ADDITIVE O&P
Startup poised to redefine O&P fabrication.

O&P RESEARCH
Ability and Freedom Innovations partner on prosthetics research

ACHIEVE ABILITY
Dirrickson Muhammad is pulling his own weight

MAXIMIZING OUTCOMES
Nikki Hooks is helping kids be kids with innovative orthotic solutions
MeetAbility

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF O&P CARE

ABILITY WELCOMES O&P RESIDENTS TO PENNSYLVANIA LOCATIONS

Phil Hess, MSPO
MECHANICSBURG, PA

Phil Hess, MSPO, was in a boating accident when he was eight years old, which resulted in a right below-knee amputation. Ever since then, he has known that prosthetics and orthotics was the profession that he wanted to pursue.

“I remember when I tried on my prosthetic for the first time,” he says. “It was so freeing and uplifting to go from sitting 100 percent of the time to be up and walking again. I want to give other people that feeling.”

Even before starting college, he volunteered at several O&P facilities so that he could get as much real-world experience as possible.

Hess graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills’ master of science in prosthetics and orthotics program in 2016. He holds a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology from Penn State.

Outside of work, Hess enjoys being active and is a big sports fan, especially supporting his alma mater Penn State.

Julie McCulley, MS, ATC/L
EXTON, PA

Julie McCulley, MS, ATC/L, was introduced to the O&P profession through her work as a certified athletic trainer. One of her clients was a former police officer who had sustained an amputation while assisting a disabled vehicle on the side of the road.

“When I looked into this career path, I felt that my life experiences, educational background, strengths, and interests directly aligned with this profession,” she says.

McCulley attended Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center master’s program in prosthetics and orthotics. She holds a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Bloomsburg University and a master’s degree in athletic training from Ohio University. She is a member of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) and serves on its student/resident committee.

“I have never felt so fulfilled in my work life as I have since I joined the Ability team.”

Chad Stalter, MSPO, CFo
HANOVER, PA

Chad Stalter, MSPO, CFo, worked as an ABC-certified orthotic fitter for two years before pursuing a master of science in prosthetics and orthotics (MSPO) from California State University, Dominguez Hills. His older brother has cerebral palsy, so Stalter has been aware of the benefits orthoses can provide from a very young age.

“Growing up with my brother led me to investigating O&P once it was time to figure out a career path,” he says. “Ultimately, I liked the mixture of working with my hands combined with the medical field.”

Stalter received a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology from SUNY Cortland in 2012. He earned his MSPO degree in 2016 and says he is looking forward to making a difference in people’s lives as well as expanding his knowledge of the O&P profession.

When not at work, Stalter enjoys hunting and fishing. True to his roots, his favorite football team is the New York Jets.

ON THE COVER: Additive O+P co-founders Tyler Dunham, CPO, and Tyler Manee, CPO. Dunham works at Ability’s Charlotte, North Carolina, location. Manee works at Ability’s Rockville, Maryland, location.
ABILITY & FREEDOM PARTNER ON O&P RESEARCH

EXAMINING THE BENEFITS OF A MICROPROCESSOR-CONTROLLED PROSTHETIC ANKLE-FOOT PROSTHESIS VERSUS A CARBON FIBER PROSTHETIC ANKLE-FOOT

CLINICAL ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH typically happens in university research settings or manufacturer design laboratories, and it can be difficult for patients to access and enroll in clinical research studies. As a result, O&P research evidence is often limited by small subject sample sizes and research cohorts that cannot be generalized to the real world.

To help address these limitations and enrich the experience of its patients, Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics has launched the Kinnex Microprocessor Ankle Study. The study has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, and Ability is actively recruiting participants.

Sponsored by Freedom Innovations, the study will seek to determine whether the Kinnex microprocessor-controlled prosthetic ankle-foot device provides an advantage to walking and mobility compared to the LP Pacifica, a carbon fiber prosthetic ankle-foot prosthesis. Both products are manufactured by Freedom Innovations.

According to Brian Kaluf, BSE, CP, clinical outcome and research director at Ability P&O and the study’s principal investigator, the study has the potential to lead to increased patient access to microprocessor ankle-foot technology.

“As clinicians, we see the benefit of advanced technology in the lives of patients we treat, but it can be frustrating when insurance medical policies eliminate coverage of these life-changing technologies because they determine that not enough research evidence exists to support medical necessity,” Kaluf says. “The O&P profession has a responsibility to perform the investigations and publish research evidence to support the interventions that we provide.”

