Michael J. Marcus, DPM, FACFAS, credits his residency directors at Kern Hospital in Warren, Michigan with introducing him to ACFAS 40 years ago. The dedication that Dr. Earl Kaplan, Dr. Irvin Kanat and Dr. Robert Weinstock showed to their patients and the profession inspired Dr. Marcus to join the College and make the same lasting impact. “Without their example and encouragement, I wouldn’t have developed the bond I have with ACFAS today,” he says.

Dr. Marcus appreciates how the College has kept pace with advancements in foot and ankle surgery since he joined in 1978 and has tailored its educational offerings and publications to meet the needs of today’s foot and ankle surgeon. A few years ago, Dr. Marcus attended an ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference after not having gone to one for a while. “I was blown away by how far the College and profession have come,” he shares. “The sessions were so sophisticated, and they reflected the state of the art in foot and ankle surgery.”

As a longtime 40-year ACFAS member, Dr. Marcus most values how the College and its resources have helped him throughout his career and have connected him with others in the profession. He believes the Fellow designation in particular confirms to patients that foot and ankle surgeons have achieved and maintained a certain level of expertise. “It shows we provide the highest-quality care to our patients,” he explains. He also says the camaraderie gained from networking with other ACFAS members has made him a more confident surgeon. “Talking shop with other ACFAS members gives you new perspectives on surgical techniques and makes you more adept at treating a wide range of foot and ankle conditions.”

Dr. Marcus advises new ACFAS members to take advantage of everything the College has to offer, including the free practice marketing tools on acfas.org and the ACFAS Recognized Fellowships. Having been involved in residency training for more than 30 years, he also continues to encourage his surgical residents to join ACFAS and to seek out the opportunities the College provides.

For other 40-year members like himself, Dr. Marcus recommends attending the Annual Scientific Conference to stay abreast of new surgical methods and techniques and to continue their lifelong learning because you never know where it may lead. “Today I’m the chief of staff-elect and past chair of the surgery department at Beverly Hospital in Montebello, California,” concludes Dr. Marcus. “This wouldn’t have been possible for a foot and ankle surgeon 40 years ago, and I wouldn’t be where I am today without the College and my ACFAS membership.”

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— Michael J. Marcus, DPM, FACFAS