



# AMERICAN BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION IN ORTHOTICS, PROSTHETICS & PEDORTHICS, INC.

## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2007

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*The Mission of the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc. (ABC) is to establish and promote the highest standards of organizational and clinical performance in the delivery of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic services. The ABC advances this competency of practitioners, promotes the quality and effectiveness of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic care, and maintains the integrity of the profession.*

## ***A Message from 2007***

### ***President Stephen B. Fletcher, CPO***

To the Orthotic, Prosthetic & Pedorthic Community:

This past year marked ABC's 59<sup>th</sup> year of setting standards of professionalism and quality care for the Orthotics and Prosthetics Community. It also marked the first year that we have broadened this mission to include our colleagues in the Pedorthic Community.

On January 1, 2007, the former Board for Certification in Pedorthics (BCP) officially integrated into the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics, Inc. (ABC). This successful merger of similar organizations brought over 2,500 Certified Pedorthists (C.Peds.) into the ABC family. The positive impact this has had on ABC and the O, P & P community has established a number of both immediate and long lasting benefits.

First, the integration has added to the total number of O, P & P professionals governed by ABC's certification standards. At the end of 2007, approximately 12,000 individuals were certified by ABC. This record number is a testament to the growing scope of our profession and the influence ABC has over O, P & P providers. Second, the integration of the BCP brought together the expertise of the C.Ped community and ABC's accreditation experience to create an unrivaled Pedorthic Accreditation program. With the mandatory accreditation requirement pending for all Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) suppliers, our timing was optimum.

A third positive impact of the integration of the BCP is that we have been able to fully combine our committee and volunteer structures, bringing invaluable pedorthic expertise to ABC. Two Certified Pedorthists, David Cardillo, C.Ped., and Dennis Janissee, C.Ped., officially joined the ABC Board of Directors on January 1, 2007.

Pedorthics wasn't the only area of growth for ABC's accreditation program in 2007. A record number of organizations applied for ABC accreditation, and our dedicated team of surveyors conducted hundreds of surveys in O&P facilities, mastectomy boutiques and other sites of care.

Protecting patients through setting certification and accreditation standards isn't the only part of our mission. In the first half of the year, ABC took action to protect the value of ABC credentials through legal recourse. For us, protecting the term 'Certified Pedorthist' and the designation 'C.Ped.' from encroachment and misuse goes to the core of our mission. The outcome of our legal action was successful, and ensured that only an ABC Certified Pedorthist can be referred to as a C.Ped.

In retrospect, the highlights of 2007 will be viewed as our successful integration with the BCP and the continued growth of our accreditation program. However, we had other significant achievements, such as conducting three cycles of certification exams and the publication of our *Practice Analysis of the Disciplines of Orthotists & Prosthetists*. This detailed survey and study of the profession gives a snapshot of the tasks undertaken by contemporary O&P practitioners and is an important tool used by the ABC examination committees and the O&P educational community. I would like to personally thank the volunteer committee members that put in the 18+ months of dedicated work to publish the *Practice Analysis*.

Furthermore, I would like to extend this thanks to my fellow members of the 2007 Board of Directors, the numerous committee members, and to the ABC staff for their continued work to support standard setting mission of our organization. It's been a great year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Fletcher CPO." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen B. Fletcher, CPO

## ***ABC's Vision and Key Strategic Initiatives***

### ***The ABC Vision***

The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc. (ABC), will become the comprehensive credentialing organization for establishing recognized standards for individuals and organizations providing orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic care and services.

### ***Key Strategic Initiatives***

#### **Governance**

The ABC establishes a governance and policy committee structure that optimally supports achievement of the ABC's certification marks as the recognized benchmarks of quality in the provision of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic care.

#### **Certification**

The ABC's certification and other professional credentialing programs become the preferential program for health care professionals to become the recognized providers of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic patient care.

