Conference ‘Stepped Ahead’ with Science, Camaraderie and Wisdom

Sam Mendicino, DPM, and Michael S. Lee, DPM, pointed out the uses and limitations of external fixation. Harold Schoenhaus, DPM, declared “Motion is life,” and insisted his ultimate goal was to avoid fusion of the great toe joint.

Jerome Steck, DPM, argued in favor of judicial use of decompression surgery to treat diabetic neuropathy, saying 59 percent of his 176 patients had 50 percent reduction in pain or more. Yet Allen Jacobs, DPM, cautioned that evidence-based medicine doesn’t support this approach.

Roya Mirmiran, DPM, debated the ethics of how much treatment to provide for a suicidal, non-compliant diabetic patient. And John Steinberg, DPM, recalled the difficulty of telling a young mother who thought she only had a heel ulcer that her condition was very serious, and that she had to consider amputation or risk worsening infection and possibly even death.

These were some of the sights and sounds of the Annual Scientific Conference, along with doctors gathering outside the lecture halls to discuss their tough cases and attendees streaming into the exhibit hall to browse the latest in surgical hardware and technology.

The camaraderie of the opening reception encompassed everyone from students to past ACFAS presidents, who mingled at buffet tables at the Gaylord National Resort and Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Members also enjoyed friendly shop talk at the Young Members reception and the Saturday night events at the Spy Museum and Gordon Biersch restaurant.

Another highlight was the ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony, where Poster and Manuscript winners received awards and John Giurini, DPM, passed the president’s gavel to Mary Crawford, DPM.

continued on page 10

Fourteen Years of JFAS Now Online

Looking for a Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery article that you recall reading in past years? Researching references for an article you’re writing?

ACFAS members can now access every article from each issue of JFAS from January 1995 to the present on jfas.org.

“This enhanced availability of earlier scientific works will allow greater access to our journal’s body of literature,” says Allen M. Jacobs, DPM, Chairman of the ACFAS Council for Journal Management. “It will also increase the citation of these published works by others engaged in research, leading to enhanced prestige of the journal, the College, and our profession.”

For seamless access to the Journal’s web site, go to acfas.org/pubresearch/jfas and then click on “Previous Issues” on the jfas.org navigation bar.
A Global College: A ‘Win-Win’ Opportunity

By Mary E. Crawford, DPM, FACFAS
President

The phrase, “it’s a small world,” continues to astound me as I travel nationally and internationally to participate in foot and ankle surgery conferences. The challenges of a surgical practice, the ever-expanding need for knowledge of advanced foot and ankle surgical procedures, and the necessity for evidence based medicine and outcome studies affect all of us, whether we practice in North America, Australia, Europe or Asia.

Every year more of our international colleagues attend the College’s Annual Scientific Conference, surgical skills or specialty courses and this has fostered new professional relationships between foot and ankle surgeons around the globe. Our respect for their knowledge and variations of surgical procedures has grown to where many now participate as speakers at our Annual Scientific Conference, and our members participate in their international conferences.

Affiliate Status for ‘Like-Minded Surgeons’

At the recent ACFAS Board of Directors meeting, a new category of affiliation was approved for non-North American colleagues. International Affiliate status allows like-minded foot and ankle surgeons to engage in activities and dialogue with ACFAS members. Applications to become an international affiliate must be accepted by our International Engagements Task Force with an annual fee required to maintain the affiliation.

What is a “like-minded foot and ankle surgeon?” Can any non-North American physician become an ACFAS international affiliate? These questions had previously been stumbling blocks since the DPM degree is not internationally recognized, and yet, the practices of many of our international colleagues are entirely focused on surgery. Therefore our application process inquires beyond the degree alone and examines the education, training, and percentage of practice devoted to foot and ankle surgery. It also asks what other professional societies or organizations the applicant is a member of and in what past ACFAS events (if any) the applicant has participated. Answers to these questions help determine if the applicant is truly trained to perform surgery and whether foot and ankle surgery is a primary area of focus; hence the term, “like-minded foot and ankle surgeon.”

