



COPA

Quarterly Newsletter
California O&P Association

CONNECTION

SUMMER 2025

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear COPA Members & Colleagues,

We are approaching the mid-point of 2025 so this is a good opportunity to update you on the progress that we are making toward our strategic priorities.

- **Medi-Cal Fee Schedule Reform:** COPA continues to position itself as a worthy and qualified segment of healthcare for targeted rate increases. We are working diligently with the California Medical Association (CMA) and other powerful associations to be included in the funds protected by Prop 35.
- **So Every Body Can Move (SEBCM):** COPA has assembled a group of individuals to execute the playbook that has been successful in other states. We are preparing to submit legislation to the state in 2026 and aim to have it passed well before the 2028 paralympic games in Los Angeles. This will be an event to remember
- **Annual COPA Educational Symposium:** The 2025 symposium will be held at the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) facility in San Diego, Nov 13-14. We are looking forward to healthy attendance and high-quality presentations. The networking will also be a highlight of the event as it has been in past years.
- **Membership and Networking:** COPA held its first Happy Hour event in San Diego in May. It was a great event that was fun and productive for all. Additionally, membership in COPA remains strong and continues to grow.

Each member of COPA has the opportunity to participate in their area(s) of interest. Your involvement makes this association tick. Please email admin@californiaoandp.com to be added to a committee. The commitment is light but the impact is heavy. We are happy to work side by side with you to improve our field across the entire state.

In service,

Spencer Greene

Spencer Greene, MS, CPO
sgreene@hanger.com
209-573-1806

**Advertisers
in this
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are proud
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GREAT NEWS!

THE 2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM WILL BE HELD IN SAN DIEGO ON NOVEMBER 13 & 14

ACCEPTING SPONSORSHIP NOW.

READ ON FOR MORE INFO.



2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM

Hosted
by



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Challenged Athletes Foundation

9591 Waples St., San Diego, CA

A premier event that brings together clinicians, researchers, manufacturers, and innovators dedicated to improving patient care and advancing technology in O&P.

COPA's 2025 Symposium is a major O&P educational event in the west coast where:

- O&P professionals share valuable knowledge
- O&P education seminars with ABC & BOC continuing education credits are offered
- Attendees benefit from keynote presentations and the latest government updates
- Industry exhibitors showcase new products and technology.

Be a Sponsor and support the 2025 COPA Symposium!

Cocktail Sponsor – \$2,000

Lunch Sponsor – \$1,800

Coffee & Breakfast Sponsor – \$1,500

Name Badge Sponsor – \$750

REGISTER: californiaoandp.com

ANGEL CITY SPORTS YOUTH WEEKEND RECAP

By Dr. Bi-Ying Yeh, University of California, Irvine



On March 29-30, 2025, COPA members gathered forces and attended the Angel City Sports Youth Weekend to spread the word about advocacy movements, recruit supporters, and educate attendees about the field of prosthetics, orthotics, and pedorthics (POP).

COPA attended in support of So Every BODY Can Move (SEBCM) in an effort to have California join the growing number of states who have passed legislation requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for activity-specific prosthetic and orthotic devices used for physical activity. So Every BODY Can Move has a goal of passing legislation in 28 states by the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics (28x28) followed by a national movement toward federal reform. Spreading the word about this movement sparked excitement with children, volunteers, and families alike.



Participants at Angel City Sports Youth Weekend included children anywhere from toddlers swatting at softball-sized balls of cotton with pool noodle “bats” to youths with limb differences swimming in the comfortably heated pool. A child with paraplegia was excited to use a pulley and ratchet system to hoist themselves to the top of the rock wall, and kids with vision loss learned to play soccer with noise-making adaptive balls. So many families had stories to share about how physical activity improved their mood and health, and agreed that physical activity is a right that people of all abilities deserve the opportunity to engage in. Medical student volunteers on the other hand, were surprised to learn that activity-specific devices aren’t already covered by insurance, while POP professionals commiserated.



What is POP? hosted a table and taught high school and college student volunteers about the field, many not realizing that such career opportunities existed. They connected with them on the field and in the robotics workshop, and soon found many participants sporting POP shirts, pins, and stickers in support.

This event was a testament to the power of community and the importance of accessibility in sports and physical activities. There was an atmosphere of support and hope for a future where everyone, regardless of their physical ability, has the opportunity to participate in activities they love. COPA's involvement was not just about advocacy; it was also about creating an inclusive environment where personal stories and shared experiences highlighted the need for legislative



change. Participants left with new friends, valuable information, and a renewed passion for the cause.

Photo credit:
Bi-Ying Yeh, MD, MS

SO **EVERY** BODY
CAN MOVE



SO **EVERY** BODY CAN MOVE CALIFORNIA

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From Lamination Sleeves to Letter Writing: AI Tools O&P Clinics Can Start Using Today



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

You've probably heard of tools like ChatGPT, but you might not realize just how useful AI can be in the day-to-day operations of an orthotics and prosthetics clinic. Beyond the headlines and hype, AI is quietly becoming a go-to assistant for tasks that once took hours—especially in areas like communication, administration, and design.

Let's start with ChatGPT, an AI language tool developed by OpenAI. While it shouldn't be used to handle patient data (it's not HIPAA-compliant), it can be incredibly helpful behind the scenes. Clinics are using it to draft emails, write letters to physicians, and create internal documents like office policies and onboarding guides. What might have taken two hours to write—like an office policy or a detailed letter—can often be done in 15–20 minutes from start to finish.

