



THE OHIO CHAPTER
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS, INC.

Academy Leader

Executive Brief

Fall Scientific Meeting: Continuing Cutting Edge Technology

The Fall 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting once again features cutting-edge science and technology in the O&P Industry.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Merrick, Director of Ohio State University's Division of Athletic Training (School of Allied Medical Professions) will open the day with talk intriguingly titled, *Electrical Stimulation: From Hieroglyphics & Voodoo to Science and Outcomes*.

Besides the content covering advanced technology, two changes in the fall program structure will

take place this year; 1) as has been so successful in the Annual Spring Meeting, there will now be breakouts in the Annual Fall Meeting afternoon sessions. This year, two breakouts are featured, one will be hosted by ÖSSUR on their Propriofoot™ and RHEO KNEE®, and the other will be an orthotics solutions workshop on stance control and lock knee orthoses presented by Otto Bock.

Breakouts allow for in-depth coverage of topics that cannot occur in the ½-to-1-hour general



Dr. Mark A. Merrick

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Ohio Chapter—AAOP Office

PO Box 3188
Dublin, Ohio 43016-0088
Phone: 614/659-0197
Fax: 614/336-8596

It's Been Great!

by Frank Zingales, L.C.P.



This year's fall meeting is pleased to offer the latest technology on electronic stimulation in O&P. We are fortunate to have obtained very knowledgeable speakers to present these topics. We have also put a new twist on the afternoon with the addition of breakout sessions that have proven immensely popular in offering flexibility. While continually coming up with ideas to make our meetings more interesting, we are making plans to move our fall meeting to the Sandusky area in northern Ohio next year; this will be fun for the family as well, with all the activities in the area such as amusement and water parks. Please offer us any suggestions that may help us in providing an educational meeting that also offers attractive amenities that everyone can enjoy.

With the vast and ever-changing technologies that our profession benefits from, we all wish to stay apprised of these developments so that we're on line for the next biggest challenge. Your Ohio Chapter strives to do just that, we greatly appreciate the support of the speakers, manufacturers and

vendors for their gifts of time, knowledge and sponsorship providing us with the ability to offer our professional attendees the best educational opportunities along with some entertainment as well.

On a personal note, it has been an honor to serve on your Ohio Chapter for AAOP Board for the past four years. I have learned a great deal, and have seen first-hand the commitment of all the board members, along with our executive director, in making sure our meetings are a success. Rotating Board members each year and bringing new talent aboard always allows us to offer fresh new ideas and make positive decisions moving forward.

Best Regards,

Your President

Frank Zingales CP



Randall Alley, ,CP, FAAOP, CFT Provides Prosthetic Consultation for Hit Television Series ER

This article on Fall Scientific meeting presenter, Randy Alley is reprinted by permission from Hanger Orthopedic Group web-site.

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA — ER viewers who tune into NBC every Thursday night watched as the bullying Chief of Emergency Medicine Dr. Robert “Rocket” Romano had his arm severed by a helicopter blade, ultimately necessitating the use of a prosthetic arm. Following the dramatic amputation, viewers witnessed Dr. Romano’s struggle to

come to grips with the prospect he may never operate again.

Dr. Romano’s part was played by actor Paul McCrane. Although McCrane is not an actual amputee, through the use of innovative camera effects and computer generated imaging techniques, he convincingly portrayed one on the show. While advanced technology turned an able-bodied actor into a fictional amputee character, it would take more than computer

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session time-frame.

Francois Van Der Watt, CPO, Regional Clinical Manager, Southeast, ÖSSUR will present on the Proprio foot™ and the RHEO KNEE®

Kelly Clark, CO, Clinical Specialist, Custom Orthotics, will present on Otto Bock’s *Orthotic Lower Extremity Solutions Workshop*.

The other new paradigm occurs in the morning with Randy Alley’s remote presentation on, not surprisingly, remote consulting. In an age which already showcases remote, semi-robotic surgery, it is not surprising the the O&P industry

is stretching its legs with distant service as well. Randy will share his experience and what he’s learned in this interesting new horizon in O&P.

