



Josef J. Geldwert, DPM, FACFAS

40-YEAR
MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT

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When Josef J. Geldwert, DPM, FACFAS, finished his residency at Northlake Hospital in Illinois in 1974, his program director and colleagues encouraged him to join ACFAS—in their words, *the* organization to which DPMs must belong. “I knew that the elite members of podiatry belonged to the College, so when I joined in 1978, I felt honored to be part of such an esteemed association,” says Dr. Geldwert.

Since those early days of his career, Dr. Geldwert has enjoyed seeing ACFAS change and grow over the years. He appreciates how the College communicates more with members and how its educational materials are more easily accessible. Two member benefits he values most are the Annual Scientific Conference and *The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery (JFAS)*. “The annual conference, in my opinion, has become the

preeminent national meeting of foot and ankle surgeons,” he says. “And *JFAS* is such a robust publication,” he adds. “My colleagues and I reference it all the time.”

He also regularly makes use of the resources available in the ACFAS Marketing Toolbox, such as the PowerPoint presentations, *FootNotes* newsletter and patient education CDs, to promote his practice, and when necessary, he refers his patients to colleagues who are Fellows of the College.

One memorable highlight from Dr. Geldwert’s 40-year membership was the 2014 Annual Scientific Conference. “I had just patented three surgical devices,” he explains, “and it was so helpful to meet and connect with surgical device manufacturers in the Exhibit Hall and to hear honest feedback on my products.” He also appreciates the many

friendships he has made with members from around the country, friends he may never have met if the many annual conferences had not brought them together.

Dr. Geldwert urges new ACFAS members to get involved locally in their Regions and to attend the “not to be missed” Annual Scientific Conference. For other 40-year members like himself, he encourages them to keep on practicing if they are in good health and still enjoy what they do.

“As I look back on the past 40 years, I think of how difficult it was for DPMs to obtain hospital privileges,” concludes Dr. Geldwert. “ACFAS has worked hard to change that, and I will always appreciate what the College does for its members.”

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