



# NCOPE Annual Report

## 2020

**Improving Lives and Strengthening the Profession Through Education**

## *Chairman's Message*



To the Orthotics & Prosthetics Community,

On behalf of the National Commission on Orthotics and Prosthetics Education (NCOPE), I hope this letter finds everyone in good health and spirits. This letter serves as a reflection of the past year and a glimpse into future projects that the volunteer board members and staff at NCOPE are participating in to further the mission statement and our established goals.

This past year was extremely challenging as the nation experienced multiple hurdles and hopefully is on a course to overcome the grips of a global pandemic. On the positive side, out of the ashes of the global shutdown, creative opportunities helped develop new ways to provide education, meetings, and conduct business in the virtual world. NCOPE was no different.

In keeping with the new mission statement, “Improving lives and strengthening the profession through education”, NCOPE with the help of many contributors, developed an incredible video library to help students and residents maintain their educational knowledge. Although the schools opened the campuses for in-person attendance and clinical labs are operating at capacity, we are working to keep the library as a permanent reference to aid in future education.

Helping the schools and residents was not the only challenge for NCOPE, the financial sector experienced severe vacillations that had an effect on every individual and organizations. With the help of intuitive financial advisors and cutbacks on expenses, NCOPE weathered last year and maintained its net worth as can be seen in the annual report.

Following the four NCOPE goals, the organization continues to develop strategies to improve education and clinical experiences for residents. Data collection continues to improve, providing a healthy set of metrics the profession will benefit from for future research projects. NCOPE continues to design innovative techniques for marketing the profession in hopes of

improving the applicant numbers to the schools. Lastly, NCOPE is committed to work with all the sister organizations to attract a more racially and ethnically diverse cohort of students that better reflects the population we serve. NCOPE has designed a new committee specifically to address diversity and inclusion, and there are plans to host a workshop at the fall national meeting to provide a greater understanding for all involved.

In closing, NCOPE is not run by any one person but by a large group of extremely dedicated individuals with a vision of excellence. As Chairman of NCOPE, I am proud to act as liaison and write this letter, however I am thankful for all of the innovative people that make this organization successful. Please take the time to read the annual report for greater detail of the mission of NCOPE and the strategic goals for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom Karolewski', with a stylized, cursive script.

Thomas P. Karolewski, CP/L, FAAOP  
Chair

# Accreditation at a Glance 2020

During 2020, NCOPE performed accreditation and approval services for the following programs and CAAHEP activities. Please note that due to COVID-19, all scheduled site visits were cancelled and will take place virtually in 2021.

## Education Programs

### Orthotist/Prosthetist Level

California State University	Granted extension of submission of self-study till 2021 for <i>continued</i> accreditation.
Baylor College of Medicine	Awarded <i>continued</i> accreditation CAAHEP. March 2020
Kennesaw State University	Awarded <i>Transfer of Sponsorship</i> from Georgia Institute of Technology to Kennesaw State University. November 2020
Northwestern University	Submission of self-study for <i>continued</i> accreditation. February 2020
University of Hartford	Submission of self-study for <i>continued</i> accreditation. September 2020
University of Pittsburgh	Submission of self-study for <i>continued</i> accreditation. February 2020

### Assistant Level

Request for Accreditation Services	Submission for request of accreditation services. Oakland University in Rochester, MI Fall 2020.
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## **Pedorthic Level**

Oklahoma State University/The Robert M. Palmer, MD Institute of Biomechanics, Inc.

Program Closure.  
June 30, 2020

Programs

Transition to CAAHEP system in 2021.

## **Technician Level**

Francis Tuttle Technology Center

Awarded *continued* accreditation CAAHEP.  
March 2020

Joliet Junior College

Submission of self-study for *continued* accreditation.  
September 2020

Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology – Okmulgee

Program Closure  
No new cohorts fall 2020.  
Program closed June 2021.

