



IN~STRIDE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Charles L.
Saltzman, MD

When the earthquake hit Haiti, Dr. Bryan Den Hartog was there, with two sons and his father, helping to construct houses. They immediately flew into action working through the night to help save victims of this enormous tragedy. A few days later

Dr. Lee McCluskey dropped everything he was doing in Columbus, Georgia to join the emergency medical corps recovery effort in Haiti with Samaritan's Purse, a group he has worked with in Africa for many years. Drs. Eric Antil, John Anderson, Don Bohay, Tom Lee, João De Carvalho Neto, Rob Veith, and others immediately began firming up arrangements through other international relief organizations with an established history in Haiti. The AOFAS is collaborating with the AAOS, which is coordinating efforts and funneling volunteers' information to medical aid organizations on the ground. The Academy reports that many AOFAS members are

among the hundreds of Academy members who have volunteered to serve in Haiti. Many AOFAS members have left the comfort and safety of their lives to help those in need at a most difficult time. No doubt many volunteers will also be needed in the weeks and months to come.

The urgency and horror of the Haitian earthquake tragedy evoked a rapid response from the orthopaedic community. I am proud to be a member of that community and honor those among us who are helping those in their time of greatest need. As this issue of *In~Stride* goes to print, the initial rescue efforts for Haiti are well underway. Hopefully, by the time you read these words much good work will have been done by our colleagues to improve and save the lives of those who sustained injuries from the disaster that befell the overcrowded, impoverished nation of Haiti.

Volunteerism – an unstated AOFAS core value

Without volunteerism, and the incredible, tireless efforts of many members, the AOFAS would not exist. I have had the

The AOFAS encourages members who wish to volunteer their services, donate equipment, or sponsor/host Haitian patients at their hospitals to e-mail the AAOS International Department at Haiti@aaos.org. The international relief organizations use the AAOS information to slot in medical personnel and will continue to do so as the need is great and will extend for months.

For ongoing information, the AAOS has established a Haiti section on its website, www.aaos.org/haiti, and a members-only blog, www3.aaos.org/member/discuss/haiti.cfm, dedicated to stories about and from Haiti. Those being deployed should also send information to Zan Lofgren, CAE, AOFAS Executive Director, zlofgren@aofas.org, so the Society can follow the efforts of its members.

good fortune to be a part of that effort for almost two decades and am proud to be part of this group that strives to make the world of foot and ankle care better for all.

see President's message, page 3

New Orleans: Come for the education, stay for the fun

Under the direction of Program Chair Mark Easley, MD, leaders in several orthopaedic specialties will share the podium for the 40th Annual AOFAS Specialty Day Program on March 13, 2010 in New Orleans. This year's Specialty Day program has been designed to appeal to specialists and generalists as well as to maintain, enhance, and serve as an effective interface between foot and ankle and other disciplines within orthopaedics. "The case-based approach will be enhanced by an interactive multidisciplinary discussion and will provide attendees with a dynamic and stimulating educational format," predicts Dr. Easley.

Don't miss the Cross Pollination sessions presented by AOFAS members in

concert with other specialty experts who will address the areas of *Orthobiologics*, *Total Joint Arthroplasty*, *Periarticular Osteotomies* and *Joint-Preserving Procedures*, and *Locking Plate Technology*. This cross fertilization of approaches and ideas will lead to an enthusiastic exchange of ideas. Other program components include case-based symposia and current controversies sessions on *Hallux Valgus Correction*, the *Flexible Adult Acquired Flatfoot*, *Cartilage Repair*, and *Ankle Arthritis*. Completing and complementing the program will be four sessions highlighting original research of AOFAS members and fellows. Throughout the meeting, audience participation is encouraged.

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Presidential speakers to provide update on New Orleans reconstruction

New Orleans native R. King Milling, an advocate for restoration of gulf coast wetlands and long time champion of protection of marshes and estuaries, will present his unique perspective on the devastating impact and dangers associated with the loss of Louisiana's coast. As chair of America's WETLAND Foundation and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation, Mr. Milling has worked tirelessly to raise public awareness of the impact of Louisiana's wetland loss, including the loss of over 200 miles of this unique and intricate wetland ecosystem in 2005 at the hands of hurricanes Katrina

and Rita. Also presenting will be Anne Macdonald Milling, founder of Women of the Storm, a non-political alliance of Louisiana women dedicated to educating leadership and the public about the urgent needs of the areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

AOFAS business and collegiality

All AOFAS Active Members and Associate Members – Osteopathic are encouraged to engage in the decision making of the Society by attending the special interim business meeting which overlaps slightly with the lunch break.

