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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS  
ANNOUNCES 2018 ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS**

*10 individuals will be recognized for their contributions to the O&P profession  
at the 44<sup>th</sup> Academy Annual Meeting & Scientific Symposium*

Washington, DC — The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (the Academy) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2018 Academy Awards. The awards will be presented during the 44<sup>th</sup> Academy Annual Meeting & Scientific Symposium, which will be held February 14–17, 2018, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“The Academy awards recognize those members who have distinguished themselves through their personal commitment to advancing the interests of the O&P profession and the patients we serve,” said Alicia J. Davis, MPA, CPO, FAAOP(D), president of the Academy Board of Directors. “It is my privilege to recognize these 10 individuals for their outstanding contributions and excellence in the areas of research, education, clinical commitment, creativity, and advocacy on behalf of our profession.”

**Gary Bedard, CO, FAAOP**, clinical application liaison for Becker Orthopedic, will be honored with the Titus-Ferguson Award. This lifetime achievement award is the highest level of recognition bestowed upon a clinician or academician whose accomplishments and contributions have made a significant impact on the growth and development of the profession.

**Keith Smith, CO, LO, FAAOP**, an orthotist at the Orthotic and Prosthetic Lab in St. Louis, Missouri, will receive the Distinguished Practitioner award in recognition of his personal dedication and leadership to the advancement of the Academy and the O&P profession.

**J. Chad Duncan, PhD**, and **Susan Spaulding, MS, CPO, FAAOP**, will receive Outstanding Educator Awards. Duncan is an associate professor at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois, and Spaulding is a lecturer in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Stephen Schulte, CP, LP, FAAOP**, and **Jerome Voisin, CP**, will receive Clinical Commitment Awards in recognition of their quiet commitment to the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics *Code of Professional Responsibility*. Schulte is the co-owner of Prosthetic Care in Georgia

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS

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and has been serving the O&P and medical professions for more than 20 years. Voisin, whose award will be presented posthumously, owned a successful prosthetic care practice in Houma, Louisiana, for more than 30 years.

The 2018 Research Award will be presented to **Levi Hargrove, PhD**, for his outstanding research in the field of O&P. He is the director of the Center for Bionic Medicine at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago, Illinois, and an associate professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the McCormick School of Engineering at Northwestern University.

**Aaron Holm**, the founder and president of Wiggle Your Toes, will receive the Mohammed Amin Award for Humanitarian Service in recognition of his commitment and service to the amputee community.

In recognition of their knowledge of and dedication to the O&P profession, Honorary Academy membership will be awarded to **Jack Richmond**, president and CEO of the Amputee Coalition, and **Yeongchi Wu, MD**, a faculty member in Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

Full biographies of the 2018 Academy Award winners and descriptions of the Academy Awards can be found on the [Academy website](#).

#### **ABOUT THE ACADEMY**

The Academy, founded in 1970, is the professional organization representing certified practitioners, state-licensed practitioners, assistants, technicians, fitters, and others affiliated with the profession of orthotics and prosthetics (O&P). It is dedicated to helping its members provide the highest level of professionalism and service to their patients. To learn more about the Academy, please visit [www.oandp.org](http://www.oandp.org).

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