2026 COPA SYMPOSIUM

Designing Tomorrow's O&P: Innovation That Transforms Lives

NOVEMBER 12 - 13, 2026

Hosted by

Challenged Athletes Foundation



EVENT HOST

EVENT SPONSORS

EVENT EXHIBITORS

2026 COPA SYMPOSIUM

EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

8:55 - 9:00 am — Welcome Remark by COPA President **Luis Mora, CP,** Össur

9:00 - 9:10 am — **COPA Annual Membership Meeting**

9:15 - 10:15 am — **Keynote Presentation:**
More than an Implant: Innovation, Community, and the Human Side of Osseointegration
Sponsored by Trulife
Dr. Stephen Wallace, *Orthopaedic Surgeon, West Coast Lengthening/Summit Orthopaedics;* **Richard Enoch Jones,** CPV, One Left Founder, Film Maker, Limb-Different-Person; **and Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO,** Spectrum O&P

10:15 - 10:45 am — ***Printing Potential: Advancing Gross Motor Skills with the Surestep SMO3D***
Rob Novak, CO, Director of Sales, Surestep

10:45 - 11:00 am — Break

11:00 - 11:30 am — ***Stability in Motion: Hydraulic Feet in Action***
Amy Ginsburg, CPO, Senior Clinical Educator, Fillauer Companies

11:30 am -12:00 pm — ***Partial Hand & Partial Finger Prosthetic Options, Candidacy, and Considerations***
Kristy Powell, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Össur Americas and **Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO,** Redlands Prosthetic & Orthotic Group

12:00 - 1:30 pm — Lunch/Exhibit Break

1:30 - 2:00 pm — ***Presentation on Programs and Grants Offered by CAF***
CAF Team and **Spencer Greene, MS, CPO,** Zone Vice President - Clinical Excellence, Hanger Clinic & COPA Past President

2:00 - 2:30 pm — ***The O&P Industry Benchmark Report: What Insights From 207 Practices Reveal***
Josh Black, Solutions Engineer, Nymbl Systems and **Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO,** Spectrum O&P

2:30 - 3:00 pm — ***Gait Analysis, The Next Step***
Noel Chladek, CO, LPO, Owner, Bio-Mechanical Composites, Inc.

3:00 - 3:15 pm — Break

3:15 - 3:45 pm — ***Reducing Cognitive Load in Myoelectric Use: Early Findings with Adaptive Grip Technology***
Jacqueline Valdez M.Ed., CO, BOCP, FAAOP, Clinical &Technical Support Manager, BionIT Labs

3:45 - 4:15 pm — ***Understanding How AI Will Have a Transformational Impact on Your Clinic And Your Life***
Ludvig Fraenkel, Engineer, CEO & Co-Founder, Everi Labs and **Chad R. Marquis, CPO,** Prosthetic & Orthotic Group of Orange County, LLC

4:15 - 4:45 pm — ***Mechanisms of Post-Amputation Pain and Bioelectric Nerve Control***
Nick Hargus, PhD, Vice President, Clinical and Medical Affairs, Neuros Medical and **Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO,** Redlands Prosthetic & Orthotic Group

4:45 - 5:15 pm — ***A Novel Patellofemoral Unloader Brace Significantly Improves Pain, Function, and Quality of Life in Patients with Patellofemoral Osteoarthritis***
Zach Nagel, Territory Manager Northern California, Icarus Medical Innovation and **Katie Janiszewski, MSOP, CPO,** Spectrum O&P

5:30 - 7:30 pm — Happy Hour at CAF

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026

8:00 - 8:45 am — ***From Data to Decisions: Using Outcomes to Enhance Prosthetic and Orthotic Care***
Phil Stevens, PhD, CPO/FAAOP, Vice President of Clinical Affairs, Hanger Clinic, **Wendy Remington Brewer, CPO,** Clinical Leader of Lower Limb Care Excellence, Hanger Clinic Institute for Clinical Education and Research, and **Branden Petersen, CP,** Clinical Leader Upper Limb Program, Hanger Clinic Institute for Clinical Education and Research

8:45 - 9:15 am — ***Energy Storing Partial Foot Prosthesis***
Noel Chladek, CO, LPO, Owner Bio-Mechanical Composites, Inc.

