

# Update



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## Get in the Fast Lane for Learning ASC 2010, Las Vegas

You'll be gaining new knowledge every minute of the ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference, February 22–26, 2010, in Las Vegas. Your peers agree that this is the most valuable clinical program in the profession, so don't miss out! While you're in Vegas, be sure to:

- **Enjoy Q&A with poster authors** to learn more about the research and researchers that interest you. They'll be at the poster display Tuesday and Wednesday at 1 p.m. to take your questions.
- **Attend manuscript sessions** to hear about the latest research and new discoveries for the practice of foot and ankle surgery.
- **"Plan to Scan"** your badge twice daily for CME verification and online transcripts. CME credits will be recorded electronically at scanning booths in the Exhibit Hall during morning and afternoon breaks.
- **Support industries that support your profession** by visiting them in the Exhibit Hall. You can view the latest advances in medical devices, supplies and services during unopposed times.
- **Stop by the ACFAS booth** for demos of new surgical videos, the latest e-Learning materials and the new ACFAS web sites.
- **Discover powerful research resources** at your fingertips on [jfas.org](http://jfas.org), the web site of the *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery*. Visit Elsevier at booth 736 for a test drive!



- **Enjoy complete lunch and refreshment breaks** included in the registration fee.
- **Be a part of your Regional Division's membership meeting** to learn what's planned for the coming year, and give your feedback to division officers.
- **Have a "Titanic Night on the Strip."** If you don't yet have tickets for Thursday's exciting event, stop by the conference registration desk.
- **Pack new socks!** New socks will be collected again this year to benefit homeless women and children in Las Vegas. Drop your donation in the conference registration area.

Preregistration has broken all previous records! Register now online, by fax or by phone to guarantee your place at the conference. Visit [acfas.org/lasvegas](http://acfas.org/lasvegas) or call 800-421-2237 for complete information. ■

## FootHealthFacts Serves Patients' Needs

There's been a big development in education for foot and ankle patients — FootPhysicians.com is now FootHealthFacts.org!

ACFAS' trusted Internet resource for patient information has been enhanced with a new contemporary design, new name and revamped navigation. The new site engages visitors with a wealth of knowledge, developed by your ACFAS

peers. You can direct your current and prospective patients to this site for the information they need to better understand their foot and ankle health.

Patients and consumers browsing FootHealthFacts.org will find a complete foot and ankle library, searchable alphabetically or by topic. The latest health news and facts are available as articles,

*continued on page 7*

### Inside This Issue

ACFAS clubs foster future leaders.

[Full article on page 2](#)





# The Best and the Brightest

## ACFAS clubs draw students serious about surgery

By Mary E. Crawford, DPM, FAFAS President

Choosing a career path can be a daunting task for many young people today. And when that choice is the medical field, commitment, desire, intelligence and passion are required to carry a student through four difficult years of education followed by the demanding track of residency training. But in the end, the qualities that allow the students to succeed will continue to benefit them throughout their careers as physicians.

Role models, mentors and outside organizations help guide students through the educational process and provide additional training and information beyond the classroom and textbooks. Students in the field of podiatric medicine are faced with many



Jerome S. Noll, DPM, of the ACFAS Board of Directors, presents an annual stipend check to the officers of the Barry University ACFAS Student Club in support of club activities.

paths from which to choose once their basic education and training is complete. Many times, the direction taken may be influenced by students' exposure to different aspects of the podiatric medical field and their involvement with outside organizations.

Students focusing on surgery have received some introduction to it in school, but the majority of surgical training takes place during residency. So, to expand their knowledge and experience, many will join the student surgery club at their college. The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons has been supporting the ACFAS



Current leaders meet future leaders: Mary Crawford, DPM, and Michelle Butterworth, DPM, of the ACFAS Board of Directors, with Temple University students Jaminelli Banks (far left) and Sabina Malhotra (far right).

Student Clubs for over 35 years, and provides an excellent resource for students interested in the field of foot and ankle surgery.

The expanse of foot and ankle surgery is immense. It takes years, if not a lifetime, to not only learn, but to become proficient in the art of foot and ankle surgery. And even then, the education never ends. With constant changes in techniques, procedures and available technology, true foot and ankle surgeons must keep abreast of developments and then expand their skill base to embrace this new information.

