



3:15-4:00pm  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**A Conversation with AOPA Past Presidents**

Mitchell Dobson, CPO; Traci Dralle; Dave McGill; Teri Kuffel, JD  
(moderator)

Join AOPA past presidents as they share insights and perspectives from their years of experience in O&P, reflect on AOPA's role in advocating for and advancing the profession, and how they got involved in AOPA and the impact it has had on them. This fireside chat will offer inspiration, guidance, and a deeper understanding of leadership, volunteer service, and AOPA. You will also gain valuable insights for your own journey in the O&P profession!

4:00-4:45pm  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Leading for Impact**

Sydney Robinson, Meng; Jessika Broström; Aaron Flores, PhD; Traci Dralle; Rick Riley (moderator)

To help bring all the afternoon's conversations together, speakers will return to the stage to delve more into their personal leadership journeys and will then open it up to the audience to ask questions and share their own journeys.

4:45-5:00pm  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Closing Remarks**

Rick Riley

5:30-6:30pm  
*Courtyard*

**Opening Reception**

**Saturday, January 18, 2025**

7:30am-3:30pm  
*Lafayette Foyer*

**Registration Open**

7:45-8:45am  
*Salon I*

**Breakfast**

8:45-9:00am  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Welcome from AOPA President and Interim Executive Director**

Rick Riley and Teri Kuffel, JD

9:00-9:30am  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**What We've Learned since our Last Leadership Conference**

Mitchell Dobson, CPO

This session dives into key insights gathered from feedback from within O&P, shedding light on the clinical, operational, and technological challenges and opportunities that define the profession. The current landscape, including the lack of standardized practices, the complexity of reimbursement processes, and the pressing need for an integrated data ecosystem will be presented. We'll also

examine the opportunities offered by value-based healthcare, AI tools, and remote monitoring technologies. Strategies for stakeholder engagement and the development of a robust evidence base will also be discussed. This interactive session will encourage participants to share their perspectives and explore actionable steps to align the O&P profession with the future of healthcare.

9:30-9:45am  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Q&A with Mitchell Dobson, CPO**

9:45-10:45am  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Keynote**

JD Kleinke, Medical Economist

Renowned healthcare expert J.D. Kleinke will kick off the Leadership Conference with an enlightening keynote that delves into the intricacies of medical economics and its profound impact on the future of healthcare. With extensive experience as an author, entrepreneur, and policy analyst, he will share his unique insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the healthcare industry today, including the shift towards value-driven care. He will help us better understand the economic factors that influence healthcare decisions and patient care. This thought-provoking session will equip you with the knowledge and tools so your business can thrive.

10:45-11:00am  
*Lafayette Foyer*

**Break**

11:00-Noon  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Building a Path to Value-Driven O&P Care: Readiness, Lessons, and Next Steps**

Mitchell Dobson, CPO and Dave McGill

The shift toward value-driven care has become a central goal in healthcare, but what does it truly mean? In this session, we'll explore the concept of value-driven care and assess our readiness to make this transition. Reflecting on key achievements in O&P from the past year, we'll examine the foundational work that positions us to move forward while identifying persistent barriers that stand in the way. Participants will gain insight into our collective vision for the future. They will also define actionable next steps to create a healthcare landscape that prioritizes quality, outcomes, and sustainable care models. Join us to align our vision, address our challenges, and map the journey toward a value-driven system.

Noon-1:15pm  
*Salon I*

**Lunch**

1:15-2:45pm  
*Acadia*

**Breakout #1: Integrating Care Pathways and Clinical Guidelines:  
Optimizing Outcomes through Evidence-Based Practice**

Sally Kenworthy, PhD, CPO and Shane Wurdeman, PhD, CP, FAAOP(D)

In healthcare, both care pathways and clinical guidelines serve as essential tools in guiding decisions for optimal patient outcomes. This session will explore the differences between the two, emphasizing how pathways coordinate the entire patient journey—from diagnosis to rehabilitation—across various providers, including physicians, allied health professionals, and O&P practitioners. Using the AFO (Ankle-Foot Orthosis) care pathway as a case study, this session will outline the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with standardized care pathways, exploring how they can demonstrate the clinical and economic value of O&P expertise. Attendees will learn how standardized care pathways improve patient outcomes by ensuring consistency in treatment while underscoring the critical role of O&P professionals in enhancing quality and efficiency throughout the continuum of care.

