

AMERICAN BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION IN ORTHOTICS, PROSTHETICS AND PEDORTHICS, INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Serving the
Orthotic,
Prosthetic and
Pedorthic
Community
since 1948



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 the competency of providers, promotes the quality and effectiveness of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic care, and maintains the integrity of the profession.

The ABC Vision

The American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc. (ABC) is the comprehensive credentialing organization for establishing individual and organizational performance standards for the provision of orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic care and services. All ABC activities are guided by the following vision statement:

Setting Standards

Improving Outcomes

Changing Lives

**American Board for Certification in
Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc.**

330 John Carlyle St., Suite 210

Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel: (703) 836-7114

Fax: (703) 836-0838

www.abcop.org

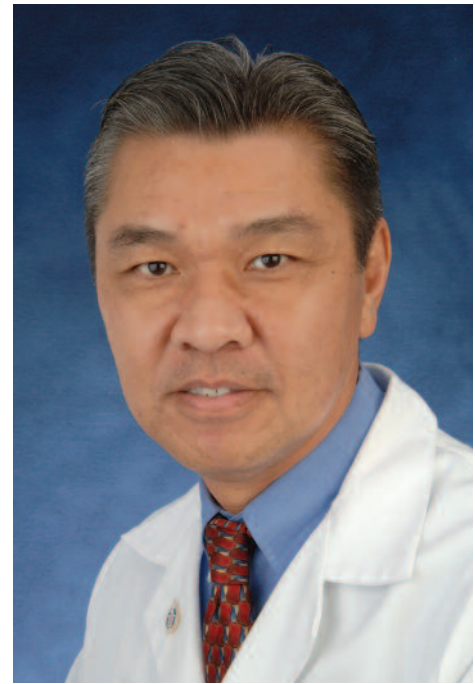
Outgoing 2009 President's Letter

BELIEVE THE expectation is for me to reflect on the myriad of activities that ABC engaged in this past year and somehow assume responsibility and perhaps even claim some credit for the continued successes. However, when I began my term on December 1, 2008, the single prevailing theme that resonated in my mind was a key segment of the physician's Hippocratic Oath; "do no harm". The reality is that ABC has a solid infrastructure in place that truly enables it to pursue and achieve its core mission. The outstanding staff under the direction of Executive Director Cathy Carter, along with her department heads, numerous committee members and volunteers all perform their respective roles with great aplomb. This allowed me to merely steer the ABC ship along its course and with any luck...do no harm.

As the year progressed, one challenge we did face was the total revitalization of the marketing department. After an extensive search process we hired Ms. Debbie Ayres to lead ABC's new and vastly enhanced commitment to marketing the ABC message. She brought a diverse background in marketing and public relations and has transformed how we perceive, execute and communicate our programs to the community at large. This will no doubt be a key ingredient for our success in the next decade.

While much of the dust has settled with the integration of the BCP/C.Ped. credential within our folds, there was significant work to be done in forging a relationship with the Pedorthic Footwear Association (PFA). After several candid meetings between respective leadership, we have now established a foundation for a future of trust, mutual respect and collaboration. This relationship will create a positive impact on the proliferation of the C.Ped. credential in the coming years.

An enormous success for ABC in 2009 was the Facility Accreditation department's tremendous feat in meeting the demand of the mandatory accreditation for post-mastectomy, pedorthic and durable medical equipment. The unprecedented influx of applications and surveys was a massive undertaking, but with the help of all ABC staff members, each facility that applied by the deadline received a decision by October 1. During that nine



month period of time, ABC processed nearly 3,000 applications and surveyed over 2,700 facilities, an average of over 300 facility surveys a month.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the outstanding work of the ABC Board of Directors. It was clearly a privilege to have served with these distinguished individuals these past six years and an honor to lead them in 2009. I would challenge anyone to identify a more selfless, cohesive and dedicated group of professionals! As we bid farewell to the directors whose terms ended last year: Mike Allen, CPO, FAAOP, Michael Brncick, CPO and Dr. Kristi Wilson-Hill, we do so with our sincere appreciation for all of their efforts on behalf of ABC and the O&P profession.

On a final note, I leave the presidency secure that we are stronger than ever before, satisfied with the small contribution I may have made, thankful for the opportunity to work with such distinguished individuals, enriched by the many friendships I've forged over the years and most of all, optimistic for a future of greatness.

My warmest regards,
Robert S. Lin, CPO, FAAOP

2009 Board and Committee Members

Board of Directors

Robert S. Lin, CPO, FAAOP
President

Donald Deane Doty, Jr., CPO
President-Elect

John M. Kenney, CPO, FAAOP
Secretary-Treasurer

Michael J. Allen, CPO, FAAOP
Immediate Past-President

Todd F. Anderson, CP, FAAOP

Michael D. Brncick, CPO

Thomas F. Coakley (Public Member)

Dennis J. Janisse, C.Ped.

Timothy E. Miller, CPO

Donald L. Pierson, Jr., CO, C.Ped.

