The AOFAS continues to be busy on many fronts and is expanding opportunities for members. Our Board voted to proceed with an AOFAS Military Visitation Program to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center in Washington, DC. This educational event, to be held April 12-13, will be co-chaired by Don Bohay, MD and MAJ Scott Shawen, MD, who recently returned from duty in Afghanistan. This fall Dr. Bohay and I, accompanied by Zan Lofgren, our executive director, made a site visit to these military medical facilities for preliminary discussions on an educational program for AOFAS members. MAJ Shawen and MAJ David Rozelle, the first soldier to return to duty in Iraq with a prosthetic limb, presented cases and conducted tours of the treatment centers and the prosthetic manufacturing facility. The AOFAS Military Visitation Program will be an interactive educational seminar focused on war injuries to the lower extremity and will include tours of the military's state-of-the-art rehab facilities. Registration is limited to 25. Please contact the AOFAS office to register.

The programs for our Specialty Day meeting on Feb. 17 and our Annual Summer Meeting to be held July 12-15 in Toronto are well in place. Thanks are due to Chris DiGiovanni, MD, who has done an outstanding job as program chair. A large number of international attendees will participate in symposia on multiple interesting topics. Our summer meeting will also offer optional afternoon courses, as well as social activities for attendees and families.

The newly created AOFAS Task Force on Evidence-based Practice will be chaired by Mark Easley, MD. This important task force will review the evidence for guideline development on foot and ankle topics. Dr. Easley will also serve on the AAOS Evidence Analysis Committee.

Anthony Rankin, MD, AAOS second vice president, attended the AOFAS Board of Directors retreat in October and reported on current AAOS activities, particularly those that would benefit from mutual collaboration with AOFAS. Dr. Rankin also presented on his humanitarian service in Malawi, Africa and encouraged AOFAS in its humanitarian outreach program.

The Outreach & Education Fund (OEF) Board, chaired by Naomi Shields, MD is embarking on new corporate and member fundraising initiatives. Dr. Shields and Tom Lee, MD, see President’s Message, page 2

AOFAS Summer Meeting:
Hospitality - Educational Opportunities -
Technical Innovations Await You in Toronto!

Ranked as the fifth largest metro centre in North America and recently noted as the third most courteous city (Reader’s Guide), Toronto is a city waiting to welcome all with open arms to the 23rd Annual Summer Meeting of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society to be held July 12-15, 2007 at the beautiful waterfront Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.

The name Toronto comes from the Huron Indian word for “to be plenty” which is often interpreted as “place of meeting.” That’s exactly what you’ll encounter according to local hosts Drs. Timothy Daniels and Johnny Lau: an abundance of great people to meet; a unique and broad range of indoor and outdoor activities for all ages to enjoy day and night; history, arts and culture at every turn to delight in; distinctive cuisine to satisfy every taste, and so much more. “The meeting’s family-friendly format will feature scientific sessions in the morning, interesting optional afternoon practice management programs and plenty of time to experience all that Toronto has to offer,” says President Lowell Gill.

Experience Toronto

Imagine standing at the top of the world’s largest freestanding building (CN Tower), strolling through a majestic castle and its beautiful estate gardens (Casa Loma), taking a bike tour through breathtaking scenery (Toronto Islands), enjoying a uniquely fascinating museum (Bata Shoe Museum), playing a round of golf at one of the most challenging courses (Lionhead), and viewing one of the world’s most spectacular natural wonders (Niagara Falls). And this is only a sampling of what you can do while in Toronto.

Many of Toronto’s major attractions, including downtown places of interest, are located within easy walking distance of the Westin Harbour Castle. A visitor-friendly transit system is available to easily transport you to attractions located a little further away. The AOFAS Web site has posted a link to see Annual Summer Meeting, page 2
working with AOFAS staff, have developed a new OEF brochure showcasing AOFAS programs that have received OEF funding contributed by industry and individual members.

