



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

April 25, 2017

AOPA Headlines:

[RAC Announces First O&P Issue for Review](#)

[Submit Comments for Evidence Review on Error Rate Reduction Regarding Lower Limb Prosthesis – April 28th Deadline](#)

[AOPA Pilot Research Grants – Deadline April 28th](#)

[Nominate an O&P Inventor or Innovator](#)

[O&P PAC Corner](#)

[ABC Releases Certified Technician Practice Analysis](#)

[Try the AOPAversity Online Learning Center for FREE](#)

[Register Now for the AOPA 2017 Policy Forum](#)

[Check out AOPA's Commemorative Centennial Website!](#)

[Exhibit at the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress in Las Vegas](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

RAC Announces First O&P Issue for Review

Performant Recovery has recently released its first O&P approved issue, issue number 49, for review as the new recovery audit contractor for all O&P related claims. Performant will be conducting an automated review for code L5845 (addition, endoskeletal knee-shin system, stance flexion feature, adjustable) and its use with certain prosthetic knee codes.

AOPA is currently reviewing the announcement to determine the effect it may have on members and will respond accordingly.

To view the full announcement visit Performant Recovery's approved issues page:

<https://www.performantrac.com/IssuesUnderReview.aspx>

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org

Submit Comments for Evidence Review on Error Rate Reduction Regarding Lower Limb Prosthesis – April 28th Deadline

In December 2016 the Academy, on behalf of the O&P Alliance, sought your assistance in responding to a request from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Call for Comments on key questions related to Lower Limb Prosthesis. The Academy, in conjunction with the O&P Alliance, submitted a detailed formal response to that request.*

Based on feedback from the December 20, 2016 request the key questions (and study eligibility criteria) were revised to improve clarity, focus the topics more closely with the sponsor's needs, and to evaluate measures and outcomes of interest to stakeholders.

We have now been contacted by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program at (AHRQ) to submit comments on the development of an evidence review on Error Rate Reduction Regarding Lower Limb Prosthesis based on these revised key questions.

The protocol for the evidence review on [Error Rate Reduction Regarding Lower Limb Prosthesis](#) has been posted and a [submission portal](#) for the voluntary submission of scientific information packets is active.

The Academy and AOPA encourage the submission of protocol improvements as well as the scientific information packets that are being requested. Your submission will help communicate the important points that need to be included in the evidence review.

Your participation as researchers in the O&P profession is valued and is an integral part of our efforts. While both the Academy and AOPA are committed to providing detailed, formal responses, the contributions of individual practitioners and researchers is important to offer a complete view of the issues at hand.

The turn-around time for submissions is tight. The deadline for submission is April 28, 2017 at 11:59 pm EDT.

Thank you for your continued support of the initiatives aimed at safeguarding and improving the O&P profession. If you would like to read the AOPA response [click here](#).

AOPA Pilot Research Grants – Deadline April 28th

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association, in partnership with the Center for O&P Learning & Evidence-Based Practice (COPL), is proud to announce a Request for Pilot Grant Proposals in 16 potential areas of orthotic and prosthetic research including an open topic.

There are 16 topics total with a few examples listed below:

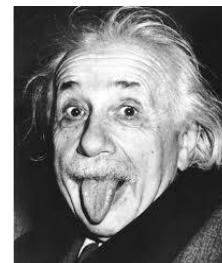
- Study community outcomes of patients, such as activity, social interactions, depression and anxiety
- Understand the effects of prosthetic component selection on community activity levels rather than in the lab
- Study the origins/clinical goals and prevalence of prosthesis prescribing patterns
- Link biomechanical performance measures to functional levels

- Open Topics - Beyond the Above Priorities, Top Quality Clinical O&P Research Topics Considered
- [See the rest of the topics in the full RFP.](#)

AOPA and COPL will give preference to grants that address evidence-based clinical application in orthotics and prosthetics. Please post this RFP and share it with your colleagues. *The deadline for proposals is April 28, 2017.* [Read the full eligibility and application process.](#)

Nominate an O&P Inventor or Innovator

AOPA is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2017 and we are pulling out all stops during the September 6-9 World Congress, where we will showcase significant milestones of the Association and Profession through our "Walk Through Time" historical display, as well as awards to honor those who have made a significant contribution to patient care through the invention of a device or technique.



Your opinion matters and we encourage the profession to nominate an inventor or innovator through our easy nomination process. **The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2017.**

[Nominate an inventor or innovator now.](#)

O&P PAC Corner

The O&P PAC Corner provides information on the activities of the O&P PAC, including the names of individuals who have made recent donations to the O&P PAC and the names of candidates the O&P PAC has recently supported. The O&P PAC recently received donations from the following **AOPA** member(s)*:

- Robert Arbogast

The purpose of the O&P PAC is to advocate for legislative or political interests at the federal level, which have an impact on the orthotic and prosthetic community. The O&P PAC achieves this goal by working closely with members of the House, Senate and other officials running for office to educate them about the issues, and help elect those individuals who support the orthotic and prosthetic community.

To participate in, support and receive additional information about the O&P PAC, federal law mandates that eligible individuals must first [sign an authorization form](#), or contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

*Due to publishing deadlines this list was created on 04/25/2017 and includes only donations/contributions made/ received between 04/18/2017 and 04/25/2017. Any donations/contributions made/ received on/ or after 04/25/2017 will be published in the next issue of the *SmartBrief*.

ABC Releases Certified Technician Practice Analysis



ABC recently released the 2017 *Practice Analysis of Certified Technicians in the Disciplines of Orthotics and Prosthetics*. ABC's Practice Analysis Task Force and ABC Executive Director, Cathy Carter, worked with Professional Examination Services to create and implement a practice analysis of ABC Certified Technicians.

