Imagine attending a conference with boundless opportunity to share in the latest scientific advancements of your profession. Where you're surrounded by an unmatched array of opportunities to advance the field of which you are most passionate. Don't just imagine yourself attending; mark your calendar and plan to be a part of the ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference, which will take place in Orlando, Florida, from February 27 to March 2, 2014, at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center. With the theme Imagine: Experience Meets Opportunity, ACFAS 2014 will host the profession's most enlightening scientific sessions, intensive workshops, comprehensive posters and a multitude of exhibits. Opportunity steps in when you begin engaging with colleagues, industry partners and vendors. Be sure to also plan on attending the special pre-conference programs. The pre-conference programs start a day early—on Wednesday, February 26—these in-depth sessions will spotlight the College’s popular Perfecting Your Practice practice management/coding workshop, plus other clinical workshops that are procedurally focused. Stay tuned to ACFAS Update and This Week @ ACFAS e-newsletter for further details on the conference. Most of all, make arrangements to be there — this is an opportunity you won't want to pass up!
Make no mistake; this residency shortage is a crisis. Was it... A Miscalculation? ...yes Careless?...maybe Egregious? ...doubtful Unfortunate? ...without question I’m not going to assign blame to anyone or any organization. No one wanted this and everyone regrets the situation. It’s what they call an unintended consequence of well-intentioned actions.

There are, however, a lot of sidewalk superintendents out there who are criticizing and demanding action, yet have contributed little, if anything toward residency training during their entire careers. As they say, “Those who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.”

Of the 208 residency programs, over 70 percent are ACFAS members (146). But that’s only 4 percent of all Fellow and Associate members. I am pretty sure that the majority of ACFAS members are involved in some capacity of a residency training program. However, if you are in the other 96 percent, are you putting your time and wisdom where your mouth is? If not, the time to get involved is NOW.

ACFAS has been very concerned and active in addressing this crisis. We are participating (both financially and with a representative) on the AACPM Residency Genesis Task force, not to mention extensive member promotions. I was the ACFAS liaison to this task force from 2010 to 2013 and John Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS, is now serving in that role. Please be aware that we can’t force any member into action – it’s all up to you.

Again, I urge every ACFAS member to get involved with resident education in your community. You have plenty of options for doing so:

- Offer to lecture to the residents
- Invite residents to spend time with you in your clinic
- Participate in research projects
- Most importantly, offer your cases for the residents to scrub

These opportunities provide valuable experiences for the residents and may even provide enough volume of cases for the program to be eligible to offer another position.

And, should you be so inclined, starting your own residency program will obviously have a tremendous effect to help solve this crisis. For information, contact the National Residency Facilitator Edwin Wolf, DPM, FACFAS, by emailing edwin.wolf@rcn.com.

Trust me, I know that there are several confounding variables that make this particular option challenging. You will discover, though, that your participation in a residency not only provides valuable resources to the program; but you will enjoy an incredible fulfillment by becoming a mentor to these young minds – and that’s a legacy you just can’t buy.

Certainly reducing the number of applicants that our schools accept will help to prevent an even larger backlog of our students without a residency program. Unfortunately, decreasing our school’s class size will not help the 104 students who didn’t match this year. We won’t see the effects of this for at least four years.

I’ve read that there are “more than 158 additional positions” that CPME has approved at residency programs around the country, but I’ve been told that only a small fraction of these positions have been accepted by the residency program directors.

With the “blame game” at a crescendo, I hope that the individuals responsible for training our residents are not being criticized. I hope that any deflection of “blame” is not even being considered to fall on their shoulders. These are the individuals who are helping to solve this crisis and some of the very few in our profession who have dedicated their lives to post graduate education.

Understand that once a residency program is approved for additional positions, it is not a unilateral decision that the residency director can make to accept those additional approved positions. Funding for approved residency positions can be a significant obstacle to overcome. Hospital budget constraints obviously need to be considered.