Benefits Flow Both Ways

What are the benefits of an international affiliation? First, it’s a two-way street. The collective wisdom of our specialty and every ACFAS member will be enhanced by greater international participation. And, for the international affiliate, they will benefit from electronic versions of the prestigious Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery and our online weekly newsletter, This Week @ ACFAS. They will also have online access to the “members only” section of the ACFAS web site. International affiliates will be eligible for member prices for ACFAS educational workshops, seminars and conferences in addition to purchasing ACFAS publications, e-learning, DVD series and other products and services. And, of course, we will all build international collegiality across the seas and continents.

For the College, the international relationships that have been fostered over the past several years have already brought new and unique perspectives to our educational meetings and Journal. This is particularly beneficial since research controls in other countries are less restrictive than in the United States, which, frankly, can stifle good research in the U.S. Less restrictive controls abroad, especially in the area of instrumentation and devices, allows us to read and hear what may, or may not, be in our future when similar research reaches our shores. It should also be noted that in some countries the patient population is more stationary, allowing for longer and more detailed follow up. This provides much needed data on long term outcomes of procedures that is sometimes difficult to gather in a more transient society, which we are now reading in the Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery. And of course we will hear about more of this invaluable research from our international affiliate-speakers at ACFAS conferences.

A global College is a win-win for every ACFAS member, our new international affiliate-colleagues, and ultimately for the patient … in every corner of the world.
Come to Charleston and Focus on Profits

In today’s economy, it’s more important than ever to make sure you’re receiving all the money that’s due to you. Maximize your reimbursements with timely advice on correct coding and practice strategies. Find out where you can take advantage of efficiencies to save money, too.

Come to Charleston May 15-16 for the ACFAS Coding and Practice Management Seminar and listen to Doug Stoker, DPM, Karen Zupko and other experts.

As the Obama administration moves toward having doctors and insurers adopt Electronic Medical Records, it’s important to stay on top of what’s happening with these technologies. Seminar speakers will discuss what your practice can do to prepare for the scenario and how emerging technologies might be able to save you money. Vendors of services will be onsite with product options.

Charleston is lovely in May, but if you can’t make it, enjoy the pleasant September breezes in Chicago, where the seminar will be repeated. Check acfas.org/meetings/education+calendar for details.

Check to Be Sure You Earned Your CME

How can ACFAS save hundreds of trees? By putting Continuing Medical Education records online.

If you attended the Annual Scientific Conference, you will be receiving, or may have already received, an e-mail with instructions on how to view your transcripts and CME credit at acfas.org. Please check them, as you will have only 45 days to contact the ACFAS office to make any changes in the records. After May 25th, no changes can be made online.

Thanks for helping ACFAS “go green.” If you have questions about the online CME records, please contact the ACFAS Education Department at (800) 421-2237.

What’s New at ACFAS e-Learning

Earn CME, refresh your knowledge, and resolve your clinical challenges with ACFAS eLearning.

Watch narrated surgical techniques videos prepared by experts. View the best of past annual conference sessions. Listen to podcasts featuring engaging discussions.

“Bunion Complications” is the latest in the Scientific Sessions series, and “My Worst Cases of 2008” is coming soon. They’re free and available anytime at acfasdistancelearning.com.

2009 Education Programs Calendar

Online registration for Surgical Skills courses and Practice Management seminars is now open at acfas.org/meetings/education+calendar.

