

2003

NCOPE

Annual Report

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Chairman's Message

Dear O&P Colleagues:

2003 was a busy and ambitious year for the members of the NCOPE board and the staff, headed superbly by Ms. Robin Seabrook. During the year, the Commission began accreditation for the first master's degree entry-level program at Georgia Tech University; embarked on a formal review of residency programs nationwide; developed standards for O&P assistants; and began the process of changing the O&P educational standards using an outcomes-based format.

In addition, the 11-member Commission continued with its work overseeing the standards for the eight O&P educational programs in the United States. There are several new programs on the horizon which can potentially increase the available pool of practitioners for patient care—an absolute necessity as the population of the United States continues to age.

Also new in 2003 was the introduction of the on-site review of residency standards simultaneous with the ABC facility site visit, in an effort to elevate the visibility of the program for our residents. This new feature allows the ABC site visitor to evaluate the residency standards without a second person going on site.

A review of 2003 would not be complete without mention of the tremendous effort given by Mike Brncick, CPO, on our behalf during the RegNeg meetings in Washington, D.C. There is no question that Mike's yeoman work helped build the groundwork for the eventual discussions which now may produce the unification of two competing—and somewhat confusing—concepts for the patients we professionally serve.

2004 begins the term of Bryan Malas, CO, as NCOPE's new chairman. I ask that all practitioners of O&P review the proceedings carefully as we progress through the next two years. These are exciting and changing times. I implore all of you to keep an open mind and help us in any way you can to move our profession to a level consistent with the challenges we all gladly accept every working day.

Cordially,

Donald G. Shurr CPO, PT

Donald G. Shurr, CPO, PT
Immediate Past Chairman



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Executive Director's Message

Dear Orthotic/Prosthetic Professional:

2003 represented more of the same—but different! NCOPE continued to provide accreditation services to educational and residency programs, tracking residents through their residency programs and developing and drafting educational standards. What was different was NCOPE's participation at a national level with the negotiated rulemaking process. For those not familiar with negotiated rulemaking, it involved NCOPE and other O&P groups working with the federal government to assist the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in reaching consensus for reimbursement of prosthetic and certain orthotic devices.

As an organization comprised of educational experts, this was out of NCOPE's purview as an accreditation agency to be involved in and fighting at the federal level for the O&P profession. It was, however, a vital and important role that NCOPE served in educating personnel at CMS as well as other allied health professionals on the unique knowledge and skills required to be an orthotist or prosthetist. At this time, no one knows what CMS will decide, since no consensus could be reached on who is truly qualified to provide the services and receive reimbursement. But at least the O&P profession is on record with the federal government having stated that only those individuals who have received appropriate O&P education and training are qualified and that orthotics and prosthetics are distinct professions that require specialized education and training.

In 2003, NCOPE continued to maintain the "status quo" for all of its activities surrounding accreditation. The profession continues to receive a tremendous "bang for its buck" for the services NCOPE is able to provide with a budget that was just over \$300,000. Further information on NCOPE's financial position is in this annual report, but suffice it to say that the NCOPE board of commissioners and staff worked hard in 2003 and accomplished quite a bit for a budget of this size.

If you would like greater details about any of NCOPE's activities and initiatives for 2003 or for the upcoming year, please feel free to contact the NCOPE office.

Sincerely,



Robin C. Seabrook
Executive Director



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Accreditation at a Glance 2003

During 2003, NCOPE performed accreditation services for the following programs:

Education Programs

Practitioner Level

Georgia Tech
Rancho Los Amigos

Reviewed application for accreditation
Placed program on inactive status per
program's request

Assistant Level

Oklahoma State University – Okmulgee

Performed focused on-site visit and granted
accreditation for two years

Technician Level

Baker College of Flint
Median School of Allied Health

Granted accreditation for five years
Performed site visit and granted continued
accreditation for five years

Residency Accreditation Report

During 2003, NCOPE performed the following accreditation services:

Reviewed and accredited: 62 patient care facilities for residency programs

Tracked Residents: 185 Residents in the 2002/03 cycle

Completed Residents: 180 Residents completed in 2003

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2003 Accredited Educational Programs Listing

Practitioner Level Programs (CAAHEP Accredited)

Baccalaureate = 3

California State University
University of Texas
University of Washington

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate = 5

California State University
Century College
Newington Certificate Program
Northwestern University
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Ctr.**Assistant Level Programs (NCOPE Accredited)**

Associate Degree/Certificate = 1

Oklahoma State University - Okmulgee

Technician Level Programs (NCOPE Accredited)

Associate Degree/Certificate = 5

Century College
Baker College of Flint
Francis Tuttle Technology
Median School of Allied Health
Spokane Falls Community College

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National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education
Statements of Financial Position

