



# Mark of Merit

MARCH 2019

SETTING STANDARDS · IMPROVING OUTCOMES · CHANGING LIVES

## Help Advance the Future of the Profession

### MASTECTOMY FITTER PRACTICE ANALYSIS COMING SOON

**A**BC WILL BE CONDUCTING a practice analysis of its credentialed mastectomy fitters and is looking for volunteers willing to help with the Practice Analysis Task Force. The process and results will help define the certification, education and training of future mastectomy fitters, the development of valid and reliable examinations and convey to others outside the profession the scope of services provided by post-mastectomy professionals.

If you are interested in participating on this task force and would like information about the time commitment as well as a description of related activities, please contact Lauren Moran at [lmoran@ABCop.org](mailto:lmoran@ABCop.org).

As an ABC certified mastectomy fitter, you are in a unique position to assist in the creation of this practice analysis of post-mastectomy care and contribute to the growth of the profession. ●

## New Look. Same Vision.

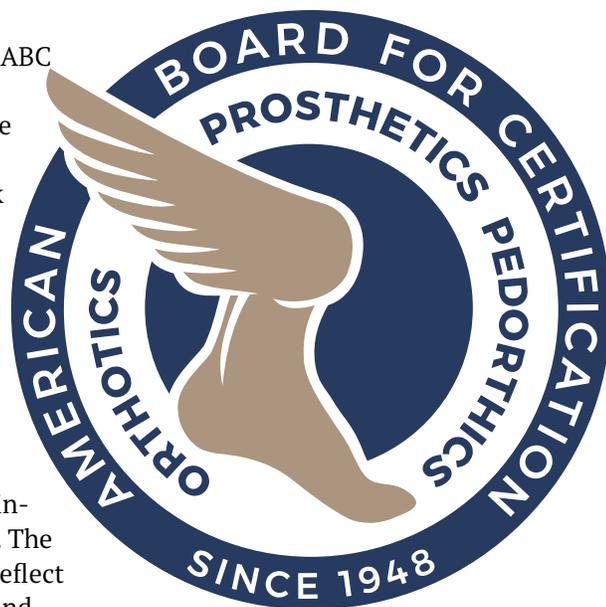
**F**OR 70 YEARS, the ABC logo has stood as a symbol of excellence in the orthotic & prosthetic profession—a mark of merit for all who achieve the highest standard for certification or accreditation.

ABC and the profession have both evolved. No longer do practitioners use pulling tools to design and create a prosthesis nor does ABC administer a paper and pencil exam. The board of directors wanted to reflect this evolution in an updated and modernized logo for ABC.

What you see is a fresh new look that still keeps the feel and familiarity of the original logo with a more contemporary design.

The board was heavily involved in the entire redesign process and feel that the new logo aptly represents ABC's credentialed individuals and facilities.

The decision to change the colors was deliberate. While the red and black are certainly recognizable in the profession, the board felt it



was time to move to a more meaningful and versatile color palette. The blue and taupe convey a sense of trust, dependability, strength, warmth and excellence—all qualities that embody the work we do and the people and facilities we serve.

We like to think of it as a New Look but with the Same Vision of Setting Standards Improving Outcomes Changing Lives ●

“ Our look may have changed, but our focus on Setting Standards, Improving Outcomes and Changing Lives has not. ”

Larry Word, CPO, FAAOP  
PRESIDENT

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- CredCast ..... 2
- Where's Jim? ..... 3
- Combined Exams ..... 2

# Orthotist and Prosthetist Written Exams to be Combined

**S**TARTING THIS SUMMER, the ABC orthotist and prosthetist written certification exams will be combined, in addition, the eligibility criteria for when a candidate can sit for the exam will change. Since all practitioner certification candidates are now graduates of a combined O&P master's degree program, the change is in keeping with the changing face of O&P education.

ABC's written practitioner exams were created to test the knowledge of a post-residency candidate, but with the introduction of the O&P master's program, it became apparent that a combined exam testing the knowledge gained from the master's program was more appropriate.

The change to the eligibility criteria will allow O&P master's program graduates to take the

written exam immediately after graduation. These changes will give candidates the opportunity to take the exam while their university knowledge is still fresh and give

educators an outcome measure of students' success with their curriculum. The first combined written practitioner exam will be given this August. ●

## Interested in Serving on the ABC Board?

**W**e are seeking nominations for open positions on the ABC Board of Directors. Each position has a four-year commitment beginning December 1, 2019.

If you are interested in working with us to advance our mission of advocating for the highest level of patient care and organization standards, we want you!

Directors participate in overseeing general management of our organizational affairs, including policy development, governance and budget. Nominees for the open director positions must be ABC certified professionals and must have a record of volunteer involvement with O&P.

All nominations will be reviewed by the ABC Nominations Committee and the ABC Board of Directors. **The deadline for nomination submissions is June 1.**

For more information or to formally submit a nomination, please contact Steve Fletcher, CPO, LPO at [sfletcher@abcop.org](mailto:sfletcher@abcop.org) or 703-836-7114, ext. 216. ●



## Have you Heard?

**ABC HAS LAUNCHED ITS  
FIRST EVER PODCAST SERIES**

**A**BC CREDCAST WAS CREATED to be a convenient source for all things related to O&P credentialing from certification, recertification, accreditation and more! Each month, listeners can join host Jim Lawson, ABC's Outreach Development Manager, as he and other expert guests provide insights and helpful tools for navigating all of ABC's credentialing programs and recertification processes.