Our newly appointed AOFAS representative to the AAOS Board of Specialty Societies is Brian Den Hartog, MD. He attended the AAOS combined fall meeting of the Board of Specialty Societies and Board of Councilors in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Walter Pedowitz, MD and Tye Ouzounian, MD have been busy with coding issues. Dr. Pedowitz has met with representatives from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) on development of a code for the OATS/Mosaicplasty procedure for the ankle. The AOFAS gratefully acknowledges the time and effort of members who participated in surveys for the AMA/Relative Value Update Committee to provide “physician work” data for revised CPT codes.

Greer Richardson, MD, FAI editor-in-chief, and the journal’s senior editors have been working on improvements to the editorial process and other aspects of our journal.

The AOFAS Young Physicians Section is planning a meeting during the AAOS meeting in San Diego.

Finally, the board of the American Podiatric Medical Association asked for a meeting this fall with physician leaders to explore reorganization and potential upgraded recognition of their education and training in line with other medical providers. I represented AOFAS along with Steven Ross, MD, AOFAS president-elect; John Early, MD, AOFAS Health Policy Committee chair, and Zan Lofgren, executive director. The Oct. 24 meeting included the leadership of the AMA, AAOS, and that of the APMA. In a joint follow-up letter to the AMA, the AAOS and AOFAS indicated that in order to be recognized in the same fashion as medical doctors, podiatrists would need to be subject to the same standards and qualifications of medical doctors.

We look forward to your attendance at Specialty Day in San Diego.

Lowell H. Gill, MD, President

Annual Summer Meeting

continued from page 1

Toronto Tourism (www.torontotourism.com) for your activity planning convenience.

Camaraderie is a key component of the AOFAS Annual Summer Meeting experience so several special ticketed tours and events are planned for your enjoyment. Complete details about organized activities will be posted online and appear in the printed Annual Summer Meeting brochure.

Program Highlights

Chris DiGiovanni, MD, program chair, and his committee are hard at work reviewing a record number of abstract submissions and organizing a well-rounded educational program designed to appeal to the largest assembly of orthopaedic surgeons dedicated to enhancing and furthering their knowledge of foot and ankle surgery. “Following the format established at last year’s Summer Meeting, there will be a series of debates, scientific paper presentations, electronic poster displays and guest speakers – but with some new twists. Cutting edge symposia, podium presentations, guest speakers and e-posters will be among the highlights of the meeting,” reports Dr. DiGiovanni.

4th Annual Pre-meeting Course on The Agony of De Feet: Complex Reconstruction of the Foot and Ankle

The pre-meeting course, “Complex Reconstruction of the Foot and Ankle”, will be presented on Thursday, July 12. “This program is designed to be dynamic, controversial and challenging for all panel participants,” says Mark Easley, MD, program chair. “Our goal will be to stimulate discussion between panelists and encourage audience participation – push the panelists and even put them on the spot in a way. The program will be full of fun surprises and almost ‘American Idol-like’ in its approach – involving prizes and perhaps eliminations,” promises Dr. Easley.

Immediately following the morning session, our industry partners will have the opportunity to coordinate and present half day programming on their latest technologies and devices.

See Annual Summer Meeting, page 3
Annual Summer Meeting
continued from page 2

Breakfast with Poster Presenters and Exhibitors
Be sure to attend the morning coffee breaks in the Exhibit Hall and stop at one of the many computer kiosks to view the electronic posters. For the second year, traditional posters have been replaced by these user friendly computer-based e-posters. Once again, awards will be given to the three top e-posters and this year new awards will be given to the authors of the three Best Technique Tips.

New Practice Management and Media Programs
New to the program this year will be the presentation of optional afternoon sessions designed by the Task Force on Practice Management. Topics to be offered on Friday afternoon include practice management and CPT coding.

As a diversion from our academic meeting topics, noted communications expert Pat Clark will present an early Saturday afternoon session on how to interact successfully during media interviews in a humorous, entertaining but informative way.

Exhibits and More Exhibits
Over 65 companies will be housed in the Exhibit Hall – providing the opportunity to compare products and services and get answers to your questions. Be sure to set aside dedicated time to share a cup of coffee or soft drink with the exhibitors.

Important Change in International Travel Requirements
This year marks the implementation of new international travel requirements for all travelers. Please make sure you and your family members have your current passports.