May 15-16, 2009
(Friday-Saturday)
Practice Management and Coding Seminar
Charleston Marriott
Charleston, SC

June 19-20, 2009
(Friday-Saturday)
Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy Surgical Skills Course
Sold Out
Orthopaedic Learning Center
Rosemont, IL

July 9-11, 2009
Diabetic Foot and Ankle Summer Summit
Hyatt Vineyard Creek
Santa Rosa, CA

September 25-26, 2009
(Friday-Saturday)
Practice Management and Coding Seminar
Allerton Hotel
Chicago, IL

October 10-11, 2009
Flatfoot Surgical Skills Course
Scientific Education and Research Institute (SERI)
Thornton, CO

November 14 or 15, 2009
Complex Reconstruction Surgical Skills Course
Red Rock Casino/Wright Medical Mobile Lab
Las Vegas, NV

December 12-13, 2009
Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy Surgical Skills Course
Sold Out
Orthopaedic Learning Center
Rosemont, IL
Conference News Reaches 16 Million
Stem cell research, a MRSA warning, and a newly-published Clinical Practice Guideline brought a wave of media attention to ACFAS and its Annual Scientific Conference in March. Public relations outreach from the conference secured a total of 23 placements in print, online, and radio.

“A Potentially Deadly Infection, Once Seen Primarily in Hospitalized Patients Is Now Linked to Common Foot Conditions in the Community,” featured two ACFAS members who have seen an increase in MRSA infections in otherwise minor conditions such as athlete’s foot and ingrown toenails. Brandi Johnson, DPM of Brandon, Fla., has seen an increase, especially in high school age children. And in a radio interview for “The Health Show” that aired on more than 160 radio stations nationwide, Karl Collins, DPM urged patients with cuts or scrapes that don’t heal in a timely fashion to “get it checked out.” The story was also picked up on Infection Control Today and other internet sites.

Research presented at the conference and also published in the March/April issue of the Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery, was covered on Medscape Today and Reuters Health’s The Doctor’s Channel. An article on the topic posted on Reuters Health was picked up by MSNBC.com and other sites. In the story, “Donor Stem Cells Successfully Heal Bone in Foot, Ankle,” study authors Shannon Rush, DPM and Graham Hamilton, DPM, describe how the use of mesenchymal stem cell bone allograft achieved bone healing in 90.3 percent of patients who had failed prior surgeries, many of them with risk factors contributing to non-healing.

“Foot and Ankle Surgeons Release Guidelines for Treating Common Foot Problems,” a news announcement of the new ACFAS Forefoot Disorders Clinical Practice Guideline, was featured on MedicalFront-Page.com and Medscape Today. According to guidelines co-author James Thomas, DPM, “these new guidelines help your foot and ankle surgeon, or even your family doctor or another physician, figure out the best way to diagnose and treat problems in your forefoot.”

New Socks for 4,000 Feet
Focusing local attention on foot and ankle surgeons’ concern for foot health among the homeless population in the conference’s host city, Conference attendees donated over 2,000 pairs of new socks to be distributed by the National Coalition for the Homeless. Demonstrating a focus of ACFAS members’ practices, many donations were of diabetic socks…something that would not occur to many in the general population. ACFAS Corporate Sponsor DOX Podiatry provided financial and promotional support for this worthwhile project.

It’s Spring! Take Advantage of FOOTNOTES
Stay top-of-mind with your patients and reach out to new ones with the Spring 2009 edition of the FOOTNOTES patient newsletter. This easy-to-use practice marketing tool is available at no cost to all ACFAS members. Go to acfas.org/footnotes, download the newsletter in English or Spanish, for distribution in your waiting room, with invoices, at health fairs, and on your practice web site or e-newsletters.

Do You Serve a Hispanic Population?
Did you know that all patient education topics on the ACFAS Patient Education on CD-ROM series are available in Spanish at no extra cost? Fifty topics are available, and all have been professionally translated and then reviewed by ACFAS members on the East Coast and Southwest to assure content is appropriate for regional language variations. Information, including a full list of topics, is available at acfas.org/marketing/patient-education.
Podiatrist, Know Your CPT Modifiers
By Christine E. Weikert, DPM, FACFAS

Podiatry, unlike some specialties, utilizes modifiers as a usual practice pattern. Modifiers can save your claim from pending or worse yet, claim denial. According to the AMA CPT Current Procedural Coding Expert 2009, a modifier is a two-position alpha or numeric code that is appended to a CPT code to clarify the services being billed. Modifiers provide a means by which a service can be altered without changing the procedure code. In addition, modifiers may help to eliminate the appearance of duplicate billing and unbundling. Modifiers are used to increase accuracy in reimbursement, coding consistency, editing, and to capture payment data.

