More than 2,000 foot and ankle surgeons, exhibitors and guests poured into Fort Lauderdale to discover brilliant minds, ideas and beaches at the ACFAS 2011 Annual Scientific Conference on March 9–12. Attendees explored greater knowledge of foot and ankle healthcare in education sessions that included lectures, discussions, clinical workshops, debates, and comparative panels — sometimes among standing-room-only crowds.

The body of experience met the cutting edge of research in a comprehensive program that fused emerging trends with the results of decades of experience. Sessions ranged from hot topics such as sport-specific injuries, trauma, and fact versus fiction debates, to current thought and practice on perennial issues such as diabetes, arthritis, and pediatric and adult flatfoot. New treatment options under investigation included platelet-rich plasma, pre-packaged biologics for bone grafts and healing, and minimally invasive surgical techniques.

Speakers in moderated sessions took on tough subjects such as exploring unsatisfactory patient outcomes, or defending their views on tradition versus progress and the role of research in podiatric medicine.

At Wednesday’s opening session, outgoing ACFAS President Michael S. Lee, DPM, made the point that: “This conference has become a game changer in our profession, because this is the meeting where new and different ideas that are clinically significant and evidence-based are introduced and debated.”

Then Robert M. Pearl, M.D., CEO of the Permanente Medical Group, delivered a thought-provoking opening address on how healthcare will transform under the 2010 healthcare reform laws and how to position a medical practice for success in this time of change.

Preserving the Past

“Why do associations maintain historical archives?” asks College Fellow Jerome S. Noll, DPM. “Because an archive is the memory of the association, providing answers on the why and how of past decisions and actions.”

Although some large associations employ a professional archivist to administer their historical records, smaller associations rely on assistance from staff and volunteer members. In the past four years Dr. Noll, in cooperation with ACFAS Executive Director Chris Mahaffey, has worked on preserving the institutional archive of the College.

In 2007 Noll presented a compelling argument on the need to document ACFAS’ historical paper records for the digital age, and proposed a plan for improving the existing archive. Using principles developed by the Society of American Archivists, Noll has been collecting, selecting, preserving and making available historical and documentary records of enduring value. He also assists those who access College records in finding and understanding the information in the annals.

Help Expand the ACFAS Archive

“I am always eager to accept and sort anything related to ACFAS,” reports ACFAS archivist Jerome S. Noll, DPM. “Many members have told me they have pictures and other historical items of interest and the College would love to have these treasures.”

Do you have anything you’d like to contribute to the official archive of your association? ACFAS will pay your shipping! Please contact Executive Director Chris Mahaffey at mahaffey@acfas.org or 800-421-2237 x1305.
Tired … yet filled with positive anticipation … that is how I would describe my state of body and mind following the conclusion of our ACFAS 2011 Annual Scientific Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. I am writing this from 37,000 feet aboard my flight home. Having settled in, and taking advantage of the isolation, I thought now would be a good time to embark on my first of many “president perspectives.”

Our scientific conference was clearly a huge success! It was the largest non-Vegas conference we have ever had, with over 2,000 total attendees. We also enjoyed a record number of poster presentations and scientific manuscript submissions. All one had to do was visit the exhibit hall or stick your head into a lecture and it became apparent what this meeting was all about … innovation!

I think the same could be said of your new ACFAS Board of Directors and committees. As I walked around the conference and had the opportunity to visit with friends, both old and new, there was one question that kept coming my way: “What do I wish to see this organization accomplish under my leadership?”

That is an excellent question, and it is one that should be answered clearly and concisely. First I should say how proud I am of our recent accomplishments under the leadership of presidents Michael S. Lee, DPM, and prior to that Mary E. Crawford, DPM. A small sampling would include the completion of award-winning websites (acfas.org and FootHealthFacts.org), an influential position statement on credentialing and privileging, our first ACFAS multicenter research study, establishment of ACFAS recognized fellowships and validation of the ACFAS foot and ankle scoring scale.