Ability will administer the study at its Hagerstown, Maryland; York, Pennsylvania; and Charlotte, North Carolina, patient care centers. Participants will be asked to complete three research visits. During each visit, standardized surveys, functional tests, and two-dimensional motion analysis will be administered to investigate how each ankle-foot system impacts mobility, balance, and comfort, and walking on sloped surfaces. Each research visit will last approximately three hours. Study participants will be compensated for their travel associated with the research visits.

Administering a clinical research protocol in a private clinical practice is no small task, Kaluf says. “It has taken a lot of vision and hard work to prepare our organization to perform clinical research. The Kinnex Microprocessor Ankle Study is a great example of our new capacity to perform independent clinical research.

“Ability P&O has always supported clinical research in fulfillment of one of its guiding principles,” he continues, “but this research effort represents an extraordinary next step in making clinical research and advanced technology accessible to patients.”

Ability plans to prepare the results of the research for possible publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

KINNEX MICROPROCESSOR ANKLE STUDY INCLUSION CRITERIA

Individuals who are interested in participating in the Kinnex Microprocessor Ankle Study must meet the following inclusion criteria:

- Have a below-knee amputation on one side
- Between 18 and 99 years old
- Use of a prosthesis for at least one year
- Use prosthesis for eight or more hours per day
- Have a well-fitting prosthesis
- Body weight below 275 lbs.
- Able to walk unlimited in community (Medicare K-Level 3)
- No use of ambulatory aid (no cane or walker)
- English speaking
- Non-pregnant

Study participants may find that their walking ability with a prosthesis gets better, stays the same, or gets worse. A possible risk of participating in the study is decreased stability and increased fall potential due to wearing a prosthesis the individual is not accustomed to.

Individuals who are interested in participating in the study should contact Brian Kaluf at 864-522-1840 or brian.kaluf@abilitypo.com.
ABILITY PRACTITIONERS PRESENT AT AOPA

CLINICIANS FROM ABILITY P&O will be sharing their clinical expertise at the 2016 American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) National Assembly. The Assembly will be held September 8–11 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Marlies Cabell, CPO, of the York, Pennsylvania, patient care center will be presenting a “Case Report on the Use of Bilateral Myoelectric Elbow-Wrist-Hand Orthoses for the Remediation of Upper Extremity Paresis Following a Spinal Cord Injury” during the Treatment Options in Lower Limb Orthotics Free Paper Session, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, from 3:30–5:15 p.m.

Brian Kaluf, BSE, CP, clinical outcome and research director at Ability, will present a poster titled, “Impact of the Proposed/Draft LCD Policy Change on Access to Care for Persons with Lower Limb Amputation.”

Ability submitted a written response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) opposing the July 2015 draft LCD. To demonstrate the negative impact of the proposed policy changes, Ability referenced aggregate data from all ten of its patient care centers. The poster will summarize the data and Ability’s response to CMS. Poster sessions will be held Friday, September 9, and Saturday, September 10, from 1–2 p.m.

Kaluf was also invited to participate in a session titled “Strategies for Effective Implementation of Outcomes in the O&P Clinic.” His talk will focus on Ability’s use of outcome measures as a continuous quality improvement and key performance indicator. The session will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 2–3:15 p.m.

ABILITY HELPS THEATER EXPAND ACCESSIBLE PARKING

ABILITY P&O HAS SPONSORED a handicap parking spot in front of the Totem Pole Playhouse performing arts theater in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, to support the venue’s efforts to make its theater handicap accessible.

“These much-needed parking spots enable our mobility-impaired patrons to more easily access the playhouse and ensure that their experience at Totem Pole Playhouse is an enjoyable one,” says Rowan Joseph, producing artistic director at Totem Pole Playhouse. “We are very grateful for Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics’ generous donation.”

Ability’s founder and CEO Jeff Brandt, CPO, and his family have been longtime supporters of the summer theater venue, which has been open since 1951.

ABILITY SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN PUTS PATIENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Last month, Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics launched a social media campaign to showcase patients who are living full and active lifestyles because of the patient care and devices they have received from Ability clinicians. These are just two of the many patients who have chosen to live a Lifenhanced.

Search #ichooseAbility on Facebook to see more.