One region’s LCD (local coverage determination) may not be the same as that for another region, even when billing the same service. Understanding and using modifiers will clarify your claims for processing. There will be times the insurance company requests documentation so you will need to submit that as soon as possible. The documentation should confirm the services you initially submitted. Documentation is an important part of verifying, in this case, what services were provided to the patient.

It is highly recommended that office billing staff review the CPT Manual Modifier section to familiarize themselves and refresh the staff on modifiers. In too many situations the correct usage of modifiers occurs after the claim has been rejected. The staff then attempts to correct and resubmit the claim. A thorough billing staff will keep abreast of modifier usage and implement correct coding of all claims.

Modifiers 24, 25, 26, 51, 58, 59 and 79 should be commonly used and physicians and their staff should be familiar with these modifiers. The Modifiers identifying the patient’s foot digits using TA and T1 through T9 are also commonly used. Modifiers Q7, Q8 and Q9 are specific to Class Findings. These modifiers may be required on podiatry claims when the class findings are met.

The KX modifier states requirements specified in the medical policy have been met. In podiatry this modifier is required when submitting claims for the Diabetic Shoe Program. The primary care physician has provided the specialists with verification that the patient qualifies for this service. Podiatrists must attach the KX modifier to the shoe and insert codes verifying this form is on file. The KX modifier is used for all situations for which medical policy requirements stipulate some type of documentation is required and on file.

We have found one of the most common modifier errors in podiatry to be the GW modifier. This modifier is attached to services that are not related to the hospice patient’s terminal condition. The services of the podiatrist are not related, so the GW modifier should be attached clarifying this. Otherwise, you can expect a rejected claim requiring correction, resubmission or appeal and extended processing time for the claim to be paid.

Bottom line: correct and thorough placement of diagnosis codes, procedure codes and modifiers are key to achieving prompt and correct payment of your claims.

Christine E. Weikert, DPM, FACFAS is a practicing podiatrist, President and CEO of The Podiatric Billing Specialists, LLC and author of the Podiatry Templates, powered by Medinotes.
Hands-on Learning
Participants in the hands-on lab, sponsored by Wright Medical Technology, Inc., left, and the Ankle Distraction Arthroplasty workshop, sponsored by SBI (Small Bone Innovations), said these pre-conference workshops enabled them to get the most out of their time spent away from the office.

The Latest on Coding
Participants listen as Douglas Stoker, DPM, makes a point during a pre-conference coding and billing workshop. "Everything he said was very practical. I came to make sure there aren't any changes we don't know about, and to make sure we're doing things correctly," said attendee Stacey Schwartz, DPM, Farmington Hills, Mich.

Real-life Adventures
Speakers and moderators engaged audiences with lively discussions in 40 sessions. "I enjoy the complex case discussions where you have three or four guys talking about cases that went wrong, and how they got themselves out of trouble," said Mark Gilheany, president of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons in Melbourne, Australia.

Distinguished and Fun, too
George Gumann, DPM, center, receives the College's Distinguished Service Award from President Mary Crawford, DPM and Immediate Past President John Giurini, DPM. Gumann was recognized for his unsung hero role in ACFAS skills courses...and his stylish attire.
Doctor turns firefighter, prevents blaze
While Barry Erdman, DPM, was walking outside the hotel about 11 p.m. on the conference’s first day, he saw smoke coming from near the Wright Medical mobile learning lab, which was stationed between the hotel and a parking structure. Erdman investigated and found two small fires, near a space heater and a garbage container. He yelled for help to a hotel employee, who ran and got a fire extinguisher. Erdman used the extinguisher on the fires, but they flared back up and he called 911. After firefighters put out the fires, Erdman tracked down the Wright Medical staff after midnight to notify them.