9:45 - 10:15 am — ***From Muscles to the Brain: Rethinking Prosthetic Potential in Children with Congenital Limb Deficiency***
Jonathon Schofield, MSc, PhD, Associate Professor, UC Davis and **Spencer Greene, MS, CPO,** Zone Vice President - Clinical Excellence, Hanger Clinic

10:15 - 10:30 am — Break

10:30 - 11:00 am — ***AI-Powered Bionics for Humans and Robots***
Aadeel Akhtar, PhD, CEO & Founder, PSYONIC and **Trevor Townsend, CPO,** President, Valley Institute of Prosthetics & Orthotics

11:00 - 11:30 am — ***Optimizing Prosthetic Outcomes: The Role of Component Selection, Foot Technology, and Practice Standardization***
Bryan Schloss, COF (Certified Orthotic Fitter), Director of Sales & Marketing, Trulife and **Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO,** Redlands Prosthetic & Orthotic Group

11:30 am -12:00 pm — Break/Brunch & Exhibit

12:00 - 12:30 pm — ***Building the Case: Clinical Documentation for K2 MPK Users***
Emily Lipski, CPO, Clinical Specialist, BrainRobotics

12:30 - 1:00 pm — ***Agilik Smart Orthosis - Walk Taller, Walk Stronger***
DeLana E. Finney, CPO, Clinical Marketing Consultant III, SPS

1:00 - 1:05 pm — Closing Remark by COPA President **Luis Mora,** CP, Össur

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 9.75 ABC and 13.25 BOC 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.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION & SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Sponsored by: Trulife

More than an Implant: Innovation, Community, and the Human Side of Osseointegration

Dr. Stephen Wallace will present the clinical principles and evolution of modern osseointegration, highlighting the multidisciplinary approach to patient care. He will be joined by his patient, Richard Jones, founder of One Left, who will share his personal journey with osseointegration and discuss the role of peer support, patient advocacy, and the One Left film in improving access and empowering others considering limb reconstruction and amputation care.



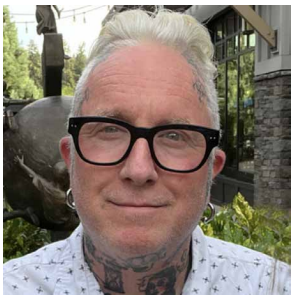
DR. STEPHEN WALLACE
Orthopaedic Surgeon, West Coast Lengthening/Summit Orthopaedics

Stephen J. Wallace, MD is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon with fellowship training in orthopaedic trauma and limb lengthening and complex reconstruction. Dr. Wallace is a highly specialized orthopaedic surgeon who believes in personalized care to help identify optimal treatment pathways for his patients.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering from Rice University in Houston, Texas, with a focus in biomechanics and bioinstrumentation. After college, Dr. Wallace worked as an engineer at a Rice University based global health group, Beyond Traditional Boarders, developing low-tech, high-impact technologies for underserved communities around the world. His medical education continued at Baylor College of Medicine, where he received his M.D.

Dr. Wallace completed his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at Loyola University Medical Center outside of Chicago, Illinois. During his residency, he gained additional surgical experience in Colombia – serving pediatric patients with severe deformities as part of a medical mission trip. Following his residency, Dr. Wallace completed two fellowships. He graduated from an Orthopaedic Trauma fellowship at Harborview Medical Center (HMC), University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. He then attended the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) and New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical College for Limb Lengthening and Complex Reconstruction. Dr. Wallace offers comprehensive orthopaedic care as well as specialty care for both children and adults. His focus areas include: He is a member of the American Academy Orthopaedic Surgery (AAOS), Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA), Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society (LLRS), Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), and is in the Emerging Leader Program with the American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) through which he keeps up to date on the latest orthopaedic care.

Dr. Wallace has published in several orthopaedic journals, including the Journal for Orthopaedic Trauma, Journal of Arthroplasty, and Foot and Ankle Surgery. He has written over 10 book chapters on topics related to limb deformity. In 2022, he received Portland Monthly's Top Doctor honors for his work in Orthopaedic Surgery – a recognition he received after just a year in practice at Summit. Outside of work, Dr. Wallace enjoys hiking, running, and traveling. He has worked as an engineer or surgeon in Spain, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Colombia. He also enjoys teaching multiple courses every year educating peer surgeons and residents on advanced surgical techniques.



