

NOTES AND NEWS

R&D CHIEF SPEAKS AT ASME CONFERENCE

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers invited Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief, Research and Development Division, PSAS, to speak at their Eighth National Mechanisms Conference held at Purdue University, October 19-21, 1964. Dr. Murphy's paper on "Problems in Design of Prosthetics Devices" was presented on October 20. Prof. Charles W. Radcliffe of the University of California and Prof. Robert W. Mann, both active in the prosthetics research program, also presented papers.

PROSTHETICS IN EASTERN EUROPE

At a meeting held for VAPC and R&D personnel on October 2, 1964, at the New York offices of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, the Chief of the VAPC, Anthony Staros, and his Technical Assistant, Henry Gardner, discussed, with slides and photographs, their 6-week tour of prosthetic centers in Eastern Europe.

Along with A. Bennett Wilson, Technical Director, CPRD, National Academy of Science—National Research Council and J. M. Greene, President of U.S. Manufacturing Company, they visited hospitals, workshops, and rehabilitation centers in Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Greece.

One of the principal purposes of the trip was to consult with Dr. Marian Weiss in Warsaw on particular details of his technique of immediate post-operative prosthesis fitting. While there, the group attended surgery and followed up a study of the postoperative results of two below-knee cases and one bilateral. The present status of prosthetics and orthotics in Poland was also evaluated.

In Zagreb, Belgrade, and Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, significant progress was noted in prosthetics design since the group's last visit there in 1961. These advances included employment of patellar tendon-bearing sockets for below-knee amputees, total-contact above-knee sockets, modern upper-extremity components, and plastic laminates.

In Belgrade, where Dr. Bosko Zotovic is now Director of the Zavod Za Protetiku, Mr. Staros, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Gardner gave a series of lectures on current developments in prosthetics. Mr. Gardner also gave a series of 10-hour lecture-and-demonstration sessions on casting methods, which included hip and shoulder disarticulation problems.

The team also visited several prosthetics-orthotics facilities in Athens. A full report on the trip is now in preparation.

WORLD'S FAIR CIVIL SERVICE DAY

An exhibit on prosthetics and sensory aid devices was placed on display in the Federal Pavilion at the World's Fair on June 1, 1964, Civil Service Day, by members of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service.

Special thanks were extended by Mr. Thomas V. O'Keefe, Manager, VA Regional Office, New York, to Earl Lewis, Howard Freiburger, William M. Bernstock, and Steven Purka, all of the Research and Development Division, PSAS, for their assistance in both the preparation and display of the exhibit. Devices included miniature models of upper-extremity and lower-extremity limbs as well as an obstacle detector for the blind.

PITTSBURGH VA PROSTHETICS SEMINAR

On October 13, 1964, a regional seminar on prosthetics and orthotics was held at the Roosevelt Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa. Organized by Dr. F. W. Koenig, VA Consultant on Orthopedic Surgery, and Mr. Hugh T. Smyth, Chief of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Unit, Pittsburgh VA Regional Office, the seminar was attended by more than 275 persons from western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and West Virginia. Physicians, therapists, prosthetists, orthotists, and nurses from both VA and civilian clinics participated.

Mr. Wilfred G. Holsberg, recently appointed to the position of Assistant Chief, Plans and Policies Division, PSAS, represented the Service at the seminar. Mr. Anthony Staros, Mr. Henry Gardner, and Mr. William McIlmurray of the VA Prosthetics Center, New York, presented lecture-demonstrations on the total-contact above-knee socket, recent developments on below-knee prosthetics, early postsurgical fitting of prostheses, hydraulic AK mechanisms, and new developments in upper-extremity prostheses and lower-extremity braces.

The seminar was so well received that it is hoped that other such VA-organized programs can be planned for various parts of the country.

"PLASTICS—U.S.A." EXHIBIT

As in previous years, the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service again assisted the United States Information Agency with their plans for an exhibit designated as "Plastics—U.S.A." In addition to appropriate literature, various prosthetic appliances were made available for the exhibit.

"Plastics—U.S.A." was scheduled for showings in various eastern European countries and in Tanganyika.

MINNEAPOLIS VA PROSTHETICS SEMINAR

A two-day seminar on "Current Trends in Research and Development of Artificial Limbs and Braces" was held in Minneapolis, April 21-22, 1964. The first day's sessions convened at the VA Hospital, and on the second day the seminar was held at the Minneapolis Artificial Limb Company.