This is where ACFAS is vital for students desiring a career in surgery and for physicians who are dedicated to their chosen field as foot and ankle surgeons. Other organizations or surgical clubs may be formed, but ACFAS has been the proven leader in surgical education for over 60 years, and sets the standard by which others are measured.

ACFAS Student Club members receive many benefits, both in the educational arena and in financial assistance, in addition to the camaraderie they enjoy with like-minded fellow students and respected mentors in the field of foot and ankle surgery.

Educational benefits include:

- access to the preeminent peer-reviewed *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery*
- lectures and workshops provided by leading ACFAS experts
- workshops and activities provided directly by the ACFAS Student Clubs with support from ACFAS and its regional divisions
- access to other ACFAS educational offerings such as e-Learning, surgical DVDs, and reduced pricing for local, regional and national meetings.

For students serious about the field of foot and ankle surgery, with plans to make surgery a large segment of their careers, ACFAS Student Club membership provides a foundation of educational support through scientific conferences, publications, courses in surgical techniques, and access to the mentors and surgical educators of the profession. This expands the students' understanding of the field of foot and ankle surgery and stimulates their interest in this specialty of podiatric medicine.

The new ACFAS web site has an entire section of new content devoted to the student clubs. Visit [acfas.org/students](http://acfas.org/students) to see all that is available to these aspiring surgeons — the future of our profession! ■



Scholl College students raised the profile of their ACFAS Student Club by volunteering to provide brochures and information at the Scholl Surgical Symposium in October 2009. "It was a great turnout and good promotion of the club," reports club president Wendy Wu (far right).

## 2009: A Successful Year for ACFAS PR

2009 proved to be a trend-setting year for ACFAS patient outreach. Not only did the College enter the social media arena by reaching out to the media via Twitter, but it also reached out to a nation of consumers with press releases on the latest foot and ankle health information topics. Articles have been carried in print, radio, television and on the Internet on topics such as:

- How to handle foot pain resulting from “New Year’s resolution” exercise over-use
- The new ACFAS Forefoot Conditions Clinical Practice Guideline

- Increased incidence of MRSA infections of the foot
- How donor stem cells are being used to successfully heal bone in feet
- Injuries resulting from skateboarding
- Preventing skin cancer on feet
- Growth plate injuries in youth athletes
- Five signs a child may have a foot problem
- Diabetes and amputation
- Dance-related foot and ankle injuries

### Inform Your Patients with the Winter “**FOOTNOTES**” Newsletter

The Winter 2010 edition of your patient newsletter, *FOOTNOTES*, is now ready

for download from the ACFAS web site. In this issue you’ll find informative articles to share with your patients, including:

- Healthy Feet Make the Best Dancing Feet
- Take Care of Your Feet and Ankles in the Winter Wonderland
- Start the New Year with Healthy Feet

To download and customize the newsletter with your practice information, visit [acfas.org/footnotes](http://acfas.org/footnotes). You’ll want to distribute it in your reception area, on your practice web site or at upcoming community events in your area.

*continued on page 6*



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*Robert J. Abrams, DPM, FACFAS, Newhall, CA*

“**724 new patients!**”  
*Mitchell Waskin, DPM, FACFAS, Richmond, VA*

## 2010 CME Calendar

For information on upcoming programs go to [acfas.org](http://acfas.org), or call (800) 421-2237.

**May 14–15, 2010 (Fri/Sat)**

### Practice Management Seminar

Wyndham Chicago

Chicago, IL

15 continuing education contact hours

**June 18–19, 2010 (Fri/Sat)**

### Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)

Rosemont, IL

16 continuing education contact hours

**October 1–2, 2010 (Fri/Sat)**

### Practice Management Seminar

Parc 55 Hotel

San Francisco, CA

15 continuing education contact hours

**October 16–17, 2010 (Sat/Sun)**

### Trauma of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Scientific Education and Research Institute (SERI)

Denver, CO

16 continuing education contact hours

**November 5, 2010 (Friday)**

### Tendon Repair Surgical Skills Course

Dallas, TX

8 continuing education contact hours

**November 6, 2010 (Saturday)**

### Tendon Repair Surgical Skills Course

Dallas, TX

8 continuing education contact hours

**November 20–21, 2010 (Sat/Sun)**

### Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)