Don't pass up the chance to reconnect with friends and colleagues at the annual Member Reception to take place immediately following the scientific

program from 6:00-7:30 pm in Room 209 of the Morial Convention Center.

Review the complete Specialty Day program at www.aofas.org. Although the AAOS has closed advance registration, on-site registration will be available.

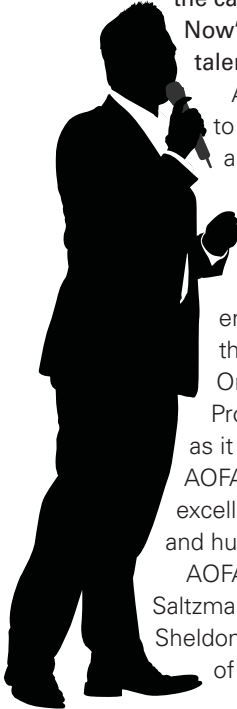
CME for Specialty Day

The AOFAS is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education.

The AOFAS designates this educational activity for a maximum of nine **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Support the OEF: A night of fun, philanthropy, challenge

Do you hum in the shower? Do you sing in the car when no one is watching? Now's your chance to apply that talent to a great cause.



AOFAS members are invited to participate in this year's annual fundraiser to support the OEF. Appropriately called the **Battle on the Bayou: A Karaoke Challenge**, guests will enjoy a night of entertainment that will be the talk of New Orleans for weeks to follow. Proceeds will benefit the OEF as it continues to support the AOFAS in its mission to provide excellence in education, research, and humanitarian service.

AOFAS President Charles Saltzman, MD, OEF President Sheldon Lin, MD, and both Boards of Directors look forward to

welcoming everyone on **Thursday, March 11 from 7:30 – 10:30 pm** at The Grand Oaks Mansion at Mardi Gras World, a famed New Orleans facility.

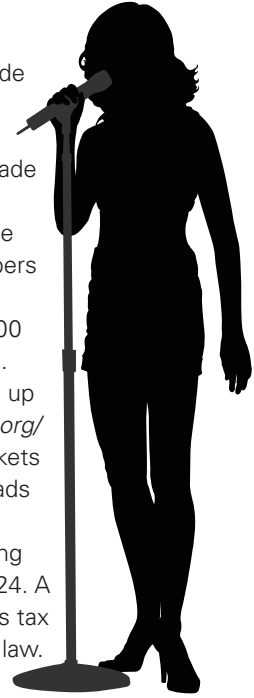
The evening's emcees: Hodges Davis, MD, and Thomas Lee, MD, are confident all will enjoy this fun-filled evening:

- New Orleans cuisine dinner buffet and open bar.
- Karaoke performances – solo acts, duos and trios, and even large groups including past and current fellows will share their vocal skills in friendly competition. Audience will vote by purchasing and tossing beads to their favorite performers. Boasting rights and prizes go to the night's winners!
- Live auction with one-of-a kind prize: Ride on a float in the 2011 Krewe of Orpheus Parade in New Orleans: the biggest, best, and last parade before Fat Tuesday during Mardi Gras. Prize valued at \$3,600 includes luncheon, two

spots on the float, parade costumes, beads to toss, and entrance to the famed Orpheuscapade Ball.

- New Orleans jazz tribute honoring AOFAS members who passed in 2009.

The cost per person is \$200 (\$85 for residents/fellows). Register and perhaps sign up to perform at www.aofas.org/specialtyday. Purchase tickets by February 24. Voting beads may also be purchased in advance with special pricing offered through February 24. A portion of each purchase is tax deductible as provided by law.



Perform, Enjoy, Vote – an event that offers something for everyone.



AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY.

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CALENDAR Current as of 1-31-10

AOFAS Members: Login to www.aofas.org for AOFAS courses for convenient online registration and to receive lower member rates.

