

Natalie Mecklenburg

Ms. Smith

Internship 4B

13 December 2024

Annotated Bibliography #4

Wiggen, Brian. Personal Interview Conducted by Natalie Mecklenburg. 9 December 2024.

On December 9, 2024, Mr. Brian Wiggen, a certified prosthetist, orthotist, and the branch manager at Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics discussed the prosthetics field and his own experience with the job. Brian started by sharing his favorite and least favorite aspects of the job. He described that he loves the challenge of using his skills to help patients regain mobility. He also enjoys the custom building part of prosthetics and getting to see patients and their families. For his least favorite part, he said that it is definitely paperwork. He believes the amount of paperwork required now, including insurance forms, compliance, and documentation, is taking away time and effort needed for the patients. Brian also has a background in mechanical engineering. He started pursuing this in college, while simultaneously working in O&P(orthotics and prosthetics) full-time in college. He was board certified in 1995 and decided to stay in O&P instead of heading to medical school. He ended the interview with an insightful piece of advice. He says to always be willing to think outside of the box if you are pursuing this career because going above and beyond in patient care is worth every bit of effort.

Brian is a reliable source because he is a certified prosthetist and orthotist with over 30 years of experience in the field. He has a degree in mechanical engineering and is a BOC certified prosthetist and ABC and BOC certified orthotist, meaning he has been certified by the

American Board of Certification and Board of Certification. He is also the Branch Manager at Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics, which requires a level of respect and responsibility he has rightfully earned.

This interview with Brian Wiggen was extremely inspiring to anyone interested in the prosthetics career field. He had many positive things to say about his current career, many of which could influence someone into joining this career field. He also shared an interesting viewpoint about becoming familiar with doing paperwork and working with insurance because that is a largely overlooked part of the job. He also discussed what ongoing education credits are and said that all practitioners must complete these, along with describing the symposiums many practitioners attend to stay up to date on advancements in technology. Overall, Brian offered an honest, inspiring, and informative viewpoint on his career which could easily help someone learn new facts about the prosthetics field or even convince them that this field is for them.