Donald D. Virostek, CPO

Kristi E. Wilson-Hill, Ph.D. (Public Member)



Committees and Members

Facility Accreditation Committee

Donald R. Cummings, CP—Chair
Michael D. Brncick, CPO—Board Liaison
Kimberly Doolan
Don E. Cooper, C.Ped.
Pamela D. Lupo, CO
Wendy Schnell, CFm
Donald G. Shurr, CPO
Mark K. Taylor, CPO, FAAOP

Standards Review Subcommittee

Donald G. Shurr, CPO—Chair
Brett R. Saunders, CPO, FAAOP
James H. Wynne, CPO

Pedorthic Accreditation Subcommittee

Don E. Cooper, C.Ped.—Chair
Dennis W. Dillard, C.Ped., CTO
Gordon A. Rabing, C.Ped.
Brett R. Richey, C.Ped.

Ancillary Assistive Device Accreditation Subcommittee

Carol Grettum, CP, C.Ped., FAAOP
Jeff Mastej, CHC

Professional Credentialing Committee

Carol J. Hentges, CO—Chair
Donald D. Virostek, CPO—Board Liaison
Jonathan D. Day, CPO
Timothy E. Miller, CPO
Amy V. Yates, CPO

Application Review Committee

Amy V. Yates, CPO—Chair
William J. Barringer, CO, FAAOP
Darlene Hall, C.Ped.
Robert S. Lin, CPO, FAAOP

Prosthetic Exam Team

Timothy E. Miller, CPO—Chair
Todd C. Allen, CPO
William D. Beiswenger, CPO, FAAOP
Christopher J. Fairman, CPO
Donald D. Virostek, CPO

Prosthetic CPM Administration Team

Bryant L. Guide, CPO, FAAOP
Stephen A. Mandacina, CP, FAAOP
Amy V. Yates, CPO

Orthotic Exam Team

Carol J. Hentges, CO—Chair
Robert N. Brown, Jr., CPO, FAAOP
Kevin J. Field, CPO
Aaron J. Sorensen, CPO
Steven R. Whiteside, CO, FAAOP
Ava S. Herbrick, CPO

Orthotic CPM Administration Team

Steven Q. Foy, CPO
Ted L. Hyde, CO, FAAOP
Mark A. Rodriguez, CPO

Pedorthic Exam Team

Dennis W. Dillard, C.Ped., CTO—Chair
Dan Ballard, C.Ped.
John M. Brest, CO, C.Ped.
John P. Galbraith, C.Ped.
Darlene Hall, C.Ped.
Edward Hicks, Jr., CO, C.Ped.
Louis N. Iannuzzi, C.Ped.
Dennis J. Janisse, C.Ped.
Wayne R. Rosen, CPO, C.Ped.

Mastectomy Fitter Exam Team

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

Therapeutic Shoe Fitter Exam Team

Steven R. Whiteside, CO, FAAOP—Chair
Michael J. Allen, CPO, FAAOP
William J. Barringer, CO, FAAOP
William D. Beiswenger, CPO, FAAOP
Stephen B. Fletcher, CPO

Technician Exam Team

Jonathan D. Day, CPO—Chair
Robert S. Carlile, CTPO
Edwin B. Hassler, III, CPO
David C. Williams, CO

Scope of Practice Committee

Rick G. Parr, CPO, FAAOP—Chair
William J. Barringer, CO, FAAOP
Michael D. Brncick, CPO
Theodore J. Colaizzi, C.Ped., CFo
Donald Deane Doty, Jr., CPO
Stephen B. Fletcher, CPO
Dennis J. Janisse, C.Ped.
John H. Reynolds, CPO
Michelangelo Scafidi, C.Ped., CFo
Steven R. Whiteside, CO, FAAOP

Continuing Education Committee

Deanna J. Fish, CPO—Chair
Todd F. Anderson, CP, FAAOP—Board Liaison
Cheryl Hood, CPO
Stephen A. Mandacina, CP, FAAOP
Bill Meanwell, C.Ped.
Wayne R. Rosen, CPO, C.Ped., FAAOP
Randall Rowland, CO

Public Relations and Marketing Committee

Donald R. Cummings, CP—Chair
John M. Kenney, CPO, FAAOP—Board Liaison
John M. Brest, CO, C.Ped.
Darren R. Donnelly, CO
Marita Dorsch-Carozza, CP, FAAOP
Peter Nohre

Professional Credentialing

ABC'S PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALING program continues to be the gold standard for the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic professions. More candidates sit for ABC exams and maintain their credential over the course of their career than any other credentialing body. ABC credential holders continue to be the most sought after in the profession and enjoy the reputation of being the best educated, most rigorously trained and tested professionals in the workforce.

