

SPECIAL  
EDITION

COPA

Quarterly Newsletter  
California O&P Association

CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2021

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### COPA 2021 BOARD

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Riley Liddell  
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#### **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Maynard Carkhuff  
Medical Creations

COPA Members,

It is amazing that we already find ourselves in the holiday season. This is an opportunity for us to give thanks for our families, friends, patients, and for one another. Fall also marks the annual COPA Symposium. Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive as attendees remarked on the quality of education, networking opportunities, and manufacturer representation. COPA is quite thankful to many for making this a memorable event including Pacific Medical for opening their facility to us. Our symposium focused on Adapting the O&P Profession. Presenters from Naked Prosthetics, Becker Orthopedic, Townsend, Össur and WillowWood provided new concepts and clinical offerings. We also heard diverse perspectives about the future of O&P in a panel discussion including a CEO, Directors of three organizations, and a former Northwestern instructor.

It was refreshing to gather with members of the O&P community in person. Each attendee of the symposium received and provided value. It reminded me of the potential that each of us has to make a positive impact on this industry.

In 2021, COPA has conducted over 20 California legislator visits, submitted a sponsored budget proposal for improved Medi-Cal reimbursement, provided reimbursement resources to members, hosted four webinars, and 2 virtual member Happy Hours. It has been an exciting year and we are just getting warmed up for 2022. Now we are developing an aggressive plan for 2022 to further serve our membership and the O&P community. However, we cannot accomplish our goals without you and are looking for your support by renewing your membership and getting involved with a committee of your choice. We welcome your interest, effort, and energy to move O&P in California forward. Thank you for your engagement.

In service,

*Spencer Greene*

**Spencer Greene, MS, CPO**

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209-573-1806

**Save The Date** ▶ **JANUARY 19 • 12 PM**

*JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST WEBINAR OF 2022!*

**Making the Transition to a Digital Workflow**  
**Wednesday, January 19th, 12 pm PST**

**Moderator:** Fernando Grego, *Application Engineer at Hewlett-Packard*

**Panelists:** Sean McClure, *Prosthetics R&D Engineer & Director at Quorum*  
Diana Hall, *President & CEO at ActivArmor*  
Antonio Dias, *Director of Engineering at Hanger*

**Summary:** COPA has partnered with Hewlett-Packard to bring a panel discussion on how to transition to a digital workflow using 3D printing. Digitizing your workflow can make positive changes for your clinic but getting started can be overwhelming! During this discussion you'll learn what a digital workflow looks like, what are the added benefits, how to get started, and what you need to know when considering the move for your practice.

*Happy  
Holidays  
To  
All!*

# COPA Board Members at the 2021 Symposium



*From L-R: Brendan Erickson, Maynard Carkhuff, Glen Ellis, Linda Collins, Richard Myers, Spencer Greene, Mahesh Mansukhani, Trevor Townsend, Riley Liddell, Rick Riley, and Kenya Desautels.*



*For the first time in two years, the COPA Board Members gathered for an in-person meeting on the eve of the 2021 Symposium. The meeting was productive and insightful. The board members shared their personal experiences of entering the O&P profession, a lot of laughs, updates of each of the committees, and discussed ways COPA and AOPA can create more successes for our profession in the coming years. Special guest, Ashlie White from AOPA joined the meeting.*

*COPA President Spencer Greene gets ready to kick off the symposium with a summary of our 2021 accomplishments.*



The COPA Symposium returned for the first time since November 2019. The Symposium attracted 96 attendees, a record turnout for the meeting in Northern California! People traveled from all over California, Hawaii, North Carolina, Illinois and Colorado (to only name a few). Pacific Medical's facility provided plenty of space for social distancing throughout the presentations. Seventeen exhibitors were present and helped to sponsor the Symposium through their tables that lined the perimeter of the auditorium. Six of the exhibitors also presented and shared their perspectives on how the O&P profession will move successfully into the future. Pam Hale (right) speaks on using the Becker GEO method for patient evaluations.



Ashlie White (left), Director of Health Policy and Strategic Alliances at AOPA, gave an impassioned presentation. She shared how AOPA plans to elevate the O&P profession on national and local levels.



John Petlansky, Pacific Medical's CEO, was presented with a plaque by COPA President Spencer Greene in recognition of their generous support and hosting of the 2021 COPA Symposium.

## Adapting the O&P Profession: A Panel Discussion

Kenya Desautels, COPA board member and co-chair of the 2021 symposium, moderated the discussion on the future of our profession.

Panelists answered questions about three topics: Issues Facing the California O&P Business, Workflow and Innovation, and Transformation of the O&P Practitioner. The discussion highlighted the need for creative solutions to a number of concerns within the profession. Each panelist had a unique and diverse perspective from each sector.

