ACFAS TAKES OVER SAN ANTONIO

Over 1,800 foot and ankle surgeons descended on the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio February 19-22 for an action-packed week at ACFAS 2020.

This year’s conference kicked off with an inspiring keynote address from NY Times Bestselling Author Ben Nemtin on the Ripple Effect of Radical Possibility sharing how five steps to make the impossible possible can change your practice and your life. Immediate Past President Christopher L. Reeves, DPM, MS, FACFAS gave an update on ACFAS’ accomplishments of the past year including celebrating the tenure of retiring College Executive Director Chris Mahaffey, MS, CAE, FASAE, welcoming new Executive Director Patrick (PJ) Andrus, MBA, CAE and installing the College’s 69th President, Scott Nelson, DPM, FACFAS. This year’s meeting also included a full lineup of interactive labs, sessions and workshops and another sold-out Exhibit Hall where attendees could catch up with colleagues and friends over the course of the meeting.

Attendees celebrated the end of another great week with a Texas-style Wrap Party at the Buckhorn Saloon & Museum filled with live music, line dancing and self-guided tours of the wildlife museum and exhibit. If you couldn’t join us this year in San Antonio, your luck hasn’t run out—we’ll be back in Las Vegas February 25-28 for ACFAS 2021 at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Convention Center!
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

As the sun set on the 2020 Annual Scientific Conference in San Antonio, I couldn’t help but reflect on what an honor it is to be a part of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and the successes we all have enjoyed. The meeting was another top performer for not only attendance but also for the quality of medical education offered. I had several members (both DPMs and MDs) comment on how much they appreciated the deep dive each educational session took and how powerful it was to learn new techniques and ways to obtain better outcomes for all of us. The conference not only feeds our thirst for knowledge, but it also gives us a way to connect and reconnect with our colleagues. From offering new members a way to start their network to offering established members a way to stay connected, the ACFAS event is truly the best in the profession on so many levels.

Thank you to the Annual Scientific Conference Planning Committee and the ACFAS staff who make this ship sail so smoothly each year.

While there were so many thought-provoking moments throughout the event, a few stood out in my mind, including the words of our opening general session speaker, Ben Nemtin from MTV’s The Buried Life. Ben took his inspiration for his show from the 1852 poem by Matthew Arnold, which states, “But often, in the world’s most crowded streets, But often, in the din of strife, There rises an unspeakable desire, After the knowledge of our buried life.” From these words, Ben and his friends started their own “bucket list” as part of the show where they did things they loved or longed to do while inspiring others to do the same through a ‘ripple effect.’ This concept of a ripple effect should ring through to all of us—if we demonstrate the love of our work to our patients and colleagues, it can rub off onto each of them in their own way and have such a powerful, far-reaching impact on so many people’s lives that we may never fully realize the extent.

In my President’s address, I also had a similar message as the opening general session on how your life can be affected by those around you through what is called, “The Butterfly Effect.” The Butterfly Effect, which was originally used to describe meteorological events and how small events can affect the future, theorizes that “a small positive vibration can change the entire cosmos like a butterfly that beats its wings in one corner of the globe and with that single action changes the weather halfway across the world.” This same type of effect can also be realized in our everyday lives with the decisions we make having an affect on how our future is shaped. For me, there were several life events that lead me down the path of becoming the 69th President of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons—a dream I had worked towards for many years. And, while I will admit not all of my life events were pleasant, decisions and modifications had to be made for me to continue my growth professionally and challenge myself to be better. As I became more involved in the College, I quickly recognized the positive influence this organization has on our members and I wanted to be a part of that. I would contend this organization has given me more than I could ever give back and my role as President will be to continue to serve our membership in the best way I know how.

Over the next year, I will continue to check in with you and give perspective and updates as events transpire. I hope you do as I have done and challenge yourself–both professionally and personally. Find something that will create a positive effect on those around you—either by getting more involved with the College or in other ways. I truly believe if we do create that positivity, we will each be a better person, a better profession and make the world a better place.