John Giurini, DPM, 2008-09 ACFAS president, left, and Daniel Hatch, DPM, 2007-2008 president, right, congratulated Erdman. Thanks to his willingness to act, Wright was able to hold classes in the mobile lab at 6 a.m. the next morning, just a few hours after the fire.

Socializing and Shop Talk
Members got to relax and visit at the Young Members Reception, the Opening Reception and a Saturday night party at Gordon Biersch restaurant.

Interacting at the Exhibit Hall
Conference-goers visited the exhibit hall often to talk to vendors, examine products and services and view 180 posters.
Manuscripts Set Stage for Future Advances

Foot and ankle surgery continues to make significant advances, and the research performed today will enable surgeons to make informed decisions.

The ACFAS Awards of Excellence in Manuscript Submission were established to encourage such research. The Manuscript Review Committee process is extensive. ACFAS blinded the authors and their institutions, allowing committee members to judge the manuscripts on established criteria. They selected 19 manuscripts out of 34 submitted to be presented at the conference, as well as the top winners below.

“There was great improvement from last year,” said A. Jay Phillips, DPM, Manuscript Committee Chair. “There was better research protocol, stronger numbers as far as retrospective reviews, and the thought processes were more thorough.”

The Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh generously funded the awards, which were presented by Nicki L. Nigro, DPM and Jeffrey S. Nigro, DPM, Chair of the Foundation Scholarship Committee, during the ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony.

First Place - $4,500
Successful Management of Osteochondral Lesions of the Talus with Fresh Osteochondral Allografts
Christopher F. Hyer, DPM
Gregory C. Berlet, MD
Terrence M Philbin, DO
Thomas H. Lee, MD

Second Place - $3,500
A Critical Evaluation of Subtalar Joint Arthritis Associated With Middle facet Talocalcaneal Coalition in 21 Surgically Managed Patients: A Retrospective CT Review
Klaus J. Kernbach, DPM
Howard Barkan, DrPH
Neal M. Blitz, DPM

Third Place - $2,500
Meta-analysis of First Metatarsophalangeal Joint Implant Arthroplasty
Emily A. Cook, DPM
Jeremy J. Cook, DPM
Kevin L. Riemer, DPM
Lindsay Johnson, DPM
Adam S. Landsman, DPM
Barry I. Rosenblum, DPM
John M. Giurini, DPM
Philip Basile, DPM

Honorable Mentions - $1,000 each
William P. Grant, DPM
Silvia E. Garcia-Lavin, DPM
Roy Sabo, PhD

Relapse of Idiopathic Clubfoot after the Ponseti Method
Abigail K. Myers, BS
Rolf D. Burghardt, MD
Saravanan Sivaramalingam, MD
John E. Herzenberg, MD

A Randomized, Multi-center, Prospective Analysis of Diabetic Foot Ulcers Treated with Bepacelmin and TheraGauze, a Moisture-Controlling Smart Dressing
Adam S. Landsman, DPM
Lawrence Parish, MD
Patrick S. Agnew, DPM
Robert Galiano, MD

Peroneal Subluxation: Surgical Results in 31 Athletic Patients
Amol Saxena, DPM
Brynn H. Ewen, DPM

* Indicates the name of the author who presented the paper at the conference.

Thank You, Manuscript Committee
Sincere thanks go to the members of the manuscript committee for their hard work in reading and evaluating the submissions. They are:

Jay Phillips, Chair
William R. Adams, II, DPM
Alan S. Banks, DPM
Troy J. Boffeli, DPM
Robert J. Duggan, DPM
Lawrence M. Fallat, DPM
Mickey D. Stapp, DPM

Want to see your name on this page next year? Enter a manuscript by Aug. 3 to be eligible for the 2010 Manuscript Awards of Excellence. Look for details on the insert in this issue of “Update.”
This year’s Scientific Poster competition received a record-breaking 180 entries. Poster Chair Roya Mirmiran, DPM, was impressed with the variety and quality of the submissions.