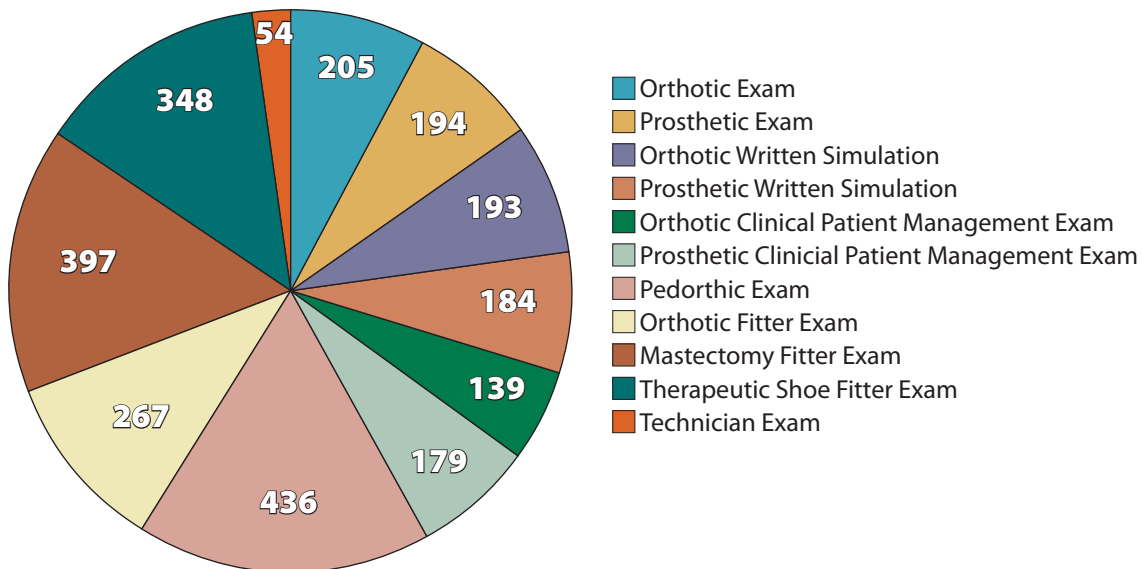
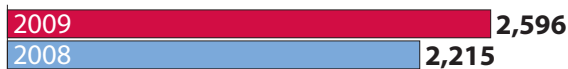
ABC is extremely proud of its reputation and works hard throughout the year to maintain the highest examination standards for all of its credentials. This includes annual reviews of each exam as well as continual practice analysis evaluation to ensure that the exams are relevant to

the current work environment. ABC also maintains close working relationships with the colleges, universities and education programs that are the educational and training foundation for candidates.

ABC had a record year in 2009 with a 17% increase in exam candidates over 2008. This increase was across the board for all disciplines with the exception of the technician exams, which saw a slight decline.

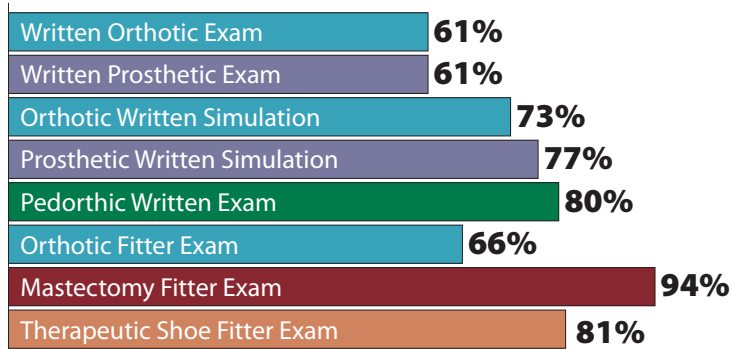
Written exams for all disciplines were administered three times in 2009 at 250 locations nationwide. The orthotic and prosthetic Clinical Patient Management exams continued to be administered bi-annually, in person at a central testing site. In 2009, those sites were in Chicago and Dallas. These exams allow for assessment of the practitioner's clinical abilities through a series of problem solving tasks which utilize actual patient models. The technician exams were administered at Century College and Spokane Falls Community College.

Total Exams Administered

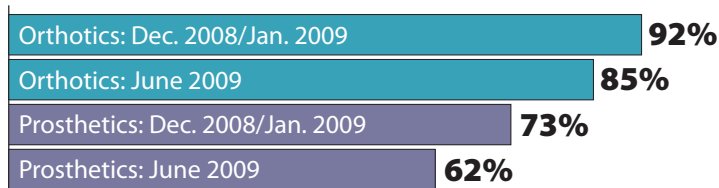


2009 Examination Passing Rates

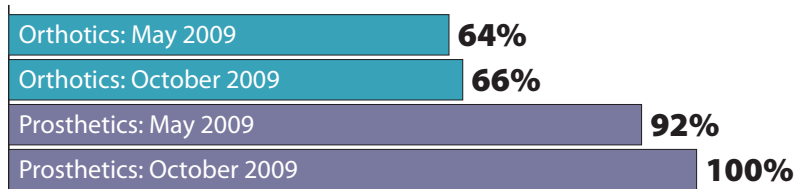
Written and Written Simulation Exams



Clinical Patient Management Exams



Technician Exams



ABC would like to thank the following educational institutions for hosting the 2009 Clinical Patient Management and Technician Exams.