More than 200 persons from a 9-state area attended the conference, including nurses, orthotists, physicians, prosthetics specialists, prosthetists, and therapists from the VA, private institutions, and prosthetic supply companies. Dr. Edward Mandell, Hospital Director, VAH Minneapolis, welcomed the conferees, and following remarks by Dr. Donald McCarthy, Area Director, Professional Services, registration orientation was given by Mr. Voigt W. Baker, Area Chief, PSAS.

Mr. William H. Talley, Chief of the Plans and Policies Division, PSAS, Washington, D.C., discussed the "Present and Future Trends in the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service." Among the other speakers were Dr. Bror Troedsson, Chief of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service, VA Hospital, Minneapolis, who spoke on "The Relationship of Stump Circulation to the Prescription of a Prothesis in the Geriatric Amputee,"* and Mr. Anthony Staros, Chief of the VA Prosthetics Center, New York City, who talked on "Current Trends in Research and Development." Mr. Henry F. Gardner, Technical Assistant to the VAPC Chief, and Mr. William McIlmurray, Chief of the Limb and Brace Section, both of the VA Prosthetics Center in New York, also participated in the program.

The second day's seminar was presided over by Mr. Robert C. Gruman, President of the American Orthotics and Prosthetics Association, following a welcome to the group by Mr. L. V. Trautman, President of the Minneapolis Artificial Limb Company.

The sessions were devoted to a VAPC staff demonstration of casting techniques and discussions of the new mold modifications and fabrication procedures for lower-extremity limbs. It was strongly emphasized that although the newer VAPC casting stands and methods that had been demonstrated required a higher level of technical judgment on the part of the limb-and-brace technician, the manual techniques had been simplified and the accuracy of the socket fitting greatly increased.

At the end of the proceedings, a social hour, dinner, and entertainment were held for the conferees at the Fort Snelling Employees Association Club.

VAPC BIOENGINEERING SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

For the second year, the VAPC Bioengineering Research Service, under the direction of Edward Peizer, Ph. D., Chief, employed graduate and undergraduate students on its research projects during the summer vacation

*Dr. Troedsson's paper is presented elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

period. Six students participated in the 1964 program. These included two premedical students, Richard K. Berman of Duke University and Ian Holzman of Rochester University; two engineering undergraduates of Cooper Union, Neal Snitow and Robert Zalosh; and two graduate engineering students, Hitoshi Tanaki of Columbia University and Michael Frutkoff, of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

After indoctrination on the methods of bioengineering research, each student was assigned to assist a permanent research employee in routine laboratory procedures, such as preparing subjects for research with instrumentation, recording data, and helping in data reduction.

Each student was later assigned a project which had been carefully selected to make use of his individual skills and capabilities. The following projects were undertaken with a minimum of technical direction:

1. Evaluation and redesign of a barograph for measuring pressure between foot and ground.
2. Redesign of a tachograph for measuring instantaneous velocity of the body's center of gravity during locomotion.
3. Development of a device for measuring instantaneous changes in the flexion-extension angles of the hip.
4. Measurement of energy costs during work performance.
5. An analysis of energy-cost data based on work performed by subject breathing (1) pure oxygen and (2) ambient air.

Excellent results were achieved from these projects in developing a profound student interest in bioengineering and in encouraging the student to assume professional responsibility. The VAPC research program also profited since several of the assignments resulted in improved methods of data reduction.



MINNEAPOLIS VA PROSTHETICS SEMINAR. Dr. Bror Troedsson, Chief, PM&R Service, Minneapolis VA Hospital, presents his paper on stump circulation and prosthetics as Mr. Voigt Baker, PSAS Area Chief, listens in the background.

JOINT MEETINGS OF RESEARCH STAFFS OF AMBRL AND VAPC

Primarily through the initiative of Col. Peter Margetis of the Army Medical Biomechanical Research Laboratory (AMBRL), Forest Glen, Md., the VA Prosthetics Center and the AMBRL conducted joint meetings of their research staffs for the purpose of exchanging information on projects in both laboratories. To date, two 2-day meetings have been held, one at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center on April 9-10, 1964 and another in New York at the VA Prosthetics Center on July 29-30, 1964.

During these meetings research personnel of both laboratories presented in elaborate detail many of the projects on which they were working as well as some of the problems that they had encountered. Component designs, materials, fitting and fabrications methods, as well as research and evaluation capabilities, were among the subjects of discussion.

It is believed that a close correlation of the research efforts of these two government laboratories will prevent unnecessary and uneconomic overlapping of research. All participants expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for these meetings.

DENNY RECEIVES TWO AWARDS

In April 1964, Otis N. Denny, Chief, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Unit, Outpatient Service, VA Hospital, Dearborn, Mich., received a special commendation from the Federal Business Association of Detroit and a second from the Veterans Administration, Department of Medicine and Surgery.