March 13, 2010

AOFAS SPECIALTY DAY

Morial Convention Center

New Orleans, Louisiana

Program Chair: Mark E. Easley, MD

Information and registration: www.aaos.org



April 22-24, 2010

AOFAS ADVANCED FOOT AND ANKLE COURSE

Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Course Chair: Keith L. Wapner, MD

Course Co-Chairs: Thomas H. Lee, MD,
and Bruce J. Sangeorzan, MD



July 7-10, 2010

AOFAS 26th ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

Gaylord National Hotel

National Harbor, Maryland (adjacent to Washington, DC)

Program Chair: Mark E. Easley, MD

Pre-meeting Course (July 7)

Innovations in Foot & Ankle Surgery: The Future is Here!

Course Chair: Mark A. Glazebrook, MD



September 25-26, 2010

MASTERS EXPERIENCE:

FOOT & ANKLE ARTHROSCOPY

Sponsors: AANA and AOFAS

Orthopaedic Learning Center

Rosemont, Illinois

Information and registration: www.aana.org



October 1-2, 2010

AOFAS COMPLETE FOOT CARE COURSE

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

Hershey, Pennsylvania

Course Chair: Paul J. Juliano, MD

Information and registration available soon



September 21-23, 2011

IFFAS 4th TRIENNIAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Nara, Japan

Program Chair: Mitsuo Kinoshita, MD

Watch for more information

Save the
Date!



President's message continued from page 1

Many opportunities to serve

I ask you to consider the ways you can participate in the AOFAS and make a contribution to strengthen our profession. Among these I encourage you to:

1. Volunteer for a committee
2. Submit an article to *FAI*
3. Submit an abstract for an AOFAS meeting
4. Develop content for *Orthopaedia*[®]
5. Come to meetings and courses
6. Serve on a course faculty
7. Make a financial contribution to the OEF
8. Volunteer for the AOFAS Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam or the HVO/AOFAS site in Uganda.

In the past several months the AOFAS leadership has been working to make some of these opportunities more accessible to members who wish to contribute to the mission of the organization. I will mention two that are critical.

Orthopaedia.com

Last summer the AOFAS joined with the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons (ABJS) and committed to oversight and content development for the foot and ankle section of *Orthopaedia*, the collaborative orthopaedic knowledgebase. The section editorial board, led by Dr. Jonathan Deland, has organized the topic format and has members authoring articles on 10 topics. Visits to the site, www.orthopaedia.com, are increasing and foot and ankle content pages are being developed and posted. Announcements about *Orthopaedia* will be increasing to encourage members to participate and contribute to this repository of orthopaedic information.

Battle on the Bayou – the OEF benefit event in New Orleans

Our Outreach & Education Fund (OEF) ensures the future of the AOFAS by supporting education, research, and humanitarian initiatives. On March 11, Thursday night of the AAOS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the OEF will host a Mardi Gras-themed karaoke extravaganza event – *Battle on the Bayou*. Please join your AOFAS friends and colleagues for Cajun food, drinks, and a night filled with outrageous entertainment to benefit the OEF. I hope to see all of you there!

Charles L. Saltzman, MD

Member CME certificates available online

AOFAS members may access their individual CME certificates online. Simply go to the AOFAS website, www.aofas.org, and select the Medical Professional option. Using your personal

login information, click on *Print CME certificate for AOFAS courses* under the My Profile icon. CME files are updated approximately two weeks after every meeting.

Advanced Foot and Ankle Course in Philadelphia

The bi-annual *Advanced Foot and Ankle Course: Reconstruction and Salvage of Complications* will be held April 22-24, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing.

The course, with Keith Wapner, MD, chair and Co-Chairs Thomas Lee, MD, and Bruce Sangeorzan, MD, is designed for all orthopaedic surgeons and fellows who treat acute and chronic problems of the foot and ankle. Attendees should have a good working knowledge of problems associated with the management of common as well as complex foot and ankle clinical problems related to trauma, sports injuries, and reconstruction procedures. "Cutting edge material in this course will be presented in a case-based format, with faculty interaction a primary goal," says Program Chair Keith Wapner, MD. "Attendees will be encouraged to bring challenging cases to discuss with faculty during a series of breakout groups and there will be plenty of opportunity for audience and faculty interaction and debate," continues Dr. Wapner. Registrants will be able to earn up to **16 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™** for participating in this course.