Scott C. Nelson, DPM, FACFAS
ACFAS President
news from the college

2020-2021 Board of Directors Takes Office in San Antonio

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 ACFAS Board of Directors.

Front L-R: Secretary-Treasurer, Michael J. Cornelison, DPM, FACFAS; Immediate Past President Christopher L. Reeves, DPM, MS, FACFAS; ACFAS President Scott C. Nelson, DPM, FACFAS; President-Elect Thanh Dinh, DPM, FACFAS.

Back L-R: George T. Liu, DPM, FACFAS; Matthew E. Williams, DPM, FACFAS; Alan Ng, DPM, FACFAS; Eric A. Barp, DPM FACFAS; Barry Rosenblum, DPM, FACFAS; Christopher D. Lotufo, DPM, FACFAS; Alan A. MacGill, DPM, FACFAS; Patrick (PJ) Andrus, CAE, Executive Director.

Thank you to our retiring board members, John S. Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS; Meagan Jennings, DPM, FACFAS; Harry P. Schneider, DPM, FACFAS and Randal L. Wraalstad, DPM, FACFAS for their steadfast dedication and service to the College.

2020 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

July 11-12, 2020 (Saturday/Sunday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Courses
Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Chicago, IL

October 4-5, 2020 (Sunday/Monday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Courses
Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Chicago, IL

July 31-August 1, 2020 (Friday/Saturday)
Coding & Billing for the Foot and Ankle Surgeon
Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Lake Buena Vista, FL

October 10-11, 2020 (Saturday/Sunday)
Surgical Management for the Active Patient
TBD

August 29-30, 2020 (Saturday/Sunday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Courses
Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Chicago, IL

October 24-25, 2020 (Saturday/Sunday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Courses
Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Chicago, IL

September 11-12, 2020 (Friday/Saturday)
Coding & Billing for the Foot and Ankle Surgeon
Palmer House Hilton
Chicago, IL

November 14-15, 2020 (Saturday/Sunday)
Advanced Arthroscopy
Arthrex Distributor Location

*To be waitlisted for sold-out courses, contact Maggie Hjelm at hjelm@acfas.org.
Have You Seen the Newest Infographics?

Check out the three newest infographics: Post-Surgery Care Basics, Preparing for Your Surgery and What is a Foot and Ankle Surgeon. These graphics offer patients tips on how to best care for themselves after foot and ankle surgery; how to prepare for surgery and make recovery better; and explains who exactly foot and ankle surgeons are and when to see one.

These pre- and post-surgery infographics are particularly helpful as you prepare patients for upcoming surgeries with tips on scheduling and planning the surgery, preparing their home and how to get around and back to work once it’s over. After surgery is complete, patients can be sure they’re on the road to recovery with helpful information about pain relief, swelling reduction, proper weightbearing instructions and a list of post-op issues helping them recover with ease.

These new infographics, and a full library of others on various topics, can be found in the ACFAS Marketing Toolbox at acfas.org/marketing. Display the infographics in exam rooms, print them out for waiting rooms, post on social media and your practice website or print out as flyers or include with billing statements.

Visit the ACFAS Marketing Toolbox for even more practice marketing tools to help promote your practice and the profession.

This year’s Annual Scientific Conference was memorable in many ways, but perhaps the most bittersweet was that it marked the final conference with J.C. (Chris) Mahaffey, MS, CAE, FASAE as the College’s Executive Director. Over the past 17 years, Chris has led the College through many significant moments, and we sincerely thank him for his steadfast leadership and tireless commitment to the College. His tenure brought forth many notable achievements for the College and as importantly, numerous lasting friendships and professional relationships that will last a lifetime.
Claim Your ACFAS 2020 CME Credits

If you attended ACFAS 2020 in San Antonio, you can visit acfas.org now to claim your Continuing Education Contact Hours (CME). An email with instructions on claiming your CME was sent to all attendees. To claim your CME, log into acfas.org and choose CME Credits under Latest News and Information. You will then be linked to the ACFAS Education Documentation and CME Tracking Center where you can print your certificate and list of sessions attended.

