversially discussed in a German American session. Come participate in the symposium on this exciting topic, featuring the following distinguished speakers:

	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.
	Kevin Hollander, PhD is the Director of Product Development at SpringActive, Inc. Dr. Hollander has been actively performing research and engineering development activities for more than 20 years. His areas of interest have included biomechanics and clinical based research as well as the development of numerous wearable robotic projects. His recent focus has been the development of exoskeleton, robotic gait assistance devices for both able bodied and patient populations.
	Bernhard Budaker, Dr.-Ing. Currently serves as the Deputy Head of Department and Group Manager for the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation, Stuttgart, Germany. Dr. Budaker is an electrical engineer and received his PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of Stuttgart. His research interests are in the field of electronic motors and their application. He is working on different types of active powered devices in the field of P&O, including active driven Knee prosthesis, active orthotics and wheelchairs.
	Homayoon Kazerooni, PhD is the director of the Berkeley Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory and also the Co-founder and Chief Scientist of Berkeley Bionics. Dr. Kazerooni's work focuses on the control of human-machine systems specific to lower human extremities. Dr. Kazerooni holds a Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has over 30 years of mechanical engineering experience. He has published more than two hundred articles, delivered over 70 plenary lectures in the U.S. and internationally, and holds seventeen pertinent patents. As a noted authority on robotics, he is frequently profiled and quoted in the media.

[Clinical Education Program](#)

[Preview the Preliminary Program](#)

[Register online](#)

[General Information](#)

[Hotel Reservations](#)

Questions: Visit www.AOPAnet.org or Contact AOPA at (571) 431-0876 or info@AOPAnet.org

Hattingh Inc. Dba Prosthetic Care of Va Receives 2015 Best of Leesburg Award

Hattingh Inc Dba Prosthetic Care of Va has been selected for the 2015 Best of Leesburg Award in the Health & Medical category by the Leesburg Award Program. The Leesburg Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Leesburg area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value. The Leesburg Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in our community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations and other business advertising and marketing groups.

Fun Way to Support AOPA Government Relations Efforts: Wine Tasting & Auction

During the 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio, AOPA will be hosting the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction. Join the fun, the good cause, and add to the continued success of the Wine Tasting & Auction by donating something special today! Please take a look in your wine cellar for that special bottle or bottles of wine, which may be collecting dust, to consider as a donation for the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction.



Don't want to part with your wine? We welcome other items of interest, such as jewelry, wine glasses, artwork, cigars, craft beer, other spirits, etc. You may also make a monetary contribution (from a personal or business account) and one of our personal shoppers will make a purchase on your behalf, and our shoppers do take suggestions!

[Please consider donating today! The donation form is available here.](#)



Thomas Jefferson said: "**Good wine is a necessity of life for me.**" and you are a necessity for this event. We cannot make it happen without your help! 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.

Your special donations are what make this event unique and successful. Your attendance is what makes it fun! At this time we would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction:

- Rick Fleetwood
- Joe Martin

Thank you in advance and we look forward to seeing you at the 2015 National Assembly and the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction!

Any questions about making a donation or the auction in general, contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org, or (571) 431-0854.

Last Chance! Improve Your Business with the Operating Performance and Compensation Survey

You now have until July 17 to participate in the 2015 **Operating Performance and Compensation Survey!**

Why wouldn't you invest 60 minutes to get the data you need – **for FREE** – to gauge and improve the health of your business?

Start improving your business performance by measuring:

- *How your financial results stack up to your industry peers;*
- *How your spending on materials, advertising, or other expenses compare with other companies similar to yours;*
- *Whether your gross margin is better (or worse) than other facilities of the same size;*
- *How your compensation levels compare to the rest of the industry; and*
- *Whether your employees are generating enough sales.*



The survey takes about 60 minutes to complete and can be returned by fax, or completed online at www.aopa-survey.com.

AOPA members who participate in the survey will receive:

1. **FREE** customized Company Performance Report, comparing your organization with others of similar size and location. (*A private consultant would charge hundreds of dollars for such a report.*)
2. **FREE** copies of the two published reports: 2015 Operating Performance Report and 2015 Compensation Report – valued at \$570.
3. **FREE** Mastering Medicare Webcast series – a \$693 value. You or your colleagues can earn 13.5 CE credits when scoring 80% or higher on the webcast quizzes.

For questions or more information, contact Betty Leppin at bleppin@AOPAnet.org, or 571/431-0810.

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| August 12 | <i>OTS vs. Custom Fit: The True Story</i>
Webinar Conference
Learn more or register online here |
| September 9 | <i>Prior Authorization, How Does it Work</i>
Webinar Conference
Learn more or register online here |
| Oct 7-10, 2015 | <i>AOPA 2015 National Assembly</i>
San Antonio, TX
Learn more or register online here |