Also, managing one or several more residents can be remarkably challenging for a director and faculty. Continued on page 10

Questions for Dr. Grossman? Write him at president@acfas.org.
Did you know you can earn CME credit without having to step foot outside your home? With ACFAS’ Clinical e-Sessions, you have the capability to not only further your scientific knowledge, but you’ll be awarded CME Credits for doing so. There’s no doubt about it — ACFAS has built a reputation for excellence in scientific education. We have unparalleled speakers for presentation topics of all sorts. Below are three new Clinical e-Sessions that came straight from the mouths of some of our most highly regarded presenters. Visit acfasdistancelearning.com/ClinicalSessions to participate in each of these e-sessions and more:

- Rethinking Arthritis (0.5 CPME CE Credit)
- Peds and Pods (1.5 CPME CE Credit)
- First Ray Revisited (0.5 CPME CE Credit)

These online presentations are available to members and non-members at no cost. Continuing education contact hours are available to ACFAS members. acfasdistancelearning.com

The Latest and Greatest Podcasts of 2013

When you visit acfas.org’s distance learning page, you will find myriad surgical topics that may interest you, and each listing features its own unique panel of respected foot and ankle surgeons. These panelists don’t always agree, either; you only need to listen to one podcast to understand the depth to which they venture within each topic. Multiple viewpoints are discussed through candid conversations, and this is what makes each topic so interesting.

Stay connected to the latest topics to come under discussion among your peers through the free podcasts ACFAS offers each month. Enlighten yourself with the topics laid out in each of these podcasts, which are core to the incomparable dexterity recognized among members of this industry. The profession of foot and ankle surgery can only be further enhanced by discussions among educated, experienced experts, and the College has over 6,800 of its own.

Navigate the world of real, thought-provoking dialogue on the biggest subjects among foot and ankle surgeons, such as these:

- Patient Oriented Research
- Hypermobility of the First Ray
- Evaluating the Pediatric Bunion
- Controversies in Trauma
- Least Invasive Surgery Stress Fractures
- Making it Count: Taking Full Advantage of Your Externship
- Flatfoot Controversies

acfasdistancelearning.com/podcast

2013 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

June 14-15, 2013 (Friday/Saturday)  
Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy Surgical Skills Course*  
Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)  
Rosemont, IL

July 19-20, 2013 (Friday/Saturday)  
Coding/Practice Management Workshop  
Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel  
Chicago, IL

August 3-4, 2013 (Saturday/Sunday)  
Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy Surgical Skills Course*  
Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)  
Rosemont, IL

October 3-5, 2013 (Thursday evening/Friday/Saturday)  
Total Ankle Arthroplasty Surgical Skills Course  
Medcure Surgical Training Center  
Henderson, NV

October 11-12, 2013 (Friday/Saturday)  
Minimizing Complications, Maximizing Results Seminar  
InterContinental Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

November 1-2, 2013 (Friday/Saturday)  
Comprehensive Flatfoot Surgical Skills Course (Reconstruction & Arthrodesis)  
Courtyard by Marriott Cherry Creek and Mobile Lab  
Denver, CO

December 14-15, 2013 (Saturday/Sunday)  
Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy Surgical Skills Course  
Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)  
Rosemont, IL

*To be waitlisted please contact Maggie Hjelm

Look for 2013 ACFAS Coming to You: Simple to Complex Forefoot Revisional Surgery dates—available soon!
Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 ACFAS Clinical and Scientific Research Grant, which has been awarded twice the amount of funding it had last year by the ACFAS Board of Directors. This grant provides financial assistance to ACFAS members studying topics in the foot and ankle surgery arena that could otherwise not be funded. The research must be clinical or laboratory based, with clearly defined research goals meeting all the criteria for grant submission.

The program seeks to educate members in the implementation of evidence-based medicine for the advancement of their clinical practice in areas related to the betterment of foot and ankle surgery for the patients they serve.

**CRITERIA**

Projects capable of obtaining EBM Levels of Evidence 1, 2 or 3 will be given preference, but studies cadaveric, animal or bench-top in nature will also be considered. Evidence-based medicine has been added to the grading process as judging criteria on the Levels of Evidence for Primary Research chart. Use of a scoring scale is encouraged, including the ACFAS Scoring Scale and its 2011 Validation. At least one of the investigators must be a member in good standing of the ACFAS.

