

2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM

Hosted
by



**Advancing Excellence in O & P:
Shaping Tomorrow Together**

NOV

13 - 14
THU - FRI

2025

Challenged Athletes Foundation
9591 Waples St., San Diego, CA 92121

California Orthotic and Prosthetic Association

2025 CO^{PA} SYMPOSIUM

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2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM

DAY 1 | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 13

8:55 – 9:00 am

Opening Remarks

Spencer Greene, MS, CPO, Hanger Clinic,
COPA President

9:00 – 10:00 am

Keynote Presentation

So Every BODY Can Move Campaign – An Interview

Luis Mora, CP, Össur, Nicole Ver Kuilen & Kyle Stepp,
SEBCM

10:00 – 10:15 am Break Time

10:15 – 10:45 am

Make Your Money and Keep Your Money

Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO, Spectrum O&P
& Linda Collins, Consultant

10:45 – 11:15 am

Measure Like a PRO(sthetist)

Samantha Stauffer, MSOP, CPO, Independence
Prosthetics-Orthotics, Inc.

11:15 – 11:45 am

Avior & SmartStep: Transforming the Future of O&P

Chad O'Connor, CP, BOCO, Blatchford

11:45 am – 1:15 pm Lunch/Exhibit

1:15 – 1:45 pm

Advanced Bionic Hands for Humans and Robots

Trevor Townsend, CPO, Valley Institute of Prosthetics
& Orthotics; COPA Board Member &
Aadeel Akhtar PhD, CEO, Founder, Psyonic

1:45 – 2:15 pm

Trulife Pace Family of Carbon Fiber AFOs: Enhancing Patient Compliance for Improved Outcomes

Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO, Redlands Prosthetic &
Orthotic Group & Bryan Schloss,
Director of Sales & Marketing, Trulife

2:15 – 2:30 pm Break Time

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Össur Interface Solutions

Luis Mora, CP, Össur

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Shaping the Future: Effective Management of Infant Headshapes with Sprout3D

Robert A. Novak, MS, CO, Surestep

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Meracus®: Advancing Prosthetic Foot Design with Pure Composite Innovation

David Slider, Allard

4:00 – 4:15 pm Break Time

4:15 – 4:45 pm

Shock & Torsion: It's Not Just for the Guys on the Posters Anymore

Raymond Speelman, CP, Product Manager, Lindhe Xtend

4:45 – 5:15 pm

Agentic AI in Healthcare: Reimagining Context, Process, and Trust in Prosthetics & Orthotics

Amit Bhanti, CEO, Comprehensive Prosthetics & Orthotics and
Spencer Greene, MS, CPO Hanger Clinic

5:30 – 7:30 pm Happy Hour at CAF

DAY 2 | FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 14

8:00 – 8:30 am

2025: Facility Accreditation Standards: Ensuring Your Compliance

Jim Lawson, Outreach Development Manager, American Board for
Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics

8:30 – 9:15 am

Advancing User Mobility: A Review of Novel Biomechanical Principles and Modular AFO Design

Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO, Spectrum O&P & Arni Thor,
Elevate Movement

9:15 – 9:30 am Break Time

9:30 – 10:00 am

From Insight to Action: Real AI Tools for Everyday Clinical Practice

Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO, Spectrum O&P

10:00 – 10:30 am

Medicare Coverage Expansion for K2 Patients

Brittany Gonzalez, CPO, Össur

10:30 – 10:45 am Break Time

10:45 – 11:15 am

Do Braces Stimulate Curve Regression in Idiopathic Scoliosis and Prevent Surgery in Patients with Large Curves?

Stephen Gaw, CPO, MSPO, MSBA, Coastal P&O

11:15 – 11:45 am

The OPRA Implant System by Integrum – Research and Reimbursement

Mike Jenks, CPO, Integrum

11:45 am – 12:45 pm Lunch/Exhibit

12:45 – 1:15 pm

CAF Grants Presentation

Luis Mora, CP, Össur & COPA Vice President and
Bob Babbit, Co-Founder, CAF

1:15 – 1:45 pm

INESS: An Extreme Leg

Aaron Jacobsen, CPO, ST&G USA Corporation

1:45 – 2:00 pm

Closing Remarks

Luis Mora, CP, Össur & COPA Vice President

Exhibits open all day. Classes and schedule are subject to change without notice. For most up-to-date information, please visit our website. By completing both education days, you will earn 10 ABC (3.5 Business / 6.5 Scientific) and 14 BOC (4 Business / 10 Scientific) CEUs PLUS additional CEUs for visiting the exhibitors.