Rosemont, IL

16 continuing education contact hours

**December 11–12, 2010 (Sat/Sun)**

### Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)

Rosemont, IL

16 continuing education contact hours

## What's New at ACFAS e-Learning?

The finest online education is always ready for you at ACFAS e-Learning. Visit any time to find a host of distance learning opportunities: podcasts, scientific session videos, and the three-volume ACFAS Surgical Techniques video series. And, new materials are being added all the time. Broaden your knowledge and sharpen your skills with the resources at [acfas.org/eLearning](http://acfas.org/eLearning).

### New Podcasts:

- How to Critically Evaluate a Peer Reviewed Article
- Lateral Ankle Stabilization: Primary vs. Secondary
- When Not to Operate
- Surgical Management of the Athlete (release date: February 1)

### Latest Scientific Sessions:

- Surgical Techniques Caught on Video: Forefoot
- 2nd MTPJ ■



## ACFAS 2010 SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

### Mandalay Bay Hotel • Las Vegas, NV

**February 22, 2010**

#### Pre-Conference Sessions

- **Coding and Billing Workshop**  
8 continuing education contact hours
- **Advanced Techniques in Diabetic Reconstruction**  
4 continuing education contact hours
- **Advanced Techniques in Trauma Reconstruction**  
4 continuing education contact hours
- **Current Concepts in Ankle Pathology**  
(half-day, afternoon)  
Non-CME program sponsored by SBI.  
Register at [totalsmallbone.com/acfas](http://totalsmallbone.com/acfas).

**February 23–26, 2010**

#### Annual Scientific Conference

- **50+ sessions and workshops**
- **Exhibition** (Feb. 23–25)
- **200 posters**
- **Special events**
- **And more!**

For the complete program and to register, visit [acfas.org/lasvegas](http://acfas.org/lasvegas) or call 800-421-2237.

## 2010: Billing, Coding and the Effects of Change

By Christine E. Weikert, DPM, FACFAS

As we begin 2010, we face new challenges—stimulus allowances, incentive programs, electronic health records, CPT code changes, PECOS, Red Flag Rules, FWA training and more.

Although distracting and seemingly far from the care providers want to offer patients, these issues are very much related to the goals of providing excellent patient care, protecting patient information and offering the highest quality of patient services. Looking at these issues from the financial standpoint of a practice, you will realize the office's overall success is dependent on the implementation of and participation in these programs.

The goal with electronic health records is to improve the quality of patient care and safety universally, rather than just within the office walls. If you have not already researched options for electronic health records and how they can be used in your practice, you should do so.

Each year providers are advised of coding changes. The Centers for Medicare

& Medicaid Services has advised that consultation codes 99241–99245 and 99251–99255 have been eliminated in 2010. Replace them with 99201–99205 or 99211–99215 and 99221–99222 or 99304–99306, whichever may apply. It is recommended you review the CMS Budget Neutrality Mappings for the Consultation Codes for complete guidance and usage. If your staff has not already advised you of this change, you should make sure they know about it.

One of the most important informational notices Medicare has recently issued is the provider enrollment activities request for Part B Enrollment. If you receive a revalidation letter it is extremely important you follow up immediately with the required application. Failure to revalidate may cause unnecessary loss of Medicare revenue and participation.

Implementation of the new policy has been delayed until April 5, 2010, giving providers and suppliers additional time to verify their enrollment in

Medicare. Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) will serve as an Internet-based provider enrollment program that will allow physicians to make changes in their Medicare enrollment, view the information on file and check application status online.

Be prepared for the changes ahead, and educate yourself and your staff in taking part in those changes.

*Christine E. Weikert, DPM, FACFAS, is president and CEO of The Podiatric Billing Specialists, LLC.*

## Elimination of Medicare Consultation Codes

*Will health insurers follow?*

Medicare's decision to eliminate consultation codes beginning January 1, 2010, caught providers by surprise. ACFAS and its fellow members of the Specialty Society Insurance Coalition are working to engage private health insurers to determine whether they intend to follow Medicare's lead, and to urge them not to, as it devalues the role of specialist consults in managing patients' care.