But, back to the question. The reality is that ACFAS is a well-oiled machine with an administrative staff that is second to none. Your board has spent countless hours over the preceding few years developing a strategic business plan based on your input in our member surveys. Therefore, my first objective is to ensure that the College stays on track in this regard. Having said that, I would not be true to myself or to the membership if I did not try to bring additional thoughts and actions to the table for discussion and possible implementation.

There are a few items that fill my “to do” list:

• We must continue to leverage technology in a way that is consistent with our strategic plan. Our first priority remains to “deliver superior continuing medical education to enhance competency at every level of professional training.” Last week I tried to buy an iPad 2, but the store was sold out. This is just one indication that educational media of the present and future clearly will be based upon handheld mobile devices. ACFAS needs to ride the front of this wave. I would like to see the College begin to publish both virtual and hard copy textbooks and monographs. For example, I think projects including the subjects of arthroscopy and selected reconstructive topics are well overdue.

• I think we all agree that online educational resources are of great value, but still, they do not compare to a real-time experience. Therefore we should provide more regionally based surgical skills workshops, where the College brings the latest equipment and techniques to your area, taught by our best educators.

• I also wish to stay fully engaged in the concept of our professional parity initiatives. Many of us have had to seek “parity” as it relates to the microcosms of our local academic centers, hospitals and surgery centers. While there is no question that some aspects of parity are obtained through the legislative process, I think true parity is derived from the educational process. Therefore we should expand upon our first steps into the realm of fellowship training. At the scientific conference we had an informative and exciting session devoted to “Fellowship Development.” I left the session convinced that in the near future a three-year standardized foot and ankle residency followed by the option of a specialized fellowship will be the best vehicle towards parity. Therefore it’s time to learn from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and develop mechanisms by which ACFAS can not only recognize fellowships that meet high standards, but actually fund them.

All of this will take hard work and sacrifice. As I think about this great College and of where we have been and where we need to go, I am reminded of what Henry Ford once said: “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”
The Story Heard Around the Nation

Media around the country was buzzing with the College’s latest news from the 2011 Annual Scientific Conference. To date, over 750 articles were placed in national, local and social media, including the Miami Herald, the Dallas Morning News and the Sacramento Bee, from three press releases issued by the Consumer Education Committee on hot topics such as platelet-rich plasma (“Advancing Tissue Healing Without Surgery”); arthroscopic surgery (“Small Scars, Big Benefits”); and the next generation of bone healing (“Surgeons Can Now Get Bones, Stem Cells ‘Off the Shelf’”).

Twitter feeds were also bustling with comments on the conference as social media continued to play a vital role in getting the latest news out to those in attendance, to the media and to members who were unable to attend but still wanted to be a part of the action. ACFAS’ Facebook page, Foot Health Facts, was used for the first time at an annual conference this year to help keep the conversation going.

Watch for future feature articles from the sessions presented at this year’s conference in Lower Extremity Review and Podiatry Management magazines and other national and local publications.

Now Debuting: The New FootNotes Newsletter

ACFAS’ patient education newsletter, FootNotes, recently received a makeover! The free customizable newsletter has been completely redesigned to feature a bright new layout with color photos complimenting each article.

Download your FootNotes newsletter each quarter at acfas.org/marketing and customize it with your practice information to share with your current patients or to attract new ones. FootNotes can also be placed as a PDF file on your practice website or blog.

Annual Conference CME & Handouts Now Online
If you attended the 2011 Annual Scientific Conference, you can now check your CME credits quickly and conveniently online! View and print your conference attendance and CME hours from the link on the ACFAS home page.

Please check them promptly, because after May 15, 2011, no changes can be made online.

The ACFAS Education Department has sent all attendees an e-mail with instructions on how to view your transcripts and CME credit at acfas.org. If you did not receive it, or if you have questions on the online CME records, contact Education at 800-421-2237.

