



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

January 19, 2016

AOPA Headlines:

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Earn CE Credits with the January 2016 *O&P Almanac*



Muscular Care for IBM Patients | Page 20

The introduction of advanced, lightweight materials to lower-limb orthotics has allowed clinicians to find new ways to improve the quality of life for muscular-compromised patients. [Read More](#)

President Signs Omnibus Budget Bill| Page 16

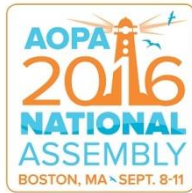
O&P Almanac breaks down several recent legislative and regulatory issues affecting the O&P community. [Read More](#)

Consumerism and Change | Page 28

Throughout the health-care sector, patients are demanding more control over their treatment decisions. [Read More](#)

Read the [Compliance Corner](#) and [Reimbursement Page](#) – Earn 4 CE's
Take the Reimbursement [Quiz here](#) and the Compliance Corner [Quiz here](#).

Present at the 2016 National Assembly in Boston



**AOPA National Assembly and New England Chapter Meeting
John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center in Boston, MA
September 8-11, 2016**

The 2016 Planning Committee is seeking high-quality education presentations for the combined 99th Annual AOPA National Assembly and New England Academy Chapter Meeting to be held September 8-11, 2016 at the Hynes Convention Center in downtown Boston, MA.

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 2016 National Meeting. All free paper abstracts for the 2016 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

Submission Deadline – The submission deadline is March 31, 2016.

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 2016 National Meeting. The top scoring papers will compete for the prestigious Thranhardt Award.

Technician Program – If you would like your Technical presentation considered for the Technical Education Track, please [submit your paper here](#). The planning committee is specifically looking for fabrication techniques to be presented in the form of a “cooking show” style demonstration. Please contact us with questions assembly@aopanet.org or 571-431-0808.

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](#). Scientific Symposia should present thematically related research addressing significant problems or controversies in Orthotics, Prosthetics or Pedorthics. The symposium should bring together one or more of the world's leading researchers to present current developments and planned research directions. Where appropriate, symposium should present differing points of view on a particular topic.

Student/Resident Poster Submission: AOPA invites students and residents to present orthotic/prosthetic research findings or a particular case study via a poster presentation. When students and/or residents submit an abstract for a poster, they are entered to win one of two prestigious awards--The Otto and Lucille Becker Award will be presented for the best orthotic abstract submitted and the Edwin and Kathryn Arbogast Award for the best prosthetic abstract submitted by a qualifying student or resident.

- ✓ The poster must be exhibited and presented at the AOPA National Assembly for the award recipient to receive the prize. The winners of the two scientific poster awards will be published in the O&P Almanac.
- ✓ The winners will receive a \$500 cash award, registration to the show, coach-class airfare to the National Assembly and three nights hotel. To qualify to present a poster in this category and eligible for consideration for this award, the main author must be a student (baccalaureate or masters level) or a resident at a qualified patient care facility.
- ✓ Abstracts will not be considered for either award if they have been previously presented, published, or are currently submitted with pending decision on acceptance elsewhere.
- ✓ These awards have been made possible by a special endowment by Becker Orthopedic and WillowWood.
- ✓ The Award Winner's associated school will also be honored with an award.

Please [submit your poster paper here](#).

Questions? Contact Tina Moran at tmoran@aopanet.org or (571) 431-0808.

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

Company Transfers Ownership to its Employees

Company owner, Bernie Veldman, announced that [Midwest Orthotic & Technology Center](#) and [Surestep](#) "was transitioning to new ownership" on Wednesday, January 13th.

"It was a very emotional and very exciting evening. More tears and hugs than I ever could have imagined," he said. "Some of the employees have been with us since day one, or our first year or second year. They believed in us, they trusted us. Now we've turned it over to them."

The Veldmans transitioned Dienen Inc., the parent company of Midwest Orthotic and Surestep, to an employee stock ownership plan on Jan. 4.

An ESOP is a retirement benefit that holds company stock. The stock is allocated to employees over time, and those shares increase in value as the company grows and pays its debt. Then, when employees retire, the company buys those shares back from them.

Being owned by the employees will not change the day-to-day operations at Midwest Orthotic. People's jobs will not change.

Bernie Veldman will remain as the company's president, and Pam Veldman will continue as vice president. All other members of the company's leadership team will stay in their roles as well.

Bernie Veldman he and his wife came to this decision after thinking for several years about succession strategies. He said they did not want to sell to a larger company or a venture capital firm.

"Our company's mission is to enrich and transform lives," he said, and that statement includes the lives of employees. "This allows our operations to go on uninterrupted."

Midwest Orthotic started in 2000 with three employees. Now, the company employs nearly 100 people in South Bend and another 70 people in other locations.

Save the Date for the 2016 Policy Forum



The Policy Forum dates have been announced for 2016. This year the Policy Forum will be held on Tuesday, April 26 to Thursday, April 28. Stay tuned for more details to follow concerning the 2016 Policy Forum. The Policy Forum creates a venue for the O&P community to vocalize their concerns and needs with their local policy-makers in Washington, DC.

Mobility Saves Page Has Over 10,000 Likes!



The [Mobility Saves page on Facebook](#) now has more than 10,000 likes on Facebook! Come check Mobility Saves out on social media to get your updates on the ways O&P care saves lives and money, and see lives improved by orthotics and prosthetics. We are also on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and there is now a Google Plus Community –request your invite by emailing community@mobilitysaves.org. And don't forget to visit the website where it all started, www.MobilitySaves.org.

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| January 25-26, 2016 | Mastering Medicare: Essential Coding & Billing Techniques Seminar
Tampa, FL
Learn more or register here |
| February 10, 2016 | <i>SNF Billing: Beyond the Basics (The Ins and Outs)</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more or register here |
| March 9, 2016 | <i>Shift the Liability: The Proper Use of the ABN Form Pass</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more or register here |