January 23, 2007: The following requirement applies to all international travel, including travel to or from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. All adults and children – including U.S. citizens will be required to have a valid passport with six-months remaining before expiration. Travelers from certain countries may also require a visa. Please check with your local authorities for proper documentation.

For more information, please visit www.travel.state.gov or www.dhs.gov

The Annual Summer Meeting registration materials will be mailed to you in March. You may also visit www.aofas.org for up-to-date registration and program materials.

Preliminary Summer Meeting at a Glance*

Thursday, July 12, 2007
7:00am - Pre-meeting Course on Complex Reconstruction
Afternoon - Industry-presented Workshops
Afternoon - Optional Tour
Evening - Welcome Reception

Friday, July 13, 2007
6:00am - 1:30pm - Exhibit Hall
6:45am - 1:00pm - Scientific Session
Afternoon - Practice Management Sessions
Afternoon - Optional Tour
Evening - Gala Event

Saturday, July 14, 2007
6:00am - 1:30pm - Exhibit Hall
6:45am - 1:00pm - Scientific Session
Afternoon - Optional Media Training Session
Afternoon - Optional Tour
Afternoon - Annual Kenneth Johnson Golf Tournament

Sunday, July 15, 2007
6:30-10:30am - Scientific Session
* Times listed are preliminary and are subject to change

NEW Award Opportunities for BEST TECHNIQUE TIP at the Toronto Annual Summer Meeting

Deadline for Applications February 20

The Program Committee is announcing that applications for the new BEST TECHNIQUE TIP are now being accepted. E-mail AOFAS at jnorthrup@aofas.org a description of your tip by February 20 and include the title, authors, conflict of interest disclosure notification, background, method, results and conclusions in 200 words or less. The abstracts must be about actual surgical technique tips and show a new or better way of doing something. Applications will be reviewed by the Program Committee. First, second and third place award recipients will receive a cash prize and will be recognized at the Toronto meeting. Winning tips will be included on the program, as well as part of the e-poster series. For more information, visit www.aofas.org and follow the link under the 23rd Annual AOFAS Summer Meeting.
Join us at Specialty Day 2007, held on Saturday, February 17, during the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons’ Annual Meeting in San Diego. “The program has been designed to provide state-of-the-art information for both the general orthopaedic surgeon and the orthopaedic foot and ankle specialist,” says Chris DiGiovanni, MD, program chair. “The unique part about this year’s meeting will be the mix of symposia discussing some fairly controversial topics in foot and ankle, excellent free papers, and a blend of US and international participants from around the world – to bring a balanced, collective experience to the program,” promises Dr. DiGiovanni. The meeting will take place in Room 6B of the San Diego Convention Center from 7:00am – 5:00pm.

The comprehensive program will start with an Early Bird Discussion on ‘Gastrocnemius Equinus’ and will include debates on ‘MIS Techniques’, ‘Optimal Correction of Forefoot Abduction/Supination’ and ‘Controversial Topics in Sports Injuries’. Symposia topics will cover the latest treatment options for ‘2nd MPJ Instability’, ‘Stage 3 Hallux Rigidus’ and ‘Approaches for Lateral Talar OCDs’. ‘Subtle Cavus Foot’ will be the subject of an in-depth Current Concept Review. The program will also include free paper presentations covering a range of research interests and developments.

Specialty Day will also feature two outstanding Guest Speakers, including Tom House, PhD, considered by many to be the “Father of Modern Pitching Mechanics” and co-founder of the National Pitching Association. Dr. House, a former professional pitcher from 1967-1979, was instrumental in developing computerized, three-dimensional motion analysis systems to help athletes learn how to maximize performance through proper biomechanics and will discuss “The Mechanics and Kinematics of Pitching a Baseball.”

MAJ Scott B. Shawen, MD, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, has been invited as President Lowell Gill’s Guest Speaker to present an informative and thought-provoking update on the treatment being rendered by military orthopaedic surgeons and the military’s comprehensive state-of-the-art rehabilitation program for injured soldiers. MAJ Shawen will discuss common and complex combat-related clinical problems of the foot and ankle.