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HIGHLIGHTS
This year’s manuscript competition received 74 submissions for the Annual ACFAS Manuscript Awards of Excellence competition. All submissions were blind reviewed by a panel of ACFAS Fellows to select 34 for presentation at ACFAS 2020 in San Antonio. Winners were announced during the ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony on February 20 and split $10,000 in award money funded in part by the Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh.

**First Place ($3,000)**
*Comparison of Combination Weil Metatarsal Osteotomy and Direct Plantar Plate Repair versus Weil Metatarsal Osteotomy Alone for Forefoot Metatarsalgia*

- Timothy P. McConn, DPM, AACFAS
- Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
- Erin E. Klein, DPM, MS, FACFAS
- Michael F. Bowen, DPM, AACFAS
- Matthew D. Sorensen, DPM, FACFAS
- Lowell Weil Jr., DPM, MBA, FACFAS

**Second Place ($2,500)**
*Risk Factors for the Early Failure of 4th Generation Total Ankle Arthroplasty Prostheses*

- Calvin J. Rushing, DPM, AACFAS
- Christopher F. Hyer, DPM, MS, FACPAS
- Gregory C. Berlet, MD

**Third Place ($1,500)**
*Risk Stratification for Revision Surgery following Total Ankle Replacement*

- Matthew M. Knabel, DPM
- Jeremy Cook, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
- Philip Basile, DPM, FACFAS
- Bryon McKenna, DPM
- Emily Cook, DPM, MPH, FACFAS

**Honorable Mentions ($750)**

- Megan A. Ishibashi, DPM
- Matthew D. Doyle, DPM, MS
- Makdine Dontsi, MS
- Geoffrey Hastings, MD
- Jason D. Pollard, DPM, FACFAS

- Calvin J. Rushing, DPM, AACFAS
- Christopher F. Hyer, DPM, MS, FACFAS
- Gregory C. Berlet, MD

- Matthew M. Knabel, DPM
- Jeremy Cook, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
- Philip Basile, DPM, FACFAS
- Bryon McKenna, DPM
- Emily Cook, DPM, MPH, FACFAS

**Outcomes of Surgically Managed Charcot Neuroarthropathy Between Patients With and Without Diabetes**

- Nicole K. Cates, DPM
- Emily C. Wagler, DPM
- Taylor J. Bunka, DPM
- Tammer Elmarsafi, DPM
- Paul J. Kim, DPM, MS
- George Tye Liu, DPM
- John S. Steinberg DPM
- Christopher E. Attinger, MD

**The Effects of Endovascular Timing and In-Line Flow on the Success of Pedal Amputations**

- Matthew D. Doyle, DPM, MS, AACFAS
- Shontal Behan Dionisopoulos, DPM
- Lewis A. Kane, DPM
- Makdine Dontsi, MS
- Geoffrey Hastings, MD
- Jason D. Pollard, DPM, FACFAS

**The Impact of Timing a Minor Amputation Following Lower Extremity Revascularization on Healing Outcomes and Need for Reoperation**

- Sanya Lulla, DPM
- Tia Sutton, BS
- Charles Marquardt, BS/MA
- Bernadette Aulivola, MD
- Katherine E. Dux, DPM, FACFAS
2020 Poster Winners

This year’s poster display captured a record number of entries for an impressive display in the bustling Exhibit Hall. Attendees were able to peruse a total of 296 case study, scientific and Student Club posters. Congratulations to this year’s winners posted below.

All poster entries can be viewed at acfas.org. Watch for information on next year’s poster competition at ACFAS 2021. Poster submissions are due September 16, 2020.