ACFAS 2011 Extras on the Web
Find handouts from the scientific conference sessions at your fingertips on the ACFAS website. Simply log in with your member or attendee number to get even more from your participation in this premier educational event.

Handouts are available exclusively to attendees of ACFAS 2011. Download them any time at acfas.org/ftlauderdale.

Free CME at ACFAS e-Learning
Gain new knowledge whenever you are ready with the library of foot and ankle health topics at ACFAS e-Learning.

Tune in today for the latest podcast, “Hallux Rigidus,” a comprehensive discussion between experienced foot and ankle surgeons on symptom relief, treatment choices and preferred procedures for the entire progression of this condition, from early to end stage.

ACFAS members can earn free continuing education contact hours with selected materials on the site. New topics in video, podcast, and DVD are added frequently, so check in often at acfas.org/elearning.

New Podcasts:
- Imaging
- Forefoot Complications
- Deformity Correction
- Hallux Rigidus

Latest Scientific Session Videos:
- Ethical Issues in Surgical Decisions
- Complex Cases in Foot and Ankle Surgery

Interested in attending a Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy Surgical Skills Course? Contact Maggie Hjelm at hjelm@acfas.org or 800-421-2237 x1321.

1st MTPJ A-Z Workshops will be offered regionally in the fall. More information coming soon at acfas.org!
Update Patient Demographics
Don’t allow the mistake of old demographics and wrong insurance to delay patient payments. Your practice should recognize that patients are people who move, divorce, marry, change jobs and health insurance, cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. To help ensure timely payment, you need to know correct, current patient information. Failing to verify grows the patient accounts receivable and makes for twice the work on the back end. Do these scenes sound familiar?
• Your billing staff is grumbling — they just called Mrs. V who assured them she hadn’t paid her past due bill because she hadn’t received it. She divorced her husband two years ago. She moved. She kept his last name. She started working and got health insurance. Meanwhile, your front desk caught none of this, and all of the demographics in the computer are wrong.
• Last month, a staff member reported that it was silly to ask for updated information because Mr. F “comes all the time.” It was beyond her that the patient could be a regular, but have a life outside of the office that was in flux. It wasn’t his fault he got laid off, his wife left and he couldn’t afford COBRA!
If you want to see your patient receivables swell, let the reason be something interesting — like the person came in to your office in disguise with forged IDs and insurance cards. Don’t let it be something easily preventable, like failing to ask patients to update a registration form and make copies of their new benefit card(s).
Accept Online Payments
More and more patients under 30 don’t even have a checkbook! Ask around. One surgeon told me his son thought it ridiculous that a doctor expected a paper check in an envelope with a stamp. The surgeon realized that’s the only payment option he offered.

A New Member Benefit brought to you by ACFAS and Officite!

Website Services:
- Social Media & Blogging
- Local SEO
- Pay Per Click
- Reputation Alerts
- Mobile
- Patient Education

877.898.4006
www.dpmwebsites.com/acfas

Websites starting at $945

Official PRACTICE WEBSITE Provider
As a partner of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, Officite extends the value of the trusted ACFAS brand to website design and search engine marketing services uniquely geared toward your practice. Officite will make your online communication tasks easier at a discounted members-only price.
At Wednesday’s Opening Session

Keynote speaker Robert M. Pearl, M.D., (above) delivered a timely message on the challenges and opportunities for medical practice in the era of healthcare reform.

Scientific poster authors discussed their research with interested viewers during the lunch break.

A Record 200 Posters were on display this year.

The Spacious Exhibit Hall was always abuzz with meeting, greeting and eating among colleagues, guests, vendors and service providers.

Dynamic workshops offered hands-on experience in Surgical Techniques.
Merz Pharmaceuticals continued its support of the future of foot and ankle healthcare by sponsoring 27 students’ attendance in Fort Lauderdale.

The President’s Gavel passed from Michael S. Lee, DPM, to Glenn M. Weinraub, DPM, on March 10.