In concurring with the Dearborn VA Station's recommendation for an honor award to Mr. Denny, Dr. R. E. Stewart, Director, PSAS, noted:

For over 17 years Mr. Denny has been one of our most outstanding and dedicated Prosthetics Representatives. He established and maintained an excellent Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at the VA Regional Office, Detroit, and established an even better program at the Dearborn VA Hospital when the outpatient clinic was moved to that station.

. . . We recommend that Mr. Denny be awarded an Administrator's Commendation in recognition of his outstanding services to disabled veterans and the Veterans Administration.

Earlier in the month Mr. Denny had been named Federal Employee of 1963 of Metropolitan Detroit.

Mr. Denny, a bilateral lower-extremity amputee as a result of his military service in World War II, is now Chief of the Dearborn VA Hospital Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Unit; his unit is responsible for assisting about 1,172 amputees and 69 blinded veterans. His service with the Veterans Administration has been continuous since August 1946 when he started as Contact Representative. His long record of highly effective work with veterans has been outstanding through his unique ability of determining the needs and achieving successful rehabilitation programs for the most severely disabled patients, including paraplegics and the blinded. In 1961, he received a

citation from the President's Committee for the Handicapped for his voluntary help in soliciting artificial limbs for distribution to disabled people throughout the world by the hospital ship *Hope*.

Mr. Denny is a member of the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Veterans of World War II, and the American Legion.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE AWARD

The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped cited Paul R. Rockett, Assistant Chief, Limb and Brace Section, VA Prosthetics Center, New York City, for meritorious service in his work with disabled veterans. The New York State Chairman of the President's Committee, Mr. Orin Lehman, in presenting the Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Rockett on July 14, 1964, praised him for his outstanding service and dedicated treatment of amputees. In addition to fitting amputees during his 25 years as limbmaker with the NY Regional Office, Mr. Rockett has trained many young technicians who now also serve as limb fitters for disabled veterans.



PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE AWARD. Paul R. Rockett, VAPC, holds his Citation of Meritorious Service. Left to right: Orin Lehman, NY State Chairman for the President's Committee, who made the presentation; Paul R. Rockett, Anthony Staros, Chief, VAPC, and Thomas V. O'Keefe, Manager, NYRO, who also addressed the group at the presentation ceremony.

PENNSYLVANIA PM&R MEETING

On May 9, 1964, at the Magee Memorial Hospital for Convalescents, a seminar on "Newer Concepts of Bracing of the Lower Extremities" was held by members of the Pennsylvania Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabil-

itation and the Philadelphia Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Graduate students of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania also attended.

One of the lectures, "Shoe Modifications in Lower-extremity Orthotics" was presented by Mr. Isidore Zamosky, Supervisor, Brace Section, VA Prosthetics Center, New York. The subject, profusely illustrated with color slides, is also presented by Mr. Zamosky as a course in lower-extremity orthotics for the New York University Postgraduate Medical School and School of Engineering and Science as part of their program in prosthetics and orthotics.

Dr. Emery Stoner, President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, introduced the program, which also included a talk on "Components and Alignment" by Mr. Norman Berger, NYU Postgraduate Medical School, and a British motion picture, "Orthopedic Aspects of Gait."

In the evening, cocktails and dinner were held at the Philadelphia Cricket Club honoring the three Gold Key Recipients living in Philadelphia: Frank H. Krusen, M.D., George Morris Piersol, M.D., and William H. Schmidt, M.D. Opening remarks were presented by Emery K. Stoner, M.D., and Emilie L. Maxwell, M.D., was Toastmistress of the occasion.

VA CLINIC CHIEFS MEET

Some 70 outstanding authorities in the prosthetics field attended a conference sponsored by the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service in its New York facilities, May 7-9, 1964. Among the conferees were most of VA's Consultants who serve as Chiefs of Orthopedic and Prosthetic Appliance Clinic Teams throughout the country. Key members of prosthetics committees of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council attended various sessions of the conference.

Participants seemed uniformly enthusiastic about the effectiveness of the conference. Most of the meetings were devoted to scientific and technical presentations, with ample provision made for the exchange of clinical insights. A number of the surgeons commented that this was their first opportunity in recent years to learn how their colleagues dealt with specific medical-prosthetic situations.

We are grateful to the Consultants and other conferees who took time from their busy schedules to help make the meeting a success.