CASE STUDY FORMAT
First Place ($1,000)
Novel Technique of Intraosseous Arteriogram to Evaluate Talar Viability After High-Energy Trauma
Vikram A. Bala, DPM
Gregory A. Foote, DPM
Jason A. Piraino, DPM, MS, FACFAS

Second Place ($700)
Utilization of Subchondroplasty for Recalcitrant Metatarsal Stress Fractures
Kaihua Wang, DPM, AACFAS
Andrew M. Baker, DPM, AACFAS
Jonathon J. Srour, DPM
Paul J. Klutts, DPM, MS, FACFAS

Third Place ($500)
Treatment of Chronic Non-Healing Ulceration Utilizing a Transposition Flap with Vascular Delay Technique: A Case Report
Romesh G. Dhaduk, DPM, AACFAS
Timothy D. Howard, DPM, FACFAS

SCIENTIFIC FORMAT
First Place ($1,000)
Does Arthrodesis in the Foot Need to be Delayed Due to Low Vitamin D Level: A Retrospective Study of Concomitant Treatment of Hypovitaminosis at the Time of Arthrodesis
Troy J. Boffeli, DPM, FACFAS
Abimbola O. Johnson, DPM
Catlea M. Gorman, DPM, AACFAS

Second Place ($700)
Use of Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and Risk of Delayed Bone Healing Following Elective Foot Surgery
Mindy L. Benton, DPM, FACFAS
Nicole A. Bauerly, DPM, FACFAS
Dennis J. Oeltjenbruns, DPM, FACFAS
Candice N. Cooper, DPM

Third Place ($500)
Naviculocuneiform Arthrodesis vs. Cotton Osteotomy for Restoration of Medial Arch Height in Flexible Flatfoot
Michael T. Rossidis, DPM
William H. Brownell, III, DPM
Korey S. DuBois, DPM
Adam R. McDonald, DPM
D. Scot Malay, DPM, FACFAS

STUDENT CLUB
First Place ($1,000)
3-D Printing for Surgical Planning of Complex Foot and Ankle Deformity
Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine & Surgery

Second Place ($700)
Neurovascular Structures at Risk with Ankle Arthroscopic Portals: A Cadaveric Study
California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt College

Third Place ($500)
Toe Fillet Flap Wound Closure in a Guillotine Amputation of the 4th Toe in a Complex Diabetic Foot with Vascular Complications
Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

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THANK YOU TO THE MANUSCRIPT & POSTER JUDGES!

ACFAS would like to extend our sincerest thanks to those members who volunteered tirelessly to review and judge entries for this year’s manuscript and poster competitions at ACFAS 2020. The College appreciates the time and careful consideration these judges put into evaluating each entry.

**2020 Manuscript Judges**
Andrew J. Meyr, DPM, FACFAS, Chair
Rachel C. Collier, DPM, FACFAS
Jarrett D. Cain, DPM, MS, FACFAS
Jason G. DeVries, DPM, FACFAS
Kelly M. Pirozzi, DPM, FACFAS
Mario N. Ponticello, DPM, FACFAS
Roland S. Ramdass, DPM, FACFAS
Katherine M. Raspovic, DPM, FACFAS
Caitlin S. Zarick, DPM, FACFAS