Photography/Videography/Recording Release:

Your attendance or presence at our event, in-person or virtual, constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or recorded and authorizes the association to use your photograph for, but not limited to, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of any media for the purpose of archival and promotional use on our websites, social media, news, and/or marketing materials.

2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM

Advancing Excellence in O&P: Shaping Tomorrow Together

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION PANEL

So Every BODY Can Move Campaign – An Interview

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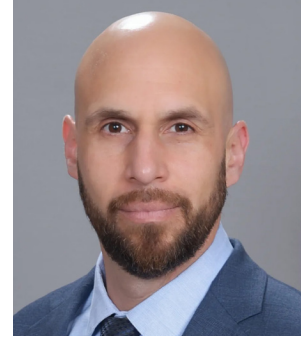


Luis Mora, CP Clinical Specialist, Prosthetics, Össur & COPA Board Member

Luis is an ABC Certified Prosthetist, father, husband, son, and friend to many people. You will often hear him remark, “the field of prosthetics chose me.”

He has lived with limb loss for all but 14 years of his life. He is a proud graduate of the California State Dominguez Hills Prosthetics certificate program. He has a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and a minor in Biology.

His clinical experience is varied and includes work in the private, institutional and manufacturing sectors. He brings a passion for teaching and physical activity to Ossur. He is delighted that his job affords him the opportunity to improve people’s mobility, so they can live their Life Without Limitation.



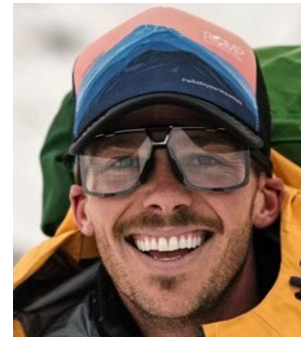
Kyle Stepp Strategic Partnerships Lead, So Every BODY Can Move; Social Impact Consultant, Step by Stepp Strategies

Kyle is an internationally ranked elite paratriathlete, speaker, and social impact leader recognized as a Business First 40 under 40 honoree.

Transforming adversity to advocacy, Kyle is a leader and advocate for health equity, outdoor access, disability rights, and LGBTQ+ inclusion. As a national voice for these communities, he actively engages in legislative initiatives and campaigns to enhance access and dismantle barriers.

With a decade of experience in strategic partnerships, Kyle has worked with and advised various nonprofits, political campaigns, and brands to drive significant social change. As the Strategic Partnerships Lead for So Every BODY Can Move, Kyle helps lead the national movement to create life-changing access to prosthetics and orthotics for physical activity, with goal to enact change in 28 states by the 2028 LA Paralympics to pursue future federal reform.

Beyond his advocacy work, Kyle competes internationally for Team USA in paratriathlon and participates in off-road cycling as a para-athlete. He is committed to using sport as a catalyst for progress and systemic change.



Nicole Ver Kuilen Campaign Lead, So Every BODY Can Move; Director of Impact Campaigns, Amputee Coalition; Co-Founder, Forrest Stump

Nicole Ver Kuilen is a disability rights advocate, cancer survivor, and social impact entrepreneur dedicated to using her talents for meaningful, systemic change. She founded the nonprofit advocacy organization, Forrest Stump, after facing insurance denials for nearly two decades, completing a 1,500-mile ultra-triathlon on a prosthesis built only for walking. Her innovative advocacy and awareness campaigns have sparked national change, laying the foundation for her current role as Director of Impact Campaigns at the Amputee Coalition and Campaign Lead for So Every BODY Can Move, a landmark state-based policy initiative creating equitable access to prostheses and orthoses for physical activity as medically necessary healthcare.

Nicole brings over 10 years of experience in nonprofit management, social entrepreneurship, and disability justice. She is the producer and feature of the award-winning documentary film “1500 Miles” and has seen her advocacy efforts featured by numerous media outlets and outdoor brands, including MPR News, Fox, VICE, REI, Strava, On, Merrell, Osprey, and Cotopaxi. Her work has earned her the Mohamed Amin Award for Humanitarian Service at the 2020 AAOP Academy Meeting, recognition as a Grand Prize Winner in Merrell and VICE’s “Future 40 Under 40” changemakers campaign in 2021, Dare2Tri’s 2022 One Impacts Many award, and the Amputee Coalition’s 2024 Values in Action award. Additionally, she received a signed poster from actor and filmmaker Tom Hanks in recognition of her efforts.