University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center

Northwestern University

Spokane Falls Community College

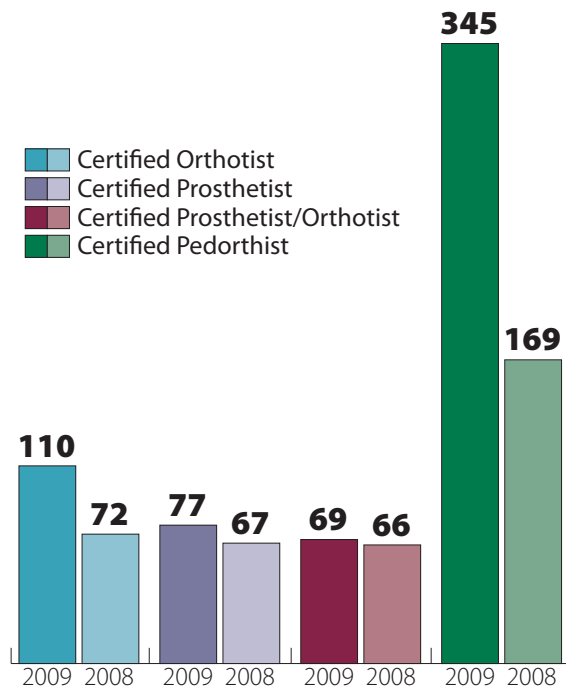
Century College

Newly Certified ABC Practitioners, Pedorthists, Fitters and Technicians

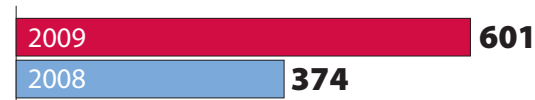
A record number of individuals chose ABC as their credentialing board in 2009, with 2,596 candidates participating in the credentialing examination process in 2009. ABC credentialed 1,392 practitioners, pedorthists, fitters and technicians, an increase of 56% over 2008.

Certified Practitioners and Pedorthists

The Certified Practitioner and Certified Pedorthist designations continue to be the most respected certifications in the profession. ABC credential holders continue to be recognized by their peers, regulators and healthcare insurance payers as the benchmark for minimum standards in the profession. In 2009, a total of 256 individuals successfully completed the requirements to become ABC Certified Orthotists and/or Prosthetists, a 25% increase over 2008. The Certified Pedorthist credential was awarded to 345 individuals, a 51% increase from 2008.

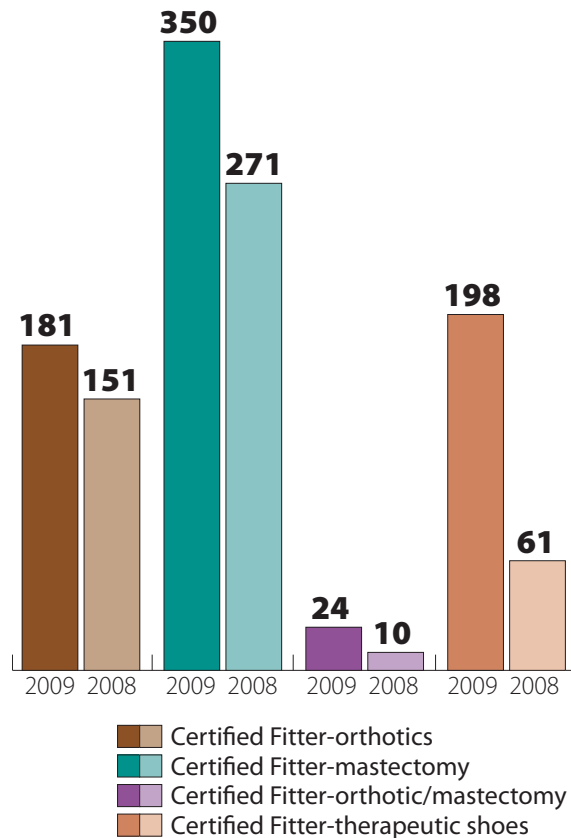


Total Practitioners and Pedorthists Certified by Year



Certified Fitters

The Certified Fitter program was the fastest growing of all of the credentials ABC offers. A total of 1,012 individuals choose ABC as their credentialing board and 753 individuals successfully completed the requirements to become ABC Certified Fitters, an increase of 56% over 2008. The Certified Fitter-therapeutic shoe credential had the largest increase with a growth of 218% over 2008.

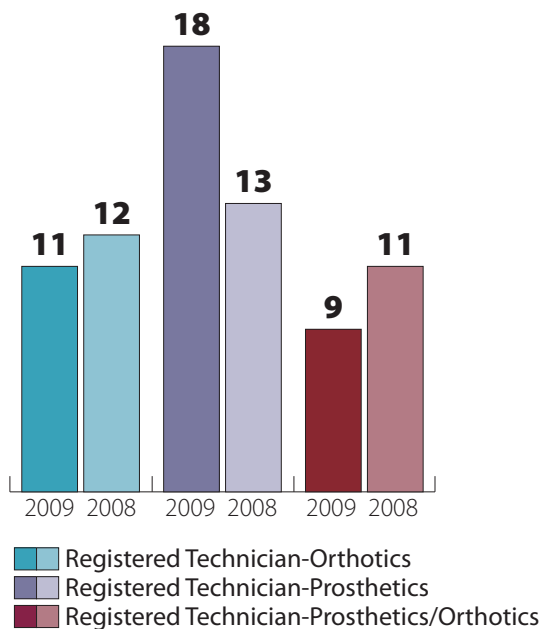


Total Fitters Certified by Year

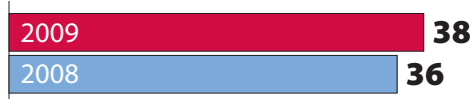


Registered Technician

While the number of candidates taking the Registered Technician exam declined slightly in 2009, there were still a total of 54 exam candidates of whom 38 were awarded the credential. This examination continues to be administered bi-annually, in person at a central testing site.