Kim Doolan (*Allen O&P, Midland, TX*) is widely known for her work in O&P and volunteer work throughout the world. She comes wearing two “hats”, one as a lay expert in O&P prosthetics, and the other as a consumer. Her wide-ranging insights will be of interest for all levels of practice (see article in this issue).

Not-to-be-missed, Jodi Feld, Regional Clinical Specialist, Bioness, Inc. (Apex, NC) will present on the award-winning

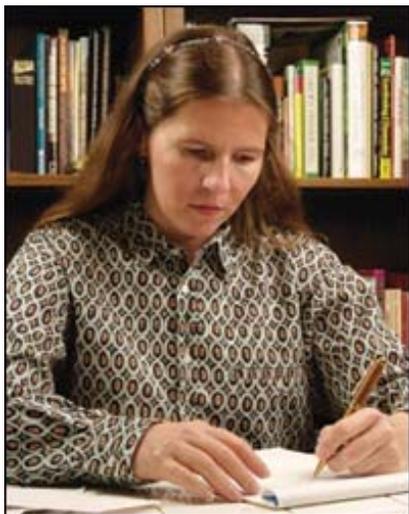
More about Mark A Merrick, Ph.D., ATC

Dr. Merrick is the Director of the Athletic Training Division in the School of Allied Medical Professions. He is a respected researcher and frequent lecturer on the topics of therapeutic modalities and injury pathophysiology. His work in these areas has earned him both the Outstanding Research Manuscript Award and the Outstanding Non-Research Manuscript Award from the *Journal of Athletic Training* where he also serves as an Editor for the *Pathology, Physiology, and Biodynamics* section. He is also a member of the editorial board the *Journal of Sport Rehabilitation* and a guest reviewer for 7 other journals. Additionally, he serves as the Vice-Chair for Grants for the NATA Foundation’s Research Committee.

Bioness NESS® L300™ state-of-the-art FES (Functional Electrical Stimulation) system (<http://www.bionessinc.com/>). ■ ■

For additional information on ÖSSUR and Otto Bock, go to:

- ◆ ÖSSUR: (<http://www.ossur.com?PageID=631&NewsID=1752>).
- ◆ Otto Bock (http://www.ottobock.com/cps/rde/xchg/ob_com_en/hs.xsl/index.html).



Kim Doolan

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Doolan's Detours to Success of O&P Edge.*

A congenital amputee, Doolan spent her childhood and adolescence in rehab hospitals. From her experience as a patient in the world of O&P, Doolan never considered it as a choice for her life's work. In 1990, she was getting new lower-limb prostheses made. It just so happened that the facility making them desperately needed a technician. Coincidentally, Doolan was anxiously looking for work. Tom Andrew, CP, FAAOP, then of Med Arts in Utah, convinced her she would be a perfect fit for the position. Thus, Kim started down the road she continues to travel to this day. Andrew is someone toward whom she feels sincere gratitude for guiding her into a field

Kim Doolan to Present at Ohio Chapter Annual 2007 Fall Meeting

that, despite her apprehension, would ultimately be extremely fulfilling.

Her tenure in Utah spanned the early to mid '90s. During this time, Doolan became active as a board member of the Amputee Coalition of America (ACA). Watching Mary Novotny, RN, MS, and Ed Jeffries, MD, grow this organization has been a thrill for Doolan, and it gives her a sense of pride to have been associated with them.

She also has served on the board of the Barr Foundation, which led to three trips to Guyana, South America, to provide lower-extremity prostheses. Another trip was to Bosnia with the International Rescue Committee. Among the lessons learned on these excursions was that follow-up care is vital. Also of great importance is being sure that what is being provided is what the local culture accepts. Doolan has found these humanitarian trips to be very rewarding and would like to be involved in them again in the not-too-distant future.