Opening Receptions were even more inviting in the open air of the “Venice of America.”

Meetings and Conversation with friends old and new.

New Fellows attending the Honors and Awards Ceremony personally received their Fellow pins. In all, 164 new Fellows were admitted into the College in 2010.
Manuscript Awards Encourage Exploration

The ACFAS Manuscript Awards of Excellence were established to foster research on the practice of podiatric medicine. Research performed today will help advance foot and ankle surgery and determine best practices for patient care.

Manuscripts submitted for consideration are blind-reviewed and judged on established criteria by the Manuscript Review Committee. The committee selected 19 manuscripts out of 49 submitted to be presented at the conference, as well as the top winners below.

The awards were generously funded by the Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh, and presented by Nicki L. Nigro, DPM, and Jeffrey S. Nigro, DPM, chair of the Foundation Scholarship Committee, during the ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony on March 10, 2011.

First Place — $3,000
A Comprehensive Outcome Comparison of Surgical and Ponseti Clubfoot Treatment
Chris F. Church, MPT
Julie A. Coplan, DScPT
Ahmed Mohamed Thabet, MD
John D. Henley, PhD
Roland Starr, MS
Dan Mason, MD
Mohan V. Belthur, MD
*John E. Herzenberg, MD

Second Place — $2,500
Post-Treatment Leukocytosis Predicts an Unfavorable Clinical Response in Patients with Moderate to Severe Diabetic Foot Infections
*Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
James S. Wrobel, DPM
Andrea Leonards, DPM, AACFAS
Scott Berg, BS
Daniel P. Evans, DPM
Robert L. Baron, DPM
David G. Armstrong, DPM, PhD, FACFAS

Third Place — $1,500
Predictive Risk Assessment for Major Amputation After Tibiotalocalcaneal Arthrodesis – RAIN Database
*Jason George DeVries, DPM, AACFAS
Gregory C. Berlet, MD
Christopher F. Hyer, DPM, FACFAS

Honorable Mentions — $750 each
Meta-Analytic Review of Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Diagnosing Tendon Tears of the Foot and Ankle
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
Sarah E. Dickey, DPM
Maureen E. Allanson, BS
Jessica L. Minder, BS
Daniel P. Evans, DPM
Martin C. Yorath, DPM, FACFAS

The Radiographic Fate of the Syndesmosis After Trans-syndesmotic Screw Removal in Displaced Ankle Fractures
*Thomas H. Jordan, DPM
Ross H. Talarico, DPM, AACFAS
John M. Schuberth, DPM

Complications After Open Reduction and Internal Fixation of Ankle Fractures in the Elderly
*Michael Lynde, DPM
Travis L. Sautter, DPM, FACFAS
John M. Schuberth, DPM

The Incidence of Venous Thromboembolism Following Foot and Ankle Surgery: A Retrospective Review with a Prospective Cohort Study Emphasizing the Need for a Prophylactic Anticoagulation Protocol
Luis E. Marin, DPM, MBS, FACFAS
*Joanne N. Balkaran, DPM, MSC, AACFAS
Federico A. Auger, DPM
Elizabeth C. Hernandez, DPM
Robert Hasty, DO
Patrick C. Hardigan, PhD
*Author presenting at the conference.

2012 Conference Submissions
Want to see your name here next year? Enter a manuscript by Aug. 15, 2011, or a poster by Oct. 12, 2011, to be eligible for the 2012 awards. Look for details on the insert in this issue of Update.

Appreciation for Committee Members
Sincere thanks to the members of the College on the manuscript committee for their hard work in reading and evaluating the submissions.

Eric A. Barp, DPM, Chair
Troy J. Boffeli, DPM
Paul D. Dayton, DPM
John Etcheverry, DPM
Paul J. Kim, DPM
Christopher D. Lotufo, DPM
Roya Mirmiran, DPM
Barry I. Rosenblum, DPM

ACFAS Update Volume 18, Issue 3
Building Research Prowess through Posters

The ACFAS scientific poster competition is an educational resource that contributes to the future of scientific and clinical understanding in podiatric medicine by helping beginning researchers learn the basics of study design and how to interpret results. The 2011 display contained 200 posters, including 6 student entries from schools of podiatric medicine.