She loves running through the mountains of the Pacific Northwest which she proudly calls home. Nicole is a 4x marathoner, 2x 50k ultramarathoner, Paratriathlon National Champion, and 2nd place finisher at the Boston Marathon in 2023 and 2024. Nicole is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.



2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM

Advancing Excellence in O&P: Shaping Tomorrow Together

Make Your Money and Keep Your Money

Presented by:

Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO, Spectrum O&P & Linda Collins, Consultant

As a dedicated healthcare provider, you work hard to deliver quality care—and rightfully expect to be compensated for your expertise. However, navigating the financial side of the orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) profession can be challenging.

This presentation will explore key steps to not only earn revenue but also retain it. We'll begin with an overview of medical necessity requirements, examine common claim rejection issues, review the role of auditors, and discuss effective appeal strategies. This presentation will include examples, audience polling, and interactive quizzes.

Attendees will be able to:

- Identify key medical necessity requirements for orthotics and prosthetics services to support accurate and defensible claim submissions.
- Recognize common reasons for claim rejections and understand how to proactively address them to improve reimbursement outcomes.
- Apply effective audit response and appeal strategies through case examples, interactive quizzes, and audience participation to maximize revenue retention

Speakers' bios:

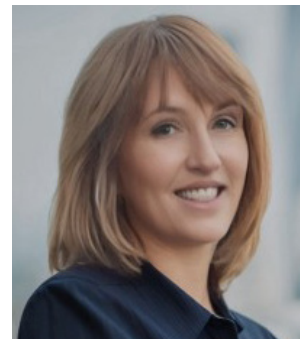
Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO, Spectrum O&P, Co-founder, Align Medical Media & COPA Board Member

Katie is a Certified Prosthetist Orthotist and graduate of Eastern Michigan University and has over seven years of experience in the O&P field. She currently serves as the head CPO at Spectrum O&P, Inc. in Redding, CA and brings a practitioner's perspective to healthcare innovation. Katie has helped over 250 businesses—within O&P and in other industries—integrate AI tools into their workflows to improve efficiency, communication, and outcomes.



Linda Collins, Consultant

With over 20 years of experience in the Orthotics and Prosthetics (O&P) industry, Linda Collins is a seasoned expert in reimbursement, coding, and coverage strategy. Linda's passion lies in helping O&P professionals streamline their reimbursement processes and improve financial outcomes. Linda also authors the SimpliReimbursement blog, a valuable resource for O&P professionals seeking reimbursement guidance.



2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM

Advancing Excellence in O&P: Shaping Tomorrow Together

Measure Like a PRO(sthetist)

Presented by:

Samantha Stauffer, MSOP, CPO, Independence Prosthetics-Orthotics, Inc.

Time with patients is limited; comprehensive clinical assessments are not always possible. This session will discuss how to leverage patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures to select performance-based tests, streamlining your prosthetic assessments & optimizing your post-amputation care plans.

Upon completion, attendees will be able to:

1. Interpret 3 useful patient-reported outcome measures.
2. Utilize patient-reported outcome measures to select performance-based tests.
3. Recall standard test administration for 5 performance-based tests.

Speaker's bio:

Samantha Stauffer is a practicing Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist with Independence Prosthetics-Orthotics, Inc. As their Director of Research, Samantha manages research collaborations with several University-based research labs and with the private sector. She is a PhD candidate in Biomechanics and Movement Science with the Delaware Limb Loss Studies Lab, where her research focuses on understanding how health limits quality of life after amputation. She has presented her research nationally, and has been involved in over a dozen peer-reviewed scientific presentations.



Avior and SmartStep: Transforming the Future of O&P

Presented by:

Chad O'Connor, CP, BOCO, Blatchford

This presentation will talk about Blatchford's new K2 Microprocessor knee and how Blatchford SmartStep (Digital Health Management Platform) is helping to shape a new level of patient care. It can improve patient outcomes, reduce rehabilitation times, and simplify care delivery.

Speaker's bio:

Chad O'Connor is a certified Prosthetist and Orthotist with 20 years' experience. He has worked as an Area Manager, managing 3 offices, and has been the state Hip Specialist. He has been with Blatchford for almost 6 years.



Össur Interface Solutions

Presented by:

Luis Mora, CP, Össur

Founded in 1971, Össur has wide-ranging expertise in the development, production, and sale of non-invasive orthopaedics. After its first listing on the Iceland Stock Exchange in 1999, the Company expanded rapidly through a series of strategic acquisitions. Significant ongoing investment in research and innovation has also been central to its growth. A global leader in the field, Össur is determined to further strengthen its market position. The Company has been listed on the NASDAQ OMX Copenhagen Stock Exchange since 2009.