RICHARD ENOCH JONES, CPV
One Left Founder, Film Maker, Limb-Different-Person

Richard E. Jones is a below-knee amputee, filmmaker, and advocate for limb-different people. After losing his leg in a traumatic accident in 2010, he navigated years of pain, revision surgeries, and limitations associated with traditional socket prosthetics. That experience ultimately led him to pursue osseointegration, significantly improving his mobility, comfort, and quality of life.

One Left is both a personal story and a broader examination of the challenges amputees face when access to advanced care is limited by awareness, policy, or outdated assumptions. Through filmmaking, advocacy, and collaboration with clinicians and peers, Jones works to elevate patient voices and promote human-centered approaches to orthotic and prosthetic care.



KATIE JANISZEWSKI, MSOP, CPO
Spectrum O&P

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.

Printing Potential: Advancing Gross Motor Skills with the Surestep SMO3D



Presented by:
Rob Novak, CO, Director of Sales, Surestep

This course introduces orthotists to Surestep's latest innovation-the Surestep SMO3D. Building on 25 years of expertise and more than 2 million SMOs provided to children, Surestep has integrated its proven dynamic stability into a 3D-printed design. With new structural features and a consistent, low-profile fit, the Surestep SMO3D supports the development of gross motor skills while maintaining dynamic stability.

- Understand the difference between dynamic stability and static stability and when patients can benefit from each
- Review key design features of Surestep SMO3D
- Understand patient population that benefits from the Surestep SMO3D

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.

Stability in Motion: Hydraulic Feet in Action



Presented by:
Amy Ginsburg, CPO, Senior Clinical Educator, Fillauer Companies

Understand why hydraulic feet may be a valid option for end users. Be able to list Fillauer hydraulic feet. Understand the key benefits of Fillauer hydraulic feet.

Speaker's bio:
Amy became a Fillauer clinical educator in 2024, bringing her expertise as a certified prosthetist orthotist. Combining science and creativity to empower patients, she specializes in pediatrics and athletics. Amy founded an amputee surfing group and has worked nationwide. Passionate about active living, she enjoys surfing, hiking, Muay Thai, and other outdoor pursuits.

Partial Hand & Partial Finger Prosthetic Options, Candidacy, and Considerations

Presented by:
Kristy Powell, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Össur Americas

Attendees of this presentation on partial hand/partial finger loss prosthetic solutions will be able to:
1. Comprehend the available prostheses for this underserved patient population;
2. Identify candidates who can benefit from these prosthetic interventions.
3. Understand the immediate functional benefits of these prosthetic solutions as well as the long-term benefits of utilizing a prosthesis over a lifetime

Speakers' bios:

Kristy Powell, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Össur Americas



Kristy Powell is an Occupational Therapist with Össur. She provides training and support to local therapists, prosthetists, and surgeons across the nation as they learn about Össur's Upper Limb prosthetic solutions and how this technology helps people live more independent lives. Kristy graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1986 and began her career in Savannah, GA where she met her husband, who spent 30 years in the Army. As with most military families, there were frequent moves to many different locations, both within and outside of the United States. Fortunately, this allowed Kristy to practice OT in a wide variety of clinical settings over the past 40 years, which has led to her gaining valuable experience with a diverse mix of neurological, orthopedic, and developmental conditions. For the past 14 years, she has found her niche and has specialized in Upper Limb Prosthetic Rehab. She and her husband are proud parents of four wonderful daughters and after all the changes of address, her family now calls Colorado Springs, CO their forever home.

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



Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO, CFM is an alumni, 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 Shepards, Sydnee & Khloe.

