

A Research Commitment to Advance the Profession

By Paul J. Kim, DPM, FACFAS, Research Committee Chair

In early June 2018, the ACFAS Research Committee convened a special session to discuss the development and implementation of a long-term research strategy. At this meeting, committee members were asked to review goals identified by the Board of Directors and to prepare recommendations on the development of a new ACFAS research agenda. Through implementation of the agenda, the College intends to create a culture that embraces evidence-based practice and is committed to continuous improvement through research.

The Board and the committee recognize that research is an important part of clinical practice as it impacts reimbursement, credentialing/privileging, profession credibility, cost effectiveness, best practice and basic good clinical care. As the scientific and surgical arm of the profession, ACFAS is choosing to take a leadership role in the development and deployment of a long-term research strategy to benefit all aspects of the profession.

Historically, ACFAS has implemented several research programs that did achieve the desired, but limited goals. The Board directed the committee to think beyond past research programs to develop a multifaceted strategy that would engage members and promote the participation and knowledge of evidence-based research. The Research Committee is comprised of members representing both academic and private practice physicians with an established history of scholarly activity.



A comprehensive approach with short, medium and long-term tactics is currently in development. This includes meeting the research needs at every level: podiatric medical students, residents, fellows and practicing podiatric physicians. There is no expectation that every member will be an expert in research. However, there should be an expectation that all will be informed consumers and have access to research-related resources.

As we begin the development of a research strategy, the ACFAS Board, Research Committee members and I are committed to providing tangible steps with realistic goals that will assist in the natural evolution of our profession. This approach will only be effective if there is long-term commitment to change. I ask for patience and support as we take on this very important endeavor.

Dr. Kim is professor of surgery, Georgetown University School of Medicine, and vice chair of research at MedStar Health Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Washington, DC.

Joint Task Force of Orthopaedic & Podiatric Surgeons Convenes in Chicago



On April 11, 2018, leaders from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society and the American Podiatric Medical Association came together in Chicago for a first-of-its-kind meeting of a Joint Task Force of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Podiatric Surgeons.

The task force will work to enact policy initiatives, both at the state and federal levels, that are of mutual benefit to podiatric surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons and their patients. It will also examine the education and training of graduates from colleges of podiatric medicine with the goal of consensus on options for education, training and certification.

“The first meeting of our task force was full of positive energy,” said John Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS, co-chair of the task force.

“It was the first of many meetings to come and is a great example of the collaborative spirit of our two professions,” said Steven Ross, MD, co-chair.

Watch for more information to come about the joint task force and its efforts.