#### **Accreditation**

The ABC's facility accreditation program becomes the preferential mechanism for orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic patient care facilities to demonstrate compliance with recognized standards of quality orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic patient care.

#### **Continuing Education**

The ABC's professional continuing education program continues to serve as the principal mechanism to promote the advancement of professional competency in the provision of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic patient care.

#### **Professional Discipline**

The ABC's *Code of Professional Responsibility* are recognized as the principal standards which govern the professional, ethical and moral integrity of those individuals and facilities engaged in the delivery of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic care.

#### **Public Relations and Marketing**

The ABC's public outreach programs achieve the recognition of the ABC certification and accreditation standards as the nationally accepted "Mark of Merit" for the orthotics, prosthetics and pedorthic profession.

## **2007 Board & Committees Members**

### **Board of Directors**

Stephen B. Fletcher, CPO  
*President*

Michael J. Allen, CPO, FAAOP  
*President-Elect*

Robert S. Lin, CPO, FAAOP  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

Jeffrey J. Yakovich, CO  
*Immediate Past-President*

Michael D. Brncick, CPO  
Thomas F. Coakley (Public Member)  
Donald Deane Doty, Jr., CPO  
Franklin E. Friddle, Jr. CO, FAAOP  
John M. Kenney, CPO, FAAOP  
Donald Virostek, CPO  
Kristi E. Wilson, Ph.D (Public Member)

### **Committee Rosters**

#### **Facility Accreditation Committee**

Donald Cummings, CP (Chair)  
Michael D. Brncick, CPO  
Kimberly Doolan (Public Member)  
Marita Dorsch Carozza, CP, FAAOP  
Donald W. Holmes, CPO  
Don Shurr, CPO  
Mark Taylor, CPO

#### **Standards Review Subcommittee**

Don Shurr, CPO (Chair)  
Kenneth Meier, CPO, FAAOP  
Brett Saunders, CPO, FAAOP  
James Wynne, CPO

### **Professional Credentialing Committee**

Carol Hentges, CO (Chair)  
Donald Virostek, CPO  
Timothy Miller, CPO  
Thomas R. Padilla, CPO  
Amy Yates, CPO

### **Application Review Committee**

Amy Yates, CPO (Chair)  
William Barringer, CO, FAAOP  
Robert S. Lin, CPO, FAAOP

### **Prosthetic Exam Development Team**

William Beiswenger, CPO, FAAOP  
Jennifer McCarthy, CP  
Timothy Miller, CPO  
Christopher J. Fairman, CPO  
Todd C. Allen, CPO

### **Prosthetic CPM Administration Team**

Bryant Gulde, CPO, FAAOP  
Debbie Plescia, CPO  
Dennis Luse, CP

### **Orthotic Exam Team**

Carol Hentges, CO (Chair)  
Robert Brown, Jr. CPO, FAAOP  
Kevin Field, CPO  
Steven Whiteside, CO, FAAOP

### **Orthotics CPM Administration Team**

Steven Foy, CPO  
Tucker Pettinger, CO  
David Williams, CO

### **Technician Exam Team**

Thomas R. Padilla, CPO (Chair)  
Ronald Brooks, CPO  
Robert Carlile, RTPO  
Jonathan Day, CPO  
Edwin Hassler, III, CPO  
David Williams, CO

**Mastectomy Fitter Exam Team**

Vivian Athey, CFom  
Bridget S. Blue, CFm  
Teresa G. Hamm, CFom  
Twila L. Herring, CFm  
Ms. Naomi M. Sattelberg, CFm  
Donna L. Szabo, CFm  
Georgette O'Brien, CFm  
Lorraine Southworth, CFm

**Orthotic Fitter Exam Team**

Brandon Athey, CFO  
Margo Barregarye, CFOM

**New Credentials Task Force**

Stephen B. Fletcher, CPO (Chair)  
Michael J. Allen, CPO, FAAOP  
Steven Whiteside, CO, FAAOP  
William Barringer, CO, FAAOP