*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Breakout #2: Optimizing the O&P Data Ecosystem: A Path Toward  
Standardization and Evidence-Based Value**

Jeff Brandt, CPO; Paul Prusakowski, CPO, LPO, FAAOP; Katelyn O'Brien; Fanny Schulte, MS, MEd, CPO, LP, FAAOP(D); Andreas Kannenberg, MD(GER), PhD; Ralph Hooper, CPO; Sunny Ainley (moderator)

Varying data practices and priorities across clinics, manufacturers, payers, and health systems has resulted in inconsistent clinical practices, limited ability to aggregate large-scale data, and challenges in generating robust, real-world evidence. Consequently, O&P has struggled to demonstrate the value of its patient care, products, and technologies to key stakeholders, including payers, policymakers, and regulators. The absence of a unified data strategy, combined with a lack of agreed upon, standardized quality measures, has made it difficult to harness the full potential of data.

The resources provided by the LLPR, along with engaged EHR vendors and mounting pressure for credible evidence, indicate that now is the time for a profession-wide data strategy. In this session, AOPA will present a draft data strategy framework derived from the voice of the profession, facilitate strategy discussion and feedback with industry leaders, and inclusively identify actionable steps with session participants to catalyze an industry-wide data strategy to optimize the O&P data ecosystem.

2:45-3:00pm  
*Lafayette Foyer*

**Break**

3:00-4:30pm  
*Acadia*

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*Lafayette Ballroom*

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Ralph Hooper, CPO; Sunny Ainley (moderator)

4:45-5:00pm  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Update from the O&P Foundation and Closing Remarks**  
Fanny Schultea, MS, MEd, CPO, LP, FAAOP(D); Chris Fairman, CPO; Rick Riley

### **Sunday, January 19, 2025**

7:30 – 10:30am  
*Lafayette Foyer*

**Registration Open**

7:45-8:45am  
*Salon I*

**Breakfast**

8:45-9:00am  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Welcome**  
Rick Riley

9:00-10:30am  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**The Time is Now: How to Build on Recent Successes & New Information**  
Kimberly Hanson, CPRH; Joe McTernan; Maggie Baumer, JD; Molly McCoy, CPO;  
Lesleigh Sisson, CFm, Cfo (moderator)

In 2024, there were steps taken to advance the understanding and direction of O&P care. There was the introduction of care pathways and the exploration of value-driven care. There was the release of two reports highlighting the current state of care for patients with limb loss and limb difference. There were gains in state-based legislation through So Every BODY Can Move. Lastly, there was also a monumental shift in the Medicare lower limb prostheses policy that recognized the clinical benefits of select prosthetic components may offer to an entirely new population of patients.

These show that a focus on collaboration, data-driven practices, and proper policy implementation can significantly contribute to improving patient care and professional standards in O&P. This session will address how to build on these recent successes and advancements.

10:30-10:45am  
*Lafayette Foyer*

**Break**

10:45-11:30am  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Staying in the Pole Position: Developing our Action Plan**

Molly McCoy, CPO; Fanny Schulte, MS, MEd, CPO, LP, FAAOP(D); Joe McTernan; Sagar Shetty, BOCPO;;Rick Riley and Mitchell Dobson, CPO (moderators)

This session is your chance to help AOPA identify and think about the next big things in O&P. Identifying the next big thing involves recognizing emerging trends and technologies that can significantly impact patient care, fabrication, education, research, and policy. Once we identify the next big thing, what must we and you do to ensure that the O&P community remains at the forefront when working with all our partners to ensure proper execution (patients, CMS, insurers, etc.).

11:30-Noon  
*Lafayette Ballroom*

**Closing Remarks**

Rick Riley

