



# The American Board for Certification

## in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics

Fall 2008

### ABC Calendar of Events

#### *November 2008*

**17th-22nd:** Certified Orthotist, Prosthetist, Pedorthist and Fitter Written/Written Simulation Exam Dates

#### *December 2008*

**1st:** Deadline for Annual Renewal Fees.  
**6th-7th:** Orthotic Practitioner Clinical Patient Management (CPM) Exam Dates

#### *January 2009*

**9th-10th:** Prosthetic Practitioner Clinical Patient Management (CPM) Exam Dates

#### *March 2009*

**1st:** Certification Application Deadline  
**4th-9th:** American Academy of Orthotics & Prosthetists (AAOP) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA

#### *May 2009*

**11th-16th:** Certification Application Deadline  
**4th-9th:** Certified Orthotist, Prosthetist, Pedorthist and Fitter Written/Written Simulation Exam Dates

For further information on these events, please visit [www.abcop.org](http://www.abcop.org) or contact our office at 703-836-7114.

## CMS Makes Adjustments to the Mandatory Accreditation Requirement

On September 3rd, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that some professionals, including physicians, PTs, OTs, qualified speech therapists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, orthotists, prosthetists, pedorthists, podiatrists, optometrists and opticians are exempt from the September 30, 2009, mandatory accreditation deadline.

For patient care organizations that are not exempt from the accreditation requirements and quality standards, CMS has announced an application deadline of January 31, 2009. This deadline is designed to help ensure the orderly processing of accreditation applications. ABC, along with other Deemed Authorities, has committed to processing those applications received by the January deadline for accreditation by the September 30, 2009 mandatory accreditation deadline.

CMS also announced that the exemptions granted represent only a delay in the implementation of accreditation

requirements and quality standards, and that guidelines for the provision of O,P&P care are expected to be released in early 2009. ABC anticipates this clarification to further define the exemptions and provide a new set of accreditation deadlines.

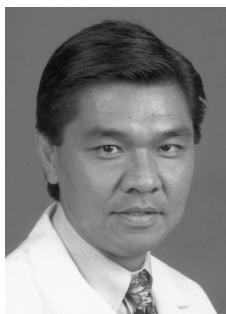
**ABC continues to be a leading organization assisting CMS with the creation of standards...**

“Facilities that are already ABC accredited are ahead of the game,” states ABC President Michael J. Allen, CPO, FAAOP. “Facilities that are accredited need to remain in good standing, and those who have recently begun the process should maintain their progress in achieving ABC accreditation. This will prevent a last minute rush to obtain accreditation in 2009 once CMS issues what will hopefully be increasingly appropriate standards.”

ABC continues to be a leading organization assisting CMS with the creation of standards for appropriate, safe and ethical orthotic and prosthetic patient care. ❖

# The Strength & Stability of ABC

- 60 Years of Setting the Standard for OP&P
- Track Record of Financial Stability
- 2,300 plus Accredited Patient Care Facilities
- 12,500 plus Credentialed Individuals



## Robert S. Lin, CPO, FAAOP, Set to Assume ABC Presidency for 2009

Robert S. Lin, CPO, FAAOP, will take over as the president of the board of directors for the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc., (ABC) on December 1.

Lin will replace Michael J. Allen, CPO, FAAOP, of Midland, Texas, as part of ABC's leadership rotation. Lin comes into this new position with over 25 years of experience in the O&P field and five years serving on ABC's board of directors.

"I am looking forward to helping Bob and the board reach their objectives for the upcoming year," said Catherine A. Carter, executive director of ABC. "The partnership between volunteer and staff leadership is a strong component of ABC's mission, and I know with Bob's leadership we will advance our ability to grow our programs and provide credentialed individuals and facilities with excellent service."

Lin received his undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and attended New York University for his O&P education. "Like many individuals, I was interested in health care and with an art background and interest in engineering and design, O&P seemed like a nice combination of all those skill sets," he said.

Having received his Certified Orthotist (CO) designation from ABC in 1981 and three years later completing his certification as a certified prosthetist/orthotist (CPO), Lin has always believed in the importance of

being certified. "When someone has any type of certification or credential it helps ensure competency or at least that certain thresholds have been met," he said.

Currently, Lin works as the chief orthotist and prosthetist and national residency director for Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc., at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. He also serves on the faculty at the University of Hartford in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

"I believe Bob brings a wealth of experience as a long term volunteer for the ABC examination programs, as a former board member of the NCOPE Commission, as a clinical patient care provider as well as a residency director. I think all of these experiences allow Bob to have a perspective on each of the ABC programs," said Carter.