ABC last conducted a practice analysis study of technicians in 2011. In 2016, technicians were resurveyed in order to identify changes related to orthotic and prosthetic care, available componentry and the technology in use today.

The goal of the practice analysis is to determine current trends in the provision of prosthetic and orthotic services by technicians. "We wanted to get an idea of what current orthotic and prosthetic technician practice looks like in order to meet the ever changing needs of the profession," said Robert Carlile, CPA, CTPO, ABC's Practice Analysis Task Force Chair. "We were very pleased with the participation and valuable input we received from the professionals surveyed." The overall return rate for the survey was 30%, which is a very positive return rate for this type of survey. "The technicians who participated in the survey have provided a great service to their profession," said Carlile. "Only those working within the profession can give us a comprehensive and contemporary look into their specific knowledge and skill sets."

ABC will use the results of the practice analysis survey to assure that it's orthotic and prosthetic technician credentialing exam is continually relevant for individuals entering the profession. The results will also be used to identify content for in-service and/or continuing education, as well as provide guidance for education programs in regard to curriculum review and/or program self-assessment.

Try the AOPAversity Online Learning Center for FREE

Easy to Use * Great Selection of Videos * Instant Quiz Results

Try our online learning center for FREE! Access the "Boston Strong Grand Rounds" between from March 1 - May 15, 2017 and earn 3 scientific credits - a \$55 value.

Create an account, add the "Boston Strong Grand Rounds" to your cart and check out, then watch the video and take the quiz to earn 2.5 scientific credits for free.

AOPAversity has 80+ videos on orthotics, prosthetics, pedorthics, technician training, marketing, growing your practice, reimbursement, and more.

[Try AOPAversity Today](#)

Get instant quiz results
and access your account
24/7

CEs automatically sent
to ABC and BOC
quarterly

Discounted rates for
AOPA members

Register Now for the AOPA 2017 Policy Forum

Registration is now open for the 2017 AOPA Policy Forum! The Policy Forum will take place May 24-25 in Washington, DC. The Policy Forum is your best opportunity to learn the latest legislative and regulatory details and how they will affect you, your business and your patients. Once you are armed with the facts, we as a profession will educate our members of Congress to offer common sense solutions and share how the O&P profession restores lives and puts people back to work. [Learn More and Register Now.](#)



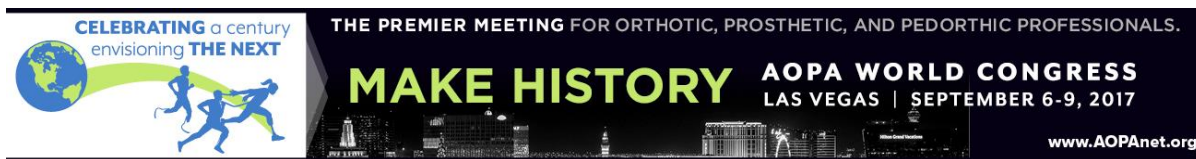
Check out AOPA's Commemorative Centennial Website!

We are pleased to present our new website commemorating our 100 year anniversary – www.AOPA100.org. The website features AOPA's history, an interactive timeline, photo gallery, O&P stories from AOPA members, and AOPA's plans for the future. Listen to stories from other AOPA members and submit your own, and share photos for our photo gallery.



Don't forget to follow AOPA on social media for Throwback Thursday posts all year long! #aopa100!

Exhibit at the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress in Las Vegas



AOPA is currently accepting exhibit applications for the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress, which is to be held September 6-9, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada in conjunction with AOPA's 100th Anniversary Celebration. Now is your chance to sign up and showcase your products at the largest O&P tradeshow in the Western Hemisphere. This world-wide convention opportunity features 4 days of high-level networking, exhibits, the latest techniques in O&P treatment, and the finest industry specific business and clinical training programs. We hope you make plans to join us. The first Congress was a great learning experience for all and with your participation we can create a larger and even more successful event.

Why you should attend:

- Research and Development expenditures in the United States are more than \$95 billion, making the United States the leader in medical innovation and creating the ideal location for a unique gathering of high visibility and importance.
- Superior Clinical Education featuring the best speakers from around the world. Hear from physicians, researchers and top-notch practitioners.
- Practical Learning and live demonstrations
- Learn how U.S. Health Care reform continues to influence patient care and global health policy.
- Networking with an elite and influential group of professionals.

- Largest Display of exhibits in the United States for the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic profession.
- Ideal U.S. Location chosen for travel ease and popularity.

Exhibiting at this important global event will give you the opportunity to:

- Build your customer base and increase sales;
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build relationships;
- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening reception in the exhibit hall;
- Take advantage of fun traffic building opportunities;
- Increase visibility for your company/organization in a targeted market;
- Host a Manufactures Workshop and/or Product Preview Theater;
- Take advantage of education sessions to learn what's happening with health care reform, Medicare, and other regulatory agencies that affect your bottom line;
- Speak to AOPA coding experts to learn what's happening with U.S. government sponsored healthcare programs and what you need to do to sell your products in the U.S.

[Sign up today to exhibit at the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress.](#) Contact Kelly O'Neill with any questions at koneill@AOPAnet.org or call (571) 431-0852.

Upcoming AOPA Events

May 10, 2017	<i>Modifiers: What do They Mean and When to Use Them</i> AOPA Webinar Learn more and register here
May 24-25, 2017	AOPA Policy Forum Washington, DC Learn more and register here
July 17-18, 2017	<i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i> Pittsburgh, PA Learn more and register here