**GRANT AWARD**

Up to $40,000 can be awarded. Half of the grant money is payable within four weeks following announcement/acceptance of the award, completion of or documentation of human subjects training and submission of receipts; the second half is payable upon completion of a publishable paper submitted to the Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

All applications are due September 16, 2013. For full details, or to submit a grant application, visit acfas.org/grant.

“ACFAS supports investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed proposals. This assures that research is aimed at what matters most to our college members and ensures the highest quality and significance of our research. Our focused support of intellectual curiosity through the grant program stimulates intellectual freedom and allows our college to explore and answer the clinical and scientific questions that matter most to our members while helping build a future for our profession,” says Robert Joseph, DPM, PhD, FACFAFS, chair of the ACFAS Research Committee.

Help to build a future for foot and ankle surgery and apply for an ACFAS Research Grant. Remember, submissions must be received by **September 16, 2013**. For information on the criteria and other details regarding the grant application, visit acfas.org/grant.
ACFAS Calls for Major Podiatric CME Reforms

ACFAS has submitted substantive comments to the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) on the Council’s proposed revisions to CPME Documents 720 and 730 – the standards that regulate continuing podiatric medical education content and sponsors.

The College applauded CPME’s own proposed revisions, but added, “We believe that CPME’s CME standards should be equivalent to or more stringent than allopathic CME requirements if podiatry is serious about professional parity. In some cases, we are also calling for substantial measures to provide greater enforcement and disciplining of CME providers. Such steps are sorely needed.”

A key ACFAS recommendation is the elimination of third party (or affiliate) accreditation, where CME providers can “piggyback” on the accreditation of another organization. Citing a strong movement in allopathic medicine to eliminate third party accreditation, ACFAS said “podiatry should take the lead” to: 1) raise the professionalism of podiatric CME sponsoring organizations and their leaderships, 2) ensure better compliance of CPME standards, and 3) signal to the public that our profession takes lifelong learning and practice improvement as seriously as allopathic medicine.

A summary of ACFAS’ enhancement to CPME’s proposed revisions, includes:

- Clearly define the types of organizations that may sponsor activities and the types that may not
- Eliminate third party/affiliate sponsorship
- Require that educational activity design be connected to data demonstrating an educational need
- Require that activities attempt to change more than the knowledge of attendees, establishing Moore’s Level of Outcomes 3 as the minimum requirement
- Ensure independence of activities from all commercial interests
- Add a participant whistleblower process that must be advertised to all attendees
- Increase the level of scrutiny during the approval and re-approval process
- Increase the authority of the CPME in monitoring compliance and requisite enforcement
- Simplify and reduce the requirements regarding test validation of online or enduring education
- Ensure confidentiality of materials provided to CPME

ACFAS concluded, “This arena needs a ‘sheriff’ with vastly more authority — and the will to use it.” Visit acfas.org/CMEreform to see the complete text of all CPME and ACFAS proposed revisions to CPME Documents 720 and 730.
If you're tired of denials, wondering why your insurance claims aren't accepted upon submission, confused about documentation for DME or simply wondering which level of service was provided to the patient, the ACFAS Coding/Practice Management Seminar, Perfecting Your Practice, is the place to be. This seminar will address these and several other important topics for foot and ankle surgeons and their office staff, and will take place July 19-20 at the Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel in bustling and beautiful Downtown Chicago.

Certified Professional Coder and Foot and Ankle Surgery Practice Manager Jackie Reiss-Kravitz will teach attendees how to correctly code for evaluation and management services and surgical procedures, effectively use modifiers, and provide and bill for durable medical equipment. Reiss-Kravitz will also utilize coding scenario exercises to teach attendees.

Participants will also be given guidance for achieving Meaningful Use and Attestation for Electronic Health Records (EHR) compliance and Practice Management Committee Chair Brian Harley, DPM, FACFAS, will explain the process for selecting an appropriate EHR system.