"New to the program this year will be a session entitled *Get to Know the Expert: A Discussion of the Best Article I Read*

this Year which will feature select faculty members discussing articles that have had a significant impact on the way they practice and/or approach particular clinical situations," reports Thomas Lee, MD, co-chair.

Expanded opportunities to interact with industry partners over the three-day meeting are also being developed. "We have relied on feedback from previous course attendees to lead the development of the program and feel the design of this meeting will give registrants valuable solutions and insights into treatment options, technique outcomes, and how to avoid complications," says Bruce Sangeorzan, MD, co-chair.

In addition to these innovations to the program format and concentration on evidence-based learning, the program will address a comprehensive selection of clinical topics, including:

- Cavovarus Deformities
- Advanced Biologics and Technology
- Sports Injuries
- Diabetes
- Forefoot
- Trauma
- Posterior Tibial Tendon and Acquired Flatfeet
- Ankle Arthroplasty



Penn's Landing

Serving on the faculty will be:

Keith L. Wapner, MD, Chair
Thomas H. Lee, MD, Co-Chair
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See further course details, the complete program, exhibit opportunities, registration, and venue information at www.aofas.org or phone 800-235-4855 (847-698-4654 outside US).

Like a box of chocolates: Hershey, PA to host 2010 Complete Foot Care Course

Mark the calendar now for the bi-annual AOFAS Complete Foot Care Course, October 1-2, 2010 in Hershey, Pennsylvania at the University Conference Center Penn State Hershey Campus. This multidisciplinary course will emphasize the non-surgical team approach to foot and ankle care and is designed for physicians and other health care professionals involved in foot care.

"This course offers a comprehensive review and a fresh perspective on those conditions commonly seen in a foot and ankle practice," says Paul Julianio, MD, Hershey, Pennsylvania, course chair. "What makes the course unique is its integration of all aspects of foot and ankle care – making it an important component in the continuing education of your nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, orthopaedic technicians, physical therapists, prosthetists/orthotists,

pedorthists, and medical assistants," continues Dr. Julianio.

Topics will include the evaluation and office treatment of common causes of forefoot, midfoot and hindfoot pain, the assessment of foot mechanics, the aging foot, the role of footwear and orthotic devices in treating disorders, foot and ankle injuries, and foot complications in diabetic patients. In general sessions, members of the faculty (including physicians, nurses, physical therapists, orthotists, and pedorthists) will discuss their roles in the integrated care of a wide variety of common foot and ankle ailments. Hands-on afternoon breakout sessions will address aspects of foot and ankle care relevant to each participant's specific practice and provide an environment conducive to interaction and learning. Case presentations will demonstrate treatment principles and



Hershey Famous Kiss Street Lights

facilitate open discussion.

See further course details, the complete program, exhibit opportunities, registration, and venue information at www.aofas.org or phone 800-235-4855 (847-698-4654 outside US).

AOFAS 26th Annual Summer Meeting

Starting new decade on the right foot ...

Welcoming foot and ankle surgeons worldwide

This year's annual meeting will be held July 7-10, 2010 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Just adjacent to Washington, DC, this exciting, new waterfront community offers the ideal setting for colleagues to gather from around the world and engage in this highly interactive educational forum.

Pre-meeting Course leads the way *Innovations in Foot & Ankle Surgery: The Future is Here!*

Begin the educational experience by attending the 6th annual Pre-meeting Course on Wednesday, July 7. Chaired by Mark Glazebrook, MD, the program will present a comprehensive and unique review of evolving and cutting edge technologies and innovations in multiple areas including bone, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments. The in-depth pre-conference symposium will detail the latest in bone graft substitutes, cartilage regeneration/replacement techniques, as well as the use of allografts in foot and ankle surgery. Following the successful model implemented in 2009, the program will allow time for industry-presented satellite symposia between clinical sessions.

Annual Meeting with an international flair

The three days following the *Innovations in Foot & Ankle Surgery* program will include scientific paper presentations, guest speakers, research updates, symposia, and electronic poster displays. "The AOFAS Annual Summer Meeting has always been the premier educational event in orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery and this year promises to be a winner," says AOFAS President Charles Saltzman, MD.