ORTHOTICS AWARD TO R. CHUPURDIA

Mr. R. Chupurdia, Chief, Prosthetics Service, VA Center, Los Angeles, received an outstanding service award from the Society of Orthotists and Prosthetists, Inc., in Los Angeles. The award was presented by Mr. Leroy Noble, Director of AOPA Region IX, at the Annual Awards Banquet. The

inscription on the plaque read: "To Roddy Chupurdia for Outstanding Service in the Field of Orthotics for the Year 1963."

HOUSTON AREA TRAINING PROGRAM

A 5-day course on "Rehabilitation through Prosthetic and Sensory Aids" is to be given for physicians, nurses, therapists, and prosthetic clerks during the last week of January 1965 at the VA Hospital, Houston, Texas. Groups of 10 to 15 students will be instructed in professional, technical, and administrative procedures relating to the use of prosthetic and sensory aids in rehabilitation.

THIRD PAN-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

The International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled is holding its Third Pan-Pacific Conference in Tokyo, Japan, the week of April 12, 1965. Dr. Kenji Takagi of Japan and Sir Kenneth Coles of Australia will serve as Honorary Presidents, and the host organization for the Conference will be the Japanese National Committee of the International Society.

The program will deal mainly with the problems of the disabled and the need for developing rehabilitation services in the countries of the Pacific region. For further information, write to the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled or to the Japanese National Committee for the International Society, 66 Higashi, 1-Chome, Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR DR. MURPHY IN GUATEMALA

Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief, Research and Development Division, PSAS, presented a series of lectures at the Regional Course in Prosthetics for Central America held in Guatemala City, November 9-December 4, 1964. Sponsored by the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the Asociacion Guatemalteca de Rehabilitacion, this course was the first of its kind held in Central America.

A TRIBUTE TO THE AREA CHIEFS, PSAS

Since 1950 a dedicated group of people, known as Area Chiefs, PSAS, have been performing a highly useful role in implementing and facilitating programs of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service in the field. An Area Chief, PSAS, served in each of the seven Area Medical Offices of VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery (except for a vacancy which existed during the past year and a half in the St. Louis Medical Area). Because of a recent administrative decision, the position of Area Chief, PSAS, has been eliminated in Area Medical Offices.

We wish to offer our most sincere appreciation to the following people who served so well as the "eyes and ears" of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids

Service and to wish them every success in their new situations: Voigt W. Baker, St. Paul Area Medical Office; Wilfred G. Holsberg, Boston Area Medical Office; Harry D. MacBird, San Francisco Area Medical Office; Leonard J. McCarthy, Trenton Area Medical Office; Robert B. Kay, Atlanta Area Medical Office; Albert Zuidema, Columbus Area Medical Office.



AREA CHIEFS, PSAS. Seated (left to right): Leonard J. McCarthy, Trenton; Voigt W. Baker, St. Paul; Donald W. L. Smith (St. Louis). Standing (left to right): Wilfred G. Holsberg, Boston; Robert B. Kay, Atlanta; Albert Zuidema, Columbus; and Harry D. MacBird, San Francisco. (Photo taken in 1961.)

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY PANEL

We are pleased to announce that Mr. William M. Bernstock, Assistant Chief of the Research and Development Division, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, has been appointed as a member of Vocational Rehabilitation Administration's Advisory Panel for Prosthetic-Orthotic Education. The appointment is for a three-year period beginning July 1, 1964.

Mr. Alvin L. Muilenburg of the Muilenburg Artificial Limb Co. in Houston, Texas, has also accepted appointment to this advisory panel.

MR. UFHEIL RETIRES

We wish to announce the retirement from VA employment of Joseph Ufheil. Joe was long associated with our prosthetics programs, both in the field and in Central Office.

A dinner was held in Joe's honor in New York. The affair was all the more pleasurable because of the presence of Joe's charming wife, Madeline, who also retired from her VA position. A reception for both of them was held in Washington.

We shall miss Joe's dedicated services. We wish him and Madeline many happy and constructive years of retirement. To readers who may wish to get in touch with the Ufheils, their address is: 161 Casa Lane, Punta Gorda Isles, Punta Gorda, Florida.

MOBILITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

An international conference on mobility research was held at the Rijn-hotel, Rotterdam, during the week of August 3, 1964. The program, which included participants from Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, covered the following topics: (1) State of the art reports on the utilization of the electromagnetic spectrum for mobility implementation; (2) Special problems of mobility training; (3) Social and demographic aspects of the visually impaired population; (4) Market research findings on the visually impaired population; (5) Programs for mobility training; (6) Research and development problems in mobility aids; and (7) Evaluations in field and laboratory for performance parameters of subjects using mobility aids.

Participating organizations from the United States included the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories; St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford Research Institute, The American Foundation for the Blind, Inc., Tracor, Inc., and Westinghouse Research Laboratories.