Presentation on CAF Programs and Grants Offered



Presented by:
CAF Team and Spencer Greene, MS, CPO, Zone Vice President, Clinical Excellence, Hanger Clinic & COPA Past President

Speaker's bio:

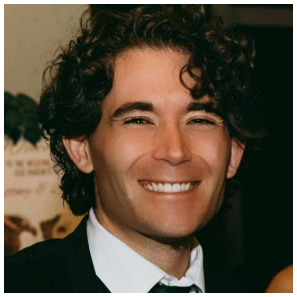
Spencer Greene has been a dedicated member of Hanger Clinic since 2003, serving in a variety of leadership roles throughout his tenure. His experience includes positions such as Certified Prosthetist Orthotist, Clinic Manager, Area Clinic Manager, Regional Director, and currently, Regional Vice President. 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.

In addition to his work at Hanger Clinic, Spencer currently serves as Immediate Past 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.

The O&P Industry Benchmark Report: What Insights From 207 Practices Reveal

Presented by:
Josh Black, Solutions Engineer, Nymbl Systems



For the first time, see exactly how your practice compares to the industry. Drawing on real claims data from 207 O&P practices across eight core financial and operational metrics, this session unpacks Nymbl's inaugural industry benchmarking report. You'll get a clear look at 2025 performance trends, breakdowns by practice size (Emerging, Mid-Sized, Enterprise, and Strategic), and the wins and warning signs shaping the industry. Walk away with concrete priorities to strengthen collections, consistency, and growth heading into 2027.

Speaker's bio:
Dedicated healthcare tech professional with seven years at Nymbl Systems, evolving from intern to adept Solutions Engineer. Expertise spans marketing and customer success. Committed to driving innovation and client satisfaction.

Gait Analysis, The Next Step

Presented by:
Noel Chladek, CO, LPO, Owner, Bio-Mechanical Composites, Inc.

Presentation of the Achilles Tendon roll in ambulation and stance. Muscular-Skeletal breakdown of the biomechanics of gait, focused on stance phase. Review of standing kinematics for balance and common compensations. Combining the EEG firing of the lower extremity musculature as it occurs in the gait process. Patient video review of gait analysis, pathological and managed presentations.

Speaker's bio:
Noel is a second-generation Orthotist with over thirty years' working in the field. In the 90's he began working with carbon fiber designs to obtain higher outcomes in his clinical practice. With notable success in the application of Energy Storing AFO Designs,

Noel began fabricating his designs for other practitioners. Currently, he dedicates most of his time to research and education of the application of rebound force and timing in the gait cycle.

Reducing Cognitive Load in Myoelectric Use: Early Findings with Adaptive Grip Technology



Presented by:

Jacqueline Valdez M.Ed., CO, BOCP, FAAOP, Clinical & Technical Support Manager, BionIT Labs

This session examines the clinical application of fully adaptive myoelectric control using Adam's Hand and the new MyoWorld platform from BionIT Labs. The presentation reviews how continuous, AI-based pattern recognition reduces the cognitive and physical demands of grip management, supports more efficient training, and improves functional task performance. Attendees will learn how adaptive control strategies can streamline calibration, decrease user fatigue, and enhance consistency in daily activities. The session also introduces MyoWorld as a unified environment for EMG acquisition, calibration, and ongoing performance monitoring, offering clinicians a practical framework for optimizing upper-limb prosthetic outcomes.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe how fully adaptive grip technology reduces cognitive load and manual grip-switching demands in myoelectric prosthesis users.
- Identify key clinical considerations for integrating AI-based pattern recognition into prosthetic training and follow-up care.
- Explain how the MyoWorld platform supports EMG acquisition, calibration, and performance monitoring to improve clinical workflow.
- Evaluate the impact of adaptive control strategies on user fatigue, training efficiency, and functional task performance.
- Apply practical guidelines for incorporating adaptive myoelectric systems into patient-specific rehabilitation plans.

Speaker's bio:

Jacqueline Valdez, M.Ed., CO, BOCP, FAAOP, is a highly accomplished clinician and educator with more than 30 years of experience in the orthotics and prosthetics profession. She is certified by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and holds prosthetic certification through the Board of Certification (BOC). As a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists and an active member of the Upper Limb Society, she brings deep clinical expertise and a strong commitment to advancing professional standards. She also serves as an Orthotic Examiner for the ABC, contributing to the development and evaluation of future practitioners.