"The opportunities for scientific exchange and debate are endless and we promise programming on the most up-to-date and innovative techniques," says Program Chair Mark Easley, MD. "The Program Committee is working hard to develop a meeting that promises to offer a dynamic and diverse educational program on a global scale," continues Dr. Easley. The program will be carefully formatted to balance proven techniques – traditional

and innovative – and invited speakers will be encouraged to present a wide range of clinical outcomes, based on evidence and clinical scientific research.

Location, location, location

The Washington metro area is served by three major airports with the Ronald Reagan National Airport being closest to National Harbor and offering convenient ground transportation options to the Gaylord National Hotel. Newly opened in 2008, the Gaylord features 2,000 guest rooms, six restaurants, a nightclub, retail shopping, a full service spa and fitness center, indoor/outdoor swimming pool, and so much more. The property occupies more than 40 acres of land along the Potomac – quite a sight at sunset.

National Harbor is situated just eight miles south of downtown Washington, DC and directly across the waterway from historic Alexandria, Virginia. The DC area offers a vast range of social and multicultural entertainment activities for attendees and guests. Come early or stay longer to take advantage of all the area has to offer.

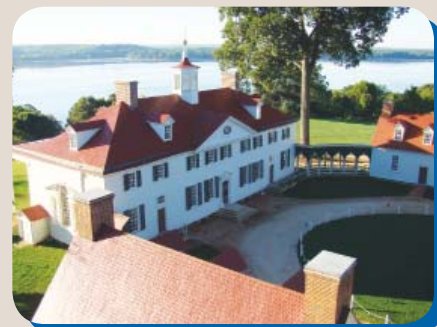
Social activities offer something for everyone

Plans are well underway for a myriad of social gatherings. All attendees are invited to the Wednesday evening Welcome Reception to share good conversation, appetizers, and beverages with friends and company representatives while taking a first walk through the expansive Exhibit Hall. This is the perfect time to see what is new and schedule more in-depth visits for Thursday and Friday.

Sports enthusiasts may choose to participate in the Thursday afternoon Kenneth A. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament at nearby National Golf Club at Tantallon or perhaps in a round robin tennis tournament currently being considered.

Keep Friday night open for the Annual Gala – *Party on the Potomac*. Enjoy the beautiful outdoor setting, fun barbeque dinner buffet, something to toast the night with, and musical entertainment by the *Sole-Heelers* with an encore of last year's smash performance. Be sure to sign up the kids, too, as there will be plenty to keep them amused.

And there is more – this is just a sampling of the many networking opportunities to be offered.



From top: Gaylord National Hotel
US Capitol Building
Mount Vernon
National Golf Club at Tantallon

More information coming soon

The link for online hotel reservations is available now at www.aofas.org/annualmeeting. The final educational program, information about additional learning opportunities, access to meeting registration, travel suggestions, local transportation information, and the social activities schedule will be available early March.

Visit the AOFAS website for the most current updates, watch the mail for the complete brochure, and open e-mail for ongoing announcements. Meeting registration will begin mid-March.

Support of the OEF is an investment in the specialty

OEF individual donors

The AOFAS and the OEF gratefully acknowledge the following for their contributions to the AOFAS and the OEF either directly or by designated gifts through the Orthopaedic Research & Education Foundation (OREF), from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

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The AOFAS and the OEF gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who have made contributions, pledges, and legacy gifts to the OREF Endowment Fund and designated their donation to the AOFAS Endowment from its inception in 1999 through December 31, 2009. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide funding for research and education in perpetuity. The Board of Directors has directed that this fund be used for the OEF.

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The AOFAS and OEF gratefully acknowledge gifts received. Be assured that every effort is made to avoid errors; however, an error may occur during production. If your name has been accidentally omitted or reported incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us of the change.

OEF funds new AOFAS outreach to residents

At the Board retreat in October, the AOFAS and OEF Boards approved a series of resident outreach initiatives for the coming year. The goal is to increase the visibility and communicate the benefits of a career in orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery to residents by delivering resident-specific education and resident outreach programs. The resident outreach programs are funded by the OEF with generous contributions from individuals and industry.

During the course of the year, AOFAS will unveil three new programs: **Visiting Professor Program**, **Resident Scholarship Program**, and **Regional Resident Review Courses**. In addition, the 2003 **Resident Lecture Series** is being updated and will be ready for distribution to orthopaedic residency training programs this fall.