Spokane Falls Community College

Submission of self-study for *continued* accreditation.  
September 2020

St. Petersburg College

Submission of self-study for *continued* accreditation.  
January 2020



*Picture Courtesy University of Washington*



*Picture Courtesy Loma Linda University*

## Residency Accreditation Report

During 2020, NCOPE performed the following accreditation services:

### Residency Sites Information:

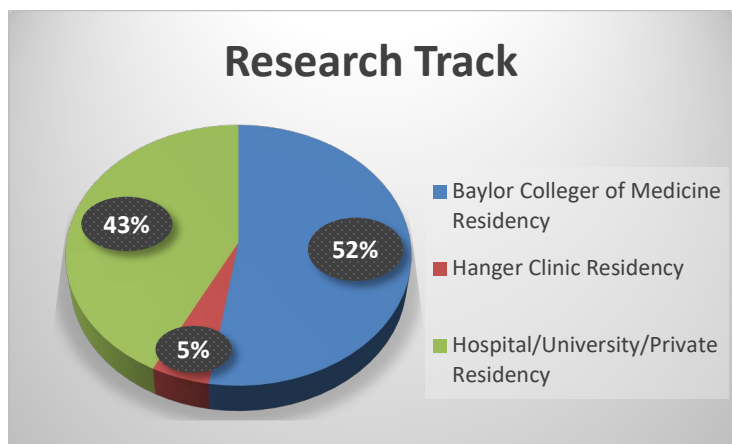
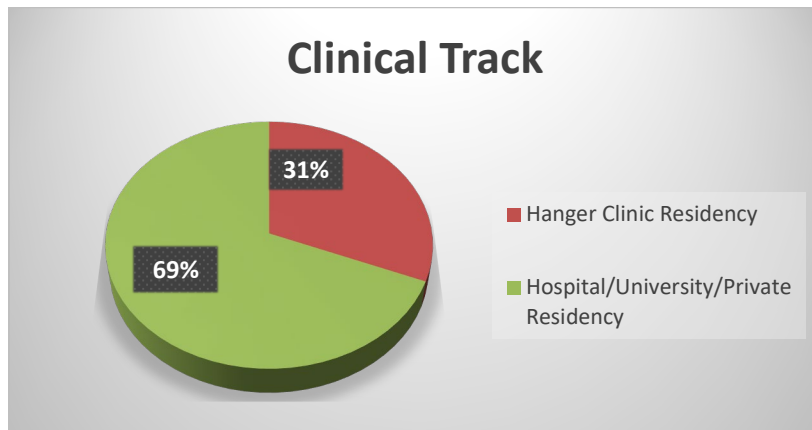
Reviewed and accredited: 172 patient care facilities for Residency Programs

### Resident Information Data:

Completed residents in 2020: 319 residents completed in 2020

Program Type:  
44 in O&P dual residency program  
138 in an Orthotics residency program  
137 in a Prosthetics residency program

Program Track:  
279 Clinical Track  
40 Research Development Track







*Picture Courtesy Joliet Junior College*



*Picture Courtesy Concordia University – St. Paul/Century College*



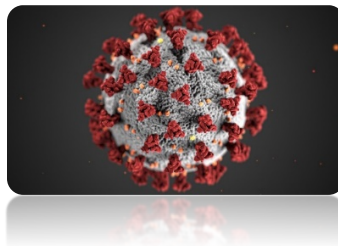
# Reflections on COVID-19 and NCOPE's Response

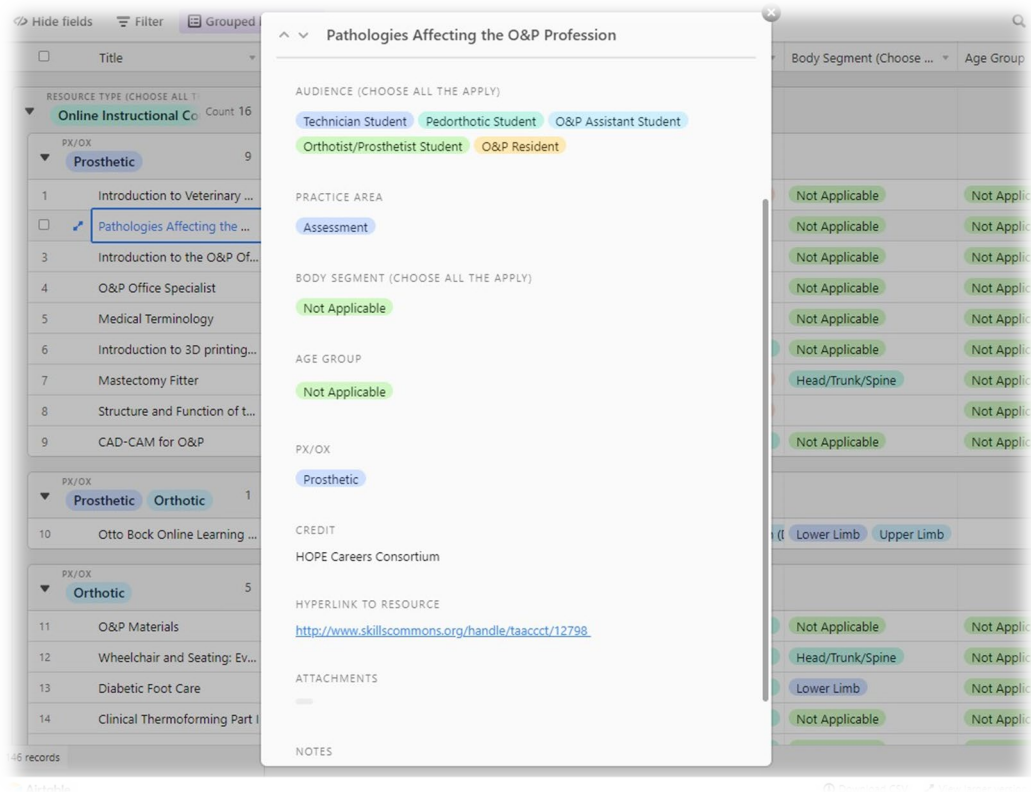
March 2020 and the arrival of COVID-19 became an unprecedented health and economic crisis for our O&P community, our country and our world.

