
NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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J. CHAD DUNCAN NAMED NUPOC DIRECTOR
Promoting Continuity and Strategic Change

Chicago, IL, December 5, 2018 – J. Chad Duncan, PhD, CRC, CPO, is the incoming Director at the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center (NUPOC), Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and formally assumes his leadership role on January 1, 2019.

Building on NUPOC's national and international reputation for excellence in research and education, Dr. Duncan advocates a forward-looking plan of continuity and strategic change that will lead NUPOC into the future. A dedicated educator, clinician, and researcher in the fields of Prosthetics & Orthotics (P&O) and rehabilitation education, Dr. Duncan will continue to augment best practices in progressive, competency-based student education; and will position faculty and student development to foster leadership that evolves and adapts to changes in education, research technology and healthcare. Dr. Duncan addressed his team at NUPOC, *"It's a great honor to be chosen as the next Director of NUPOC. Over the past two years I have worked with and seen the talent of NUPOC faculty, staff, and students. I look forward to continuing to work side-by-side with each and every one of you on the next chapter of NUPOC."*

Dr. Duncan succeeds John W. Michael, MEd, CPO, who has directed NUPOC from 2009. Mr. Michael will continue as an educator at NUPOC, supporting and facilitating Dr. Duncan's transition to director. Mr. Michael said, *"It has been an honor to develop, launch and direct the MPO program at NUPOC and I am proud of our many accomplishments. I am delighted to transfer the directorship to Dr. Duncan. His commitment to the education of our students will chart NUPOC's course for continued growth and shape the future of prosthetics and orthotics. I will be available as a resource when needed, but I look forward to continuing as a clinical educator at NUPOC where I will do what I love, teaching our students the discipline of P&O."*

A NUPOC graduate, Dr. Duncan completed his pre-residency certificate training in Prosthetics (1997) and Orthotics (1999) at Northwestern University. A compassionate prosthetist-orthotist with more than 20 years of experience in the profession, he attained additional formal training for multiple P&O specific applications and systems, and has been an invited consultant for his expertise in P&O assessment and evaluation.

At Auburn University, he earned a doctorate (2008) in Rehabilitation Services, a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling (2006), and a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services (1995). Also at Auburn University, he earned a Certificate in Rehabilitation Leadership and Management (2009). Dr. Duncan is an associate professor and clinical educator at NUPOC with direct experience working within the education curriculum for the Master's of Prosthetics and Orthotics (MPO). In addition to presenting lectures and supervising students in their clinical practicums, he has served as Capstone Coordinator, Curriculum Development Coordinator, and Faculty Co-Advisor to the NUPOC Student Society. He also worked to launch a special interest society in the American Association of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP), and serves as director of the Midwest Chapter of the AAOP.

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Dr. Duncan is an active contributor and leader in multiple national, regional, and state professional organizations, including his service as President of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, the largest organization of rehabilitation educators in the USA. His advocacy for professionalism and inclusivity in Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) helped establish the first master's degree P&O program at Alabama State University, an Historically Black College and University. His attention to administrative process successfully led the program to full accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health and Education Programs (CAAHEP) and the National Commission on Orthotic & Prosthetic Education (NCOPE).

A collaborative and independent researcher, Dr. Duncan has published and presented his studies nationally and internationally, examining issues of self-efficacy, psychosocial aspects of disability, and prosthetics in the work place. Also, he has served in editorial positions for the *American Board of Vocational Experts*, *Journal for Forensic Vocational Analysis*, and the *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*. Dr. Duncan has received various awards, including the AAOP Outstanding Educator Award (2018), Presidential Citation for Support and Outstanding Contribution to the American Board of Vocational Experts (2015), and New Career in Rehabilitation Education (2013).

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