Össur Interface Solutions will introduce the audience to Össur's comprehensive catalog of lower extremity liners and various socket technologies that are documented to improve patient outcomes and streamline and increase productivity.

Speaker's bio (See Keynote Presentation Panel).

Advanced Bionic Hands for Humans and Robots

Presented by:

Aadeel Akhtar PhD, CEO, Founder, Psyonic &
Trevor Townsend, CPO, Valley Institute of Prosthetics & Orthotics; COPA Board Member

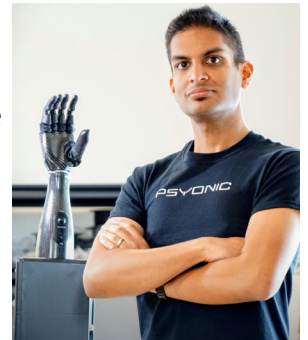
The journey of developing the PSYONIC Ability Hand has revealed valuable insights into the parallel needs of humans and robots in performing complex tasks. Our bionic hand, designed for both, provides precise control, sensory feedback, and durability. By bridging biomechatronics and robotics, our work for human users—focusing on natural movement and intuitive control—has directly influenced how robots manipulate objects in unstructured environments. This talk will explore how advancements in human prosthetics have fueled breakthroughs in robotic applications, creating a synergistic pathway toward dexterity and adaptability in robotics, ultimately setting new standards for bionic technology across both domains.

Speakers' bios:

Aadeel Akhtar PhD, CEO, Founder, Psyonic

Dr. Aadeel Akhtar, CEO of PSYONIC, founded the company to create advanced, accessible bionic limbs after meeting a young girl missing a limb in Pakistan. PSYONIC's bionic Ability Hand is the fastest on the market, impact-resistant, and the first to provide a sense of touch. It is also covered by Medicare and is being used by humans and robotics companies globally, including NASA, Meta, Mercedes, and Google.

Dr. Akhtar earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience and an M.S. in Electrical & Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois, along with a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Computer Science from Loyola University Chicago. He's been recognized by MIT Technology Review and Newsweek and secured a 3-shark deal on Shark Tank.



Trevor Townsend, CPO, President, Valley Institute of Prosthetics & Orthotics and COPA Board Member

Trevor is a native of Bakersfield and as the son of VIPO's founder (now retired) Barry Townsend, he literally "grew up" with the company. Now co-owner and President of VIPO, Trevor graduated from UCLA in 2001 with a B.A. degree in English, and completed his certification in Prosthetics at CSUDH in 2003. Trevor then attended Northwestern University in Chicago, where he received his certificate in Orthotics in 2004.

Trevor completed his residencies at the University of California at San Francisco Medical Center, Orthotic and Prosthetic Center under the tutelage of AOPA President, Walter Racette, C.P.O. He returned to VIPO in August of 2006 as an American Board Certified Orthotist and achieved his American Board Certification in Prosthetics in 2007. He currently sits on prosthetic Advisory Boards for both Ossur and Freedom Innovations.



Trevor enjoys spending time with his wife, two daughters and his son. He finds great fulfillment in helping others.

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Advancing Excellence in O&P: Shaping Tomorrow Together

Trulife Pace Family of Carbon Fiber AFOs: Enhancing Patient Compliance for Improved Outcomes

Presented by:

**Kimberly Jones, BS, MSOP, CPO, CFM, Redlands Prosthetic & Orthotic Group
& Bryan Schloss, Director of Sales & Marketing, Trulife**

The design of Trulife Pace family of carbon fiber AFOs prioritizes patient compliance and successful patient outcomes. Extensive research was conducted on foot ergonomics across various populations, footplate design, composite materials, and optimal levels of stiffness and support to accommodate diverse patient needs. The Pace family of braces also features highly customizable options, including footplate trimmability and height adjustability.

In this class, the attendees will learn about all these features and benefits that make the Pace family of carbon AFOs the ideal solution to enhance patient satisfaction and compliance.

Speakers' bios:

Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO, Redlands Prosthetic & Orthotic Group

Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO, CFM is an alumna, Assistant Professor, and Program Director for Loma Linda University's Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics program. She has taught the program since 2016 and has nine years of clinical patient care experience. She has dedicated her time to preparing her students to pass their board exams and to become confident clinicians. She contributes to COPA as a member of the Education committee. In her free time, she enjoys family camping adventures with her husband, 4-year-old son, and her 2 Australian Shepherds, Sydnee & Khloe.