## 2010 Coding & Practice Management Workshops

ACFAS members and their staff have two great opportunities to learn the latest in coding and practice management strategies. The spring workshop will be held in Chicago, May 13–14, 2010. The fall workshop will be held in San Francisco, October 8–9. In addition to our stellar faculty — which includes Doug Stoker, DPM, and practice management consultant Karen Zupko — ACFAS has negotiated great room rates in the heart of two fantastic cities. For more information, visit [acfas.org/PMM](http://acfas.org/PMM) or call 800-421-2237.

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## Find New Research Fast with Scientific Literature Reviews

Many medical journals publish research that can benefit foot and ankle surgeons. The *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery* remains the must-read, but other, non-podiatric journals also release findings that ACFAS members may find useful.

There's a quick and easy way to find these articles. Every month, John S. Steinberg, DPM, directs residents at podiatric residencies across the nation to read and summarize research from journals such as *Journal of Child Orthopedics*, *Vascular*, and *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*. The summaries are compiled into the Scientific Literature Reviews, available on [acfas.org](http://acfas.org).

Thank you to all the residency programs that contributed to Scientific Literature Reviews in 2009!

- Alliance Community Hospital, Alliance, Ohio
- Botsford General Hospital, Warren, Mich.
- Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, Montgomery, Ala.
- INOVA Fairfax Hospital Podiatric Surgical Residency Program, Falls Church, Va.
- John Peter Smith Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.
- MetroWest Medical Center, Framingham, Mass.
- Miami VA Medical Center, Miami, Fla.
- Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine and UHHS Richmond Heights Medical, Independence, Ohio
- Olive View - UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.
- St. John North Shores Hospital, Harrison Township, Mich.
- St. Vincent Hospital at Worcester Medical Center, Worcester, Mass.
- Southern Arizona VA Healthcare Systems, Tucson, Ariz.
- Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C.
- Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn.

## Thanks to JFAS Peer Reviewers

The process of peer review is a time-honored and essential part of scientific publishing. Peer reviewers serve as the voice of a journal's readership, providing constructive criticism on the scientific merit and overall interest a manuscript presents.

Without the efforts of volunteer peer reviewers, we would not be able to assure the high quality of the content published in the *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery*. Two hundred and sixty-two reviewers participated in evaluating manuscripts from October 2008 to September 2009. A list of their names appears at [acfas.org/jfas](http://acfas.org/jfas).

If you have an interest in contributing to the podiatric literature by serving as a peer reviewer, please visit [acfas.org/jfas](http://acfas.org/jfas) and click on "Become a Reviewer."

## In Memorium

The College recently received word of the passing of the following Fellows:

- Robert L. Cooper, DPM, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Gerald D. Kaspar, DPM, York, Pa.
- Richard A. Robbins, DPM, Burke, Va.
- Allen D. Schor, DPM, Scottsdale, Ariz. ■

## PATIENT OUTREACH continued from page 3

### ACFAS Patient Education CDs in Second Edition

Get quality patient education to enhance your practice with the new 2nd edition of ACFAS Patient Education on CD-ROM. Available now and fully revised for 2010, this collection is the most complete and up-to-date library of information for your patients.

All topics have been professionally written and extensively peer-reviewed by practicing foot and ankle surgeons to ensure your patients receive the most reliable and authoritative information on foot and ankle health. They are supplemented by professionally prepared medical illustrations that are easy for your patients to understand, and by professional translations that are appropriate for Spanish-speaking patients in all regions of the United States.

Take the opportunity to "go green" in your practice and eliminate an inventory of preprinted brochures. Use the CD to print only the copies you need, when you need them.

Give your patients information that has been specifically developed for use by the foot and ankle surgeon. Order ACFAS Patient Education on CD-ROM using the flyer in this issue, or visit [acfas.org/patientCD](http://acfas.org/patientCD). ■



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## Research Grant Award Winners Chosen

The ACFAS Research Committee met in Chicago, December 4-5, 2009, to select the ACFAS Clinical and Scientific Research Grant winner from a pool of strong applicants. The committee is pleased to announce multiple recipients in 2009.

Emily Cook, DPM, will receive a grant for the proposed study, “Does Ketorolac Delay Bone Healing and Improve Post-Operative Pain? A Prospective Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Randomized Clinical Trial.”

