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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear COPA Members & Colleagues,
When I step back and look at the field of O&P, it is clear that we have an awareness problem. Within our field we have tremendous passion for patient care but outside of our field, we are relatively unknown. This phenomenon is exacerbating our current clinician shortage, so it is important that we take action to attract the best talent to O&P. Universities, Junior Colleges and high schools are all good places to find talent. Furthermore, ABC has created the What is POP campaign (<https://whatispop.org/>) which offers good information about O&P education and careers.

COPA will be raising awareness at an upcoming Angel City Sports event. We invite you to do the same in your communities. We encourage you to offer shadowing opportunities to people who are interested. Sometimes, seeing O&P care in action is all it takes to realize that this is the most rewarding career in healthcare.

If you want to raise awareness to O&P in your community and need help, please reach out to COPA. Thank you for being a part of the solution.

In service,

Spencer Greene

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On the Road to Partnership

Schedule a Business Review
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SPS
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GREAT NEWS!

**THE 2025
COPA
SYMPOSIUM
WILL BE ON
NOV. 13 & 14**

**READ ON
FOR MORE
INFO.**



**Advertisers
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Newsletter
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of COPA.**

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT: 2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM RETURNS TO SAN DIEGO!

We are thrilled to announce that the 2025 COPA Symposium will be held at the Challenged Athletes Foundation in San Diego on Thursday, November 13, and Friday, November 14. Challenged Athletes Foundation has hosted COPA Symposium back in 2022 and this year we are honored to have their willingness to host our event again.

COPA's two-day Symposium promises to be an exciting and enriching experience, featuring educational seminars, keynote sessions, panel discussions, exhibits from leading manufacturers, and excellent networking opportunities. The planning committee is hard at work to bring you an engaging and insightful event. Stay tuned for more details, as we will be sharing additional information soon.

Save the date and make plans to join us for these two dynamic days of learning, connection, and growth. We can't wait to see you there!



SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE

by Michel Davis, COPA Board Member

MAKING A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE!

At COPA, we believe movement is medicine, and physical activity should be a right, not a privilege. Our members witness firsthand how lives transform when individuals gain access to prosthetic and orthotic care. That's why, now more than ever, COPA is proud to partner with the **So Every BODY Can Move Campaign (SEBCM)** – together, we're making a real difference!

SEBCM is a grass-roots initiative that is spreading across the country. The current goal is to enact legislation in 28 states by the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics, eventually resulting in nationwide reform. It is COPA's focus to see California become one of these 28 states, by mobilizing those in California that care about healthcare equity.

With the support of SEBCM, we will be advocating for legislative changes here in California that will allow those with limb loss, limb difference and mobility impairments to access life-changing O&P care. Exciting opportunities to get involved are coming your way! Be sure to stay tuned, and don't forget to encourage your patients to join us in making an impact!

Are you ready to join us in this mission? Together, we have the power to drive real progress and create lasting change. You can advocate for So Every BODY Can Move.

Download the SEBCM Advocacy & Lobbying Toolkit from SEBCM here to learn the step-by-step process on how to build and lead this initiative in CA. <https://soeverybodycanmove.org/resources/>

Learn more about SEBCM campaign: <https://soeverybodycanmove.org/>

Watch SEBCM Video Here: <https://youtu.be/Lqa2Kul84yY?feature=shared>

Find SEBCM on Social Media:
Instagram
@soeverybodycanmoveca
#sebcm #sebcmca
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SO **EVERYBODY**
CAN MOVE



SO **EVERYBODY** CAN MOVE CALIFORNIA

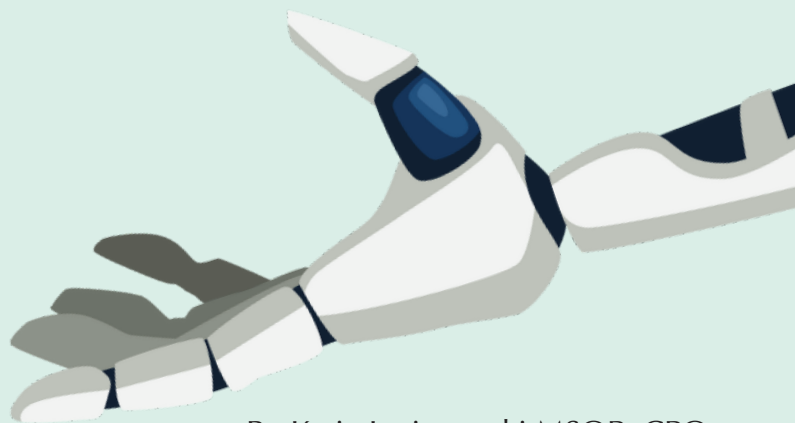
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GET INVOLVED TODAY!



AI in O&P: The Future Is Here



By Katie Janiszewski MSOP, CPO,
Co-Founder of Align Medical Media

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology that allows computers to learn, analyze data, and solve problems—often much faster than humans. It can process massive amounts of information in seconds, spotting patterns and trends that would take people much longer to recognize. This ability makes AI a powerful tool in many industries, including orthotics and prosthetics. From improving clinic efficiency to advancing prosthetic design, AI is transforming both patient care and daily workflows.

In O&P clinics, AI is streamlining administrative tasks, allowing practitioners to focus more on patient care. One major benefit is in documentation—AI software like O&P Assist, can assist with writing chart notes, summarizing physician documentation, and organizing patient history. Some tools even scan referrals, extract key details, and flag missing information, reducing paperwork and the risk of errors.