**Scope of Practice**

Rick Parr, CPO, FAAOP (Chair)  
William Barringer, CO, FAAOP  
Michael D. Brncick, CPO  
Donald Deane Doty, Jr., CPO  
Deborah Graham, CPO  
John Reynolds, CPO  
Steven Whiteside, CO, FAAOP

**Public Relations and Marketing Committee**

Russell Hornfisher (Chair)  
Frank H. Bostock, CO, FAAOP  
John M. Kenney, CPO, FAAOP  
Elizabeth Mansfield (Public Member)  
Aaron Sorensen, CPO

**Continuing Education Committee**

Deanna J. Fish, CPO (Chair)  
Franklin E. Friddle, Jr. CO, FAAOP  
Cheryl Hood, CPO  
Stephen Mandacina, CP, FAAOP  
Randall Rowland, CO

## ***Facility Accreditation Report***

In 2007, the ABC Facility Accreditation Program began to feel the impact of mandatory accreditation for Medicare DMEPOS Suppliers. We have made a significant investment on our systems to allow greater control and faster survey response times. Under the leadership of the Facility Accreditation Committee (FAC), we have made great strides in advancing our programs and setting standards for orthotic and prosthetic patient care, regardless of the setting in which it occurs.

The FAC has spent a significant portion of the year on two key initiatives: improving the on-site survey process and following up with organizations that did not achieve full compliance with the accreditation standards. Surveyor training has evolved into a full, four day course of practical experience and lecture time. The quality of surveyor feedback to organizations is continuously improving and the number and type of O&P patient care delivery settings they visit is providing them with many new information to share with the profession.

New to our program is the opportunity to correct deficiencies before an accreditation decision is provided. This has allowed many organizations that would have failed under our old system to rectify the deficiencies and earn their accreditation. The majority of organizations submitting a plan earn some level of accreditation.

The ABC Accreditation staff continues to work closely with staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We are educating CMS about the uniqueness of O, P and P, the special education and training required to appropriately care for these patients, and the harm that can come from improper care and treatment.

### **Facility Accreditation Growth**

2004	1,278 sites
2005	1,446 sites
2006	1,742 sites
2007	1,990 sites

As expected, we saw an increase in the amount of participation in the Facility Accreditation program last year. In spite of this, we strive to offer a positive experience for business owners, managers and practitioners. For example, Cailor Fleming Insurance, an independent insurance agency, continues to recognize the uniqueness of the ABC accreditation program and offers discounted liability insurance for ABC accredited facilities. This benefit alone should make a positive contribution to a facility's bottom line by saving substantially more money in insurance premiums than the cost of accreditation. Facilities that have met our standards are eligible for this credit. ABC does not receive a royalty or a commission for this value-added benefit of ABC Accreditation.

As always, the volunteer efforts of those involved in this program are priceless. We would also like to recognize the site surveyors who conduct accreditation evaluations across the country. They provide both invaluable assistance to ABC and expertise through guidance and consultation to their professional peers.

## ***Professional Credentialing Report***

The growth in 2007 in the number of ABC credentialed individuals presented unique challenges and opportunities for the Professional Credentialing Committee and department. On January 1, 2007, the official integration of the Board of Certification in Pedorthics (BCP) into ABC brought nearly 2,500 certified pedorthists into the ABC family. Shortly thereafter, ABC administered its first pedorthic examination to candidates using our computer-based testing system in over 250 testing sites nationwide.

During the year, ABC introduced a third examination cycle for all credentialing programs. The certification examinations are held three times a year in May, August and November. The addition of the third examination cycle allows our candidates the option of taking the exams more frequently, thus providing more attempts at the exams yearly if a passing score is not met.

ABC's orthotic and prosthetic Clinical Patient Management (CPM) exams continue to be administered bi-annually, in person and at a central testing site. These exams allow for assessment of the practitioner's clinical abilities through a series of problem solving tasks utilizing actual patient models.