How do you choose to live a Lifenhanced? Send us a picture with #ichooseAbility and we might feature you on social media. E-mail katie.kolcun@abilitypo.com.
Kinnex™ integrates the world’s fastest responding microprocessor ankle technology and a carbon fiber foot to provide users with a uniquely stable and natural walking experience. Whether on flat, angled, smooth or uneven terrain, users will enjoy the heightened confidence that comes from staying firmly grounded and feeling connected with every step — in both wet and dry environments!

www.freedom-innovations.com

#freedomkinnex
DIRICKSON MUHAMMAD: PULLING HIS WEIGHT

DIRICKSON MUHAMMAD IS A REGULAR at his local Gold’s Gym. His activity goals include things like weight lifting and doing push-ups, kettleball exercises, and pull-ups. “I want to be able to hold up my full body weight and do leg lifts,” he says.

These are particularly ambitious goals given that Muhammad only has one arm. When he was 11 years old, he fell seven and half floors down an elevator shaft. In addition to fracturing his skull in four places, he suffered a severe laceration on his left wrist and developed a life-threatening infection. Amputation just below the elbow stopped the infection from spreading and saved his life.

Muhammad has used an upper-limb prosthetic device ever since. He started out with a conventional, body-powered prosthesis with a figure of eight harness and a manual hook. When he reached adulthood and wanted a prosthesis with a more natural look, he switched to a myoelectric hand with a three-jaw chuck grasp. Today, the 55-year-old father of three uses the Touch Bionics i-limb revolution, one of the most advanced myoelectric prosthetic hands on the market today. “It has a motorized thumb and added grip patterns,” says Muhammad’s prosthetist John Jacobs, CPO, who works at Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics Frederick, Maryland, patient care center. It also has a smartphone app that allows Muhammad to take advantage of 36 additional grip patterns with a push of a button.

Muhammad’s prosthesis has become integral to his daily functioning. “I wear it every day all the time,” he says. “I use it for everything.”

He was inspired to get a fitness prosthesis after seeing photos on Instagram that other individuals with upper-limb loss had posted of themselves at the gym. When he approached Jacobs about getting a fitness prosthesis, Jacobs knew he would need to design an extremely robust solution that would allow Muhammad to build muscle strength on his left side and handle increasingly heavy loads.

“Dirickson’s current myoelectric prosthetic hand and socket are not set up or designed to lift heavy objects, which has made maintaining muscle strength difficult,” Jacobs explains. “His socket design will be changed to accommodate as much movement as possible but still provide the support he needs.

“The new active prosthesis will have a pin locking system with a locking liner extending up onto the proximal bicep to help reduce slippage of the liner on the skin and secure the socket,” he continues. “A supracondylar suspension with a Boa tightening system will allow him to lift heavier weights, and a quick disconnect wrist will allow him to switch out to two different terminal devices: a Black Iron Trainer for lifting weights and other heavy objects and a Shroom Tumbler for floor exercises.” Both terminal devices are manufactured by TRS Prosthetics, which specializes in high-performance body-powered terminal devices.

“With his new fitness prosthesis, his muscle strength can be increased and range of motion maintained,” Jacobs says. “Getting a fitness prosthesis will also help to limit overuse injuries on his right side,” says Tyler Cook, MSPO, resident prosthetist orthotist at Ability Frederick.

Dirickson was able to try the terminal devices before buying them, so he knows they will help him achieve his goals. “I can’t wait to begin lifting and doing push-ups for the first time,” he says. “I’m not strong enough yet, but I will get there. There’s nothing I can’t do if I put my mind to it.”
The numbers don’t lie. Compared to a conventional energy storing and return foot, Pro-Flex generates exceptional mechanical power and range of ankle motion to reduce the impact on the sound side. Over a lifetime of steps, the potential health benefits are clear.

Contact Ability P&O at (610) 873-6733 to learn more about Pro-Flex by Össur, or visit www.ossur.com/proflex.
ADDITIVE O+P

STARTUP COMPANY IS POISED TO REDEFINE O&P SOCKET FABRICATION.

Disruptive. Revolutionary. Paradigm shifting. These are just a few of the words Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics clinicians Tyler Dunham, CPO (left), and Tyler Manee, CPO (right), use when talking about their new company Additive O+P. This isn’t just marketing hype. Dunham and Manee have the expertise, tools, and vision to fundamentally change just about everything the O&P profession has come to know about prosthetic socket fabrication. And they’re doing it with 3D printing.
“We think it’s time for 3D printed prostheses to stop being a novelty and become the standard of care in the O&P professional arena,” Dunham says.