	December 31,	
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 154,201	\$ 123,292
Investments	127,617	97,992
Accounts receivable and other assets	2,368	3,254
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$28,876 and \$29,975, respectively	<u>6,728</u>	<u>6,008</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 290,914</u>	<u>\$ 230,546</u>
Liabilities and net assets		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 9,073	\$ 7,088
Accrued vacation	7,891	7,968
Due to affiliates	39,219	63,393
Deferred income	<u>106,085</u>	<u>87,375</u>
Total liabilities	162,268	165,824
Net assets	<u>128,646</u>	<u>64,722</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 290,914</u>	<u>\$ 230,546</u>

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National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Statement of Activities

	Years Ended December 31,	
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Revenue and support		
Program fees:		
Residency renewal fees	\$ 225,661	\$ 204,130
Application fees	27,500	17,478
School accreditation fees	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
	260,661	229,108
Contributions	51,000	57,000
Investment income	1,799	2,605
Miscellaneous	<u>275</u>	<u>1,544</u>
	313,735	290,257
Expenses		
Residency accreditation	128,496	122,410
Primary accreditation	125,754	122,139
Governance	<u>24,119</u>	<u>33,793</u>
	<u>278,369</u>	<u>278,342</u>
Change in unrestricted net assets before change in fair value of investments	35,366	11,915
Change in fair value of investments	<u>28,558</u>	<u>(1,377)</u>
Change in unrestricted net assets	63,924	10,538
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>64,722</u>	<u>54,184</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 128,646</u>	<u>\$ 64,722</u>

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Communications – Closing the Gap in 2003

NCOPE continues to make strides in closing the communication gap for students, schools, residents and residency programs, and in 2003, we unveiled a new and improved Web site. NCOPE's effort to communicate with our customers is our top priority. The various forms of communication we use are:

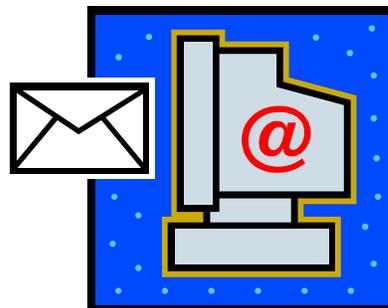
Noteworthy

NCOPE's quarterly newsletter is a quick two-page document that is posted on NCOPE's Web site as well as e-mailed in a PDF format to all individuals registered with the Resident Listserv. It provides general information on NCOPE activities including upcoming events.



Resident Listserv

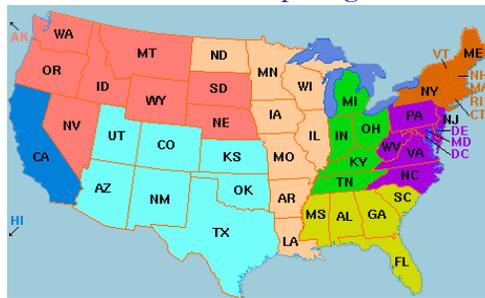
NCOPE sponsors a Resident Listserv to assist residents during their residency programs. Individuals simply request to be placed on the Listserv. NCOPE will post the recent issue of *Noteworthy*, as well as send general reminders concerning submission of quarterly evaluation forms or any general information surrounding the administration of the residency program. Residents are encouraged to use this resource for suggested research topics or to get feedback on projects or other ideas.



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Regional Residency Network

In an effort to provide more information and assistance to residents during their program, NCOPE piloted in 2002 and implemented in 2003 the Regional Residency Network. The states were divided up into eight regions, and NCOPE identified certified practitioners who have been educated under the residency system to serve as network directors. Residents and residency directors are encouraged to use the network directors as a resource to assist in any questions or concerns you may have concerning residency. A map with the regions and e-mail address for all the network directors can be found at www.ncope.org.



NCOPE Web site

NCOPE, in coordination with O&P Digital, made significant changes to NCOPE's Web site during 2003. This included a fresh, sharp design that makes navigation and searching for information a lot easier. NCOPE wanted to provide useful information and resource materials online. Highlights of the changes to the Web site include:

- A map highlighting the regions and network directors for the Regional Residency Network Program
- E-mail addresses for the Network Directors
- A map to enable quick searching of currently accredited residency sites
- Information to sign up for the Resident Listserv
- Current and previous copies of *Noteworthy*
- All forms associated and needed for the residency program
- List of all accredited O&P education programs

For further information visit NCOPE at www.ncope.org.



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2003 NCOPE Commissioners

Donald G. Shurr, CPO, PT—*Chairman*

Grover “Buddy” Jeffcoat, CO—*Vice-Chairman*

Darrell Clark, CO—*Secretary-Treasurer*

Michael Brncick, CPO—*Immediate Past-Chairman*

Gene Gary-Williams, Ph.D.—*Public Member*

William Beiswenger, CPO, FAAOP

John Ferguson, CPO

Bryan Malas, CO

R. Michael Russell, CPO, FAAOP

C. Michael Schuch, CPO, FAAOP

Mark Taylor, CPO

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

NCOPE's mission is to be the recognized authority for the development and accreditation of O&P education and residency standards leading to competent patient care in the changing health care environment.

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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.



National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

330 John Carlyle St., Ste. 200

Alexandria, VA 22314

703-836-7114 ext. 237

info@ncope.org

www.ncope.org