The first of the programs, the **Visiting Professor Program**, was rolled out in mid-December to orthopaedic residency training programs. Institutions are invited to host one of the AOFAS Visiting Professors for a two-day visit to speak to residents at all levels. Past presidents Robert Anderson, MD, and Steven Ross, MD, are the inaugural visiting professors. They will participate in clinics, lectures and/or grand rounds and attend a dinner with faculty and residents. The program is under the direction of the Post-Graduate Education and Training Committee, chaired by Vinod Panchbhavi, MD. To find out more about the Visiting Professor Program or to schedule a visit at your institution, contact Peggy Reilly, Outreach Programs Manager, at 847-384-4379 or preilly@aofas.org.

The **Resident Scholarship Program**, under the direction of the Awards & Scholarships Committee chaired by Paul Hecht, MD, will allow selected PGY2 and PGY3 orthopaedic residents with an interest in foot and ankle surgery an opportunity to attend the AOFAS Annual Summer Meeting in 2010 to learn more about foot and ankle surgery and to network with members. The program covers registration fees for the Annual Summer Meeting, Pre-meeting Course, the CPT® course, and the gala event. In addition, the AOFAS will cover the cost of four nights lodging and transportation for the residents. Residents will be selected on a competitive basis. Encourage orthopaedic surgery residents to apply online at www.aofas.org or contact Peggy Reilly, Outreach Programs Manager, at 847-384-4379 or preilly@aofas.org.

Orthopaedia®: Orthopaedic community knowledge sharing

Last summer the AOFAS joined with the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons to oversee the content development of the foot and ankle section of Orthopaedia, a collaborative orthopaedic knowledgebase. Orthopaedia is built on a simple, powerful wiki platform that allows users to create and share articles, videos, and documents with colleagues.

An editorial board led by Jonathan Deland, MD, has organized the format and topic areas for the foot and ankle section. Ten articles are being created and the first is now available: *Posterior Tibial Tendon Insufficiency*.

Subscription is free and open only to orthopaedic professionals. The foot and ankle section is now being developed and initial articles will be posted over the next six months. The most important participants will be AOFAS members.

The AOFAS encourages members to subscribe and contribute orthopaedic information to this easily updated international resource for a wide audience of professionals. The foot and ankle section will officially launch for member participation after Specialty Day. Visit www.orthopaedia.com to subscribe.

AOFAS social media

Tweeting, wall-posting foot and ankle education

According to a survey by the Angerosa Research Foundation, 57% of associations currently participate in social media.



The AOFAS is now one of them! A Twitter account and Facebook Fan page have been created to expand the Society's communication and raise public awareness and education of the prevention and treatment of foot and ankle disorders. Members are encouraged to follow the AOFAS Twitter account at www.twitter.com/aofas, and become a fan of the AOFAS Facebook page at http://bit.ly/AOFAS_Fan_Page. Only publicly appropriate information should be shared on these sites. A members only Facebook Group will be created to enhance collaboration between members later this spring.

AOFAS remembers “Hap” Lutter, MD

by E. Greer Richardson, MD



“Hap” Lutter, MD

Lowell Dean “Hap” Lutter, MD, AOFAS President (1993-1994) and *FAJ* Editor-in-Chief (1993-2004), died at home in St. Paul, Minnesota, October 4, 2009 at age 70. At his

side were his wife, Judy, and his children. What a fitting farewell to a life well lived.

I first met Hap in 1982. Being a recent convert to foot and ankle and having a ‘Runners Clinic’, which would drive one to distraction, it was thought best to find help.

Hap graciously granted a visit to his clinic. It was the beginning of a long and wonderful friendship. Hap explained why an orthosis was modified in one patient in one manner and differently in another patient. In his unique openness

and candidness, he said, “Sometimes you do not know for sure what will work and sometimes nothing done to modify an orthosis helps the patient.” Hap treated patients as he would wish to be treated. He was a true doctor worthy of respect and emulation. He wrote in *FAJ*: “Engender the sense within – to care deeply about a patient’s welfare – which will transcend the medical pathology.” Hap lived this.

Hap volunteered 4-6 weeks a year in Tunisia. He was the chief of staff of Gillette Children’s Hospital, St. Paul, and taught there for most of his career. While giving scores of lectures to enhance orthopaedic education, he maintained a busy private practice.