Overall, the program has been designed to allow for more discussion and audience interaction. “This redirection of time from the podium to the floor will hopefully enable time to compare, contract, and challenge, and of course, better understand the topics being presented,” predicts Dr. DiGiovanni.

To view the complete program and registration information go to www.aaos.org or www.aofas.org.

AOFAS Interim Business Meeting
Saturday, February 17, 2007 • 12:25 – 12:40 pm
(Immediately following the morning scientific program)
San Diego Convention Center, Room 6B
Agenda items include:
• Nomination of members to the Nominating Committee
• Election of Members to Active, Candidate, International, Fellow and Resident Membership
Voting is limited to AOFAS Active Members.

CME Credit for Specialty Day 2007
AOFAS is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education. AOFAS designates this Specialty Day program for a maximum of 8.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. CME certificates can be obtained by visiting the marked kiosks in the San Diego Convention Center.
Summer Meeting 2006: Facts, Fellowship and Family

Members of AOFAS and many non-member physicians were drawn to attend the 2006 AOFAS Summer Meeting in La Jolla, California primarily by the scientific content offered, and secondarily by the opportunity for fellowship with colleagues and the beautiful coastal location. These and other results were gleaned from the e-survey sent to all summer meeting attendees in late August. The survey’s intent was to get a sense of what members want and expect from the annual summer meeting, and to collect ideas and suggestions for its improvement. Of the 142 respondents, 90% were members of the AOFAS.

Survey results showed that about half of those responding attend the summer meeting every year, and two-thirds plan to attend the next summer meeting in Toronto (July 12-15, 2007). The meeting location of La Jolla followed by Toronto fits the bill of attendees’ preference (almost 2/3) for alternating resort and city locations each year, versus all city or all resort destinations.

About 100 distinct destinations were suggested by 89 respondents and they covered the four corners of North America including Cabo San Lucas, Cape Cod, Jackson Hole and Branson. The most frequently suggested meeting sites included Vail, San Francisco, Vancouver and Banff, each receiving 12 to 19 mentions.

In addition to great destinations, many members and other attendees are looking for recreation and family fun. While the winter meeting is considered “work,” they felt the summer meeting’s scientific content should be wrapped in fun. A spouse or guest is expected to accompany 60% of those planning to attend in Toronto. Some members commented, “I prefer to organize my own free time,” while others (53%) are interested in having group activities organized through the society with primary interest focused on sightseeing places unique to the locale, golf (“golf, golf, and more golf”) and other outdoor sports activities.

About half of those planning to attend in Toronto are expecting to bring children, including all ages up to 17. Many comments were offered regarding children including the desire for supervised activities during adult events plus events intended for the whole family (we “need to cater to all ages, toddlers to teens”). As one respondent wrote, “This is summer and those of us busy with multiple meetings love the fact that we can bring our entire family and there is something for everyone. This makes a nice mix of business and pleasure and fun which is increasingly difficult to accomplish.”

From the open-ended comments received, there were few offered about the scientific sessions’ format and content (all generally positive) indicating general satisfaction.

Regarding exhibitors, there was unanimous feedback that the distance between the meeting location and the Exhibit Hall in La Jolla was too great. Attendees making the effort apparently found it fruitful as 68% of respondents indicated they intended to make follow-up contact with a corporate exhibitor met on-site in La Jolla.

Comments related to logistics indicate a concern for cost containment. While resorts are fun, they are recognized as expensive and sometimes travel to these destinations is difficult. The travel cost for international attendees, combined with their extended travel time to and from the meeting, is especially of concern.

Surrounding most all suggestions and ideas for improvement was a sense that the annual summer meeting is a much anticipated event. As one respondent wrote, “one of the best parts of the annual meeting is the opportunity to mix together family time, education and networking.”

Good Data Drives Good Decision Making

As scientists and clinicians, you know the value of good data. Good data drives quality decision-making in your office and the same is true within the operation of AOFAS. To those who provided valuable data via the “AOFAS Membership Assessment Survey” distributed in mid-November, thank you!