“This is the fourth consecutive year we’ve had a record number of posters submitted” says Poster Chair Christopher L. Reeves, DPM. “This program is a great avenue to present new research and interesting case series, and its design encourages work from the grass roots clinical level all the way up to large academic centers. In addition, it showcases the work of our students, foot and ankle surgical residencies, and fellowship programs.”

This year the poster awards were proudly supported by Stryker Trauma and Extremities. The 2011 winners are:

**Case Study Format**

**First Place**
Vascular Leiomyosarcoma of the Greater Saphenous Vein
Marcus H. Schroeder, DPM
Christopher Bibbo, DO, DPM, FACFAS

**Second Place**
Foot Salvage Following Loss of 1st and 2nd Metatarsal Ray with Free Fibula Osteocutaneous Flap
Alissa N. Duncan, DPM

**Third Place**
Combined Dwyer Calcaneal Osteotomy and Peroneal Tendon Repair for Correction of Peroneal Tendon Pathology Associated with Cavus Deformity: A Case Report with Technique Tips
Rachel C. Collier, DPM
Ryan R. Pfannenstein, DPM, FACFAS
Troy J. Boffeli, DPM, FACFAS

**Scientific Format**

**First Place**
Failed Total Ankle Joint Replacement Converted to Fusion with Either Lengthening or Bone Transport
Monique C. Gourdin-Shaw, DPM
Ferras Zeni, MD
Bradley M. Lamm, DPM, FACFAS

**Second Place**
Correlation of MRI Edema and Clinical Outcomes Following Microfracture of Osteochondral Lesions of the Talus
Daniel J. Cuttica, DO
Joel A. Shockley, MD
Christopher F. Hyer, DPM, FACFAS
Gregory C. Berlet, MD

**Third Place**
Comparison of Fixation Techniques for Akin Osteotomies of the Proximal Phalanx
Yolanda J. Chacon, DPM
Lawrence M. Fallat, DPM, FACFAS
Nathan Dau, M.S.E.
Cynthia A. Bir, PhD

**Student Entry**

**First Place**
Brachymetatarsia: A Review of the Literature Evaluating Three Surgical Techniques
Iowa College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University

**Second Place**
Revisional Tibiotalar Arthrodesis with the Taylor Spatial Frame: A Case Report
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

**Third Place**
Evaluation of Lateral Deviation of the Hallux Following Isolated Tibial Sesamoidectomy and Applied Force: A Cadaveric Study
Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine

A Note of Thanks
Gratitude is due to the College members who volunteered their time as judges of the poster exhibit competition. They spent many hours at the 2011 Annual Scientific Conference evaluating and judging the entries.

Christopher L. Reeves, DPM, Chair
2011–12 ACFAS Board Convenes

The ACFAS Board of Directors met on March 8, just prior to the 2011 Annual Scientific Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Actions taken include:

- New position statements adopted on complementary and alternative medicine, and uniform licensure for DPMs.
- Update on the work of the AACPM Residents-Residencies Task Force from ACFAS representative Jordan Grossman, DPM.
- Update on the work of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Council to restructure the CPG development process.
- Review of outcomes from the Scoring Scale Task Force, which updated and validated the ACFAS Scoring Scale in accordance with evidence-based medicine guidelines.
- Revision of a policy on ACFAS copyrighted materials appearing on members’ websites.
- Review of outcomes from the DPMs in the Academic Healthcare Center Task Force.
- Appointment of Drs. Butterworth (chair), Derner, and Lee to the Conflicts of Interest and Ethics Subcommittee.
- Reaffirmed the existing asset allocation policy for College investments.