Bryan Schloss, Director of Sales & Marketing, Trulife

Bryan Schloss is the Proud Director of Sales and Marketing for Trulife. He has spent his over 30-year career in the O&P and Breastcare industry. Bryan is responsible for managing Trulife's Sales and Marketing team and supporting Trulife's O&P distributor partners' sales teams. Bryan's passion is working with Trulife's customers on developing successful business plans that help facilities be profitable. The combination of Bryan's high energy, his business acumen and Trulife's world-class products is a proven successful recipe for Trulife's partners. Bryan resides in Redondo Beach, California with his wife Olga of 27 years and 2 sons Brandon 24 and Kevin 21.



Shaping the Future: Effective Management of Infant Headshapes with Sprout3D

Presented by:

Robert A. Novak, MS, CO, Surestep

This live course is designed to introduce providers to the process and benefits of providing the Surestep Sprout3D cranial remolding orthosis (CRO). The newly designed cranial remolding orthosis is fabricated via additive manufacturing. By creating an easy to use, patient friendly device, families can gain confidence that will allow them to be more compliant in treatment, resulting in better overall outcomes. This custom fabricated CRO is also an efficient solution for providers. It offers a consistent and precise anatomical fit that improves referral relationships, outcomes and decreases frustrations that can accompany more traditional CRO options. After completing the course, providers will feel confident evaluating, fitting, adjusting and graduating patients from the Surestep Sprout3D cranial remolding orthosis.

Speaker's bio:

Rob is a nationally recognized certified orthotist and healthcare leader with over two decades of experience in pediatric orthotics, clinical education, and strategic healthcare management. Currently serving as Director of Sales at Surestep, Rob brings a unique blend of clinical expertise and business acumen to the orthotics and prosthetics industry.

Rob began his career in biomechanics and gait analysis, before completing his orthotics certification and residency at Northwestern University and Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Over the years, he has held progressive roles from clinical orthotist to practice manager and area clinic manager, consistently driving innovation in patient care and team development. A respected educator and speaker, Rob has taught extensively on gait analysis, orthotic decision-making, and cranial remolding across at national conferences and academic institutions. His scholarly contributions include numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and scientific presentations focused on pediatric neuromuscular conditions such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida. Rob now focuses his educational efforts on cranial remolding and pediatric lower extremity orthotic solutions.

Rob is certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics (ABC) and licensed in the state of Illinois, Iowa and Texas. He remains actively involved in professional organizations including AOPA and AAOP, where he continues to advocate for evidence-based practice and interdisciplinary collaboration.



Meracus®: Advancing Prosthetic Foot Design with Pure Composite Innovation

Presented by:

David Slider, Allard

This program explores composite manufacturing standards and the development, features and patient selection for Meracus® prosthetic foot, Allard's latest innovation in lower-limb prosthetics. Practitioners will gain insight into the development and performance of Meracus® unique hybrid composite structure that delivers a balance of stability, flexibility, elimination of dead spots, and optimization of composite excellence.



Key proprietary design considerations will be examined to explore their role in enhancing gait, energy efficiency, and versatility. There will be an overview of the rigorous testing process that ensures quality and performance excellence, setting a new standard in this category of prosthetic foot technology.

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the end-to-end development process of a prosthetic foot, from initial concept and design to testing, refinement, and clinical application.
2. Analyze the biomechanical benefits of Meracus®'s hybrid composite structure and proprietary design features.
3. Evaluate how applied design elements enhance energy efficiency, gait dynamics, and versatility across patient profiles, and selection of appropriate candidates.

Speaker's bio:

David Slider is an amputee and motivational speaker with personal experience in limb salvage and recovery. As an amputee mentor and experienced Prosthetic Technician, he brings both empathy and expertise to his work in the healthcare industry. David has a strong background in face-to-face sales, communication, and peer mentoring, and excels in building meaningful relationships. He also holds a Web Immersive certification in JavaScript and Python from General Assembly.

Shock & Torsion: It's Not Just for the Guys on the Posters Anymore

Presented by:

Raymond Speelman, CP, Product Manager, Lindhe Xtend

Modern moderate ambulators face challenges that impact mobility, joint health, and overall comfort. A prosthetic foot with integrated shock absorption and torsion accommodation offers critical benefits that support long-term function, activity levels, and quality of life. This presentation assesses the clinical, biomechanical, and lifestyle advantages of these features, along with their implications for patient outcomes and economic value.