Understanding How AI Will Have a Transformational Impact on Your Clinic And Your Life



Presented by:

Ludvig Fraenkel, Engineer, CEO & Co-Founder at Everi Labs and Chad R. Marquis, CPO, Prosthetic & Orthotic Group of Orange County, LLC

AI is transforming the orthotic and prosthetic clinic, and this session shows exactly how. Drawing on first-hand experience building an AI platform purpose-built for O&P care, this presentation explores how AI is already reducing documentation burden, improving compliance, and giving clinicians more time at the bedside. A live end-to-end patient encounter demonstration will show attendees what this looks like in practice today.

Key Learning Outcomes:

- Understand how AI can automate clinical documentation, from patient intake through claim submission, within a real O&P workflow
- Recognize the measurable impact AI tools have on practitioner efficiency and patient interaction time
- Identify practical steps for evaluating and adopting AI technology in your own clinic
- Understand how AI supports defensible, compliant documentation and reduces claim denials

Speakers' bios:

Ludvig Fraenkel, Engineer, CEO & Co-Founder at Everi Labs

Ludvig Fraenkel is a materials scientist and engineer from Stockholm Sweden, who conducted research at Stanford University with a focus on AI and health technology. He is the CEO and Co-Founder of Everi Labs, AI and intelligent software tools built specifically for orthotic and prosthetic clinics. Driven by a belief that technology should serve clinicians rather than slow them down, Ludvig works closely with O&P practitioners to design tools that reduce administrative burden and transform how patient care is delivered.

Chad R. Marquis, CPO, Prosthetic & Orthotic Group of Orange County, LLC



Chad Marquis is a Certified Prosthetist/Orthotist with over 25 years of experience in the field. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Sports Medicine from the University of the Pacific and continued his post graduate studies in Orthotics at Northwestern University Prosthetic Orthotic Center and Prosthetics at the California State University Dominguez Hills program. He received his certifications from the American Board for Certification (ABC) in orthotics in 1995 and prosthetics in 1996.

Prior to joining Coastal P&O, Chad was a Partner and Clinical Director for 17 years at Scope Orthotics & Prosthetics in Orange County. He is proficient at all prosthetic clinical applications as well as comprehensive custom orthotic systems. His specialty areas include working with active prosthetic users utilizing the latest in microprocessor technology, CAD/CAM and 3D Printing. He is an advocate of Vacuum Assisted Socket Systems (VASS) to provide the most optimal fit and function for prosthetic users. Chad has a passion for providing innovative and technologically advanced Orthotic and Prosthetic Systems, from pediatric to geriatric patients.

Chad also has a subspecialty in Veterinary Prosthetics and Orthotics (VPO), working with many veterinarians in the area. With over 10 years of experience in VPO, he is the first choice for many referring vets, owners and rescue centers. He has cared for many animals world-wide.

Chad uses and implements computer aided design/manufacturing to enhance his practice using various software platforms He has served on the American Board of Certification in Orthotic and Prosthetic's Education Committee and has participated as a visiting lecturer at California State University-Dominguez Hills P&O Graduate Program, Chapman University Physical Therapy School and the University of California-Irvine Medical School. He is an active provider for Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF), Adaptive Action Sports and Paralympic Events.

Chad is a native Californian originally from Santa Barbara. He and his wife reside in South Orange County with their 3 children. Outside of the office, he enjoys spending time with his family, music, sports, yoga and the beach.

Mechanisms of Post-Amputation Pain and Bioelectric Nerve Control



Presented by:

Nick Hargus, PhD
Vice President, Clinical and Medical Affairs, Neuros Medical and
Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO, Redlands Prosthetic & Orthotic Group

Join us for a conversation around the mechanisms of chronic post-amputation phantom and residual limb pain and the Altius System. Learners will gain an understanding of the molecular mechanisms that drive aberrant pain signaling following an amputation, how repeated pain episodes can build to chronic, refractory pain, and how a novel FDA-approved bioelectric nerve control device addresses chronic post-amputation pain.