High-quality patient care is a topic that elicits strong feelings from Doolan. She was involved in the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (NegReg) and is quite vocal about this subject. Medicare is very concerned that it might promulgate

rules that would do away with rural practices if it set the standards too high, Doolan explains. Her opinion? "Hogwash," she exclaims! "Mike Allen [of Allen O&P and Kim's husband] fought hard for licensure, and Texas was the second state to achieve it. He has shaped the company to strive for the best of everything, in spite of shrinking reimbursements." Doolan is a firm believer that other rural practices are doing likewise and are quite capable of living up to the highest standards.

She is passionate about being involved in the legislative process, being one voice of many, speaking for amputees. Not achieving the goal of becoming a practitioner has been a personal sacrifice, but one well worth it if she can make a difference, she believes. This became even more apparent when she was involved in the Negotiated Rulemaking process. Although the initiative failed, she feels being a straight-up consumer gave her a louder voice in the Medicare arena. Doolan has no intention of giving up the fight and hopes that soon great progress will be made on this issue.

It would appear that Doolan has boundless energy and enthusiasm for her "adopted" profession. Kim

Doolan Consulting is her own company that she works through with both Allen O&P and LIVINGSKIN® of Middletown, New York. About the same time she joined Allen O&P, LIVINGSKIN and another Texas silicone company approached her. Her professional expertise in O&P and experience as a patient appealed to the companies. The technology being used by LIVINGSKIN enticed Doolan to choose this company. In her years with Motion Control, she would demonstrate how a myoelectric arm would work, but always felt obliged to tell onlookers that she was not a good myo user. Hence, she felt uncomfortable in that role. With the passive prosthesis, she is a happy wearer, and so is quite comfortable in her position with the company, which includes education and public relations.

Concern for O&Ps Future

Concerns for the future of O&P are paramount on Doolan's mind. With Medicare freezing payments and insurance companies freezing or reducing reimbursement levels, as well as putting a "one limb per lifetime or a \$1,500 cap per prosthesis" limit on the patient, she confesses to feeling the future is bleak. These are some of the reasons why she'd like to stay as active as possible in the legislative end of O&P. She concurs that legislators are looking at what would affect the most people, and O&P is a small spot on their radar.

Doolan is determined to make a difference in how O&P is perceived, emphasizing that many feel

getting a limb means choosing small, medium, or large. The complexities of patient care are being overlooked. Practitioners cannot bill for their time - just for the components used. These are just a few of the many issues she intends to keep in front of lawmakers as long as she has a voice to do so.

'Listen to Your Heart'

This animated, lively woman revels in each day. Traveling, gardening, and reading are pleasures that help Doolan pause and refresh herself. Volunteering with Hospice and the League of Women Voters are priorities. Her sense of humor also seems to be intact as was apparent when asked what her advice would be to someone considering a career in O&P. "Pharmaceuticals and military defense [would be better choices]," she answers with tongue in cheek. "Both seem to be experiencing growth and increased reimbursement." Seriously, she encourages anyone getting involved in O&P to be driven by their heart - otherwise; it can be a difficult theater in which to perform. Kim Doolan has a wealth of knowledge and personal experience that can only benefit the O&P community. The detours that led her to the world of O&P do not seem to have been detours at all. This is where she was meant to be. ■ ■

Memberships

In early November, membership renewals will be mailed to existing members. A mailing will also be sent to practitioners and technicians eligible for membership in the Ohio Chapter.

Now is a good time to plan this in your professional budget, as there are savings for members for registrations for meetings, as well as a 3x per year newsletter.

If you have a change of address please contact the Ohio Chapter by e-mail at butchko1@columbus.rr.com, or call (614) 659-0197, or write Ohio Chapter, AAOP PO Box 3188, Dublin, OH 43016

MARCH 15, 2008



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



OHIO CHAPTER—AAOP

2008

SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING

HILTON HOTEL COLUMBUS

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generated imaging to understand and accurately portray natural amputee movements, as well as intelligently discuss prosthetic terminology and outcomes among the show's actors.