The proceedings of the conference are being edited by Mr. L. L. Clark, Director, International Research Information Service of The American Foundation for the Blind, Inc.

VA PROSTHETICS CENTER REORGANIZED

The VA Prosthetics Center formerly composed of five Sections and an Administrative Office was recently reorganized into three technical operating Services and an Administrative Division. The current organization of the Center is diagrammed in Chart 1.

The three Services include all of the present sections but with several name changes. The former Orthopedic Shoe Section is now a Service. Two new sections under the *Orthopedic Shoe Service* are known as the Orthopedic Shoe Shop and the Shoe Processing Section. Mr. Frank Schenck is Chief of the Service; Mr. Dominick Bonarrigo, Chief, Orthopedic Shoe Shop; and Mr. Felix Gumper, Chief, Shoe Processing Section.

The former Prefabricated Appliances Section and the former Limb and Brace Section are now parts of the *Prosthetics-Orthotics Service* with Mr. William McIlmurray as Chief of Service. Mr. Harry Cavanaugh is Chief of the Prefabricated Appliances Section, and Mr. Werner Greenbaum, Chief of the Limb and Brace Section. Mr. Gennaro Labate and Mr. Peter Thauwald have become Technical Staff Assistants to Mr. McIlmurray.

The former Testing and Development Laboratory and the former Bio-engineering Laboratory are now the Testing and Evaluation Section and the Research Section, respectively, of the *Bioengineering Research Service*, under Dr. Edward Peizer as Chief of Service. The Testing and Evaluation

Section is under Mr. Anton Reichenberger while, for the present, the Research Section has no chief. Mr. Thomas Pirrello, Jr., is Technical Staff Assistant to Dr. Peizer.

Mrs. Anastasia S. Keane, formerly Administrative Officer of the Center has become Chief, Administrative Division. In this Division, Mr. Frank D'Alessandro will be in charge of records and statistics and Mr. William Fortgang of Supply.

Mr. Anthony Staros, formerly Center Chief and now Center Director, will continue to have the services of Dr. Herman Gladstone, on a part-time basis and Dr. Gabriel Rosenkranz, full-time, as medical advisers. Mr. Henry Gardner and Mr. Frank A. Witteck are now Technical Assistants to the Center Director; Mr. Gardner for device and technique development, and Mr. Witteck for general management assistance.

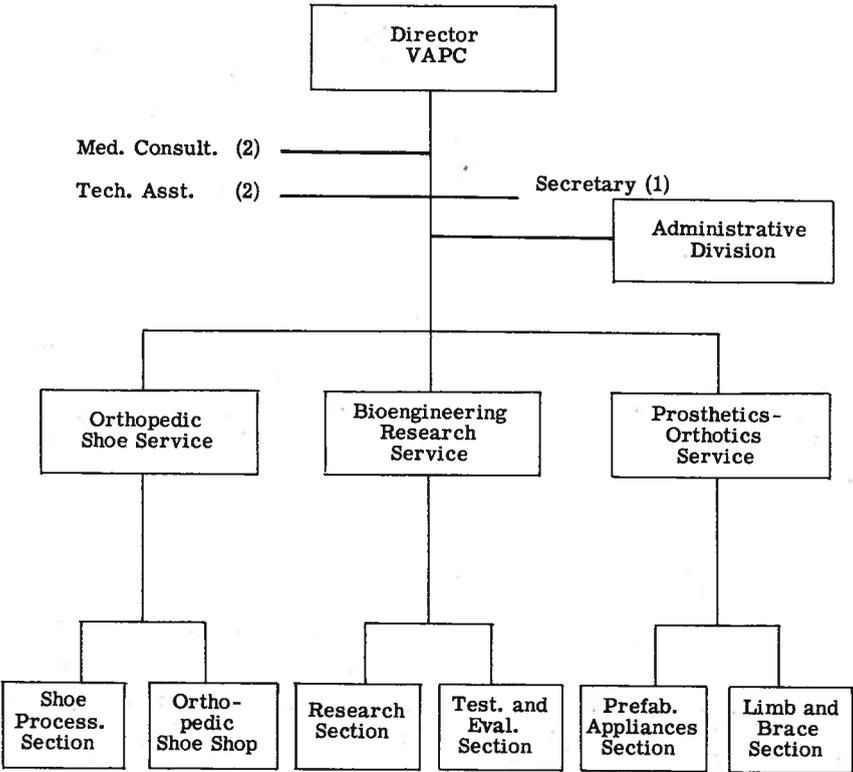


CHART 1. VAPC Reorganization.