Speaker's bio:

Nick Hargus, PhD, is Vice President of Clinical and Medical Affairs at Neuros Medical. Nick joined Neuros in 2022. Prior to Neuros, Nick was at Cardiovascular Systems, Inc. (CSII), where he last served as the Director of Medical Affairs, responsible for scientific communication and patient safety. During his 8-year tenure, Nick was responsible for the creation of a Medical Science Liaison program and provided medical affairs expertise to support the acquisition, approval, and launch of new products. Prior to industry, Nick had a 10+ year career in academic science with appointments at the National Institutes of Health, University of Virginia, and University of Minnesota. Nick earned his PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Virginia, where he studied sodium channel function and gating alterations in epilepsy and chronic pain. His work resulted in numerous peer-reviewed publications funded through multiple individual NIH-supported grants. He received his BS in Neuroscience from Lafayette College

A Novel Patellofemoral Unloader Brace Significantly Improves Pain, Function, and Quality of Life in Patients with Patellofemoral Osteoarthritis



Presented by:

Zach Nagel, Territory Manager, Northern California, Icarus Medical Innovation

Patellofemoral osteoarthritis (PFOA) is a common source of knee pain and disability, yet effective conservative treatments specifically targeting the patellofemoral joint remain limited. This study evaluated a novel custom anterior knee unloader brace in patients with PFOA or multicompartment knee osteoarthritis involving the patellofemoral compartment. In this prospective cohort, brace use was associated with significant improvements in pain, stiffness, physical function, and quality of life, with greater benefits observed among patients with more severe baseline symptoms and higher brace compliance. These findings highlight the potential of targeted patellofemoral unloading as a promising nonoperative treatment option.

Speaker's bio:

Territory Manager for Northern California, partnering with leading orthopedic surgeons, sports medicine physicians, and healthcare systems across the Bay Area and Northern California to expand access to innovative knee bracing solutions. Focused on growing strategic relationships with practices including academic centers, private orthopedic groups, and professional sports medicine networks while supporting patient outcomes through custom bracing technology designed to reduce pain, improve mobility, and optimize both non-operative and post-operative care. Experienced in physician education, account growth, and territory development.

From Data to Decisions: Using Outcomes to Enhance Prosthetic and Orthotic Care

Presented by:

Phil Stevens, PhD, CPO/FAAOP, Vice President of Clinical Affairs, Hanger Clinic
Wendy Remington Brewer, CPO, Clinical Leader of Lower Limb Care Excellence and
Branden Petersen, CP, Clinical Leader Upper Limb Program
at Hanger Clinic Institute for Clinical Education and Research

Outcomes data is one of the most underutilized assets in O&P practice. This session shows clinicians how to move beyond inconsistent documentation and turn routine outcomes collection into a practical tool for better patient care, smarter clinical decisions, and stronger payer communication — all without overhauling your workflow.

1. Better data, better decisions – Use outcomes measures to guide component selection, socket fit, and treatment planning in real time.
2. Engaged patients, less burnout – Shared outcomes strengthen the patient relationship and remind clinicians why the work matters.
3. Prove your value – Aggregate outcomes to benchmark performance and communicate measurable results to payers and stakeholders.

Phil Stevens, PhD, CPO/FAAOP, Vice President of Clinical Affairs, Hanger Clinic



Phil is an Upper Limb Prosthetic Specialist as well as the Vice President of Clinical Affairs. He develops evidence-based clinical programs designed to help patients improve their orthotic and prosthetic outcomes. Through outcomes implementation, landmark research studies and the establishment of Clinical Practice Guidelines, Phil has set national standards of care based on science and at the forefront of O&P care. He has been intimately involved in the development of Hanger Clinic protocols and policies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Phil is a former President of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists and received the Academy's "Champion of the Profession" Award in 2017. He currently holds Adjunct Faculty Positions within the University of Utah's Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the Prosthetics and Orthotics program at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. He was a co-editor on the 4th edition of the Atlas of Amputations and Limb Deficiencies and currently sits on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Phil is also a regular presenter at National and International Continuing Education Conferences within the field of prosthetics and orthotics, has contributed to more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and 10 textbook chapters, and has authored over 100 columns for the industry publication O&P Edge.

He is a graduate of the University of Washington's O&P program with a Master's Degree from the University of Houston in Allied Health Education and Administration.