Podcasts are yet another way for you to digest important information and topics from ABC. At work, in the car or at the gym...you're just one click away from valuable education to help you get the most out of your O&P career.

Listen to the first three episodes and any future episodes by searching CredCast at [ABCop.org](http://ABCop.org) or subscribing to ABC CredCast on iTunes & Google Play. ●

# WHERE'S JIM?



## St. Louis Arch

Jim exhibited and spoke at the 59th Annual Pedorthic Footcare Association's Symposium and Exhibition, the largest educational event solely dedicated to pedorthics, Nov. 15-17. The Symposium was held in the heart of St. Louis and under the shadow of the Gateway Arch, which stands 630 feet high as the tallest man-made monument in the Western Hemisphere!



## Rising Sun

The Mohegan Sun, that is. This glass covered resort and casino rises 480 feet high, making it Connecticut's second largest building and an amazing venue for the New England Academy Chapter meeting this November. Jim says it was a really "glassy" place to stay!



## Jim Lawson is coming to town!

He made a list, he checked it twice and he found out that Francis Tuttle, Oklahoma State University and Concordia University O&P schools were more than nice! Jim wrapped up 2018 by speaking to over 50 master's, technician and pedorthist students and faculty in December. He even received a Pistol Pete Prosthetics shirt from OSU and got to share holiday cookies with the Concordia MSOP students before heading back home, just in time for Christmas. What a treat!



## A break from the cold

What Jim had at the well-attended Essentially Women FOCUS conference in St. Pete Beach, Feb. 2-5. He was honored to speak and exhibit at the nation's leading continuing education and networking conference for post-mastectomy professionals...not to mention bask in the warm Florida sun for a few days.



## Jim the Magician?

It certainly feels like he dabbles in a little bit of magic, given the amount of shows Jim travels to all over the country each year. Not only did Jim exhibit at the Hanger Education Fair in Las Vegas, Feb. 18-21, but he also met Penn & Teller, the famous magician duo, at their popular Vegas theater.



## New Look, Same Vision

You may have noticed something a little different about ABC at this year's 45th Academy Annual Meeting and Symposium, March 6-9, in Orlando. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth to check out our new look!



# AMERICAN BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION

ORTHOTICS • PROSTHETICS • PEDORTHICS

330 John Carlyle Street • Suite 210  
Alexandria, VA 22314-5760  
Phone: 703.836.7114 • Fax: 703.836.0838  
ABCop.org

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For further information on these events, please visit [abcop.org](http://abcop.org) or contact us at 703.836.7114.

### March

**29-30:** Ohio O&P Assn. and AAOP Ohio Chapter Annual Spring Meeting  
*Columbus*

### April

**1:** Application Deadline for June Certification Exams

**1:** Residency Completion Deadline for Spring CPM Exams

**5-6:** Iowa Prosthetic, Orthotic and Pedorthic Assn. Annual Meeting  
*Des Moines*

**11-13:** Northwest Chapter AAOP Continuing Ed. Conference  
*Bellevue, Wash.*

**8-13:** Written and Written Simulation Certification Exams  
*Over 350 Locations Nationwide*

### May

**1:** Residency Completion Deadline for June Written & Written Simulation Exams

**3-4:** Orthotic Clinical Patient Management (CPM) Exam  
*ABC Testing Center, Tampa*

**9-11:** PA/MD/VA/DC Chapter AAOP Spring Conference  
*Washington, Pa.*

**16-18:** Western and Midwestern Orthotic and Prosthetic Assn. Meeting  
*Reno*

**17-18:** Prosthetic Clinical Patient Management (CPM) Exam  
*ABC Testing Center, Tampa*

### June

**1:** Application Deadline for August Certification Exams

**1:** Application Deadline for Fall CPM Exams

**3-8:** Written and Written Simulation Certification Exams  
*Over 350 Locations Nationwide*

**13-14:** Michigan Orthotic and Prosthetic Assn. Annual Meeting  
*Bay City*

## Privileging and Off-the-Shelf Orthoses

**T**HE RECENT CHANGES to the Scope of Practice related to privileging took effect on January 1 and there have been some questions about the effect on the provision of off-the-shelf (OTS) orthoses, especially when it comes to the role of non-credentialed staff.

ABC's accreditation standards allow for the provision of OTS items by non-credentialed staff. This means that no supervision is needed when OTS items are being dispensed. Keep in mind that all of the same documentation requirements are still in place (e.g. signed delivery receipt, proof that warranty and patient instructions were provided, notes describing what was provided and why, etc.).

Visit the ABC website for more information and a privileging chart that details what types of items require credentialed staff and which items do not as well as which types of certified staff can be privileged for which specific types of services.

Remember the changes to the *Scope of Practice* did not impact the supervision and privileging of a credentialed caregiver.



One solution many companies have explored is encouraging non-credentialed staff to become certified as an orthotic or therapeutic shoe fitter. This would allow employees to continue to provide patient care independently while still staying within their scope of practice.

Clarification about the new Support Personnel category and what types of tasks can be delegated to these staff members is available on our website in the revised *Scope of Practice* which includes a full definition of the new Support Personnel category. ●

## Facility Renewal App Reminder

April 1

**R**EMINDER: all facilities with accreditations expiring August 31 must submit their reaccreditation application **no later than April 1**. If you haven't done so already, please log in to your facility's MY ABC account to submit your renewal application as soon as possible! ●