Total Technicians Registered by Year



ABC’s professional credentialing programs continue to be driven by the dedicated volunteers who make up the 10 committees and exam teams. Behind each credentialing program are numerous ABC certified professionals who devote significant time and effort to developing certification policies, program improvements and the exams themselves. The continued success of ABC’s credentialing programs is truly a testament to their dedication.

“The ABC examination continues to be the profession’s most respected exam process and has the distinction of being the credential of choice among orthotists, prosthetists, pedorthists, fitters and technicians.”

—Carol Hentges, CO
Professional Credentialing
Committee Chair

Facility Accreditation

ABC'S FACILITY accreditation program had an explosive year in 2009, breaking all previous records for the number of applications received and onsite surveys conducted. The CMS mandatory accreditation deadline of October 1, 2009 for pedorthic, post-mastectomy and DME facilities significantly increased the number of applicants who chose ABC as their accrediting organization. The number of applications received in January 2009 was nearly equal to the number of applications ABC receives over an 18-month period. The CMS mandatory accreditation requirement served to create a greater awareness of accreditation in the DMEPOS realm.

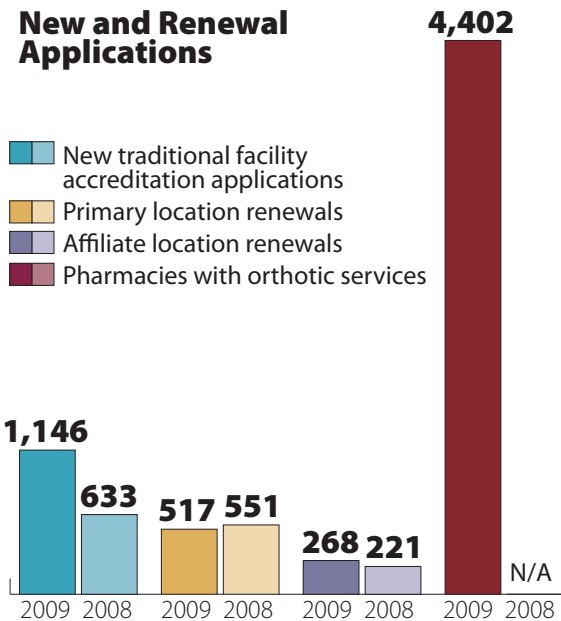
The overwhelming number of accreditation onsite surveys required to meet the deadline tested the mettle of the ABC staff as well as the cadre of

"I have been privileged to serve as the public member on the Facility Accreditation Committee for several years and I truly believe ABC has the best interests of people, like me, who require orthotic and prosthetic care, at heart."

—Kimberly Doolan
Facility Accreditation
Committee

onsite surveyors, but once again this experience proved that ABC is up to the task. The professionalism, dedication and commitment to the profession that the ABC staff and contracted vendors possess is what sets ABC above the norm. As the only accrediting organization recognized by many healthcare payers as representing the minimum standards for patient care, ABC is proud to have the best reputation in the profession.

New and Renewal Applications



Total New and Renewal Applications



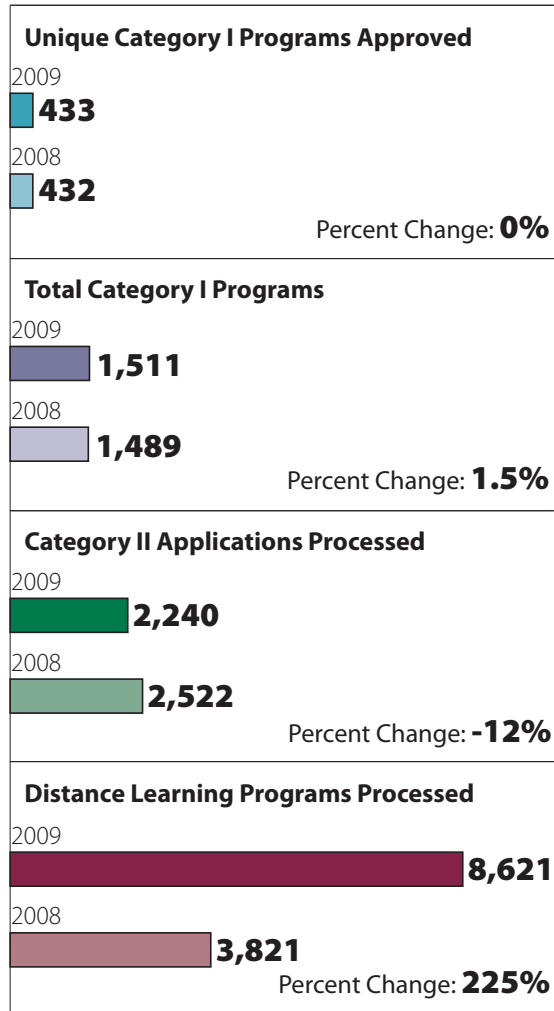
Continuing Education

CONTINUING EDUCATION continues to be a basic tenet of ensuring that ABC credential holders stay current with research, trends and developments in the profession. ABC continually works to refine the continuing education program and its requirements, all in an effort to ensure that credentialed individuals maintain the highest standards in the profession.

