



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

April 27, 2017

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AOPA World Congress Registration is Open



Registration is Now Open! The best and the brightest clinical and business speakers. The biggest O&P exhibit hall. Networking with the most influential people in the industry. The fun events. More than 32 CE's...

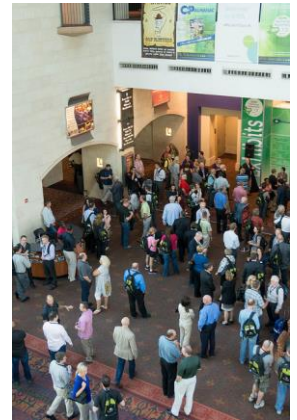
Need any more reasons to attend the 2017 AOPA World Congress? How about Las Vegas? Easy to travel to and fun for everyone, with a variety of hotels, restaurants and activities, Las Vegas is the perfect gathering place.

AOPA and our 9 international partners welcome you to expand your knowledge, grow your market presence, and advance your career at this unique global gathering. [Register now.](#)



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. 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.



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' is 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.

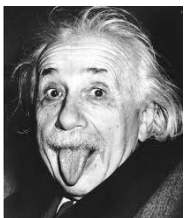
When in Vegas, Party with a Purpose

At the 2017 AOPA World Congress, be sure to attend the "Party with a Purpose" on September 8. Space will be limited, so be sure to secure your spot early!



If you have not signed an [O&P PAC authorization card](#) for 2017 please do so immediately! The purpose of the O&P PAC is to be a strong advocate for the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic community at the federal level. The O&P PAC works closely with Congress and other officials educating them about O&P centered legislation and the overall importance of O&P. We really need your help! In order to participate in and receive information about the O&P PAC, federal law mandates that you must first sign an authorization form. Please direct any questions to Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

Nominate an O&P Inventor or Innovator



AOPA is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2017 and we are pulling out all stops during the World Congress, where we will showcase significant milestones of the Association and Profession through our "Walk Through Time" display, as well as awards to honor those who have made a significant contribution to patient care through an invention or innovation. Your opinion matters - nominate an inventor or innovator through our easy nomination process. **The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2017.** [Nominate an inventor or innovator now.](#)

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. [View the full announcement.](#)

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 by April 28th

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 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.](#)

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.](#)



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*.

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| 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 |