“We had more interesting studies and more useful studies and they were done very nicely,” Mirmiran commented. While many entrants submitted case studies, a growing number submitted scientific studies. Judges evaluated each submission and sent each author written comments for further improvement. Mirmiran expects this feedback to result in even sharper poster submissions for next year’s conference.

The poster exhibit judges selected the following winners in three different categories:

**Individual Category**
**First Place**
A Scientific Look to the Arched Wire Compression Technique for Triple Arthrodesis
Joanne N. Balkaran, DPM
Federico A. Auger, DPM
Luis E. Marin, DPM

**Second Place**
Augmentation of the Atrophic Plantar Fat Pad by Implantation of Acellular Dermis with the ‘Parachute Technique’
Thomas M. Rocchio, DPM

**Third Place**
Cubo-Navicular Coalition: A Case Report
Authors from Saint Vincent Charity Hospital (Cleveland, OH):
Bonnie Lin, DPM
Adam M. Budny, DPM

**Student Chapter Category**
**First Place**
The Anatomical Location of the Flexor Hallucis Brevis as it Pertains to Hemi Implants
Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine

**Second Place**
Compensation of Limited First Metatarsophalangeal Joint Motion Via Increased Hallux Interphalangeal Joint Motion
Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine – Pennsylvania

**Third Place**
Pre and Post-scrub Bacterial Isolates in Foot and Ankle Surgery
Iowa College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery – Des Moines University

**Institutional Category**
**First Place**
Locking Plate for Tibiototalcalcaneal Arthrodesis
Authors from Kaiser Permanente (Union City, CA):
Glenn Weinraub, DPM
Chelsea Annette Smith, DPM
Ernesto Hernandez, DPM
Jason D. Neufeld, DPM
Ottoniel A. Mejia, DPM

**Second Place**
Misdiagnosed as a Wart and Irritated Bunion
Authors from Limb Preservation Service, Madigan Army Medical Center (Tacoma, WA):
Valerie L. Schade, DPM
Thomas S. Roukis, DPM, PhD
Joseph F. Homann, DPM

**A Thank You to the Poster Judges**
Many thanks to the ACFAS members who volunteered their time as judges of the poster exhibit competition. They spent many hours at the 2009 Annual Scientific Conference evaluating and judging the entries. They include:

Roya Mirmiran, DPM, Poster Chair
Joseph R. Agostinelli, DPM
Terence A. Alvey, DPM
Michael T. Ambroziak, DPM
Rob A. Amiot, DPM
Marti A. Anderson, DPM
Robert J. Baglio, DPM
Jeffrey R. Baker, DPM
Jeffrey R. Baker, DPM
Tzvi Bar-David, DPM
Jarrett D. Cain, DPM
Gregory D. Catalano, DPM
Thomas J. Chang, DPM
Jonathan P. Contompasis, DPM
Keith D. Cook, DPM
William T. DeCarbo, DPM
Michelle D. Detweiler, DPM
Michael C. Donato, DPM
Barry E. Erdman, DPM
Kimberly Eickmeier, DPM
Brian S. Harley, DPM
Darryl M. Haycock, DPM
Vincent J. Hetherington, DPM
Eric D. Jaakola, DPM
J. Barry, Johnson, DPM
Paul J. Kim, DPM
Sharon Walston Kobos, DPM
Jeffrey A. Marks, DPM
J. Christopher Moore, DPM
Lily L. Moore, DPM
Vincent J. Muscarella, DPM
Jerome S. Noll, DPM
Zung Quang Le, DPM
Amber M. Shane, DPM
Kevin M. Smith, DPM
Stephen F. Stern, DPM
Michael J. Trepal, DPM
Joseph R. Treadwell, DPM
Jay A. Wenig, DPM
Matt E. Williams, DPM
Robert M. Yoho, DPM
ACFAS Issues H&P Privileging Position Statement

The granting of H&P privileges should be uniformly applied to surgeons regardless of medical degree, pursuant to clear-cut Joint Commission standards and CMS regulations, according to a new ACFAS position statement adopted by the Board of Directors on March 4, 2009.