Hap volunteered in community health fitness projects and programs and put himself into the programs by example. Even in fly fishing he was active in conservation of banks and streams.

Hap was a dedicated and respected runner, cross-country skier, and cyclist, completing over 30 marathons locally, nationally, and internationally.

Hap’s greatest contribution was to his family. To his beloved wife and soul mate, Judy; their children, Wendy, Reid, and Parke; grandchildren, Tate, Paige, Isabelle, and Perry; and ‘in-Loves’ Jessica, Eric, and Ronen, Hap was simply Hap, Dad, and Papa in all the fullness and richness those titles enlist.

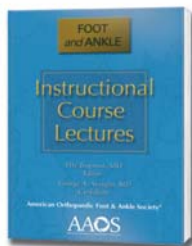
To list all of Hap’s accomplishments professionally and personally would be notoriety he would not wish. May all of us in Hap’s ‘FOOT FAMILY’ allow these words from Charlie Saltzman to express what we all felt toward Hap and how deeply we will miss him.

“What a sad day. Hap was a special person and we are lucky he touched our lives.”

AAOS/AOFAS ICL Foot & Ankle

Elly Trepman, MD, Editor
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Published cooperatively by the AAOS and the AOFAS, this new, specialized volume of practical expertise and surgical approaches



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List Price: \$129
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OKU 4: Foot and Ankle

Michael Pinzur, MD, Editor

Developed by the AOFAS and published by the AAOS, this essential resource presents the most recent knowledge on foot and ankle injuries and conditions from the past five years and highlights today’s most promising treatments and approaches. New features include more evidence-based data and discussions of the most modern and controversial techniques on total ankle replacements. It also includes expanded subject areas on ankle arthritis, fractures, and nonoperative treatment options, as well as an annotated reference list with summaries of key articles and levels of evidence.

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New CMS reimbursement policy for consultation services Consult codes no longer recognized

by Walter Pedowitz, MD

As of January 1, 2010, the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will no longer reimburse physicians for consultations using the CPT® consultation codes. The consultation codes comprise CPT codes 99241-99245 for office or other outpatient consults and 99251-99255 for inpatient consultations. Instead, the CMS has instructed physicians to “bill Medicare using the new or established patient codes.”

Background

In the government’s physician fee schedule for calendar year 2010, the CMS budget neutrality eliminated the use of all consultation codes. At the same time the agency increased the incremental work relative value units (RVUs) for new and established office visits, increased work RVUs for initial hospital and initial nursing facility visits, and incorporated the increased use of these visits into calculations for the practice expense and malpractice components of the RBRVS payment formula. The CMS also increased the incremental work RVUs for the evaluation and management (E/M) codes that are built into the 10-day and 90-day global surgical codes. Please note the rule technically applies only to **Medicare**.

Medicaid, as a state-by-state administered program, has the option to not follow this rule. However, it is safe to assume most states will follow CMS instructions on this matter. Other carriers have not yet stated whether they will adopt similar policies for consultative services.

Consult codes are no longer recognized by the CMS. Physicians must now bill Medicare using the new or established patient codes.

New CMS rules for billing Medicare E/M services

Physicians are to code patient evaluation and management visits with E/M codes that represent where the visit occurs

and identify the complexity of the visit performed.

- Initial hospital care CPT 99221-99223
- Subsequent hospital care CPT 99231-99233
- Initial office care CPT 99201-99205
- Established patient care 99211-99215
- ER 99281-99285 – These codes only apply to Medicare patients in the ER. (Use consult codes for non-Medicare patients seen in the ER.)

A new CMS modifier “-AI,” (that’s an i) will identify the admitting or attending physician who oversees the patient’s care as distinct from other physicians who may be furnishing specialty care.

A provider education article related to this instruction is also available at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMArticles.

Scenarios to illustrate

Is it a consult or not? - Your group cross-covers with another group every other night. An elderly woman with an ankle injury comes in on a Monday and the orthopaedic surgeon covering that day asks you to take care of this patient on Tuesday. You have never seen the patient before. Is this a consult? No, this is a transfer of care. The surgeons in the other group have the same expertise that you do, and transfer is established by the coverage agreement.

Request for opinion - If an additional request for opinion or advice is received from a different physician or appropriate source regarding the same or new problem in the *same patient*, the consult can be used again. This information is carefully documented in the medical record. According to the new CMS payment policy, this is an established patient and the CPT code will not be recognized.