Beyond documentation, AI-powered tools like ChatGPT are also being used to draft office policies, marketing materials, and outreach communication. By handling these routine tasks, AI helps clinics run more smoothly and efficiently, ensuring professionals spend less time on paperwork and more time with patients.

AI is also revolutionizing prosthetic design and fit. A standout example is the work of Hugh Herr, who is using AI to develop better prosthetic sockets. His system combines AI algorithms with advanced technology to study a patient's limb, helping determine the ideal socket fit and liner design. AI ana-

lyzes patterns and pressure distribution, ensuring that each socket is shaped for maximum comfort and function. By processing large amounts of patient data, Herr and his team create personalized algorithms, leading to better-fitting, more effective prosthetic devices ("Hugh Herr's Bionic Skins").

Beyond prosthetic sockets, AI is also being applied in other areas of O&P, such as 3D scanning for custom orthotics. These AI-driven tools allow for more precise measurements, reducing human error and improving patient outcomes.


AI is already making a difference in O&P, but this is just the beginning. As technology continues to expand, we can expect even more advancements—smarter prosthetic devices, better rehabilitation programs, and increased automation in clinics. These innovations will not only improve efficiency but also lead to more personalized and effective patient care.


The impact of AI on O&P is growing every day. How will these advancements continue to reshape the way we care for patients? The possibilities are just beginning.

Works Cited

"Hugh Herr's Bionic Skins: A Breakthrough in Prosthetic Sockets." *Living with Amplitude*, 23 Jan. 2024, <https://livingwithamplitude.com/article/hugh-herr-bionic-skins-prosthetic-socket-amputees/>

COPA HAPPY HOUR!

 THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

 5:30 - 7:30 PM

 ALESMITH BREWING CO.
9990 AleSmith Court
San Diego, CA 92126

COPA invites you to our Happy Hour Event
sponsored by:



 californiaoandp.com



SAN DIEGO TRIATHLON CHALLENGE

Fueled by Toyota

October 26, 2025

La Jolla Cove, La Jolla, CA



Be part of something bigger at the San Diego Triathlon Challenge (SDTC) fueled by TOYOTA on October 26, 2025! Experience the power of sport, resilience, and community in an inclusive event featuring a Triathlon, 5K Walk and Roll presented by Nike, and Tour de Cove presented by EoS Fitness.

CAF's SDTC fueled by Toyota raises funds to provide individuals with physical disabilities access to sports and an active lifestyle. Move with us, fundraise with us, and help redefine what's possible.

Register today and make a difference!

challengedathletes.org/sdtc



UNDER THE DOME

by Bryce Docherty, COPA Lobbyist

PROP 35 MCO TAX MEDI-CAL RATE INCREASE IMPLEMENTATION – RUBBER IS HITTING THE ROAD

COPA continues to work with the State Assembly and Senate Budget Committees, Prop 35 Advisory Committee members, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and all interested stakeholders to ensure Orthotics & Prosthetics can get the well-deserved Medi-Cal rates increases contained in the “Community and Outpatient Services,” which is currently slated to receive \$245 million of Prop 35 funds for 2025 and 2026.

To that end, I testified before the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health at their February 27, 2025, hearing and during the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health hearing on March 17, 2025, reminding legislators that “MOBILITY SAVES!”

With only 60 seconds to testify under “Public Comment” during the Senate Budget Subcommittee Hearing and only 30 seconds to testify during the Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing, I reiterated the “ask” for MCO Tax investment in O&P and establishing Targeted Rate increases (TRIs) specifically for O&P devices. I also reminded the subcommittee members that Orthotists and Prosthetists are Medi-Cal providers that fit, furnish and fabricate customized devices that restore or replace function resulting from limb loss and congenital limb differences.

I also punctuated that research shows patients who received timely O&P care had lower total healthcare costs than a comparison group of untreated patients. And that among those 5.6-million individuals in the United States (U.S.) living with limb loss and limb indifference, approximately 90% of those cases are caused by diabetes, peripheral vascular disease, and trauma. Lastly noting that almost 200,000 amputations occur in the U.S. each year and that inpatient hospital costs associated with those

amputations alone total more than \$8.3 billion annually.

For more information on Prop 35 implementation from the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health, please [click here](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/system/files/2025-03/02272025-dhcs-part-i-final.pdf) (https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/system/files/2025-03/02272025-dhcs-part-i-final.pdf) and scroll to Issue 6 on page 25. To watch the portion of the hearing dedicated to Prop 35 implementation and the comments from [CDPH Director Michelle Baass](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dhcs-director-biography) (https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dhcs-director-biography) [click here](https://www.senate.ca.gov/media-archive) (https://www.senate.ca.gov/media-archive). You’ll need to scroll down to the “2/27/2025 Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services” and click “WATCH.” You’ll then need to scroll to Issue 6, which begins at the 0:42:00-minute mark. To watch all the Public Comment, please scroll forward to the 0:56:00-minute mark. My specific testimony on your behalf begins at the 1:24:25 mark.

For more information on Prop 35 implementation from the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health, please [click here](https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2025-03/final-17-mar-2025-hearing.pdf) (https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2025-03/final-17-mar-2025-hearing.pdf) and scroll to Issue 3 on page 13. To watch the portion of the hearing dedicated to Prop 35 implementation and the comments from CDPH Director Michelle Baass [click here](https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-budget-subcommittee-no-1-health-20250317) (https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-budget-subcommittee-no-1-health-20250317). Then scroll forward to Issue 3, which begins at the 2:08:50-minute mark. To watch all the Public Comment, please scroll to the 2:28:30-minute mark. My specific testimony on your behalf begins at the 2:30:35 mark.

“If you miss a day ‘Under the Dome,’ you miss a lot!”