For every storyline of the real-life drama *ER*, scriptwriters consult real physicians, surgeons, and nurses. Those same medical professionals work on-site with *ER* directors, producers, and actors when shooting each episode. Dr. Romano's storyline is no exception. In fact, it even demanded an additional level of medical consultation—an on-site O&P expert. For this, NBC turned to Randy Alley, a certified prosthetist and upper extremity specialist with Hanger Prosthetic and Orthotics.

Alley was called upon to help with the accuracy of various scenes involving the use of a prosthesis, spoken dialogue, or technical assistance for McCrane and/or those in charge of props. Each episode was checked for technical accuracy and for details as how to imitate walking or manipulating the prosthesis.

So, how did Alley receive his "big Hollywood break?" After an unsuccessful consultation with another prosthetist, *ER*'s prop master extensively searched the O&P field for a recognized and accomplished upper extremity specialist. The prop master was informed by several individuals that Alley was the best person for the job. Alley received a phone call



Randy Alley, CP, FAAOP, CFT

from the show and was on the set the next day.

Although *ER* is not filmed in an actual emergency room, the show's producers place such high importance on the accuracy of the show's medical content that, during Alley's consultation, he felt very familiar with the emergency room set, almost as if it were the real thing. "It was amazingly similar to being in a real hospital. The set was very large and extremely accurate. It was easy to forget I was in Warner Brothers' Studio in Burbank, California."

Alley recalls the first day he walked in on the set, "There was one scene being taped when I arrived on the set in which Paul McCrane was discussing his disappointment with the cable-driven prosthesis. I was listening to the dialogue and was shocked to find out that the terminology being used was incorrect. I informed them of the error and they re-shot the scene."

In order to avoid the inherent difficulties of shooting scenes approved by those not familiar with

upper extremity prosthetics, Alley suggested the producers seek advice from Alley prior to the completion of the scripts. Realizing that Alley's extensive knowledge of prosthetics would be an excellent resource for writing the scripts, Alley was able to convince the producers to let him participate in the producers' meetings.

Alley worked on three episodes before the producers decided to write Dr. Romano's character off of the show. "It was always going to be a temporary assignment as the producers began to recognize the difficulties of attempting to use a prosthesis on an individual who isn't a wearer. I was informed several months ago about Dr. Romano's eminent demise, but had to keep things quiet before the show aired."

Alley found his "big Hollywood break" to be a very positive experience. "I hope it brought awareness to the public about the challenges individuals with upper limb loss face every day." ■ ■

The Ohio Chapter-AAOP
2007 Annual Fall Scientific Meeting

October 13, 2007
 Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

Program

Morning

8:00–8:30 Registration/Continental Breakfast

General Sessions:

8:30–9:15 **Electrical Stimulation: From Hieroglyphics & Voodoo to Science and Outcomes**
Mark A. Merrick, Ph.D., ATC
Associate Professor & Director, Division of Athletic Training
School of Allied Medical Professions
Ohio State University—Columbus, OH

9:15–10:00 **Remote Consulting and its Application in Upper Extremity Prosthetics**
Randy Alley, CP, FAAOP, CFT
CEO, Biodesigns, Inc.—Thousand Oaks, CA

10:15–11:00 **A Consumer's View**
Kim Doolan
Allen Orthotics and Prosthetics—Midland, TX

11:00–11:45 **Advanced Technology: The Ness® L300™ Foot Drop Stimulation System**
Jodi Feld, PT, DPT, MPT, NCS
Bioness, Inc.—Santa Clarita, CA

12:00–1:15 Lunch & Ohio Chapter Annual Business Meeting

Afternoon

Breakout Session #1

1:15–5:00 **Introduction to the Proprio Foot™ and RHEO KNEE®**
Francois Van Der Watt, CPO
Ossur North America—Aliso Viejo, CA

Breakout Session #2

1:15–5:00 **Latest Developments in Lower Extremity Orthotics**
Kelly Clark, CO
Otto Bock HealthCare—Minneapolis, MN



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1161 Francisco Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

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