Returning faculty member, Marcy Blitch, Registered Health Information Administrator and ICD-10 Certified Trainer, will present on ICD-10. "Transitioning to ICD-10 is not just adding details to ICD-9 codes because, in reality, some of the coding guidelines have changed and more documentation is needed to capture the correct ICD-10 code," says Blitch. “All practices can make a successful transition to ICD-10, but to do so they need to start planning now. Physicians themselves must become engaged in the process.”

Timothy R. Rabel, JD, of the Querrey & Harrow law firm, will address the recently released final rule that makes changes to the privacy and security protections established by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. Physicians and other covered entities must be in compliance with the Omnibus rule by September 23. Rabel will address the important changes for physician practices required by the HIPAA Omnibus rule.

To register for Perfecting Your Practice, visit acfas.org/pmm/seminars.
Is a HIPAA Violator Lurking in Your Office?

Did you know that your digital photocopier may have a hard drive that could be storing images of every copy you make? Hard drives inside copiers and other office machines have proliferated since 2002—and here’s where you may need to worry — the contents are easy to retrieve by those who have the knowledge and skills to do so.

Ask your office equipment sales representative(s) if hard drives are in any of your office equipment, especially copiers. Also, when you buy or lease new equipment, make sure your agreement includes the proper disposal of hard drives.

The Federal Trade Commission’s publication “Copier Data Security: A Guide for Business” is available free when you type this Web address into your browser: http://goo.gl/17vwD.

The publication recommends that organizations determine how their data will be secured when the machine is removed. Data encryption and overwriting is preferred over deleting or reformatting; or better yet, ask the equipment vendor if you can retain the hard drive.
New Annual Calendar Implemented for ACFAS Recognized Fellowship Initiative

To streamline internal processes and to allow for a better focus on program support, visibility and high standards of the programs currently recognized by ACFAS, the Fellowship Committee has implemented an annual calendar of deadlines for programs officially “Recognized,” and those listed in “Conditional Status,” with the College.

The committee’s focus on maintaining the high quality and program adherence to the listed “minimal criteria for recognition” is the primary reason for implementation of this new calendar. This in turn helps to reassure students and residents considering a fellowship post-residency that the programs on the ACFAS online listing are meeting – and potentially exceeding – the criteria created by ACFAS.

The new annual calendar includes the following:

**March–April:** Committee to focus on College’s initiative: criteria for recognition and maintenance of compliance to criteria

**May–July:** Exit interviews sent to recognized programs’ matriculating fellows and program directors; responses received, compiled and blinded; responses reviewed by committee members. Those programs that are deemed lacking in all criteria are followed-up with.

**Aug.:** Deadline for new program applications for “Recognized” status to be received by ACFAS

**Sept.–Oct.:** New Recognized Programs’ application review and interviews; committee decisions made and communicated to the membership

**Nov.–Feb.:** Focus on post-grad fellow/fellowship content creation for ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference

As part of this annual calendar, a new deadline for submission of applications by fellowships for official recognition by ACFAS has been implemented. Completed applications for the 2013-2014 academic year received by August 31 will begin the recognition process in September. Newly created programs that show that they have met all minimal criteria for recognition will be held in “Conditional Status” until the following year. For more information about the Recognized Fellowship Initiative, or to see a listing of programs currently “Recognized” or held in “Conditional Status” by the College, please visit the ACFAS website at acfas.org/fellowshipinitiative. If you are interested in having a fellowship program considered for ACFAS Recognition, you can request an application by contacting ACFAS Director of Membership Michelle Brozell at mbrozell@acfas.org.

Good News on Horizon for Residencies

The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM) has responded to recent reports about the residency shortage with positive news that 34 hospitals are in the application stage of starting new training sites, and 69 additional facilities are evaluating whether to submit applications.

“The AACPM, through its national residency facilitation project, is working to develop new sponsor hospitals. We are identifying hospitals across the country that have robust podiatric staffs that can provide the adequate resources for training the future generation of podiatrists,” said AACPM National Residency Facilitator Edwin W. Wolf, DPM, FACFAS, MS, “but this effort requires everyone in our community to assist.”

