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# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

April 2, 2021

## TOP NEWS

### **Very Sad News: Dale Butler, M.D — Former COA President — Passes Away**

COA



Dr. Butler who led COA as our President in 2004-2005 quietly passed away on March 28 with his wife Yvonne and family by his side after a long illness. He also Chaired COA's Legislative Committee and regularly interacted with the California Medical Association on our legislative issues and was active in COA.

Dr. Butler received his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine medical school in 1965 and practiced in the Sacramento area for a long time. Eventually he moved his practice to Nevada City and also worked at the Veteran's Hospital in Sacramento.

Yvonne shared this interesting story about Dr. Butler. In 1968-69, Dr. Butler was the only winter-over doctor at the McMurdo Naval Air Station in the Antarctic. Who would have thought that Dr. Butler spent time in the Antarctic? He had a small hospital and took care of 250 navy men and scientists. The New Zealand base was nearby. One of their huskies had a litter of pups, but they were concerned they would have to put her down and lose the pups, too, because she had an eye problem. So they loaded her up on a dog sled, took her over to Dale's hospital and he operated on her eye. The dentist giving anesthesia gave a bit too much, and the dog didn't wake up. Finally dog recovers, New Zealanders take her back and issue a press release. Very soon, Dale had a hot visit from his CO who didn't know he was doing the surgery. But all was well, and the New Zealanders thanked him by taking him out on a dog sled when Spring came to see the Navy ice breakers clear a channel so fresh supplies could be brought in.

What an interesting experience for Dr. Butler.

The family is planning a private service for Dr. Butler. They may plan a Celebration of his Life in a few months. [Let us know if you would like to be notified of the Celebration.](#)

Please join me in offering our sympathy to Yvonne Butler and her family. If you would like to send a note to Yvonne, [send it to COA](#) and we will forward it to her.

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## Anthem Blue Cross Reaches out to Orthopaedic Surgeons

Anthem Blue Cross

If you are part of the Anthem Blue Cross Workers' Compensation Medical Provider Network (WC MPN), you should have received [this notice](#) from Anthem asking you to identify your orthopaedic subspecialty area of practice. **We urge you to respond.**

When COA was discussing with State Fund their transition to an in-house Workers' Compensation network, we discovered that, in many cases, State Fund was unaware of an orthopaedic surgeon's sub-specialty area of practice. Thus, it was impossible for them to know whether they had — for example — any hand surgeons in their network for a particular geographic area. This led to a discussion also with Anthem Blue Cross who administers the State Fund WC MPN, about the need to list orthopaedic sub-specialties in their WC network, so that Workers' Compensation carriers/self-insured employers could make more informed decisions when selecting orthopaedic surgeons from the Anthem network.

We are pleased to let you know that Anthem listened and is now reaching out to orthopaedic surgeons within their WC MPN to verify and identify their orthopaedic sub-specialty area of practice. This is important information to add to your profile. Select as many practice areas as is appropriate to your practice. Any questions regarding this outreach should be directed to Anthem — [awcmailing@anthemwc.com](mailto:awcmailing@anthemwc.com)

## Orthopaedic Surgeon Needed

COA

An established orthopaedic surgery practice in North Hollywood CA is looking for an orthopedic surgeon to join the practice or even take over the practice due to reaching retirement age.

Interested parties please call: 818-416-8180

### PRODUCT SHOWCASE



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## Coming Soon: Updated AMA Guides Sixth Edition

American Medical Association

The new AMA Guides Digital delivers AMA Guides content updates and provides easy access to material. Currently, AMA Guides Digital offers AMA Guides Sixth and the complete AMA Guides Newsletter archive. On April 1, 2021 the updated AMA Guides Sixth 2021 will be available only on the digital platform.

Effective July 1, 2021, the AMA will consider AMA Guides Sixth 2021 to be the most current version of AMA Guides Sixth. Check out the AMA EdHub to access AMA Guides educational modules and materials to become familiar with the new content.

Please note that California's Workers' Compensation system will continue to use the 5th Edition of the AMA Guides. You would use the 6th Edition only when you are evaluating federal employees.

[READ MORE](#)

### COA Report

Connect with COA



[Jason Zimmerman](#), Director of Publishing, Multiview, 469-420-2686 | [Download media kit](#)  
[Brie Ragland](#), Content Editor, Multiview, 469-420-2604 | [Contribute News](#)

**California Orthopaedic Association**  
1246 P Street | Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-454-9884 | [Contact Us](#) | [www.coa.org](http://www.coa.org)

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