Thanks to 3D printing communities like e-NABLE, thousands of individuals in need have benefited from 3D printed upper-limb assistive devices. However, there’s a reason that the primary focus of these efforts have been on upper-limb devices. “Lower-limb sockets cannot be done so easily,” Dunham says. “Each socket requires careful adjustment by a knowledgeable prosthetist for a patient to safely bear their weight through it. Dispersing 200 pounds safely and comfortably is far more difficult than dispersing the tension of a Velcro strap around a forearm.”

Dunham and Manee started talking about creating 3D printed sockets for lower-limb prostheses in 2012. “It has every benefit for the user and the practitioner,” Manee says. “It’s faster, it’s cheaper, it’s more precise, it’s more repeatable, and it’s more reliable. It’s just all-around better than the traditional method we’ve been using. We wanted to use it in our clinic, and we also wanted it in our field.”

“We aren’t the first ones to think of 3D printing, and we aren’t even the first ones to think of doing it on our field,” Dunham adds. “But we found that really there were no prosthetists doing 3D printing.”

The more research they did, the more they realized that they were uniquely qualified for the job. “Tyler has an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering, and I have a bachelor’s degree in physics,” Manee says. “We’re both interested in technology, we’re both computer savvy and, most importantly, we’re both certified prosthetists orthotists. We decided that no one was better suited to bring 3D printing to our field than we are.”

PROOF OF CONCEPT

Their first order of business was building a solid knowledge base. In October of 2012, they started teaching themselves how to scan and model objects. Their first scan was an “ugly and lumpy,” version of Manee’s leg, but they learned quickly and had soon created a model of the bottom half of an AFO that, when printed, fit Manee’s foot. “At that point, we really felt like we had proof of concept,” Manee says.

They had also zeroed in on a material — polyactic acic (PLA) — that could withstand the rigors of repeated weight bearing and would be safe to print in an O&P clinic. “Our whole focus is bringing this into clinics, so we needed a material that could be printed in a clinic,” Manee says. “There are hundreds of materials that are really strong and really good for this kind of thing, but they put off noxious and sometimes toxic fumes, and that can’t happen in a clinic.”

PLA is a biodegradable material derived from renewable resources, such as tapioca, cornstarch, and sugarcane. “When you print it, it smells sort of sweet, and it’s bio safe,” Manee says. “It’s safe to have against your skin, it’s non-toxic, and it’s not noxious to print with.”

A PERFECTLY IMPERFECT PRINTER

Up until this point, Dunham and Manee had used a third-party printer to output scaled-down versions of their test devices. But when they felt their product was clinic ready, they had to consider the cost of a printer. It would need to be large enough to print a full-sized lower-limb prosthetic socket and cost-effective enough to be accessible to the average O&P clinic.

“We chose fused deposition modeling [FDM] because we could get a printer that met our specifications for under $5,000,” Dunham says.

Printers that use FDM modeling are able to heat up and lay down plastic quickly, reliably, and accurately. While the precision of the resulting product is not up to the fraction of a micron standards currently accepted in the 3D printing community, it is more accurate than anything currently available in O&P.

“Modifying a plaster model to get the right shape can be pretty imprecise,” Manee says. “For a prosthetist to be producing products that are down to plus or minus a few microns is a huge increase in accuracy.”

Dunham and Manee launched a Kickstarter campaign in February 2015 to fund their first 3D printer, software, and materials. After a successful campaign, they purchased a printer and spent the summer customizing it to meet the unique needs of prosthetic socket fabrication.
INTRODUCING ADDITIVE ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS — ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING FOR NEXT-LEVEL SOCKETS.

Additive O+P is bringing the 3D printing revolution to every patient, making 3D printed devices the standard of care, not a novelty. Whether the case is routine or complex, our 3D printed sockets are highly customizable, more accurate and repeatable, and more cost-efficient than the sockets you’re currently fitting. Contact us to learn how we can help you bring the benefits of additive manufacturing to your practice and patients. With Additive O+P, the possibilities really are endless.

www.AdditiveOandP.com
Throughout the process, they had the support of Ability P&O. “The owners of Ability have invested hours and hours on the phone with us, guiding us, teaching us, setting up meetings, and putting us in touch with marketing people and patent attorneys,” Manee says. “They have bent over backward to help us realize this dream.”