Consultation in same group - If a physician in a group requests a consultation from another physician in the same group, this will not be covered by Medicare. It will, however, be covered by insurance carriers, provided that all the requirements for the

CPT consultation code are met. The CMS originally wrote the rules for consults that are followed by all other carriers but are not covered by the CMS. (Medicare Carriers Manual Sec. B3 15506-Revised August 1999)

It is acceptable to refer a patient to a physician within the group with a different specialty or more expertise in a particular area. However, this physician’s credentials/expertise should be clearly documented in the medical record to support the medical necessity of a referral within the group. Examples would be referral by an ophthalmologist to a retinal specialist or by a cardiologist to an electrophysiologist within their respective groups. While consultation policy allows this practice, routine use of this provision is not recommended. It should be noted that this practice has been targeted and highly scrutinized by both the government’s Office of Inspector General and insurance auditors. When a referral of this type is made, it would be coded as a follow-up patient visit according to CMS policy. We have sent an inquiry to the CMS about this policy.

ER scenarios - You are called by the emergency room physician to see a Medicare patient and offer an opinion. CPT codes 99242-99245 would be used to code this service as an ER outpatient consult service.

Asking a patient to meet you in the ER would be an outpatient visit and CPT codes 99202-99205 and 99212-99215 would apply.

If you are called to the ER by the emergency physician, tell the ER doctor to *admit* the patient. When you see the patient in the hospital later that day or the next day, the service is billed as a new patient hospital visit. You would be unable to code the call to the ER.

A word of caution ... ER codes are intended for ER physicians, with the exception that the CMS allows billing of CPT codes 99281-99285. Note that ER physicians may only bill 90 day global CPT codes if they perform restorative treatment and must use modifier 54-procedure only.

Dr. Pedowitz represents the AOFAS as CPT Advisor on the AMA CPT Advisory Committee, chairs the AOFAS CPT/RUC Committee, and represents the AOFAS on the AAOS Coding, Coverage and Reimbursement Committee.

Thank You to AOFAS members who ...

- **Paid their dues by the February 1 deadline**

Notices were mailed late November. If a notice was not received or to discuss payment options, please contact the AOFAS Executive Office so there is no interruption in member benefits.

Members in the process of elevating were billed at their new level rate in early February and have an extended due date.

New member applicants will be billed for their 2010 dues pending a final vote of approval during the Business Meeting on March 13, 2010.

- **Updated their contact information**

Members were asked to login to their member profile and advise the AOFAS Executive Office of any changes. Current e-mail addresses are especially critical as they are used for receipts for dues payments, order and meeting registration payments, and, of course, key information from the Society. The AOFAS has definitely gone green.

The bi-annual, members-only printed Membership Directory will be mailed to members in late February and will include work contact information as well as key Society information for convenient reference. Note that the most current work contact information for Candidate, Active, Associate, and International Members appears live at *Find An Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle MD / DO* on the AOFAS website. Members who login before going into the online directory will also be able to view cell phone, home phone, and e-mail information if approved for release by the member. The public can only access work information.

- **Who sponsored a new or elevating member applicant**

This participation in the application process has enabled the Society to go past the 1,800 member count in 2010.

- **Added their website to their AOFAS profile and/or added a link to the AOFAS from their website**

Members were encouraged to provide their practice URL to be added to their member profile to assist the public when viewing contact information online. Members who want to link to the AOFAS from their individual website should list the full Society name as **American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society** and link to www.aofas.org.

- **Who added "foot & ankle" as an anatomical specialty to their AAOS profile**

The AAOS member record should include foot and ankle on the demographic listing to aid the public as well as to assist the AAOS in identifying AOFAS members as foot and ankle specialists. The AAOS routinely sends out various announcements of new foot and ankle products that should not be missed. View your AAOS record and update if it does not yet include this subspecialty information.

The best referrals come from members. If you know an orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeon who is not yet an AOFAS member, please have them contact Lois Bierman, Director of Membership & Marketing, at LBierman@aofas.org or 847-384-4382.

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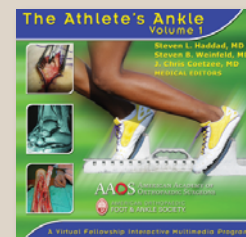
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