The key requirement of earning minimum continuing education credits within a five-year cycle for all disciplines, helps to reinforce ABC's focus on all of its credential holders remaining current within the profession.

As a result of the 2008 decision to award discipline specific credits to Category I approved programs, ABC is now able to track credits by discipline and continue to ensure the validity of the continuing education program.

The following chart indicates the number of Category I programs approved and the number of Category II applications processed. The chart also highlights the huge increase in Distance Learning programs taken by certified individuals.



The following chart indicates credential status by discipline for:

- Credentialed individuals in good standing who submitted their 2009 Annual Fees
- Certification or registrations at the end of the five-year cycle that were renewed as of January 1, 2009
- Credential holders that were placed on probation effective January 1, 2009
- Credential holders revoked for failure to satisfy the five-year continuing education cycle requirements effective January 1, 2009 (original MCE expiration date of December 31, 2007).

Credential Type	In Good Standing	Renewed	On Probation	Revoked
Practitioner (CO, CP or CPO)	5,474	430	26	17
Certified Pedorthist (C.Ped.)	2,724	124	44	5
Registered Technician (RTP, RTO or RTPO)	618	80	19	41
Registered Assistant (RPA, ROA or RPOA)	130	6	—	—
Certified Fitter—Orthotics (CFo)	1,559	393	170	—
Certified Fitter—Mastectomy (CFm)	1,314	200	25	—
Certified Fitter—Orthotics/Mastectomy (CFom)	374	131	43	—
Certified Fitter—Therapeutic Shoes (CFTs)	666	—	—	—
TOTAL	12,859	1,233	284	63



Marketing, Public Relations & Outreach

THE PAST YEAR was an exciting one for ABC's marketing and public relations efforts. With the addition of Debbie Ayres as the Director of Public Relations and Marketing, several new initiatives have been launched. In addition to supporting the growth of the certification and accreditation programs, there was a renewed focus on consumer outreach and updating the look and message of the ABC brand.

New advertising was created for all of the professional publications as well as a shift in messaging. The importance of ABC standards for certification and accreditation is still the primary message for everything that ABC publishes.

As part of ABC's rejuvenated marketing program, an outreach program was initiated with the practitioner, fitter and technician schools. Cultivating better relationships with the educators was a major initiative in 2009 and ABC plans to continue this outreach in 2010.

Another outreach effort that was expanded in 2009 was with the Pedorthic Footwear Association (PFA). PFA is the professional association representing the pedorthic profession and as such is an important partner in bringing the ABC message to their members. ABC and PFA collaborated on a revision of a brochure explaining the pedorthic profession, highlighting the importance of ABC certification and how one can begin a career in this important profession. The brochure was distributed by PFA at their national conference and is also being used in outreach programs with career and guidance counselors in high schools and colleges.

In addition, ABC created a Self Assessment Checklist for the pedorthic exam candidate's experiential requirement. The checklist breaks down the percentage of time a candidate should focus on each domain, skill and knowledge as identified in the *Pedorthic Practice Analysis*. This valuable tool was

very well received at its launch at the PFA national conference and continues to be a helpful tool sent to all exam candidates.

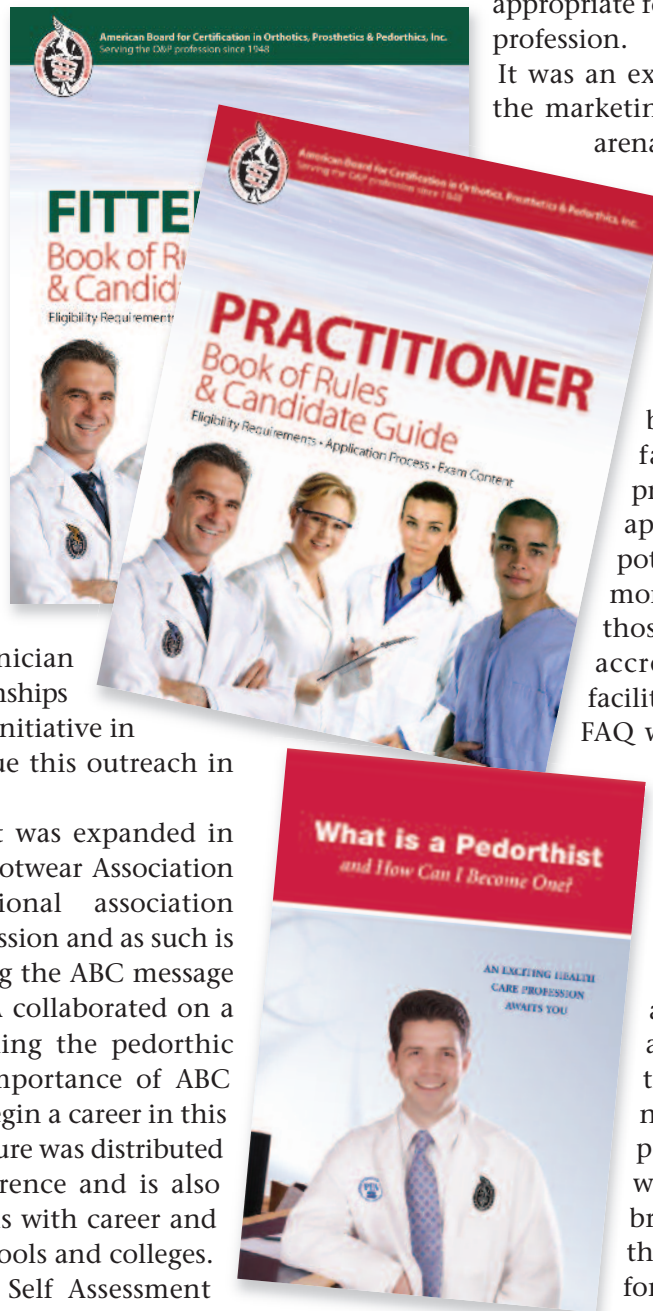
The Public Relations and Marketing Committee was revitalized in 2009 and Don Cummings, CP was tapped as chair. The committee has several projects underway and has also created both a practitioner and consumer focus group. This group of volunteers will be an important part of ensuring that the ABC message is targeted, relevant and appropriate for the audience and the profession.