As Lin prepares to assume his new position as president of ABC's board, he will also welcome two new board members. Donald L. Pierson, Jr., CO, C.Ped., and Timothy E. Miller, CPO, are the new additions to the leadership team. Pierson brings with him more than 20 years of experience in the O, P & P profession and currently works as director of operations for Arizona AFO, Inc. Miller is the co-owner of Miller-Meier Limb & Brace, Inc., an ABC accredited facility in Bettendorf, IA. ❀

## Certification News: C.Ped Practice Analysis Survey Out

### ABC recently sent out Pedorthic Practice Analysis survey to Certified Pedorthists.

The practice analysis survey is designed to ensure an accurate description of work, tasks, knowledge, skills and other abilities required to perform competently within the profession. The results of the survey will be useful for the certification, education and training

of future pedorthics; for the development of valid and reliable examinations; and for conveying to others outside our discipline the scope of services provided by pedorthic professionals.

After the completion of the survey, ABC's professional credentialing committee will work with the Professional Examining Services to analyze the results and publish the

ABC Practice Analysis for C.Peds. The study will calculate the tasks that an average C.Ped accomplishes on a daily basis, including clinical skills, patient management tasks and fabrication of pedorthic devices. This information will ultimately serve as a valuable tool for ABC's pedorthic examination development team, educators and those interested in the pedorthic profession. ❖

## M A R K O F M E R I T

### Modification to the Certification Eligibility Window

ABC has modified the eligibility period for all certification exam candidates. This change, which became effective on September 1, 2008, will apply to all new applicants for the orthotic, prosthetic, pedorthic, technician and fitter exams.

Candidates deemed eligible for a certification exam will receive a three year eligibility window in which to pass the required examinations(s). In those three years, the candidate will be granted four attempts at their required examination(s) to obtain their certification. The previous eligibility period was four years and four attempts.

ABC certification exams measure a candidates' knowledge of orthotic, prosthetic and/or pedorthic clinical care, their analytical and problem solving skills, and their patient management and communication skills. ❖

### ANNUAL RENEWALS DUE DECEMBER 1ST, 2008

The deadline for submission of annual renewals for all ABC credentialed individuals and accredited facilities is December 1, 2008. Secure online payment is available at [www.abcop.org](http://www.abcop.org). Please contact Roxanne Bobb-Semple at 703-836-7114, ext. 238 or [rbobbsemple@abcop.org](mailto:rbobbsemple@abcop.org) with any questions. ❖

### ABC Shirts on Sale

Custom embroidered ABC golf shirts and long-sleeve button down shirts are now on sale.

ABC has available a wide variety of Cutter & Buck and Port Authority shirts ranging from navy blue to burgundy. For only \$20 plus shipping you can proudly wear your own ABC shirt around the office.

The ABC has many different sizes and styles in stock, including women's styles. If you are interested in ordering a shirt or finding out what colors and styles ABC has in stock, please contact Katie Schaefer at 703-836-7114 ext. 240 or [kschaefer@abcop.org](mailto:kschaefer@abcop.org). ❖



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## **IN THE NEWS: David M. Puckett, CPO, selected as one of CNN's Top 10 Heroes of 2008**

David M. Puckett, CPO, of Positive Image Prosthetics and Orthotics, Inc. has been named as one of the Top 10 CNN Heroes of 2008.

Since 2000, Puckett along with his nonprofit, PIPO Missions: Limbs and Braces to Mexico, has been distributing artificial limbs, orthopedic braces and continued care free of charge to over 400 individuals in the communities on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and Chiapas. Puckett's organization collects donated and used orthopedic braces and artificial limbs in the United States and creates new ones from their recycled parts.

As one of CNN's Top 10 Heroes, Puckett will receive \$25,000 and will be honored at "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute" hosted by Anderson Cooper on November 27 at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, California. During the broadcast, Cooper will announce the CNN Hero of the Year, which will be selected by viewers in an online poll that began on October 9 and will run through November 19. The individual who obtains the most votes from the poll will receive \$100,000. To vote for Puckett and to view all the nominees see [www.CNN.com/Heroes](http://www.CNN.com/Heroes). ❖

## **ABC to Exhibit at the PFA Annual Symposium in Nashville, TN**

ABC will be exhibiting at the upcoming Pedorthic Footwear Association (PFA) Annual Symposium at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. The meeting runs from Nov. 6-9, and ABC will be at booth #531. ❖