Trying to translate a new CMS policy into plain language? Paste in the PDF version of the policy, and ChatGPT can summarize the key points in a way that your team will understand.

More and more clinics are using ChatGPT to draft responses for RAC audits or insurance letters. It's not a legal substitute, but it's a powerful starting point—helping staff organize their thoughts, format responses professionally, and write in clear, confident language. A process that once required multiple rounds of writing and editing can now be done in half the time. ChatGPT can be used in endless ways, helping clinics save time, and reduce admin and clinician stress.

Another tool gaining traction is Leonardo.ai—a platform that uses AI to generate images based on text descriptions. At first glance, it might seem like something just for artists or game designers, but creative clinicians are finding ways to use it in the O&P world too. One stand-out application? Designing custom lamination sleeves for prosthetic devices. By describing the desired theme or aesthetic, users can generate unique, high-quality artwork in minutes. Clinics can then send these images to compa-

nies like Fred's Legs, who turn them into one-of-a-kind lamination sleeves that reflect the personality and preferences of the patient.

These tools aren't just fun—they're practical. They reduce the time spent on repetitive tasks, help clinics present themselves more professionally, and even add a personal touch to the patient experience. You don't need to be a tech expert to use them. These tools are designed to be beginner-friendly, with simple interfaces and plenty of tutorials.

AI isn't replacing practitioners—it's supporting them. Whether you're managing a clinic, working behind the scenes, or trying to market your services more effectively, tools like ChatGPT and Leonardo.ai can help you work smarter, not harder.

And this is just the beginning.

Note: This article mentions specific tools and companies, but no endorsements are implied. These are simply examples of how AI is currently being used creatively in the O&P field.



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Fillauer



UNDER THE DOME

by Bryce Docherty, COPA Lobbyist

PROP. 35 MCO TAX MEDI-CAL RATE INCREASE IMPLEMENTATION – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

COPA and other Prop. 35 advocates are sounding the alarm over the unprecedented attack by Governor Newsom who “swept” all the initiative funds to help bridge the \$12 billion budget deficit. This was part of the “May Revise” of the Newsom administration initial budget proposal adjustment announced on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Click [HERE](#) for an in-depth analysis of this proposal that has been described by Planned Parenthood as “shocking” and “plain cruel.”

California Medical Association (CMA) President Shannon Udovic-Constant, M.D., called the move “a dangerous precedent” that will worsen California’s health care crisis and limit access for the 15 million Californians who depend on Medi-Cal.

The Prop. 35 Coalition stated:

“The Newsom administration’s budget proposal that diverts Proposition 35 funding raises serious legal concerns and disregards the will of California voters. The Governor proposes using Prop. 35 funding to cover already incurred costs in Medi-Cal and NOT for increasing provider payments to increase access to health care. This is inconsistent with what voters overwhelmingly approved in November. This move hurts the 15 million Californians who rely on Medi-Cal for their health care and decimates the health care system that serves all Californians.”

The Assembly and Senate have been pushing back on this proposal and the Prop. 35 Coalition is pursuing all legal remedies to reverse this decision. In the meantime, COPA continues to make the case for including “orthotics” and “prosthetics” in the “Community and Outpatient” domain of Prop. 35. Assuming the Legislature will get Prop. 35 back on track ... COPA will be meeting not only with CMA but also the California Hospital Association (CHA) and directly with DHCS senior staff requesting the investment.

To that end, on Monday, May 19, 2025, COPA attended the second meeting of the Prop. 35 DHCS Protect Access to Health Care Act-Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). This SAC continues to work through all the domains enumerated in the initiative and is starting to pull together proposals on how best to fund those domains. COPA remains guardedly optimistic in obtaining some of the \$245 million allocated for investment in “Community and Outpatient” services. The current baseline methodology being discussed is 87.5% of the various Medicare allowable rates.

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



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/sdtk

Cheers to Community & Connection! COPA Happy Hour

Sponsored by

Cascade Orthopedic Supply, LP

Thank you to everyone who joined us on May 15 at the AleSmith Brewing Company in San Diego! Our COPA Happy Hour was a fun and meaningful evening filled with great conversation, laughter, and new connections in the O&P community.

We had about 15 attendees—including familiar faces and first-timers—and stayed well past our official end time. It's clear our community enjoys the chance to come together, and we're grateful to Cascade Orthopedic Supply, LP for making it possible.

One of the evening's highlights was a fun giveaway—a prosthetic Barbie doll, generously donated by Lindhe Xtend. To win, attendees answered the question: "Which state was the first to enact the So Every BODY Can Move initiative?"

Will from Hanger came through with the correct answer—Maine—and took home the prize! The contest was a great way to unite everyone, and the Barbie was a surprise hit with the crowd.

We wish we had photos of that moment, but you can still catch some great shots from the evening here.

We hope to meet with more industry members at our future Happy Hour. Stay tuned for our announcement.



Photo credit:
Sarah Nakamoto

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HAPPY HOUR!



THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025



5:30 - 7:30 PM



BALLAST POINT LONG BEACH
110 N. Marina Drive
Long Beach, CA 90803

COPA invites you to our Happy Hour Event
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