As you may know, there were 74 questions in the survey ranging from the general demographic to meeting/course preferences to ways to improve the quality of medical education. The questions were created by colleagues from twelve committees and responses were gathered from 242 members. The data has now gone back to those committees, as well as to the board of directors, to guide planning and prioritization of society programs. The next issue of In-Stride will include a summary article of the survey’s findings. Many thanks again for your valuable input!
2007 AOFAS Educational Opportunities:
Something for Everyone

When it comes to continuing medical education needs, AOFAS is committed to being the premier provider of medical education and knowledge relating to orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery. Under the leadership of the Educational and Program Committees, new courses have been added to the calendar in 2007 that promise to deliver the highest quality education designed to appeal to members and non-members alike. Choose your courses, mark your calendar and make your plans to attend these state-of-the-art programs.

February 17
37th ANNUAL SPECIALTY DAY
San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California
Program Chair: Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD

Don't miss the 37th Annual AOFAS Specialty Day program February 17 in San Diego. This comprehensive and unique program has been designed for both the general orthopaedic surgeon as well as the orthopaedic foot and ankle specialist. The program will include a mixture of symposia and papers, with increased time for interactive discussion.

► New, Just Added!
April 12-13
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
AND NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
AOFAS VISITATION PROGRAM
Washington, DC
Program Chairs: Donald R. Bohay, MD and MAJ Scott B. Shawen, MD

Limited to 25 participants, this program will provide attendees an opportunity to meet with military surgeons in a “grand rounds” format to learn first hand about the treatment of traumatic war injuries to the lower extremity, and the comprehensive state-of-the-art rehabilitation program in place to deal with these injuries.

May 3-5
FROM THE PLAYGROUND TO THE STADIUM:
A COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS INJURIES OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE
Doubletree Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois (Chicago suburb)
Program Chairs: Robert B. Anderson, MD and Ned Amendola, MD

This dynamic and interactive course will review common as well as complex problems in the management of sports injuries of the foot and ankle. Expert faculty will present their experience with various surgical and non-surgical approaches to the treatment of foot and ankle injuries of both the recreational and career athletes.

July 12-15
AOFAS 23rd ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Program Chair: Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD

► Pre-meeting Course, July 12
COMPLEX RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE
Program Chair: Mark E. Easley, MD

This dynamic and interactive course will review common as well as complex problems in the management of sports injuries of the foot and ankle. Expert faculty will present their experience with various surgical and non-surgical approaches to the treatment of foot and ankle injuries of both the recreational and career athletes.

September 13-15
COMPLETE FOOT CARE COURSE
Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
Program Chair: Troy S. Watson, MD

This comprehensive, multi-disciplinary course will emphasize the team approach to foot and ankle care and is designed for physicians and other health care professionals involved in foot care, including nurses, physical therapists, physician assistants, orthopaedic technicians, prosthetists/orthotists and pedorthists.

September 28-29
AANA/AOFAS MASTERS EXPERIENCE: FOOT & ANKLE ARTHROSCOPY
Orthopaedic Learning Center, Rosemont, Illinois
Faculty: James W. Stone, MD; James P. Tusto, MD; Alastair S. Younger, MD

This course is presented jointly by the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society and the Arthroscopy Association of North America

For information: www.aana.org; email: info@aana.org or call 847-292-2262.

► New, Just Added!
October 26-27, 2007
THE ROAD TO NOWHERE: COMPLICATIONS IN FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY — FINDING THE RIGHT PATH TO SURGICAL SUCCESS
New Orleans, Louisiana
Program Chair: Steven L. Haddad, MD

This new course will present a fresh approach to analyzing and managing complications of foot and ankle surgeries. In a candid manner, faculty will discuss complications, how to avoid them, and how to treat them should they occur. The format will consist of didactic lectures and case-based discussions, with ample time for participant discussion and interaction.