At the end of 2007, a total of 221 individuals successfully completed the requirements to become ABC Certified Orthotists and/or Prosthetists. Ninety individuals were awarded Certified Orthotist (CO) status, 63 individuals were awarded Certified Prosthetist (CP) status and 68 individuals were awarded dual-credential status as Certified Prosthetists/Orthotists (CPO). The Certified Pedorthist (C.Ped.) credential was awarded to 81 individuals that successfully completed the ABC administered exam.

The total number of individuals awarded the Certified Fitter credentials increased due to the introduction of the Certified Fitter – Therapeutic Shoes (CFts) credential in 2006. Sixty-five individuals were awarded Certified Fitter – Orthotics status, 70 individuals were awarded Certified Fitter – Mastectomy status and 10 individuals were awarded dual-credential status as Certified Fitter – Orthotics/Mastectomy (CFom). Two hundred and ninety-three individuals were awarded Certified Fitter – Therapeutic Shoes status.

There were two Registered Technician exams held this year, with a total of 11 individuals awarded the Registered Technician – Orthotics (RTO) status, 17 individuals awarded the Registered Technician – Prosthetics (RTP) and 13 individuals awarded dual-credential status as Registered Technician – Prosthetics/Orthotics (RTPO).

ABC's professional credentialing programs continue to be driven by dedicated volunteers who make up 12 committees and exam teams. Behind each credentialing program are numerous ABC certified professionals, who devote significant time and effort to developing certification policies, program advances and the exams themselves. The continued success of ABC's credentialing programs is truly a testament to their dedication.

## ***Examination Statistics: 2007 Passing Rates***

	Spring 2007	Summer 2007	Winter 2007
Orthotic Written	60%	67%	74%
Orthotic Written Simulation	61%	57%	78%
Orthotic CPM	N/A	77%	87%
Prosthetic Written	80%	68%	84%
Prosthetic Written Simulation	73%	75%	77%
Prosthetic CPM	N/A	74%	76%
Certified Fitter – Orthotics (CFo)	68%	56%	67%
Certified Fitter – Mastectomy (CFm)	96%	93%	87%
Certified Pedorthist (C.Ped.)	34%	43%	55%
Registered Technician-Orthotics (RTO)	N/A	77%	85%
Registered Technician-Prosthetics (RTP)	N/A	64%	55%

ABC would like to thank the University of Texas-Southwestern, Northwestern University, Spokane Falls Community College and Century College for hosting the 2007 CPM and technician exams.

## Continuing Education Report

In 2007, the Mandatory Continuing Education (MCE) program set new records in the number of courses approved and individual credentials monitored. With the integration of the Board for Certification in Podiatry (BCP), approximately 2,500 Certified Podiatrists (C.Peds) have now become a part of the ABC MCE program. Though approximately 400 of these individuals already maintained another credential with ABC (ie. CO, CP, CFo, RTO, RPOA, etc.), this is an increase of approximately 25 percent for whom the MCE Department tracked, documented and verified continuing education activities.

Below is a list of other statistics that demonstrate the remarkable growth of the MCE Department in 2007.

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Different Category I Courses Approved	325	460	42%
Category I Course Offerings	1070	1500	40%
Category II Applications Processed	1023	1465	43%
Online/At Home Course Offerings Processed	1842	3152	71%
Processing Fee Income	\$19,500	\$28,225	45%

Below is a list of those whose certification/registrations expired on December 31 that met the requirements of Mandatory Continuing Education, were placed on probation and revoked.

	<u>Credential Renewed</u>	<u>Placed on Probation</u>	<u>Revoked for lack of MCE</u>
Orthotist/Prosthetist (CO, CP or CPO)	382	36	14
Registered Assistant (ROA, RPA or RPOA)	8	-	-
Registered Technician (RTP, RTO or RTPO)	279	59	3
Certified Podiatrist (C.Ped.)	26	11	-

In mid 2007, the *Mandatory Continuing Education (MCE) Book of Rules* was revised and made available on the ABC website. Printed copies of this document were only provided to newly credentialed individuals, while notification that this was updated and available was sent to all individuals in good standing through the June mailing of MCE statements. Though only a few policies were revised, the document was updated to include all disciplines covered under the Fitter category and the Certified Podiatrist.