Wendy Remington Brewer, CPO, Clinical Leader of Lower Limb Care Excellence, Hanger Clinic



Wendy is an ABC-certified prosthetist/orthotist with more than a decade of experience in O&P.

Wendy began her career in pediatrics and then moved to adult care. She specializes in unique, complex prosthetic fittings, vacuum fittings, adult congenital limb difference and bilateral above knee amputations. Wendy promotes setting mobility goals and celebrating little victories frequently. She believes in educating people with limb loss and limb difference to achieve maximum independence and healthy community engagement after limb loss.

Wendy's passion is in sharing access to adaptive sports and recreation and she is frequently planning community events around Utah such as running clinics and adaptive sporting events including adaptive water sports, adaptive biking, and adaptive skiing.

Branden Petersen, CP, Clinical Leader Upper Limb Program, Hanger Clinic



Branden is an ABC-certified prosthetist and Upper Limb Specialist for Hanger Clinic, covering the Western Zone of the United States.

With over 20 years of experience, Branden is responsible for assisting in the evaluation and fitting of difficult upper extremity cases in patients of all ages. He has a comprehensive knowledge of all upper extremity components and is certified by manufacturers to fit these components. Prior to moving into the role, he provided upper limb prosthetic services as a member of a comprehensive rehabilitation team located in Denver, Colorado. Branden builds strong connections with his patients, finding joy in restoring their function and helping them achieve their goals.

Branden has lectured nationally and internationally and enjoys sharing his insights into new upper limb prosthetic designs, techniques, and technologies. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals as well as the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) Atlas.

Energy Storing Partial Foot Prosthesis

Presented by:

Noel Chladek, CO, LPO, Owner Bio-Mechanical Composites, Inc.

Presentation of the functional objective of a partial foot prosthesis. Muscular-Skeletal breakdown of the biomechanics of gait, focused on replacing propulsion in stance phase. Evaluation of varying amputation levels and how they relate to the application of energy return. Review of standing kinematics for balance and common compensations.

From Muscles to the Brain: Rethinking Prosthetic Potential in Children with Congenital Limb Deficiency



Presented by:

By Jonathon Schofield, MSc, PhD, Associate Professor, UC Davis and Spencer Greene, MS, CPO, Zone Vice President, Clinical Excellence, Hanger Clinic

- Recognize evidence that children with congenital limb deficiency can generate distinct, controllable muscle activation patterns corresponding to intended hand movements.
- Understand how peripheral (EMG, ultrasound) and neural (fMRI) measures reveal preserved sensorimotor representations of the missing hand.
- Identify implications for improving prosthetic prescription, including the potential for more intuitive, multi-grasp control strategies.
- Appreciate how motor capability develops with age and experience, informing timing and approaches to intervention and training.
- Apply updated perspectives on pediatric motor control to guide clinical decision-making and patient expectations.

Speaker's bio:

Dr. Schofield works to improve user acceptance and facilitate the seamless integration of humans with cooperative mechatronic systems. His work leverages techniques in bio-robotic control and feedback, nerve-machine interfaces, and cognitive-perceptual neurosciences. Within the Schofield lab, interdisciplinary research is conducted at the crossroads of mechanical and electrical engineering, neurosciences, and rehabilitation medicine. The primary focus is on addressing unmet clinical needs and understanding how humans interact with intelligent technologies, such as robotic prostheses. Dr. Jonathon Schofield completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Laboratory for Bionic Integration in the Lerner Research Institute at the Cleveland Clinic. He also received a PhD in Biomedical-Mechanical Engineering and an MSc. in Biomedical-Structural Engineering, both earned at The University of Alberta in Canada.

AI-Powered Bionics for Humans and Robots

Presented by:
Aadeel Akhtar, PhD, CEO & Founder, PSYONIC and
Trevor Townsend, CPO, President, Valley Institute of Prosthetics & Orthotics

This session explores the intersection of biomechatronics and autonomous robotics through the development of the PSYONIC Ability Hand. We will examine how designing for the rigors of human use by prioritizing speed, impact resistance, and sensory feedback has created a blueprint for the next generation of robotic manipulation. Attendees will discover how advancements in prosthetic dexterity are solving long-standing challenges in robotics, enabling machines to interact more intuitively with unstructured and real-world environments.