As the O&P profession's accreditation organization, working in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP), the NCOPE Board of Directors and staff were resolute in our commitment to respond quickly and as accommodating as possible to our stakeholders. Starting in mid-March, the NCOPE executive committee began meeting once a week to review, discuss, and identify any issues that the educational programs, residency programs, and residents may have been experiencing as well as the impact on our programmatic services.

The NCOPE leaders and staff provided the following resources, tools, and responses:

- “We Stand United to Serve” message to the profession from all the O&P sister organizations. [We Stand United To Serve Video](#)
- [Developed and published a Public Statement on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Residents, Residency Directors/Mentors, and Administrators Webpage](#)
  - [COVID-19 FAQ](#)
  - Extended all residency programs expiring in 2020 for 90 days
  - [Hosted ABC & NCOPE COVID-19 Roundtable Discussion - April 17](#)
  - [Developed Residency Program Duration and Experience Calculator](#) – designed to provide an estimation of a residency program end-date for residents experiencing either reduced hours or who lost their position due to COVID-19.
  - Creation of a Residency Resources Database that provided access to O&P educational content, including videos. Individuals are required to register to gain access but the content is available to Resident Directors, Mentors, and Residents. [Online Registration Form](#).





Screen shot of Resource Library on NCOPE website

- [NCOPE Position Statement on Orthotic, Prosthetic, and Pedorthic Education](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Orthotic, Prosthetic, and Pedorthic Students and Educators](#)
  - Creation of an Educator Resources Database that provides access to O&P educational content, including videos. Individuals required to register to gain access. Available to Faculty from CAAHEP accredited O&P programs. [Online Registration Form](#)
  - Creation of a graduate preparedness form. Completed by the program director, the tool is designed to capture information from academic program faculty to inform residency directors/mentors and future employers on the training and abilities of students who have had their education affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of this form is to provide input regarding an entire cohort of students affected by COVID-19 and compare/contrast their education to previous cohorts not affected by the pandemic.



*Picture Courtesy California State University – Dominguez Hills*



*Picture Courtesy International Institute of Orthotics & Prosthetics/Florida International University*

# 2020 Accredited Educational Programs Listing

## **Orthotist/Prosthetist Level Programs (CAAHEP Accredited)**

Masters = 13

Alabama State University  
California State University  
Concordia University/Century College  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Eastern Michigan University  
Kennesaw State University  
Loma Linda University  
Northwestern University  
Florida International University/International Institute of Orthotics & Prosthetics  
University of Hartford  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Texas - Southwestern  
University of Washington

## **Technician Level Programs (CAAHEP Accredited)**

Associate Degree/Certificate = 6

Century College  
Francis Tuttle Technology Center  
Joliet Junior College  
Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology  
Spokane Falls Community College  
St. Petersburg College

## **Pedorthic Education Courses (NCOPE Accredited)**

Pedorthic Courses = 3

Academy of Pedorthic Science/Kennesaw State University  
Francis Tuttle Technology Center  
St. Petersburg College