**2020 Poster Judges**
Patrick S. Agnew, DPM, FACFAS
Martha A. Anderson, DPM, FACFAS
Jeffrey R. Baker, DPM, FACFAS
Nicholas J. Bevilacqua, DPM, FACFAS
Mark A. Birmingham, DPM, FACFAS
Jonathan A. Blum, DPM, FACFAS
Allan M. Boike, DPM, FACFAS
Georgeanne Botek, DPM, FACFAS
Maryellen P. Brucato, DPM, FACFAS
Jennifer L. Buchanan, DPM, FACFAS
Maria M. Buitrago, DPM, MS, FACFAS
Brian J. Burgess, DPM, FACFAS
Michelle L. Butterworth, DPM, FACFAS
Jarrett D. Cain, DPM, FACFAS
Gage M. Caudell, DPM, FACFAS
D. Martin Chaney, DPM, FACFAS
Emily A. Cook, DPM, FACFAS
Benjamin D. Cullen, DPM, FACFAS
Paul D. Dayton, DPM, MS, FACFAS
William T. DeCarbo, DPM, FACFAS
Randall L. Del, DPM, FACFAS
Brian T. Dix, DPM, FACFAS
Katherine E. Dux, DPM, FACFAS
Duane J. Ehredt, Jr., DPM, FACFAS
Lawrence M. Fallat, DPM, FACFAS
Kyle C. Fiala, DPM, FACFAS
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
Timothy C. Ford, DPM, FACFAS
Alan G. Garret, DPM, FACFAS
Jon R. Goldsmith, DPM, FACFAS
Paul L. Goodman, DPM, FACFAS
Tyson E. Green, DPM, FACFAS
Daniel J. Hatch, DPM, FACFAS
Darryl M. Haycock, DPM, FACFAS
Matthew A. Hopson, DPM, FACFAS
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Steven W. Jasonowicz, DPM, FACFAS
Brandi M. Johnson, DPM, FACFAS
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Thurmond D. Lanier, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
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Kieran T. Mahan, DPM, FACFAS
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Jason R. Miller, DPM, FACFAS
Jason V. Naldo, DPM, FACFAS
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Jakob C. Thorud, DPM, MS, FACFAS
Dyane E. Tower, DPM, MPH, MS, FACFAS
Jacqueline B. Truong, DPM, FACFAS
Nsima M. Usen, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
Michael D. Vaardahl, DPM, FACFAS
Mitzi L. Williams, DPM, FACFAS
Garrett M. Wobst, DPM, FACFAS
Jacob Wynes, DPM, MS, FACFAS
Michael Ryan Zimmerman, DPM, FACFAS
LET’S HEAR IT FOR OUR 2019-2020 VOLUNTEERS

Many members have volunteered their time to advance the College mission and we wouldn’t be able to accomplish as much as we do without their support each year. We’d also like to thank each committee and task force member who served as peer reviewers and section editors for the Journal. These names are published in JFAS and can be viewed online at acfas.org/jfas.

- William R. Adams, II, DPM, FACFAS
- Jayson N. Atves, DPM, AACFAS
- Troy J. Boffeli, DPM, FACFAS
- Michael F. Bowen, DPM, AACFAS
- Maryellen P. Brucato, DPM, FACFAS
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- Kyle C. Fiala, DPM, FACFAS
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- Daniel K. Lee, DPM, PhD, FACFAS
- Julie Y. Lin, DPM
- Jeffrey D. Loveland, DPM, FACFAS
- Frank A. Luckino, III, DPM, FACFAS
- Alan A. MacGill, DPM, FACFAS
- John A. Martucci, DPM
- Jody P. McAleer, DPM, FACFAS
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- Jason V. Naldo, DPM, FACFAS
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- Bela A. Pandit, DPM, FACFAS
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- Kyle S. Peterson, DPM, FACFAS
- Sofie Lavinia Pinney, DPM, MS, FACFAS
- Jason A. Piraino, DPM, MS, FACFAS
- Kelly M. Pirozzi, DPM, FACFAS
- Mark A. Prissel, DPM, FACFAS
- Roland S. Ramdass, DPM, FACFAS
- Nilin M. Rao, DPM, PhD
- Katherine M. Raspovic, DPM, FACFAS
- Ronald G. Ray, DPM, FACFAS
- Ryan B. Rigby, DPM, FACFAS
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- Brett D. Sachs, DPM, FACFAS
- Bryan A. Sagra, DPM, FACFAS
- Laura Elizabeth Sansosti, DPM, AACFAS
- Amol Saxena, DPM, FACFAS
- Harry P. Schneider, DPM, FACFAS
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- Ryan T. Scott, DPM, FACFAS
- Amber M. Shane, DPM, FACFAS
- Jonathan J. Sharpe, DPM, FACFAS
- Naohiro Shibuya, DPM, MS, FACFAS
- Tonda W. Silva, DPM, AACFAS
- Nicholas C. Smith, DPM, FACFAS
- Mark E. Solomon, DPM, FACFAS
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- Timothy P. Uglem, DPM, FACFAS
- Michael D. Vaardahl, DPM, FACFAS
- Jennifer C. Van, DPM, FACFAS
- Ryan Vazales, DPM, AACFAS
- Eric G. Walter, DPM, FACFAS
- Matthew E. Williams, DPM, FACFAS
- Garrett M. Wobst, DPM, FACFAS
- Joshua J. Wolfe, DPM
- William A. Yoder, DPM, FACFAS
- Daniel T. Zahari, DPM, FACFAS
- Emily E. --, DPM
Another Residents’ Day in the books at ACFAS 2020 in San Antonio. Experts offered a glimpse behind the curtain sharing their first and worst cases, their experiences with malpractice cases, insight on practice options, tips on contracts and advice for the road to board certification.