The one-page position statement summarizes numerous Joint Commission and CMS standards, regulations, and statements since 2000 for use by ACFAS members during hospital privileging procedures. The new statement, also approved by the College’s Professional Relations Committee, is in response to continual questions raised and hurdles encountered by ACFAS members in some hospitals.

The new position statement is available at acfas.org/health/privileges. Questions may be directed to ACFAS Director of Health Policy Laura J. Walsh, JD at walsh@acfas.org or 773-693-9300 x1322.

CIGNA Revises Coverage Policy for MTP Joint Replacement

CIGNA has revised its coverage policy for Metatarsophalangeal Joint Replacement. The company now covers partial or total replacement of the first MTP joint as medically necessary as an alternative to arthrodesis when both of the following criteria have been met:

- Persistent severe disabling symptoms from hallux valgus or hallux rigidus due to degenerative joint disease of the first MTP joint; and
- Failure of conservative medical management.

For more information regarding this change, contact the ACFAS Health Policy Department at (800) 421-2237.

Massachusetts Scope Expansion Introduced

Legislation (H 2044/S875), recently introduced in the Massachusetts House and Senate, would expand podiatrists’ scope of practice to include diagnosis and treatment of the ankle. Passage of this legislation would expand the definition of podiatry to include the “diagnosis and treatment of the structures of the human foot and ankle by medical, mechanical, surgical, manipulative and electrical means, including, but not limited to, the treatment of the local manifestation of systemic conditions as they present in the foot and ankle, partial amputation of the foot, and tendon surgery in the foot and ankle, including the Achilles tendon.”

For more information, contact the ACFAS Health Policy Department at (773) 693-9300.

Conference ‘Stepped Ahead’ with Science, Camaraderie and Wisdom

“We hold a distinction as the elite group of surgeons that have aspired to continually raise the bar on our level of skill and expertise in surgery of the lower extremity,” Crawford told College members in her first speech as the new president.

Conference sessions delivered on that aspiration of raising the bar. Participants praised the quality of the lectures, especially the interactive group discussions, in which speakers compared and contrasted different surgical approaches. Debate forums also proved popular, as did the hands-on laboratory workshops.

Audiences were attentive, and many sessions were standing room only. Sessions became interactive, with attendees stepping up to microphones in the aisles to ask questions or offer thoughtful comments.

This year’s exhibit hall was the most vibrant in recent memory. Conference-goers watched product demonstrations, met with vendors, browsed the poster exhibits and exchanged views with their peers over lunch.

Many participants said the conference, which took place March 5-8, enabled them to recharge their batteries and gather new ideas they can use in practice. Others said they appreciated the quality of the overall experience.

“I’ve been at other conferences put on by our profession,” said Mark Birmingham, DPM, from Highlands Ranch, Colo., “and this is hands down the best.”
Prefer Quality Over Quantity? Read ACFAS’ Weekly E-Newsletter

You’re receiving a terrific new member benefit in your e-mail inbox every Wednesday.

It’s called “This Week@ACFAS,” and it won’t waste your time with useless content. It gets right to the point with meaty, concise abstracts on Foot and Ankle Surgery, Practice Management, Health Policy and Reimbursement and Technology and Device Trends.

It abstracts fresh news that’s relevant to podiatry. The news comes from renowned sources like:
- American Medical News and JAMA
- Orthopaedics Today
- Modern Healthcare
- Medical Economics
- WSJ, NYT, AP, Bloomberg
- Journal of Biomechanics Engineering
- Medical Device & Surgical Trends Weekly
- Science Daily
- And hundreds more

If you’re an ACFAS member, you’ll receive “This Week@ACFAS” automatically.