The panelists were (left to right): Mahesh Mansukhani, WillowWood CEO and COPA Vice President; Ambrose Cavegn, Director of O&P Technology Program at Spokane Falls Community College; Spencer Greene, Regional Manager Hanger and COPA President; Ashlie White, Director of Health Policy and Strategic Alliances at AOPA; and Thomas Karolewski, Doctoral candidate at Concordia University Chicago and Chair of NCOPE's Board of Directors.



# 2021 COPA SYMPOSIUM EXHIBITORS

Join us in thanking these companies by considering the use of their products and services. Visit their website for more information.

**APIS Footwear**  
[www.apisfootwear.com](http://www.apisfootwear.com)

**SPS**  
[www.spsco.com](http://www.spsco.com)

**Monetek**  
[www.monetek.com](http://www.monetek.com)

**Naked Prosthetics**  
[www.npdevices.com](http://www.npdevices.com)

**Össur**  
[www.ossur.com](http://www.ossur.com)

**Becker**  
[www.beckerorthopedic.com](http://www.beckerorthopedic.com)

**Thuasne**  
[www.thuasneusa.com](http://www.thuasneusa.com)

**Rooke Products/Osborn Medical**  
[www.rookeproducts.com](http://www.rookeproducts.com)

**Royal Knit, Inc.**  
[www.royalknit.com](http://www.royalknit.com)

**WillowWood**  
[www.willowwood.com](http://www.willowwood.com)

**Allard USA**  
[www.allardusa.com](http://www.allardusa.com)

**Spinal Technology Inc.**  
[www.spinaltech.com](http://www.spinaltech.com)

**Fillauer**  
[www.fillauer.com](http://www.fillauer.com)

**Proteor**  
[www.proteor.com](http://www.proteor.com)

**Cascade Orthopedic Supply, LP**  
[www.cascade-usa.com](http://www.cascade-usa.com)

**Blatchford**  
[www.blatchfordus.com](http://www.blatchfordus.com)

**College Park**  
[www.college-park.com](http://www.college-park.com)

**Top Shelf**  
[www.topshelforthopedics.com](http://www.topshelforthopedics.com)



College Park exhibitors Tyler Hyatt (left) and Tom Cacciato (center) talk with attendee Joe Calcagno.



Blatchford exhibitor Gil Gilbert talking shop with attendee.



Naked Prosthetics exhibitor and speaker Chelsea Welch (right) highlights the unique features of their products.



Spinal Technology exhibitor Derek Fuhs (right) and attendee Jon Erdmann (left).



Exhibitor Andy May displays Fillauer's range of products.



Happy Hour and dinner were generously provided by Pacific Medical. This created a wonderful opportunity for attendees, speakers, and exhibitors to connect and engage with each other following a day of learning.

COPA Board Members took their roles of serving the O&P community literally and served dinner to all in attendance.



Robert Muller (left), Anthony Rystad (center) and Joe Calcagno (right) happily reminisce.



COPA Board member and symposium co-chair Riley Liddell (right) with attendees Brycen Taylor (left) and Kyle Wright (center) at the Happy Hour.



Thomas Cutler (left) and Kenya Desautels (right) talk about the changing roles of an O&P practitioner.

Emily Nelson and Luke Broadhurst (foreground) enjoying Happy Hour.



COPA Board Members Glen Ellis (left) and Maynard Carkhuff (right) are beaming with joy about all the work the COPA board has done this year and the success of the 2021 Symposium.



Tony LaFrance (left), Kickstart O&P, and Thomas Karolewski, Chair of NCOPE's Board of Directors, engage in a thoughtful discussion.



*COPA member and exhibitor Jill Neuwirth, President of Monetek, shares ways companies can benefit from R&D tax credits.*



*Anthony Rystad, Director of Education of WillowWood introduces the company's META family of feet in his presentation Go Beyond. Go META.*



*Will Cox, clinical and technical educator at Thuasne, shares the Best Casting Practices for AFOs and KAFOs.*



*Linda Collins, Össur's Director of Reimbursement Strategy and Partnership Services, and COPA Board Member speaks on Managing Payer Contracts.*



*Fillauer exhibitor Andy May with attendee.*



*Chris Joyce represents exhibitor Royal Knit, Inc.*



*National distributor SPS featured a wide range of products.*





Jill Newirth and Robin LeBlanc representing Monetek.



Hampus Hedlund (right) of Allard shows an attendee the AFO lineup.



John Crane shows off Proteor's prosthetic solutions.



Össur exhibitor Joe McNally and Pamela Hale of Becker in the background.



Cascade's Evan Glenn staffed their exhibitor table.

Benjamin Anguis of PacMed (left) is with John Petlansky (center) and Bob McCune of Top Shelf (right) taking a moment to pose for a photo.