The focus will be on the core benefits of providing shock & torsion, such as: Minimizes impact stress at heel strike, protecting the residual limb, reducing joint strain, as well as enabling smoother rotation during walking, turning, and navigating uneven terrain. For the end-user, this will result in enhanced comfort during daily activity, reduced fatigue and joint stress, improved stability and better terrain adaptability for moderate ambulators, a prosthetic foot that integrates shock absorption and torsion accommodation is not a luxury— it's a proactive investment in health, comfort, and mobility. This combination helps users move more naturally, avoid injury, and live more fully.

Speaker's bio:

Raymond Speelman, CP, Product Manager, Lindhe Xtend

Raymond Speelman is the Product Manager of Lindhe Xtend, based in Stuart, Florida.

Raymond Speelman began his career in the U. S. Navy before entering the O&P field in 1999. After 16 years of clinical experience as a technician, an orthotic fitter, prosthetist, and an owner Ray joined WillowWood and spent 8 years as a Regional Account Manager and as a member of their education team.

In January 2023 Ray joined Lindhe Xtend as their new Product manager. Ray is now part of the team responsible for helping bring new products to market as well as product life cycle management.



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Advancing Excellence in O&P: Shaping Tomorrow Together

Agentic AI in Healthcare: Reimagining Context, Process, and Trust in Prosthetics & Orthotics

Presented by:

Amit Bhanti, CEO, Comprehensive Prosthetics & Orthotics & Spencer Greene, MS, CPO, Hanger Clinic

Artificial Intelligence in healthcare is evolving from a passive assistant to an active collaborator. In Orthotics and Prosthetics (O&P), this shift from assistive to agentic AI marks a turning point — where systems don't just analyze data, but reason, act, and learn within clinical and human contexts. This presentation explores how agentic AI can transform O&P practice by understanding context, orchestrating complex workflows, and building trust through transparency and accountability. Using examples from Comprehensive Prosthetic Orthotics (CPO) and Hike Medical, we'll demonstrate how context-aware AI is enabling real-time documentation, adaptive manufacturing, and intelligent process automation — enhancing both clinician efficiency and patient outcomes. Attendees will leave with a practical framework for adopting agentic AI responsibly, focusing on three pillars: *Context, Process, and Trust*.

Speakers' bios:

Amit Bhanti, CEO, Comprehensive Prosthetics & Orthotics

Amit Bhanti is the CEO and Clinical Director of Comprehensive Prosthetics & Orthotics (CPO), a national leader in mobility solutions. Driven by a desire to create a large-scale practice to expand patient access and elevate care standards, he earned his degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics in India and completed his graduate studies at Northwestern University in 2000.

In 2005, Amit co-founded CPO in Peoria, Illinois, quickly growing it into a multi-state network of over 30 clinics. A true industry trailblazer, he has revolutionized patient care by integrating cutting-edge technologies like 3D printing and data-driven systems. Amit is a thought-leader with a strategic vision and unwavering patient-first philosophy focused on better outcomes and greater accessibility to life-changing care.

Spencer Greene, MS, CPO, Hanger Clinic and COPA President

Spencer Greene has been a dedicated member of Hanger Clinic since 2003, serving in a variety of leadership roles throughout his tenure. His experience includes positions such as Certified Prosthetist Orthotist, Clinic Manager, Area Clinic Manager, Regional Director, and currently, Regional Vice President. In his role as RVP for Northern California and Northern Nevada, Spencer oversees all regional operations and is committed to driving business growth through exceptional patient care.

Spencer also currently serves as President of the California Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (COPA), where he is actively engaged in advancing the orthotics and prosthetics profession across the state. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to elevating standards of care, supporting practitioners, and advocating for the needs of patients and providers alike.

Spencer holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, a Master's degree in Biomechanics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and professional certifications in both Prosthetics and Orthotics.



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Advancing Excellence in O&P: Shaping Tomorrow Together

2025: Facility Accreditation Standards: Ensuring Your Compliance

Presented by:

Jim Lawson, Outreach Development Manager, American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics

This is an informative session focusing on maintaining compliance with Medicare and ABC standards throughout the year. Discover effective business practices that will keep your facility and staff performing at their best, prepared to face any challenges. We will also explore how ABC's comprehensive accreditation resources can support you in achieving excellence in compliancy and best business practices.