Jeff Brandt, CPO, CEO and founder of Ability P&O says it has been gratifying to see Ability patients benefit from the technology and get “a front row seat” to its evolution. “We are so excited to incubate this company and have Ability clinicians at the forefront of bringing this technology to our patients and the O&P profession. It’s unique to have something like this blossoming within a patient care company.”

**PILOT TESTING**

Once Additive O+P’s 3D printed prosthetic sockets were ready for patient testing, Ability allowed the company to conduct a pilot test with ten of its patients, all experienced below-knee prosthesis users. Because these patients would be bearing their weight through 3D printed sockets, Dunham and Manee developed a regimented protocol outlining precisely how the sockets would be used and how they would ensure the safety of Ability’s patients.

The study took about three months to complete and went off without a hitch. “All of the sockets fit well,” Dunham says. “By the beginning of 2016, we had data to prove that ten different patients had taken countless steps and tried weight bearing on the device without any sort of failure or even a sign of failure.”

The PLA printing material proved to be every bit as robust as other materials found in the O&P workspace. “I was able to heat it and mold it where it needed to fit better,” Manee says. “I was able to grind on it, buff it, sand it, rivet it, and add epoxy to it. Anything you can do with a traditional socket material, you can do with this, too.”

Additive O+P has moved out of the pilot phase and is now selling its products to all ten Ability P&O patient care centers. The company’s primary focus is on modeling and 3D printing lower-limb prosthetic sockets, but they have filled requests for specialty items as well. For example, they recently provided an assistive device to a woman who competes in wheelchair tennis. “She’s great at moving around the court and has a good swing, but she doesn’t have the grip strength to hold a tennis racket really well,” Dunham says. “She kept looking for the perfect device that would wrap around her hand and encompass the racket. Tyler and I took one look at

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**SEPTMBER 15**

**Frederick Happy Hour**

Sponsored by Ability Dynamics

Join Ability clinicians and experts from Ability Dynamics for an exciting presentation about the RUSH prosthetic foot. Ability patients who use the RUSH foot will be on hand to demonstrate and talk about the difference the RUSH foot has made in their lives.

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Flying Dog Brewery
Frederick, MD 21703
RSVP by calling 301-698-4692 or e-mail katie.kolcun@abilitypo.com

**OCTOBER 1**

**Patient Appreciation Day**

Attention Hagerstown patients: Join us for a fun-filled family day at Hagerstown City Park, just off City Park Driveway. We’ll have plenty of burgers, hot dogs, chicken, and side dishes for your entire family. Games and gift bags too! RSVP by September 17.

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Hagerstown City Park
South Pavilion
RSVP to Katie Kolcun by calling 301-790-3636.

**OCTOBER 7**

**Limb Disassembly Day**

Join us in Mechanicsburg to disassemble and inventory donated prosthetic limb components so that the reusable parts can be donated to Prosthetic Hope International. Help give hope to amputees in countries that struggle with natural disasters. A light dinner will be served.

5:00 p.m. at Ability Mechanicsburg
2005 Technology Parkway, Ste. 200
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
To sign up as a volunteer, call 484-252-2687.

Similar events are regularly held at other Ability locations. Call your local office for more information or visit AbilityPO.com.
what she needed and said, ‘Yeah, we can print that.’”

Because of the specific expertise necessary for the provision of quality orthotic and prosthetic care, Additive O+P products will only be made available for sale to certified orthotists and prosthetists.

“The prosthetist doesn’t need additional skills above and beyond what they might be doing already for a scanned file,” Dunham says.

For now, practitioners are sending files to Additive O+P for modeling and printing, but Manee and Dunham say that their vision is for O&P clinics to purchase printers for their offices so fabrication can happen on site. A typical lower-limb prosthetic socket takes about eight hours to print. That timeframe will likely be shortened as the technology improves.

“A prosthetist could send us a file at 4:00 in the afternoon, it would take us a half an hour to model it, and it would start printing in his office that evening,” Manee says. “When he walks into work the next morning, it’s done. It’s same or next-day technology with no added costs. That’s revolutionary.

“We didn’t reinvent the wheel,” he concludes. “We just found a better way to make it.”

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Easy and Effective for Patients And Clinicians.

The patented WalkAide® neuro prosthetic uses functional-stimulation to address foot drop for improved stability, strength and endurance.

- Only requires a simple leg cuff – for adults and children
- Can be worn with or without shoes – no heel strike pad
- No daily charging required – battery operated
- Easier programming – saves clinician time!