*Picture Courtesy  
Joliet Junior College*





*Picture Courtesy St. Petersburg College*



*Picture Courtesy University of Washington*

**National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2020 and 2019**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 667,122	\$ 484,240
Certificate of Deposit	-	-
Investments	1,919,199	1,781,367
Accounts Receivable	-	11,085
Prepaid Expenses	<u>5,080</u>	<u>9,611</u>
Total Current Assets	\$2,591,401	\$2,286,303
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		
Fixes Assets - Net	<u>6,498</u>	<u>13,546</u>
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
Deposits	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$2,599,599</u>	<u>\$2,301,549</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,365	\$ 19,825
Accrued Leave & Salary	28,328	32,508
Due to Affiliate	100,166	53,712
Deferred Revenues	<u>450,950</u>	<u>463,449</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 584,809</u>	<u>\$ 569,494</u>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,997,590	\$1,732,055
Restrictions	<u>4,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,001,590</u>	<u>\$ 1,732,055</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$2,599,599</u>	<u>\$2,301,549</u>



**National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Revenues and Other Support:</b>		
Contributions	\$ 30,023	\$ 34,027
Program Fees:		
Residency Fees	800,274	910,610
Application Fees	107,775	95,775
School Accreditation Fees	34,200	36,600
Other Program Fees	18,441	20,440
Interest and Dividends	30,181	41,675
Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	24,524	3,033
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	93,234	209,686
Net Assets Released from Restrictions		
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	26,000	34,000
Temporarily Restricted	<u>(26,000)</u>	<u>(34,000)</u>
Total Revenues and Other Support	<u>\$1,138,652</u>	<u>\$1,351,846</u>
 <b>Expenses:</b>		
Residency Accreditation	\$513,478	\$538,836
Primary Accreditation	265,721	370,599
Governance - Administration	85,286	88,725
Fund Raising	<u>4,632</u>	<u>4,619</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 869,117</u>	<u>\$1,002,779</u>
Changes in Net Assets	\$269,535	\$ 349,067
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>\$1,732,055</u>	<u>\$1,382,988</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$2,001,590</u>	<u>\$1,732,055</u>

# ***2020 Officers and Board of Directors***

## ***Officers***

Thomas Karolewski, CP/L, FAAOP  
*Chair*

Mark Clary, CPO, FAAOP  
*Treasurer*

Walter P. Afable, CP, MBA  
*Immediate Past-Chair*

Michael P. Madden, CPO, LPO,  
FAAOP  
*Secretary*

Susan Ewers Spaulding, M.S., CPO  
*Vice-Chair*

## **Directors**

Wendy Beattie, CPO, FAAOP  
Megan Zachar Christ, CPO  
Sheryl Sachs, MSPO, CPO  
Edward Strachan, CPO  
June McKoy, MD, MPH, JD, MBA,  
*Public Member*

Marilys G. Randolph, PhD, PT,  
*Public Member*  
Robin C. Seabrook, *Executive  
Director*

## **NCOPE Staff**

Robin C. Seabrook, *Executive Director*  
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D), *Clinical Resource Director*  
Eric Watters, *Residency Program Coordinator & Accreditation Assistant* –  
hired May 2020  
Claire Doyle, *Residency Program Assistant* – hired September 2020

## **Former NCOPE Staff**

Dominique S. Mungo, *Director of Residency Program Services* –  
January - September  
Joan Dallas, *Residency Program Coordinator & Accreditation Assistant* –  
January – April

## **Active Committee Roster for 2020**

*\*Note, NCOPE had additional committees and activities planned, but COVID-19 impacted the majority of the organization's workplan adopted in Fall of 2019 for the 2020 fiscal year. The committees listed below were active in 2020.*

### **Governance**

#### ***Executive Committee***

Thomas Karolewski, CP, FAAOP– *Chair*  
Walter P. Afable, CP, MBA,  
Mark Clary, CPO, FAAOP  
Susan E. Spaulding, MS, CPO  
Robin C. Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

#### ***Finance Committee***

Mark Clary, CPO, FAAOP - *Chair*  
Thomas Karolewski, CP, FAAOP  
Walter P. Afable, CP, MBA  
Meghan Christ, CPO  
Sue Spaulding, MS, CPO  
Robin C. Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*

### **Residency Education**

#### ***Larry Lange Travel Fellowship Award Selection Committee***

William Barringer, CO – *Chair*  
Zacharay Block, CPO  
James Campbell, CO, FAAOP  
Catherine Carter, ABC Executive Director  
Alyssa N. Perry, CPO  
Dominique Mungo – *Staff Liaison*