Comprehensive meeting registration brochures will be distributed approximately 4-6 months prior to the date of each program. For more course information or to register, visit the AOFAS Web site www.aofas.org or call the AOFAS Executive Office at 800-235-4855 (847-698-4654 outside the U.S.).
Thank You to RUC Survey Responders

Thank you to AOFAS members who responded to the recent AMA/Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) surveys for data on “physician work” recommendations for relative value units (RVUs). For CPT 2008, over 50 open reduction internal fixation codes have been revised to make the codes more precise and eliminate “with or without” language relative to internal and external fixation. These changes require that national medical societies participate in the RUC process to survey their members and gather data. The data submitted by AOFAS members will help to assure that AOFAS and AAOS representatives have accurate and fair data to present to the RUC for physician work RVU changes. The RUC acts as an expert panel in developing relative value recommendations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

“Physician work” is the largest of the three RVU components of the Medicare Resource-Based Relative Value System (RBRVS), the others being practice expense RVUs, and professional liability insurance RVUs. Physician work RVUs are relative weights assigned to each physician service and are measured based on the time it takes to perform the service; the technical skill and physical effort; the required mental effort and judgment; and the stress due to the potential risk to the patient.

If recommendations submitted by the RUC are accepted by CMS, the new or revised values are included in the Medicare RBRVS payment formula for the next year. The formula for calculating payment schedule amounts entails adjusting RVUs, which correspond to services, by the budget neutrality work adjustor and by the geographic practice cost indexes, which correspond to payment localities. The total adjusted RVUs are multiplied by the conversion factor set annually by Congress. The conversion factor for 2007 is $378975.

The RUC represents the entire medical profession, with 23 of its 29 members appointed by major national medical specialty societies including those recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties, those with a large percentage of physicians in patient care, and those that account for high percentages of Medicare expenditures. AAOS holds a seat on the RUC. The RUC Chair, the Co-Chair of the RUC Health Care Professionals Advisory Committee Review Board, and representatives of the AMA, American Osteopathic Association, the Chair of the Practice Expense Review Committee and CPT Editorial Panel hold the remaining six seats. The AMA Board of Trustees selects the RUC chair and also the AMA representative to the RUC. The individual RUC members are nominated by the specialty societies and are approved by the AMA.

Alicia LaSalle, MD of Uruguay expresses her own unique thoughts on the experience:

“For Traveling Fellows like me, who came from an underdeveloped country, it was a wonderful and unique experience. I had the opportunity to learn about a different healthcare system and its newest technologies. It offered me the possibility to see new ways of performing surgical techniques while meeting prominent personalities in foot and ankle orthopaedic surgery.”

Reflections from 2006 Traveling Fellows

As the announcement of the 2007 Traveling Fellows at Specialty Day in San Diego approaches, reflections from some of the 2006 AOFAS Traveling Fellows seem appropriate.

James D.F. Calder, MD of the United Kingdom sums it up well:

“The fellowship offered the rare opportunity to visit some of the leading orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons in North America. This not only enabled us to gain insight into their personal operative management of conditions but also their clinical assessment of patients in the out-patient setting. They imparted “gems of wisdom” that are so difficult to glean from papers and books.”

Thoughts from Mark Glazebrook, MD of Canada:

“The AOFAS Traveling Fellowship was rewarding on both an academic and social basis. Meeting with orthopaedic foot & ankle surgery leaders and establishing international friendships far outweighed any sacrifice from being away from home and practice. Experiences and friendships shared will be remembered forever.”

Peter Stavrou, FRACS of Australia speaks of both his personal and educational experiences:

“The traveling fellowship was a wonderful opportunity to make lasting friendships, with those whom we traveled with and those gracious enough to host us. I’m sure it has left a lasting impression on us all. The welcome we received at the Summer Meeting was truly unexpected and unforgettable. This is something that I would encourage other young orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons to be involved in.”

Thank You to Our 2006 Supporters

As the new year unfolds, the AOFAS and OEF Boards would like to thank 2006 contributors to the OEF for their financial support. The projects accomplished to date in the areas of outreach, educational and humanitarian service have been many and varied. These include the Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam, the Research Grants Program, the Traveling Fellowship Awards Program, and Health Volunteers Overseas.

