

Hanger and Ottobock Recognized for Groundbreaking Study on C-Brace Orthotic Technology

AUSTIN, Texas, September 8, 2023 – Today, the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) recognized Hanger Vice President of Scientific Affairs Shane Wurdeman, PhD, CP, FAAOP (D), and Ottobock Executive Medical Director Andreas Kannenberg, PhD, as the joint recipients of the esteemed Thranhardt Award. Wurdeman and Kannenberg were awarded for their efforts on an innovative study highlighting the benefits of the [C-Brace](#) – the first-ever microprocessor-controlled leg orthosis – as it compares to traditional knee-ankle-foot orthoses.

Wurdeman and Kannenberg presented the results during AOPA's National Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the full study results are currently pending publication in *Disability and Rehabilitation*, a peer-reviewed journal.

More than 100 people participated in the randomized controlled trial, wearing the leg brace for an extended period of three months. Results noted significant improvements in balance, reduction in reported falls, and improvements in mobility and quality of life for those wearing the C-Brace compared to traditional orthotic technology.

"As the leading provider of orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) care, Hanger is proud to collaborate with Ottobock, an innovator in O&P technology, to help advance the field and drive outcomes-based care," shared Hanger Senior Vice President & Chief Clinical Officer Jim Campbell, PhD, CO, FAAOP. "These significant results would not be possible without the dedication and clinical expertise of Hanger Clinic orthotic experts Tom DiBello, Chris Toelle, Eric Weber, and Jason Wening – whose tireless commitment to advancing patient care was instrumental in carrying out the study."

"Collaboration lies at the heart of innovation, and Ottobock is honored to have partnered with our esteemed colleagues at Hanger for this groundbreaking study. Together, with the dedication and expertise of Hanger's Shane Wurdeman, Ottobock's Andreas Kannenberg, and the entire research team, we have achieved remarkable results," said Scott Schneider, Head of Government & Medical Affairs at Ottobock North America. "This joint effort underscores our shared commitment to advancing O&P technology, ultimately enhancing the lives of individuals with mobility challenges. Through this partnership, we are not only shaping the future of orthotic care but also improving the quality of life for those we serve."

The Thranhardt Award is one of the most distinguished honors in the O&P profession, annually recognizing individuals committed to advancing education and clinical research in the field. To learn more about the award, visit <https://www.aopanet.org/2023/07/aopa-announces-the-2023-thranhardt-award-recipients/>.

About Hanger, Inc. – Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Hanger, Inc. provides comprehensive, outcomes-based orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) services through its Patient Care segment, with more than 900 [Hanger Clinic](#) locations nationwide. Through its Products & Services segment, Hanger distributes branded and private label O&P devices, products and components, and provides rehabilitative solutions. Rooted in 160 years of clinical excellence and innovation, Hanger is a purpose-driven company with a vision to lead the O&P markets by providing superior patient care, outcomes, services and value, aimed at empowering human potential. For more information on Hanger, visit corporate.hanger.com.

About Ottobock – Ottobock is the world's largest manufacturer of artificial limbs and a global leader in developing innovative solutions for people with limited mobility. With a wide range of products and services, including prosthetic limbs, orthopedic braces, and mobility solutions, Ottobock strives to enhance the quality of life for individuals affected by physical limitations. By enabling people to achieve maximum independence, Ottobock supports their journey toward a fulfilling life. Learn more at shop.ottobock.us.

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