Haven’t seen it? Check your spam e-mail file. The “From” address is one of the following: ThisWeek@acfas.org or ACFAS/INFOINC.COM.

Be sure to add these e-mail addresses to “Add Recipient to Safe Senders List” or similar options.

Feel you just have to share this great content with others? Click on “Subscribe” or “Send to a Colleague.”

continued on page 12
Winter Board Meeting Highlights

The ACFAS Board of Directors welcomed newly elected directors Thomas S. Roukis, DPM, PhD and Jerome K. Steck, DPM when it met just prior to the 2009 Annual Scientific Conference on March 4 in Washington, D.C. It also bid a fond farewell to retiring directors Troy Boffeli, DPM and past president Daniel J. Hatch, DPM.

Highlights of the business accomplishments included the approval of:

• A new position statement on History & Physical Privileges for Podiatric Foot and Ankle Surgeons to help members in securing full and unfettered hospital privileges, pursuant to CMS regulations and Joint Commission guidelines,
• The 2009 Business Plan and revised Strategic Compass,
• Subsidizing membership dues for first-year resident members in partnership with the ACFAS regional divisions,
• Totally new Web sites for acfas.org and FootPhysicians.com,
• Starting work on a new Ankle Disorders Clinical Practice Guideline in 2009 and a new Arthritis CPG in 2010,
• Eight new section editors for the Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery,
• Expanded student programs and services,
• International affiliate application and procedures, and
• Volunteer recruitment and committee appointment policies.

The Board also served as a focus group for the 2009 member and practice surveys project, and discussed the demutualization of PICA with PICA President Jerry Brant, DPM.

Four additional focus groups of ACFAS members were conducted during the Annual Scientific Conference.

Future ACFAS Board meetings are July 9-12 in Seattle, Oct. 1-4 in Chicago, and Feb. 10, 2010 in Las Vegas immediately prior to the 2010 Annual Scientific Conference. Questions about past or present Board issues may be addressed to ACFAS Executive Director Chris Mahaffey, CAE at mahaffey@acfas.org.

In Memoriam

The College has recently received word of the passing of the following Members:

• David F. Holz, DPM, Englewood, Colo.
• Howard A. Parven, DPM, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Get details about these member services at acfas.org/membership/benefitspartners.
2010 ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 22–26

CALL FOR
MANUSCRIPTS
submission deadline
August 3, 2009

CALL FOR
POSTERS
submission deadline
October 1, 2009

Las Vegas, Nevada
Research is essential to the medical profession and the ACFAS is at the forefront of research for foot and ankle surgeons. If you are involved in a study that would be beneficial to the profession, the Annual Conference Program Committee invites you to submit your manuscript or poster for consideration for presentation at the 68th ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference, February 22-26, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV.

Manuscript Submission Deadline: August 3, 2009

ACFAS Manuscript Awards of Excellence winners will divide $10,000 in prize money from a generous grant given to the College by the Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh.

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically; log on to the ACFAS Web site at www.acfas.org. Detailed information regarding manuscript requirements and policies is printed in the “2010 Call for Manuscripts” and “Instructions for Authors Submitting a Manuscript”. It is important that the author(s) carefully read these two documents before submitting a manuscript.

Manuscripts must be submitted no later than August 3, 2009 to be eligible for review by the Committee.

Poster Submission Deadline: October 1, 2009

Poster abstracts must be submitted electronically; log on to the ACFAS Web site at www.acfas.org. Detailed information regarding poster requirements and policies and sample abstracts is printed in the “2010 Guidelines and Instructions for Submitting a Poster Abstract”. It is important that the author(s) carefully read these guidelines before submitting a poster abstract.

Poster abstracts must be submitted no later than October 1, 2009 to be eligible for review by the Committee.