#### ***Residency Application Review Committee***

Charles W. Kuffel, MSM, CPO, FAAOP  
Stephanie D. Langdon, CPO, FAAOP(D)  
Thomas Karolewski, CP, FAAOP  
Sheryl Nathanson, CPO  
Claire Doyle – *Staff Liaison*  
Joan Dallas – *Staff Liaison*  
Dominique Mungo – *Staff Liaison*

### ***Regional Residency Liaison***

Michael Carroll, CPO (Region 1)  
Alex Shimkus, CPO (Region 2)  
Kathleen Carroll, CO (Region 3)  
Sarah Bui, CPO (Region 4)  
Kinsey Herrin, CPO (Region 5)  
Kimberly Gorbitt, CPO (Region 6)  
Therresa Field, CPO (Region 7)  
Nina Bondre, CPO (Region 8) – *Chair*  
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*  
Dominique Mungo – *Staff Liaison*

### ***Resident/Student Activities Committee***

Nina Bondre, CPO – Project Manager  
Regional Residency Liaison Committee Members  
Robin Seabrook – *Staff Liaison*  
Chris Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D) – *Staff Liaison*

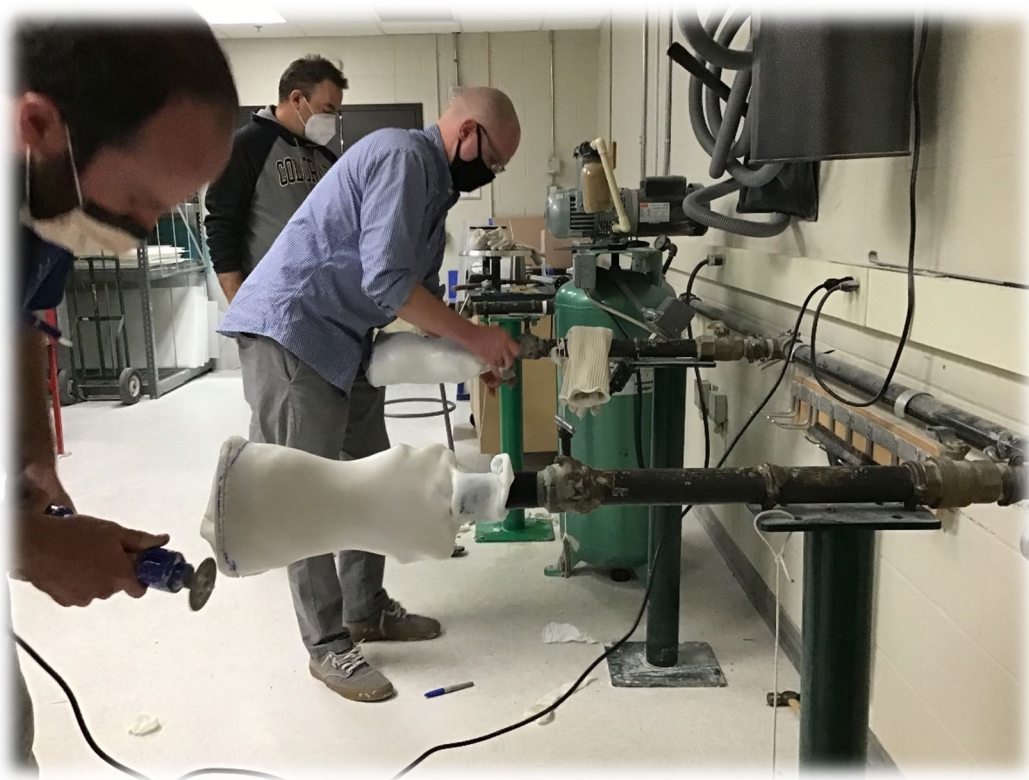


*Picture Courtesy California State University – Dominguez Hills*





*Picture Courtesy International Institute in Orthotics & Prosthetics/Florida International University*



*Picture Courtesy Concordia University – St. Paul/Century College*



*Picture Courtesy Loma Linda University*



*Picture Courtesy St. Petersburg College*



# **National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Mission Statement**

***Improving Lives and Strengthening the Profession  
Through Education.***



NCOPE  
330 John Carlyle St., Ste. 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-836-7114  
[NCOPE.org](http://NCOPE.org)

NCOPE is a nonprofit national organization that works in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Accreditation Programs (CAAHEP) in accreditation activities for educational programs for the orthotics and prosthetics profession. NCOPE also accredits residency programs.