The next board meetings will be July 15–17 in Napa, Calif.; mid-November in Chicago; and Feb. 29, 2012, at the next ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Joint Commission to Publish ACFAS Privileging Statement

The Joint Commission will include the ACFAS “Position Statement on the Credentialing of Podiatric Foot and Ankle Surgeons and Guidelines for Surgical Delineation of Privileges” in its Medical Staff Handbook: A Guide to Joint Commission Standards, 3rd Edition. The handbook, which will publish in June 2011, is a guide to hospitals on the credentialing, privileging and appointment of health care professionals throughout the medical staff process. This 2010 ACFAS document is one of 12 privileging-related topics available at acfas.org/privileges.

In Memoriam

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

- Michael A. Faraldi, DPM, Germantown, N.Y.

Improve Your Business Acumen

Perfect your practice management at a 2011 ACFAS Practice Management/Coding Workshop, either “Rock & Roll Your Practice,” May 13–14, in Cleveland, or “Is Your Practice Between a Rock and a Hard Place?” Oct. 14–15, in Las Vegas. Stay for one day or two as respected educators present timely information on perennial tasks and new trends in medical practice, including:

- Financial best practices & strategic business planning
- The impact of healthcare reform on your practice
- New hospital-employment models
- Marketing tips for social media

Favorite speakers Karen Zupko, Douglas G. Stoker, DPM, and others will help you learn new skills or refresh your expertise in profitable practice strategies. For more information and to register online, visit acfas.org/pmm/seminars today!
ACFAS Gives Thanks for Dedicated Volunteers

The College gratefully recognizes members who have devoted their time and expertise in service on ACFAS 2010-2011 committees and task forces.

Thanks are also due those who served in the past year as peer reviewers and section editors on the Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery. Their names have been published in JFAS and can be viewed at acfas.org/jfas.

Preserving the Past  continued from page 1

Noll’s achievements so far include:

• Oral history recordings of past presidents during the 2008-10 annual scientific conferences.
• Updates to logs of educational programs, products and meetings.
• Organization of current digital records and digitization of all public records of the College.
• Organization of appropriate on- and off-site storage of digital and hard records.

Some of the fruits of his labor were on display in the Member Center at the 2011 Annual Scientific Conference in Fort Lauderdale. A monograph is also planned for 2012, to coincide with ACFAS’ 70th anniversary. Noll hopes to finalize the archiving program by ACFAS’ 75th anniversary in 2017. Look for more news on this project in future issues of Update.
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Speed Up Patient Payments by Daring to Change! continued from page 5

Have your credit card processing company and IT support people talk with each other about how to install a secure payment feature on your website.

Forget Once-a-Month Billing

Consider for a moment that many insurance companies will pay in the first week of the month. And, that your business office staff will post the payment and wait another three weeks to bill the patient at month’s end. That’s a three-week interest-free loan.

Well-run offices should send statements on demand to patients as they receive payments throughout the month. Whether you bill electronically or on paper, remember: the sooner the better. Billing this way evens out the posting, the phone calls and your cash flow.

Karen Zupko is president of KarenZupko & Associates, Inc., the premier surgical practice management company with more than 25 years of experience. For more ideas on how to improve the business side of your medical practice, visit karenzupko.com.

Scientific Conference Shines Light on the Future of Care and Practice continued from page 1

This theme was echoed at Thursday’s awards ceremony, when incoming President Glenn M. Weinraub said: “This College has made incredible strides since Dr. Mowbray first held the gavel in 1942, yet so much more needs to be done. How healthcare will be delivered in this country remains at the precipice of uncertainty. As your representative, the board and I will continue leveraging technology to provide the tools that you require to benefit your patients and society as a whole. Remember that you have the stability of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons at your disposal — proven leaders and lifelong learners who are changing lives!”

These themes and more will continue to be explored in the years to come. Don’t miss the conversation and the most valuable clinical program in the profession; make your plans now for the ACFAS 2012 Annual Scientific Conference, March 1–4, in San Antonio, Texas.