Residents’ Day is always a great day to decompress, unwind, and warm up for the Annual Scientific Conference by kicking off the transition to life after residency. The preconference workshop provides residents with an opportunity to meet faculty one-on-one and get to know them on a more personal note, giving information that isn’t often covered in residency or in the OR. Faculty member, Georgeanne Botek, DPM, FACFAS, had this to say about this year’s course, “The information shared is as important as the clinical and surgical pearls learned throughout the week. It is real and practical information shared without rush in an open forum. As a faculty member, I enjoyed hearing words of wisdom from my peers and especially enjoyed talking to young members one-on-one.”

This year was another success—the diversity of speakers from different programs, practice settings and experience were unmatched. Faculty member, Katherine Dux, DPM, FACFAS shared, “The program is valuable for residents at all levels, and we cover the job search through the first few years of practice.”

If you happened to miss this year’s course, don’t worry. We’ll be back again next year in Las Vegas to tackle more in the transition from residency!

Hello Spring! A New FootNotes Has Blossomed!

The weekly forecasts are trending upward and we’re looking ahead to a new season with another issue of FootNotes—available now in the ACFAS Marketing Toolbox.

The spring issue is timely as we face a global pandemic with ways to stay strong and safe amid the COVID-19 crisis. These tips will help to keep your patients physically and mentally fit while many find themselves stuck at home. This issue is a great resource for patients as we ease into warmer temps and has patient’s feet covered for Spring activities. For the golf enthusiast, learn about the common foot conditions that could affect your swing. Identify and manage heel pain throughout the new season as activity increases.

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“The 2020 Residency Directors Forum had record-breaking attendance” said Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS, Chair of the ACFAS Post Graduate Affairs Committee (PGA). “I attribute the success of this meeting to the speakers and topics whom were selected by residency directors for residency directors.” Dr. Mirmiran continues, “It is clear that, for most part, the program directors share the same concerns and issues across the nation, regardless of location or the type of the program. As such, the PGA committee’s mission has always been to focus on highlighting, sharing and resolving the top challenges within residency programs.”

The 2020 program, co-hosted by the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH), started with guidance from Alison Dobbie, MD, a faculty member of Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Dr. Dobbie discussed challenges in working with millennials, as well as how to maximize your interview process and selection of new residents. Other presentations included topics on protecting yourself and your program from harassment and bullying allegations; managing government payment for outside rotations of your residents; and the legal ramifications of using social media. There were presentations and updates by relative organizations including CPME, AACPM, COTH, PRR and ABFAS, and a panel discussed their experiences as CPME residency site visit reviewers on common errors and/or areas of deficiencies encountered. This panel also offered guidance on how best to comply with CPME 320 standards to achieve a successful site visit.

Did you miss the 2020 Residency Director Forum? Not to worry, plans have begun for the 2021 Forum, to be held in Las Vegas on February 24, in advance of the 2021 ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference.

The 2021 Forum will include topics such as:

- Hand-off of a student, to a resident, to a post graduate fellow: from school curriculum to CPME standards and considering taking a fellowship.
- Best tactics to develop and utilize clinical and surgical milestones in professional development in residency and beyond
- Understanding why residents fail the ABFAS chart review.
- Learning residency director compensation sources and models.
- Meeting the relative podiatric organization leaders and hearing the latest of what is new and upcoming.

“The 2020 Residency Directors Forum had record-breaking attendance.”

—Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS, Chair of the ACFAS Post Graduate Affairs Committee
Gregory P. Still, DPM, FACFAS
Receives 2020 Distinguished Service Award

When looking over a list of the College’s activities and committees Gregory P. Still, DPM, FACFAS has served on, he was shocked. “It wasn’t even on my radar that I could receive this award. You’re busy in your day-to-day routine and don’t give it a second thought. You’re doing it because you’re passionate about it so you don’t even think about awards or recognition.” This is perhaps the attitude that makes someone an outstanding volunteer and knowing the motivation isn’t coming from recognition, but from a place to do better and to give something back. Dr. Still’s motivation to volunteer comes from within and is almost second nature. “It’s just something I’ve always done. I guess it’s just in my habits.”

As this year’s recipient, Dr. Still sees his volunteer service as a win/win for himself and for the people he serves. Instead of being overwhelmed by the number of hours he’s putting in outside of work, he thinks of the takeaways and people he’s met over the years through volunteering. “It’s mutually beneficial and exposes you to new people you wouldn’t have necessarily met before. I learn things from being involved on these committees, things I can take back to my practice to be a better doctor. I enjoy doing it, so that makes it easy.”

His service to the College began how it does for many members, a mentor, Adam Landsman, DPM, FACFAS, reached out to him asking him to join a committee. From there, one thing lead to another as word tends to spread when loyal volunteers serve on a committee, and he went on to serve in different capacities. He started on the Research Committee and over the years he’s served as a Region President for five years, sat on various committees including the Board Nominations Committee, Professional Relations Committee, Credentialing and Privileging Advisory Team (CPAT) since its inception in 2011, served as an editor for the College’s weekly email newsletter This Week@ACFAS and most recently, the Practice Management Committee. Apart from his work with the College he’s been actively involved with a residency program for over 15 years where attending doctors volunteer their time to educate and teach residents in the program, and he still finds time to coach his son’s various sports teams.

It’s evident he enjoys giving back when reflecting on how much time he dedicates and the involvement he commits to everything he does. ACFAS Immediate Past President Christopher Reeves, DPM, MS, FACFAS, recognizes Dr. Still’s passion and drive to help others. “Greg’s passion is evident through the number of committees he’s served and the volunteer work he’s done both inside and outside of the College. His dedication and drive to educate and help others is an example to anyone wanting to be more involved. He is the embodiment of selflessness and compassion and I was honored to be able to present this award to him.”

For those thinking about joining a committee or getting more involved with the College, Dr. Still urges you to step up. “Be persistent if you want to be involved. Keep trying and keep applying. One of the keys to success is working hard and being persistent with your goals. Volunteering is a win/win. You get positive things for yourself, your practice, and you might gain more knowledge about surgical procedures, patient management/care and practice management. People who volunteer get something out of it or they wouldn’t do it.”

“The ACFAS Board of Directors selects the Distinguished Service Award recipient each year.
The modernization of the implant and instruments was well overdue and a huge advantage over the older silastic implants. The instruments are simple, efficient and assure the best fit scenario while cutting my OR time in half.

– Gary M. Lepow, DPM, MS, Houston, TX
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Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh supports research through the Annual Scientific Conference manuscript competition.
Gary M. Lepow, DPM, MS, FACFAS grew up in a family of physicians and dentists. It was given that he would follow the path of his family and become a physician. While a premed student in college, Dr. Lepow was introduced to podiatry through his older brother, who was a student at Scholl College. After interviewing at CSPM (formerly CCPM) in San Francisco, Dr. Lepow fell in love with the Bay Area and CSPM. He was accepted and elected class president for all four years.

From early in his medical studies, surgery was always at the forefront of his interests. He credits his experience in surgical residency, which had outstanding instructors, that further solidified his future.

His interest with the College began when he was first practicing in Houston. The ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference was taking place in San Francisco and he was asked to give a presentation at the meeting. The presentation went well and that’s when he started to learn more about the college. After becoming board certified by ABPS (now ABFAS), he became a Fellow of ACFAS, and the rest is history.