Wolf then spells out the situation, including detailed numbers as they relate to available residency programs, applications and other important items in the interest of this topic.

You can read Dr. Wolf’s message (PDF file) at aacpm.org/pdf/Residency_Solution_Article.pdf
news from the college

Have You Visited PodiatryCareers.org Yet?

- Search and apply to the premier podiatry jobs across the nation
- Target the most qualified candidates in the field and take advantage of the ACFAS Special Member pricing when posting jobs
- Sign up for Job Alerts and receive e-mail notifications when a new job is posted that matches your criteria

PodiatryCareers.org is available all year long, so utilize PodiatryCareers.org today and take advantage of the increase in job seeker activity and job postings this spring. After all, plenty of the nation’s top foot and ankle surgical candidates are graduating right about now — so don’t let this opportunity pass. Visit PodiatryCareers.org to see a listing of available positions or call (888) 884-8242 to post a job on the site to find your next candidate.

Fellowship Committee Announces New Program

The North Jersey Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship, under the direction of Michael Subik, DPM, FACFAS, in Lyndhurst, NJ, is the newest fellowship program to be considered by the ACFAS Fellowship Committee for Recognition by the College. You can find more information about this fellowship specifically by visiting acfas.org/fellowshipsubik.

The committee determined that this program has met minimal requirements established by an analysis of the program’s educational processes and support structures, which ensures adequate post-graduate-level training is occurring in the fellowship. As this will be the first year that a Fellow will matriculate through the program, it has been granted “Conditional Status” by the College, and will be considered for full Recognition by ACFAS after completion of the first year.

If you would like your fellowship program to be considered for the College’s recognized list of programs, please request an application by emailing the Director of Membership Michelle Brozell at michelle.brozell@acfas.org.

In Memoriam

Tracey A. Che, DPM, ACFAS
Rego Park, NY

David D. Clendenning, DPM, ACFAS
Plantation, FL

E. Joseph Daniels, DPM, ACFAS
Winston Salem, NC

Michael Krajick, DPM, ACFAS
Niskayuna, NY

Richard P. Reinherz, DPM, ACFAS
Libertyville, IL

George J. Saldin, DPM, ACFAS
Irvine, CA

Harry Shapiro, DPM, ACFAS
Silver Spring, MD

William O. Wattling, DPM, ACFAS
Lewiston, ID
The harmony and cohesiveness of the existing residents and challenges of increased competition amongst them is also a concern. Dilution of surgical cases and the residency experience is probably the most common trepidation that a director has. It is a daunting task as a director to take on more residents when your resources are already stretched to the maximum. The faculty that participates in residency training is pivotal to providing satisfactory minimum activity volume and sufficient academia for the program.

This alludes back to my “simple solution.” The most immediate answer to this crisis is for more of us to get involved with our local residency training program(s). If you have ever thought about doing this “at some point in your career,” now is the time.

Jordan P. Grossman, DPM, FACFAS
ACFAS President
Get New Patients With A Complete Web Presence

Make sure patients can find your practice online

“1,278 new patients!”
Dr. Robert J. Abrams
Newhall, CA

“3,053 new patients!”
Greg Renton
Orlando, FL

“962 new patients!”
Dr. Mitchell Waskin
Richmond, VA

ACFAS CORPORATE SPONSORS

Platinum Level
Stryker
Wright Medical Technology, Inc.

Gold Level
Arthrex
PICA
TornierOrthoHelix

Silver Level
Biomet, Inc.
Merz
Pharmaceuticals

Bronze Level
BioMimetic Therapeutics, Inc
Integra LifeSciences Corporation
Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh
Small Bone Innovations, Inc. – SBI
Solana Surgical, LLC

Pewter Level
Acumed
BioPro, Inc.
CurveBeam
Cutera
Metasurg
Shire Regenerative Medicine
Smith & Nephew, Inc.

ACFAS.org | JFAS.org | FootHealthFacts.org | 773-693-9300

American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
Promote with Ease

ACFAS Calls for Major Podiatric CME Reforms