**Effective Re-Training**

**Enhanced Mobility**

**A More Natural Gait**

For FREE information or to find a provider near you, visit walkaide.com or call 800-560-4354.
IAN GREEN WAS JUST THREE YEARS OLD when the unthinkable happened. He suffered a traumatic brain injury after accidentally pulling a large television set onto himself. His doctors said he’d never walk or talk again.

Thanks to a comprehensive team approach to pediatric rehabilitation and mobility, a unique knee ankle foot orthosis (KAFO) was custom fabricated for Ian. Now a rambunctious six year old, Ian isn’t just walking, he’s running.

“When I started working with him, he was still in a wheelchair,” says Ian’s orthotist, Nikki Hooks, CO, BEP, FAACPDM, a regional director and clinician at Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina, patient care centers. “We designed a specialized KAFO to help Ian out. His orthosis can be used as a KAFO to help with knee and ankle control or, with the pull of a pin, can become an AFO. This gives a lot of adjustability within a single orthosis.”

Ian’s physical therapist takes the above-knee section off when working with him on gait training and quadriceps strengthening. “The AFO controls Ian’s ankle,” Hooks explains. “It provides drop foot correction in swing phase and a stable base of support in stance phase. In other words, the KAFO helps create a safer and more energy-efficient gait pattern for Ian. The above-knee section controls the knee, prevents further injuries, and improves his stability when he’s not being supervised by his therapist.” This has been especially helpful for Ian because he tends to hyperextend his knee when he’s running, walking, and doing other upright activities.

This type of hybrid KAFO can also be beneficial for pediatric patients with Charcot-Marie Tooth, stroke, increased tone, or weakness, Hooks says. However, she stresses, designing orthotic solutions for pediatric patients is not a one-size-fits-all process. “A generic treatment plan just won’t work because the pediatric patient population is so varied. You really have to think through the entire process, including the external and internal factors that are part of the patient’s treatment plan.”

When designing an orthotic solution for one of her pediatric patients, the first thing Hooks does is find out what the patient’s, parents’, and therapist’s goals are. She then determines what type of orthosis would achieve those goals and provide the biggest biomechanical benefit. She makes sure the final orthosis she provides is as lightweight and easy to put on as possible. “If it’s thin, lightweight, and easy to put on, it’s usually easier to get into a shoe,” she says, which can go a long way toward achieving patient compliance.

In some instances, achieving patient compliance means choosing a solution that may not be the most biomechanically beneficial for the patient.

“If the patient or the parent says, ‘We’re absolutely not wearing that,’ sometimes having a backup plan is better. We want the patient to be compliant and reap the benefit from what we’re doing. So sometimes that trade-off makes all the difference,” Hooks says.

“The treatment goals and the desired clinical outcomes for these patients are very different than a typical adult stroke patient or a lower-limb amputee. Patient presentations differ greatly; with sometimes one side or both sides involved, and sometimes upper limbs also requiring attention,” she says.

Serving as part of a multidisciplinary care team is a key aspect of Ability’s approach to achieving successful outcomes for pediatric patients. “We work closely with the physical or occupational therapist who is also treating the patient. This allows us to design and fit an orthosis that will best support the clinical outcome as seen by the O&P profession, the therapist, and the patient.”
Girls just want to have fun!

The Providence Nocturnal Scoliosis Orthosis

This night-time only brace works around the clock to let girls be kids too.

Studies have shown that the Providence brace, a spinal orthosis worn only at night, is just as effective in the treatment of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis as full-time braces. That’s important, because compliance increases when braces don’t interfere with a child’s everyday life. Spinal Technology is proud to be the exclusive manufacturer of the Providence.

For more information on the Providence Nocturnal Scoliosis System contact your Spinal Technology Sales Representative or email us at info@spinaltech.com.
Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics provides state approved Continuing Education Courses for PTs, OTs, Worker’s Comp. Case Managers and Payers.

Prosthetic & Orthotic technology and treatment protocols are changing rapidly. In an effort to create awareness and raise the clinical standard of care within the industry, Ability practitioners offer six CEU courses for health care professionals and payers. The courses range from outcomes-based practice to amputee post-op management to rehabilitation overviews to ambulation.

If you are interested in increasing your O&P knowledge base by bridging the gap between device and clinical outcomes, please contact your local Ability practitioner today to schedule a course for your facility.