Lawrence Ford, DPM, and Christy King were also selected for their proposed study, “Pre-operative and Post-operative

Analysis of Plantar Pressures for Hallux Valgus Correction.”

Under the terms of the grant, researchers receive half of the grant upon submission of institutional review board approval and the remainder of the grant upon submission of a publishable paper to the *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery*. Watch for a profile of these recipients and their research in an upcoming issue of *Update*.

## Access JFAS Articles in Press for Up-to-the-Minute Research

Whether you’re a researcher looking for the most current references, or just want to stay on top of the latest developments in the

profession, you’ll want to frequently visit “Articles in Press” on the *JFAS* home page. New articles are available as soon as their proofs have been approved — even before they’re assigned to an upcoming issue.

It’s just a few simple steps:

- Go to [acfas.org/jfas](http://acfas.org/jfas)
- Click on “Read JFAS Online” (member login required)
- When you reach the *JFAS* home page, click on “Articles in Press” in the menu on the left.

Check out what’s new, including original research, case reports, and tips, quips and pearls. ■

## FootHealthFacts Serves Patients’ Needs continued from page 1

videos and podcasts, and are presented in English and Spanish.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center shows that 61 percent of adults look for health information online. You can enrich your practice web site’s patient resources by linking to [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org). If you previously linked your web site to [FootPhysicians.com](http://FootPhysicians.com), be sure to reset all of your links to [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org).

The ACFAS Consumer Education Committee has developed a resource to make it easy for you to direct your patients to precisely the topics they need. Download the [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org) “pre-

scription” forms, in a variety of formats, from [acfas.org/marketing](http://acfas.org/marketing).

The new site also features an enhanced “Find a Physician” search. All ACFAS Fellow and Associate members are included in the [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org) search directory. Offer potential patients all the information they need before calling you by completing your member profile today at [acfas.org/profile](http://acfas.org/profile).

Take advantage of this powerful new tool that makes it easy to share knowledge with your current and potential patients. Use [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org) as your patients’ resource for complete and reliable information! ■

**Make sure current and prospective patients get the information they need!**

- If your practice web site has links to [FootPhysicians.com](http://FootPhysicians.com), redirect those links to [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org).
- Complete your professional profile with office hours and up to three locations at [acfas.org/profile](http://acfas.org/profile).

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*The ACFAS vision is to serve society as the preeminent source of knowledge for foot and ankle surgery. Our mission is to advance the competency of our members and the care of our patients.*



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## HEALTH POLICY

### Colorado Sunset Review: A Step Forward for Foot and Ankle Surgeons

The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DRA) has completed a “sunset review” of the Colorado Podiatry Practice Act, with positive results for ACFAS members. A sunset review is undertaken periodically by a state to determine whether a state board or program should be reauthorized by the legislature. The review focuses on balancing the need to protect the public with avoiding overly restrictive regulation. The Colorado DRA recommended that:

- the state legislature reauthorize the Colorado Podiatry Board for nine years.
- the definition of the practice of podiatry be amended to state that it includes “treatment of the soft tissue below the mid-calf.”

- the requirement of certification by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery be repealed for podiatrists who complete a three-year residency.

Specifically, DRA acknowledged that “podiatrists who participate in a three-year residency receive considerable training in ankle surgery and upon completing the residency are qualified to perform ankle surgery.”

Special thanks to ACFAS leadership in Colorado who provided critical input into the process: G. Marc Conner, DPM; Daniel J. Hatch, DPM; Clinton F. Holland, DPM; Brian T. Maurer, DPM; Frederick S. Mechanik, DPM; Gordon P. Rhéaume, DPM; Gregory P. Still, DPM; Paul T. Voegeli, Jr., DPM. ■

### Dues Reminders for 2010

It’s that time of year again, and dues reminders have been sent to all members by mail and e-mail. The membership year runs January 1 to December 31.

Be sure to take full advantage of being a member of the College, now and throughout the year. Visit [acfas.org/members](http://acfas.org/members) to learn more about the benefits your ACFAS membership provides.

Have any questions? Contact the College at [membership@acfas.org](mailto:membership@acfas.org) or 773-693-9300. Here’s to another great year of value in your membership!