By the end of this session, attendees will be able to:
1. Identify the Synergies Between Human and Robotic Bionics: Understand how the mechanical and sensory requirements of advanced prosthetics directly translate to improved robotic dexterity and adaptability.
2. Evaluate the Role of Sensory Feedback in Dexterity: Describe how integrating touch and pressure sensors into bionic technology enhances performance for both human users and autonomous systems.
3. Assess Future Trends in Biomechatronics: Analyze how the convergence of AI and durable hardware is setting new standards for the accessibility and capability of bionic limbs on a global scale.

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, 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.

Optimizing Prosthetic Outcomes: The Role of Component Selection, Foot Technology, and Practice Standardization

Presented by:
Bryan Schloss, COF, Director of Sales& Marketing, Trulife and
Kimberly Jones, MSOP, CPO, Redlands Prosthetic & Orthotic Group

This presentation will review the role of aluminum componentry in the evolution of modern prosthetic foot systems. Emphasis will be placed on the clinical and mechanical benefits of aluminum, including weight reduction, durability, and adaptability across patient activity levels. The course will also cover practical considerations for assembly, alignment, and maintenance, highlighting common pitfalls and best practices when working with aluminum components. Attendees will gain applicable insights to support more effective prosthetic design and improved patient outcomes.



Speakers' bios:
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 Breast care 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, CA with his wife Olga of 27 years and 2 sons, Brandon 24 and Kevin 21.

Building the Case: Clinical Documentation for K2 MPK Users



Presented by:
Emily Lipski, CPO, Clinical Specialist, BrainRobotics

Provide Certified Prosthetists with the knowledge and tools to identify K2 candidates eligible for MPK coverage under the updated LCD, perform appropriate clinical assessments, and develop effective supporting documentation.

At the conclusion of this course, the learner will be able to independently:
1. Explain the recent LCD expansion and its impact on MPK eligibility for the limited community ambulators
2. Summarize current evidence and clinical implications supporting MPK use in lower mobility patients.
3. Identify appropriate candidates for MPK technology based on clinical presentation and current coverage criteria.
4. Develop effective documentation strategies to support medical justification for MPK prescriptions.
5. Access and utilize support resources available through BrainRobotics.

Speakers' bios:
Emily is a bilingual Certified Prosthetist/Orthotist and Clinical Specialist at BrainRobotics. She specializes in lower-limb prosthetic care and is focused on advanced technology and evidence-based clinical decision-making to improve patient outcomes.

Her professional interests include interdisciplinary care, functional outcome optimization, and improving access to appropriate prosthetic care both domestically and internationally. Emily is committed to supporting clinicians and patients in applying best practices in candidate selection, clinical evaluation, and documentation to enhance access to essential prosthetic technologies.

Agilik Smart Orthosis – Walk Taller, Walk Stronger



Presented by:
DeLana E. Finney, CPO, Clinical Marketing Consultant III, SPS

Upon completion of this presentation, learners will be able to:
1. Analyze IRB-approved clinical trial data and published research to understand Agilik's impact on walking endurance, functional mobility, and gait improvement in pediatric and adult populations.
2. Identify the various indications that support patient candidacy for this innovation.
3. Utilize clinical and ordering workflows to ensure precise device fit and performance, while accessing additional clinical training and optional add-on administrative support to streamline delivery and enhance patient outcomes

Speakers' bios:
Certified Prosthetist-Orthotist (CPO) with over 16 years of prosthetics and orthotics experience, recognized for advancing patient-centered care while strengthening clinical operations and business development. Drives measurable improvements in practice performance by aligning interdisciplinary teams, elevating clinician capability through training, and optimizing service delivery across complex healthcare environments. Builds and scales clinical programs through strategic marketing, patient retention initiatives, and resource development. Trusted leader in veteran-focused care with a consistent record of operational excellence and stakeholder partnership.



COPA

California Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

2700 East Foothill Blvd., Suite 209 • Pasadena, CA 91107
www.californiaoandp.com
(626) 244-2696 | admin@californiaoandp.com