



THE BROKEN BONE



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Our First Issue!

By Richard M. Rubin, Executive Director

On behalf of the officers and advisory board, I want to personally welcome everyone to the inaugural issue of the Maryland Association of Orthopaedic Technologists newsletter. We hope to use this newsletter as a means to keep in touch with our membership with regard to Association business and to provide information and industry news that will be of use to everyone. Also, when available, we will be posting local job listings similar to what will be available on our website.

We have discussed the publishing of a newsletter for some time, and as a part of changes to our website that will soon be implemented, we felt now was the perfect time to do so.

Keeping in mind that MAOT is your professional association, we want you, our members, to be involved in contributing your thoughts and ideas.

Review of Our Fall 2008 Conference

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, MAOT presented its fall conference, *“Welcome to the Clinic”*, which was held at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. Despite the rainy weather, we had a reasonable turnout and a good time was had by everyone.

After a wonderful breakfast that was sponsored by Emily Flannigan with Ferring Pharmaceuticals (makers of Euflexxa™), our program began that morning with Dr. John T. Antoniadis discussing *Fracture Healing & Treatment Principles*. Our next

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We welcome submissions of articles, note-worthy industry news, etc. from you. Please feel free to forward your pertinent submissions to editor@mdorthotech.org. While we cannot promise that everything submitted will be published, we will take care in selecting content that we feel will be of



presenter, Dr. Albert Folgueras shared his experiences with *Intertochantheric Hip Fractures*. Then, after a short break, and an opportunity for everyone to visit with the vendors who attended, we continued with a talk on *Shoulder Fractures* by Dr. Scott L. Silverstein. We then welcomed Dr. Keisha M. DePass who discussed *Management of Common Fractures in Children*.

After a delicious lunch provided by Alexandra “Alex” Wilkes with Genzyme (Synvisc® and Carticel®), our

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NBCOT News

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Changes to the Eligibility Routes...

Effective January 1, 2009, being certified in an Orthopaedic Related field will no longer be an acceptable route. Other changes are shown in **bold type**. Please review the new eligibility routes that go into effect January 1, 2009.

- A. Two years of full-time, on the job training in Orthopaedics, **specific to Orthopaedic Technology**, under the direct supervision of an Orthopaedic physician.
- B. Completion of an Orthopaedic Technologist School/Program, **plus 1 year full-time employment specific to Orthopaedic Technology**. **Certified copies of your Official transcripts must be sent and received directly from your school before your application will be processed.**
- C. Completion of a **currently NAOT Recognized** Orthopaedic Technologist School/Program, **or US Military Program**

NAOT Recognized School/Program Applicants must submit a copy of your Certificate of Graduation. **Externships must be completed before application will be accepted.**

“Changes to the Eligibility Routes Starting January 1, 2009”

NOTE: Any candidate applying under Eligibility Route C must have graduated from the NAOT Recognized Orthopaedic Technologist Program/School within one (1) year of applying to take the OTC® Examination.

US Military applicants must submit a US Military issued copy of course completion or a **CERTIFIED COPY** of your DD214 listing your Orthopaedic Training. Photocopies of the DD214 form **ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

- D. Certified/Licensed as an Athletic Trainer with a minimum of six months **full time employment specific to Orthopaedic Technology** under the direct supervision of an Orthopaedic Physician.



MAOT Now Accepts Credit Card Payments

After listening to a number of our members, and always concerned about providing the best possible service to our membership, MAOT is proud to announce that credit card payments are now being accepted. You can enjoy the convenience of paying for your membership dues, conference fees and workshop registration, online with your credit card through *PayPal*.

PayPal is the safer, easier way to pay and get paid online. The service allows anyone to pay in any way they prefer, including through credit cards, bank accounts, buyer credit or account balances, without sharing financial information.

PayPal has received more than 20 awards for excellence from the internet industry and the business community –most recently the 2006 Webby



Award for Best Financial Services Site and the 2006 Webby People's Voice Award for Best Financial Services Site.

Please look for the *PayPal* logo, as pictured above, on our membership and registration forms that you find on our website. By clicking the links provided, you will be directed to our payment page, from which you will be able to enter your credit card information.

Please rest assured that by using *PayPal*, your credit card information will be secure.

Orthotech pay increases by 3% in 2008

Printed with permission from NAOT

The average salary for an orthopaedic technologist increased slightly between 2006 and 2008, according to the results of the National Association of Orthopaedic Technologists' (NAOT) compensation and benefits survey. The report, based on data provided by nearly 300 orthotechs from around the country, found the average 2008 salary was \$44,458, a 3% increase from the 2006 average of \$43,231.

A composite of all data collected in 2008 found that orthotechs have, on average, 23.5 years of experience, have worked 9 years for their current employer, have earned their OTC credential, work 44 hours per week, have health insurance through

their employer but the employee pays \$165 of the monthly premium, and the employer pays \$1,037 per year for professional education.

The NAOT salary survey provides average salaries based on years of experience, geographic region, type of employment, level of education, and certification. In addition, valuable data on after-hour-call pay, health and life insurance benefits, flex time and average amount of employer-funded continuing education was collected.

Starting salary for orthotechs with 1–3 years experience decreased by nearly 7% with an average 2008 salary of \$29,375, while their counterparts

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conference continued with Dr. Barry J. Waldman presentation on *Advances in Hip Fracture Treatment*. *Foot and Ankle Fractures* were then discussed by Dr. Daniel C. Farber. The afternoon sessions wrapped up with a presentation by Dr. Greg M. Osgood on *Pelvic Fractures*.

As always, we want to extend our sincere appreciation for the time given by all of our presenters, as well as the following vendors who



were present and provided valuable information and discussion relating to their respective products:

3M, Genzyme, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, M-Brace, The Training Room, Mid-Atlantic Medical, Empi, Breg Inc.

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with 20+ years experience saw a 17% increase in their earnings. Orthotechs with 4-5 years of experience averaged \$35,417 in annual salary; 6-10 years - \$42,049; 11-15 years - \$48,041; 16-20 years - \$43,750; 21-24 years - \$58,333; and 25+ years - \$56,136.

With regard to employment status, 76% indicated that they were full-time, but paid hourly, 19% held a full-time, salaried position, and only 5% stated that they had a part-time position that paid hourly. Orthopaedic technologists working in a private-practice environment saw an average 12% increase in their salaries, and earned more than their counterparts working in hospital and clinical settings. The average 2008 salary for orthotechs working in a private practice setting was \$47,703, compared to \$43,500 in the military, \$42,743 in a hospital and \$39,310 in a clinic.

Orthotechs certified by the National Board for Certification of Orthopaedic Technologists (NBCOT) continue to significantly out earn their non-certified counterparts - in 2008, the difference was \$10,000. OTCs saw a 4% increase

in their earnings between 2006 and 2008, while non-certified orthotechs experienced a 4% decrease.

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*Enabling Knowledge to Improve
Professional Excellence*

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