It was an exciting year for ABC in the marketing and public relations arena. Many publications have been revised, updated and given a new contemporary look that speaks more appropriately to the intended audience.

New materials have been created for the facility accreditation program, including a pre-application checklist for potential applicants and a more detailed checklist for those who choose ABC for accreditation of their facility. A new accreditation FAQ was created along with

an information piece for those awaiting their survey. This piece gives them valuable information on what to expect, how the survey is conducted and potential problem areas that they should try to avoid. All of these new pieces have been positively received and work toward the goal of bringing more value to those who choose ABC for facility accreditation.

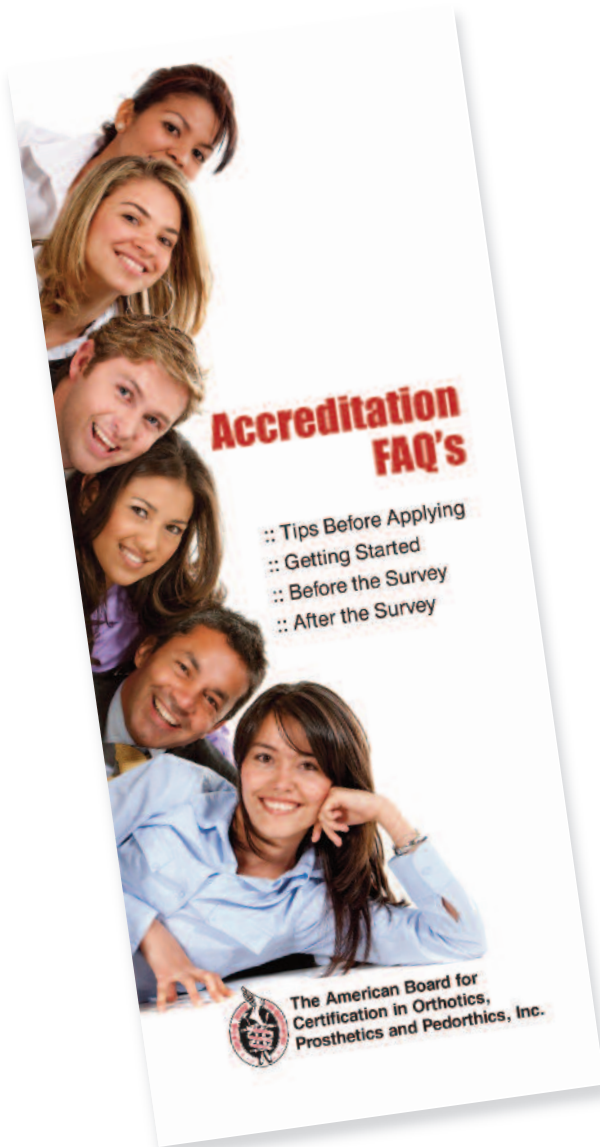
ABC continued to exhibit at several national, regional and state meetings in 2009 and was fortunate to be asked to present workshops and seminars at the majority of those events.



Public outreach continues to be an important organizational goal. ABC continues to work with organizations such as the Amputee Coalition of America (ACA), the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and new for 2009, the Disabled Sports/USA organization. ABC was a sponsor of the DAV Winter Sports Clinic in March and participated in the ACA Annual Conference in June in Atlanta.

In 2009, the board of directors decided to no longer provide a printed version of the *Registry & Reference Guide*. The information available in the Registry is readily available in the ABC online directory and has the added advantage of being up-to-date on a daily basis.

ABC's marketing and public relations efforts took a giant step forward in 2009 and there are many new projects and initiatives underway for 2010 and beyond.



"I'm honored to be chairing the committee charged with spearheading the exciting projects that we have lined up for the future. ABC is entering a thrilling time in its marketing and public relations activities and all of its credential holders will be seeing the results of this work in increased recognition of their credential, the prestige among payer and regulator groups of ABC facility accreditation and the further solidification of its relationship with the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic schools."