Speaker's bio:

Jim devotes his time to helping business owners navigate the accreditation process and improve their businesses. Jim is a big part of ABC's successful podcast and webinar series providing additional best business practices and industry trends for the profession. With over 25 years' experience in partnership building, public outreach and business development, Jim brings a unique perspective to O&P business owners.



Advancing User Mobility: A Review of Novel Biomechanical Principles and Modular AFO Design

Presented by:

Arni Thor, Elevate Movement & Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO, Spectrum O&P

This is a forward-thinking program that explores how innovative orthotic solutions can transform patient outcomes. Attendees will learn how to evaluate key biomechanical parameters influencing gait and mobility, differentiate between traditional and modular dynamic AFO designs, and understand the clinical application of wearable technology in measuring orthotic effectiveness. Through case-based analysis and real-world data, this session empowers clinicians to make informed decisions about AFO prescriptions—especially during the acute rehabilitation phase—while addressing reimbursement challenges and patient progress. Walk away with insights you can apply immediately to optimize tri-planar stability, improve patient comfort, and promote gait efficiency with cutting-edge solutions like the SWIFT modular AFO.

Speakers' bios:

Arni Thor, Elevate Movement

Arni Thor holds the distinction of being the world's #1 patent holder in the O&P industry with over 400 patents to his name. Arni Thor is the Co-Founder and Head of Innovation for Elevate Movement, a young and vibrant O&P company currently focusing on drop foot solutions.

He previously spent 15 fruitful years at Össur, a global leader in non-invasive orthopedics. During his tenure, Arni was instrumental in developing core orthopedic bracing products, including the groundbreaking Unloader product line and top-performing Rebound and Miami products for spine and lower extremity. Since leaving Össur in 2016, Arni has been an entrepreneurial force, funding multiple ventures in medical devices and consumer accessories. His dedication to innovation has not only resulted in a vast patent portfolio but has also firmly established him as a leading inventor in bracing technology.

(See Katie Janiszewski's bio on "Make Your Money and Keep Your Money" presentation.)



From Insight to Action: Real AI Tools for Everyday Clinical Practice

Presented by:

Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO, Spectrum O&P

AI isn't just a buzzword, it's a practical tool I use every day in the clinic, and I've helped over 250 other businesses do the same. In this session, I'll walk you through real-world examples of how AI tools can simplify your clinical workflow, improve communication, and save you time—without needing a tech background. I'll share the exact tools I use and trust, what's worked, and how you can start small but see immediate results. Whether you're writing documentation, educating patients, or trying to stay ahead of admin tasks, there are simple ways AI can help lighten the load. If you've been curious about AI but unsure how to take the first step, this session will give you practical, no-fluff strategies you can start using right away. My goal is to take the guesswork out of AI and show how these tools can fit seamlessly into your clinical day.

Speaker's bio (See "Make Your Money and Keep Your Money" presentation).

Medicare Coverage Expansion for K2 Patients

Presented by:

Brittany Gonzalez, CPO, Össur

In September 2024, Medicare expanded coverage of microprocessor prosthetic knees and K3 feet to patients with a K2 functional level. This course helps prosthetists understand the Medicare policy changes and provides guidance and education on how to appropriately document for coverage. The presentation will review the changes to both the Lower Limb Prostheses LCD and Policy Article. The content will then expand upon how to properly document all coverage criteria for a fluid, pneumatic, and microprocessor knee on a K2 patient. The presentation will also discuss how to appropriately document for coverage of a K3 foot on a K2 patient and review the requirements for coverage of a replacement prosthesis. The presenter will include documentation tips and examples throughout the presentation.

Speaker's bio:

Brittany Gonzalez is the Reimbursement Manager at Ossur, and she is a certified prosthetist/orthotist. She has a background in both clinical and operational processes with a strong interest in compliance and reimbursement. She provides daily support to both internal and external customers in all aspects of reimbursement, and she is passionate about improving patient access and coverage for orthotic and prosthetic devices.

Brittany currently serves on AOPA's Committee for Representation, Access, and Empowerment and COPA's Government Affairs Committee. She is also a member of the DME MAC Councils for both Jurisdictions C and D, and she enjoys guest lecturing at the O&P Master's program at California State University, Dominguez Hills.



Do Braces Stimulate Curve Regression in Idiopathic Scoliosis and Prevent Surgery in Patients with Large Curves?