Dr. Lepow became very involved with ACFAS and after serving on the College’s Board for almost eight years, he became President in 1999. Most of his time serving was dedicated to improving the annual scientific meeting and strengthening relationships with industry and medical insurance companies, the latter being his self-proclaimed impetus and platform as president.

Another interest and passion throughout his career, has been in the medical device industry, for improving patient outcomes for foot and ankle surgery. “In the last 15 years, I have been very involved helping to design new products and bringing new devices to market.” Along the way he even received a patent for a conical subtalar implant that helps correct flexible flatfoot deformity in children and adults.

He shares that one of the most significant changes in the profession has been the evolution of new foot and ankle procedures. Throughout his career he has been actively involved in assisting with hospital privileging and increasing graduate medical education opportunities in teaching hospitals/medical schools.

As he reflects on his work and professional path, Dr. Lepow’s passion is evident as he continues to serve as a Residency Director. One could say this passion is contagious within his own family and has been passed on to his children. His older son (a DPM) is an Assistant Professor in the DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, Podiatric Limb Salvage Program, and his second daughter, who is an MD serving her residency in Psychiatry as well as completing a PhD in Neuroscience. Helping people certainly runs in the Lepow family’s blood.

When Dr. Lepow isn’t working he enjoys life with his family, including taking extended vacations with his wife, as he understands the importance of taking time to reboot whenever you can. Today, his career is still very busy and he’s happy about that. “I’ll continue practicing as long as I feel I’m making a contribution to improving patient outcomes and improving graduate podiatric medical education programs, including residency programs.”

As Dr. Lepow looks back on his time with the College and ahead to the future, he is confident the future is bright. “The leadership in the College has continued to move in the right direction and that’s based on the quality of academic programs, leadership (administratively as well as volunteer podiatrists on Committees and the Board), evidenced by the number of people who attend ACFAS educational offerings. The range of annual programming and the Journal are the hallmark of the College’s academic improvements.”

“The range of annual programming and the Journal are the hallmark of the College’s academic improvements.”

— Gary M. Lepow, DPM, MS, FACFAS
Winter Board Meeting Highlights

The ACFAS Board of Directors met in San Antonio on February 17, 2020 prior to the 78th Annual Scientific Conference. Due to an unusually high turnover, the Board welcomed five new directors: Christopher D. Lotufo, DPM, FACFAS, Alan Ng, DPM, FACFAS, Matthew E. Williams, DPM, FACFAS, Alan A. MacGill, DPM, FACFAS, and Barry Rosenblum, DPM, FACFAS.

In addition, new Executive Director, Patrick (PJ) Andrus, MBA, CAE, was in attendance for his first Board meeting, alongside retiring Executive Director, Chris Mahaffey, MS, CAE, FASAE. There were many stories shared and sincere farewells for Chris, as well as outgoing Board members John Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS, Meagan Jennings, DPM, FACFAS, Harry Schneider, DPM, FACFAS, and Randal Wraalstad, DPM, FACFAS. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Approval to pilot a tiered dues process that will offer reduced membership fees for early career Associates and Fellows
- Approval of revisions to ACFAS Health Policy Statements, including:
  - Credentialing of Podiatric Foot and Ankle Surgeons and Guidelines for Surgical Delineation of Privileges
  - Guidelines for Institutional Credentialing & Privileging and Due Process Rights
  - Practice Management Competencies for Foot and Ankle Surgeons
  - Position Statement: Cosmetic Surgery
  - Position Statement: Total Ankle Replacement Surgery
  - Position Statement: Uniform Licensure for Doctors of Podiatric Medicine
- Review of ACFAS Research Grant Program outcomes and a subsequent approval to continue College’s investment in research grants in 2021
- Approval to amend the existing Life Membership Eligibility policy to include past ACFAS Presidents that are retired and maintain Certified, Qualified, or Retired status with ABFAS
- Approval of 2020-21 appointments to the Board Financial Conflicts and Duality of Interests Committee
Update

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