New OEF Brochure

A new brochure highlighting the accomplishments of foot and ankle projects funded through contributions to the OEF is available online. Simply log onto www.aofas.org, click on Outreach & Education Fund and follow the links to the new brochure.
AOFAS in the News

Highlights

AOFAS PSA is on the Air

“Oh, my aching heel! The hows and whys of plantar fasciitis” has hit the airwaves. Between January 8 and January 11, 2007, Don Bohay, MD, AOFAS Public Education Committee co-chair, and his 60-second interview on plantar fasciitis will have been heard by a nationwide audience of 6,000,000 listeners. The Specialty Spot, done in conjunction with the AAOS, was run four times per day on the Radio America Network on Doug Stephan Good Day and Michael Reagan.

AOFAS/AAOS Joint Video Release on J B JS Plantar Fasciitis Exercise Study

A video package on plantar fasciitis was sent by AAOS on behalf of the partnership between the AAOS and the AOFAS to over 60 television stations in prominent U.S. media markets. The study, done at the University of Rochester and authored by Benedict DiGiovanni, MD, offers a newly-developed simple stretching protocol targeting plantar fasciitis. As of December 29, 2006, the latest tracked usage report of this segment showed 35 airings on 19 stations with an audience of 1,175,570. In each of the 60 locations, AOFAS member spokespersons were identified for possible local media interviews. The segment is also being aired on cable stations at health club facilities. To date, several AOFAS member interviews have taken place with more being planned in 2007. These include:

- KGO (ABC) San Francisco, Stephen Pinney, MD
- KYW (CBS) Philadelphia, Wen Chao, MD
- FOX, New York, Stephen Weinfield, MD,
- WSYR, Ch. 9, Syracuse, Frederick Lemley, MD
- WNYT (NBC) Albany, NY, David Dixon, MD
- KXAS (NBC) Dallas, James Brodsky, MD
- KARE (NBC) Minneapolis, J. Chris Coetzee, MD

Be on the Lookout for New Patient-Education Brochures

Updated patient-education brochures are being developed by the Public Education Committee. In response to member requests, the first three newly revamped brochure prototypes will be available for a peek at Specialty Day in San Diego! Complete details including the opportunity for personalization of brochures will be available soon.

Topics include:

- The Diabetic Foot
- The Adult Foot
- 10 Points of Proper Shoe Fit

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

2007 Dues Campaign Off to an Impressive Start

Dues notices for the 2007 calendar year were mailed to members in late November. Revenue from paid dues is used to fund the Society’s daily operations as well as key initiatives developed for members by the Board of Directors and its designated committees and task forces.

Payment of your 2007 annual dues is due and may be made online or by phone, fax or mail. Payment details are outlined on your dues notice.

The Board of Directors and the Membership Committee appreciate your attention to the payment timeframe and thank the 500+ members who promptly paid their dues within the first four weeks of the mailing. A vast majority conveniently paid online by logging in as a member to the AOFAS Web site at www.aofas.org. The site is readily accessible at all times.

If you need assistance with your member login or have questions about your dues billing, please contact Lois Bierman, Membership & Marketing Manager, at 847-384-4382 or lbierman@aofas.org, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (Central).

Congratulations to the 2007 Vietnam Outreach Fellows

Plans for the 2007 AOFAS Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam are well underway. Volunteers selected for this year’s humanitarian service project are Meir Nyska, MD of Hanegev, Israel, E. Greer Richardson, MD of Memphis, Michael Romash, MD of Chesapeake, VA, and Steven Sheskier, MD of New York City. Applications were accepted this past fall, and the selected participants were recently notified to update their passports and immunizations and begin preparing for the May-June service trip.

This year will mark the sixth annual expedition of AOFAS members to Vietnam to aid children and adults with deformities and disabilities and work side by side with Vietnamese orthopaedic surgeons. The AOFAS Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam is supported by the Outreach & Education Fund with donations from members and corporations.

The OEF is Counting on You

When making your annual dues payment, please also consider a contribution to the AOFAS Outreach & Education Fund (OEF). The OEF promotes and executes the mission of the AOFAS in advancing education, research and humanitarian endeavors. Your gift to the OEF is fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consider making your donation today! Go to www.aofas.org and click on the Outreach & Education Fund link; follow prompts to the payment screen.