## ***Marketing, Public Relations & Outreach Report***

The 2007 marketing efforts have centered on supporting the growth of ABC's certification and accreditation programs, communicating the importance of ABC standards inside and outside the profession and on working with consumer organizations to O&P.

Effective communication to the profession is a central part of ABC's marketing efforts. Our exhibiting presence at industry events continued in 2007, with members of the Board of Directors, volunteers and staff participating in national, regional and state O&P meetings.

Public outreach has become an increasingly important organizational goal. ABC continues to work with organizations such as the Amputee Coalition of America (ACA) and the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV) to promote consumer issues and the visibility of the O&P profession. Our two public advocates on the Board of Directors, Tom Coakley and Dr. Kristi Wilson-Hill, have taken the lead in this outreach and serve as a bridge between ABC and the consumer population.

Our public relations efforts also provide outreach to third party payers and the general public. For example, the *ABC Registry & Reference Guide* serves as a resource not only for O&P professionals, but also for case managers, allied healthcare providers, referral sources and the patient community.

In addition to the printed *Registry*, ABC provides online resources for groups important to O&P at the website [.oandpcare.org](http://oandpcare.org). This site is designed for consumers, referral sources and other allied health professionals, and includes information on selecting the right O&P provider, a glossary of O&P terms, and updates from CMS that will impact payers and patients.

### ***Parity & Licensure***

Progress continues on the Federal Parity Bill, led by the ACA and funded in part by a contribution from ABC. The ACA is working diligently to obtain public support from influential lawmakers, physician groups and the general public. ABC is proud to support these efforts to ensure adequate access to prosthetic patient care.

O&P licensure laws were enacted in two new states in 2007: Arkansas and Tennessee. These states join 10 others: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas and Washington State.

## ***Professional Discipline Report***

ABC's Professional Discipline Committee continues to promote professionalism and ethical conduct through enforcement of the ABC *Code of Professional Responsibility*.

In fulfilling its central responsibilities, the Committee reviews matters alleging violations of the *Code* involving general misconduct, criminal convictions and consumer dissatisfaction. The Committee diligently reviews each matter and renders decisions based on the facts discovered.

The following individuals were sanctioned by the Committee in 2007:

- Robert E. Johansen, Revocation of CO status, January
- Scott Malcolm, 2-year Suspension of C.Ped. status, May
- Michael Marmer, 3-year Suspension of CO status, July
- Greg Cross, 3-month Suspension of CFo status, November
- Winford Gasperson, 1-Year Suspension of CPO status, December

In addition, the Committee issued cease and desist orders to all individuals or organizations of whom they were informed were improperly representing the ABC credentials of certification, registration or facility accreditation.

## Statement of Financial Position

As of November 30, 2007 and 2006

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,201,530	\$2,286,431
Accounts Receivable	66,347	26,120
Escrow Fund	192,940	-
Due from Affiliated Organizations	40,632	21,260
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	20,574	36,595
Property & Equipment, Net	293,667	357,124
Reserve Fund Investments	<u>4,328,447</u>	<u>2,801,277</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$8,144,137</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,528,807</u></u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$199,142	\$129,066
Payroll Liabilities	64,221	51,765
Deferred Rent	87,314	104,060
Deferred Dues	2,351,097	1,696,678
Deferred Examination Fees	117,000	101,525
Deferred Credit (Goodwill)	483,807	-
Note Payable	<u>44,352</u>	<u>83,129</u>
Total Liabilities	\$3,346,933	\$2,166,223
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>4,797,204</u>	<u>3,362,584</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>4,797,204</u>	<u>3,362,584</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$8,144,137</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,528,807</u></u>