—Don Cummings, CP
Public Relations and Marketing
Committee Chair



Pedorthic Exam Candidate Self Assessment Checklist

Prior to sitting for the ABC Certified Pedorthist exam, each candidate is required to complete 1,000 hours of pedorthic experience. The following self assessment tool gives you a guideline for what areas you should focus on and the amount of time you should be spending in each area during this period.

DOMAINS OF PRACTICE

Certified Pedorthists (C.Peds) report that they spend their professional time divided between six areas of responsibility called *Domains of Practice*. As you work on the 1,000 hour experience requirement to take the ABC C.Ped. exam, you should gain experience in each domain and arrange your time to approximately meet these percentages. Use the following chart to write in the percentage of time you spend in each domain.

Each domain is broken down into specific tasks. Reference the *ABC Pedorthic Book of Rules and Candidate Guide* for the specific tasks associated with each domain and identify the domains in which you should spend more or less time.

DOMAIN	Recommended % of Time	Self Assessment - % of My Time in These Domains
Patient Assessment Perform a comprehensive assessment of the patient to obtain an understanding of the patient's pedorthic needs.	29%	___%
Formulation of the Treatment Plan Analyze and integrate information from patient assessment to create a comprehensive pedorthic treatment plan to meet the needs and goals of the patient.	17%	___%
Implementation of the Treatment Plan Perform procedures necessary to provide the appropriate pedorthic services, including fabrication.	22%	___%
Follow-up Treatment Plan Provide continuing patient care and periodic evaluation to assure/maintain/document optimal fit and function of the pedorthic device.	12%	___%
Practice Management Develop, implement and/or monitor policies and procedures regarding human resources, the physical environment, business and financial practices and organizational management.	11%	___%
Promotion of Competency and Enhancement of Professional Practice Participate in personal and professional development through continuing education, training, research and organizational affiliations.	9%	___%

Professional Discipline

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 2009:

Jackie Bond, Suspension of CO credential, March

Nelson Wilson, Revocation of CP credential, April

Richard A. Mittica, Revocation of C.Ped. credential, March

Cary Frounfelter, Revocation of CPO credential, May

Shawn Jewell, Revocation of CO credential, May

Bruce Wooley, Suspension of CPO and CFo credential, July

Josh Ryder, Suspension of CO credential, October

In addition, ABC actively promotes and protects its trademarked credentials. Cease and desist orders were issued to all individuals or organizations of whom ABC was informed were improperly representing ABC certification and accreditation titles.

"The Code of Professional Responsibility is the foundation for all ABC credential holders. Adherence to the Code, and enforcement by the committee, assures consumers that they are receiving the highest level of prosthetic, orthotic and pedorthic professional services."

—Catherine A. Carter
ABC Executive Director



American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position as of November 30, 2009 and 2008

	Current Year	Prior Year
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,002,086	4,414,168
Accounts receivable, net	33,860	29,339
Due from affiliate organizations	15,227	–
Prepaid expenses and other assets	43,820	53,889
Property and equipment, net	250,080	233,086
Reserve fund investments	5,904,901	3,291,488
Total assets	13,249,974	8,021,969
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	297,757	267,212
Due to affiliate organizations	–	16,255
Accrued payroll and related benefits	74,088	63,950
Deferred rent	42,827	66,931
Deferred Credit (Goodwill)	459,050	471,429
Deferred fees	2,425,781	2,132,323
Deferred exams and accreditation	3,093,225	126,000
Total liabilities	6,392,729	3,144,100
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	6,857,245	4,877,869
Total liabilities and net assets	13,249,974	8,021,969

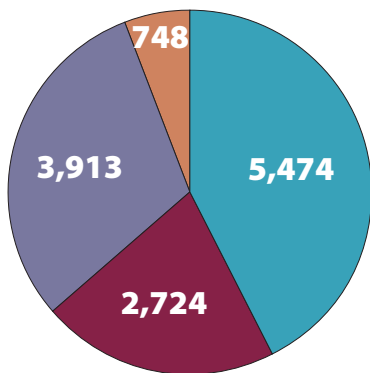
ABC 2009 Credentialing and Accreditation Totals

ABC HAD A GREAT YEAR in 2009! Not only was the number of exam candidates the highest ever, ABC credentials were awarded to the largest group ever and those who are already certified maintained their credential in record numbers.

ABC awarded or extended certification and registration status to a total of 1,392 orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic professionals in 2009. With the awarding of these new credentials, a total of 12,859 ABC credentials were held by individuals in the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic professions, including 5,474 Certified Practitioners. The greatest growth was in ABC's Certified Fitter-therapeutic shoes program, which increased by 218% over 2008.

At the end of 2009, ABC facility accreditation was held by 7,548 orthotic, prosthetic, and pedorthic patient care facilities. The extraordinary growth in facility accreditation in 2009 was a direct result of the CMS mandate for pedorthic, post-mastectomy and DMEPOS facilities. The increase in accreditations in these areas was unprecedented.

ABC Individual Credentials



- Certified Practitioners
- Certified Pedorthists
- Certified Fitters
- Registered Technicians and Assistants

Total Credentialed Individuals — 12,859

Facility Accreditation Growth