Presented by:

Stephen Gaw, CPO, MSPO, MSBA, Coastal P&O

Discussion on:

1. Benefits and outcomes of scoliosis braces.
2. Importance of compliance
3. Alternative to surgery for patients with 50-degree curves

Speaker's bio:

Stephen is a Certified Orthotist and Prosthetist and the Co-owner of Coastal P&O in Orange County, California. He specializes in scoliosis bracing and cranial remolding helmets. Stephen has presented on scoliosis management at various orthotics and orthopedics conferences and regularly lectures on scoliosis bracing at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH).



CAF Grants Presentation

Presented by:

Luis Mora, CP, Össur & COPA Vice President & Bob Babbit, Co-Founder, CAF

Bob Babbit's bio:

As the co-founder of Competitor Magazine and the Challenged Athletes Foundation, Bob interacts with challenged athletes competing across the country and recognizes their need for competitive funding.

Bob's passion and creativity are great assets in the development of the CAF vision, as is his relentless promotion of this foundation. Bob has also been inducted into both the USA Triathlon Hall of Fame and the Ironman Triathlon Hall of Fame.

You can listen to Bob on Babbitville Radio, a highly-acclaimed radio program and podcast showcasing the world's best runners, triathletes, and cyclists. He also hosts CAF's Heroes of Sport interview series that airs weekly on CAF's Facebook page.

Bob remains heavily involved with CAF, participating in media interviews, speaking engagements, and community and athlete outreach. His passion and creativity are great assets in the development of the CAF vision, as is his relentless promotion of this foundation.



2025 COPA SYMPOSIUM

Advancing Excellence in O&P: Shaping Tomorrow Together

INESS: An Extreme Leg

Presented by:

Aaron Jacobsen, CPO, Technical Director of Socket Innovation, ST&G USA Corp.

The Innovative Edge Silicone System (INESS) was developed by Trinytec. This system is only available through ST&G. ST&G offers the Extreme Limb Makeover (ELM) system for in-house fabrication or INESS can be ordered through our approved Central Fabrication facility, Ortiz International. This course is designed to educate the attendees on HTV silicone and the advantages of its use in prosthetics and orthotics. The session will be split between a didactic and hands on. Attendees will understand the difference between HTV and RTV silicone and how to use each in fabricating or ordering an INESS socket.



Speaker's bio:

At ST&G USA, Aaron leads a newly established custom silicone socket and materials division. He also plays a key role in ST&G USA prosthetic research and development efforts, working closely with Founder Glenn Choi in their Advanced Development Division.

Throughout his career, Aaron has held roles in clinical care, research, and product development. He has managed teams, pioneered software solutions for clinical efficiency, and developed cutting-edge educational programs for professionals in the field. Aaron's work has been recognized by the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists, and his published research has significantly contributed to advancements in socket interface and residual limb care. Known for his hands-on approach, Aaron has treated a diverse range of patients, including pediatric amputees and trauma survivors, both in the U.S. and internationally. His extensive work in socket technology, including the development and education of dynamic systems, aligns perfectly with ST&G's commitment to innovation and excellence.

Aaron brings over two decades of experience in prosthetics and orthotics, combining clinical expertise, management, and innovation. He holds a B.S. in Prosthetics and Orthotics from the University of Washington and a B.S. in Biological Systems Engineering from the University of Nebraska.

The OPRA Implant System by Integrum – Research and Reimbursement

Presented by:

Mike Jenks, Integrum

The benefit of body-integrated prosthetics for transfemoral amputees is becoming well recognized and documented in numerous peer reviewed clinical studies. In December of 2020 the FDA provided an PMA (Pre-market Approval) for use of the OPRA System (Osseointegrated Prosthesis for Rehabilitation of Amputees) for transfemoral amputees. Most recently the CMS has awarded a code for an OI connector, specifically the Axor. This course is designed to help prosthetist understand the OPRA System by Integrum, provide a review of the research published and how best to approach insurances for prosthetic/Axor reimbursement.



Speaker's bio:

Mike Jenks, CPO is the Development Manager for Integrum's Eastern Region–US, specializing in prosthetics for the OPRA™ Implant System. With more than 30 years of experience in amputee care, he has worked extensively in clinical practice, providing direct patient care and collaborating with multidisciplinary teams. His clinical background includes advanced prosthetic fitting, bone-anchored prosthetics, and patient education, giving him a unique perspective on the evolving role of bone-anchored prosthetics in the United States.

In his current position with Integrum, Mike supports healthcare professionals, and patients throughout the OPRA™ care pathway, ensuring best practices and optimal outcomes. He has also been actively involved in clinical education and training, sharing his expertise with practitioners as bone-anchored prosthetics become increasingly recognized as a transformative option in prosthetic care.



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