



ACFAS Update

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 6 NEWS from the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FOOT AND ANKLE SURGEONS



“Today’s the day you recognize that you are the doctor in the mirror and that you truly can become the strongest advocate for your health.”

—Reed V. Tuckson, MD, FACP

Healthcare Visionary to Open ACFAS 2016

Reed V. Tuckson, MD, FACP, author of *The Doctor in the Mirror*, believes the key to your own health and wellness lies in your hands. His common-sense approach to living your best life possible is rooted in the idea that no one knows your body or mind better than you—Dr. You.

Grab a front-row seat at Dr. Tuckson’s opening general session, “The Doctor-Patient Conversation,” during ACFAS 2016 in Austin, February 11–14, 2016, and learn how being in tune with your own health can improve your doctor-patient relationships and change your views on aging.

With an extensive career that spans more than 35 years and covers nearly every sector of health and medical care, Dr. Tuckson is

recognized as a leading physician executive and advocate for comprehensive, multidisciplinary and integrated healthcare. His wealth of experience and sharp insights on all aspects of medicine and patient care will invigorate and inspire you in your practice.

Start your ACFAS 2016 experience out right with Dr. Tuckson’s session and be prepared to gain a fresh perspective on healthcare from one of the brightest minds in the business!



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**ADVANCED SEMINAR:
Taking a Scalpel to the Evidence**

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**“Don’t call me Shirley.”
President’s Perspective**

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“Surely you can’t be serious.” “I am serious, and don’t call me Shirley.”

—Airplane



Every year, ACFAS spends a significant amount of time, money and energy determining the best topics, speakers and locations for our Annual Scientific Conference, making it by far the best foot and ankle conference in the country.

The final product is the result of countless hours of hard work by our volunteers and staff responding to attendee feedback and the extraordinary expertise demonstrated by our speakers. Of course, there’s always room for improvement, but our continued growing attendance and evaluation results are proof that we’re on the right track.

A key differentiator between ACFAS programs and our competition is the College’s robust and rotating faculty of over 150 expert speakers, the vast majority of whom are frequently published. Fresh faces always bring fresh concepts to our classrooms, be they hands-on or didactic programs.

Also behind the scenes, ACFAS has been advocating for more stringent CME accreditation standards by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME). For instance,

twice during CPME’s recent revisions of our profession’s CME standards ACFAS called for:

- Ending “affiliate” or third-party accreditation. This is where a CME provider “piggybacks” on a fully accredited provider to avoid having to apply and maintain their own accreditation.
- Stronger industry conflict of interest rules to better inhibit commercial bias.
- Providing a “whistleblower” mechanism so attendees can call CPME’s attention to accreditation violations.

We felt these changes would strengthen podiatry’s CME regulations, which in 2013 ACFAS president Jordan Grossman, DPM, FACFAS called the “last frontier in our march for professional parity.” Unfortunately, CPME only tweaked the conflict of interest rules and not enough in the College’s opinion.

Surely you can’t be serious? Yes, we are very serious. We all receive solicitations to the same set of conferences, provided by the same people, to the same locations, with the same stale lectures, year after year. Many of

these are masqueraded as CME lectures, but they are far from being fresh, independent or evidence-based medical education content. They’re moneymakers or pet projects by organizations or individuals who continue to give talks I’ve heard almost 20 years ago.

For nearly 75 years, new voices, contemporary ideas and evidence-based CME content have been the College’s primary mission. And we believe all CME should be subject to more rigorous standards to better educate you, which improves patient care, and that ultimately advances our professional parity.

As the College’s “tagline” states, ACFAS members are proven leaders, *lifelong learners*, who change patient’s lives. As a lifelong learner, I urge you to be a more critical consumer of CME programming. It is indeed serious stuff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Derner'.

Richard Derner, DPM, FACFAS
ACFAS President

Questions for Dr. Derner? Write him at president@acfias.org.

education

Register Now for New Complications and Case-Based Seminar

Reserve your spot today for ACFAS' new advanced seminar, *Taking a Scalpel to the Evidence*, set for November 6-7 in Atlanta. Learn through lectures, case-based presentations and debate from experienced clinical and research faculty as they illustrate the decision dilemmas in common and complex surgery of the foot and ankle.

Don't miss this in-depth program featuring forefoot cases, trauma cases, surgical medicine and the diabetic foot. Seminar includes 14 continuing education contact hours. Visit acfas.org/education to register now since space is limited.

Scope 'til You Drop!

Master the most progressive and effective arthroscopic procedures in *Advanced Arthroscopy for Foot and Ankle*, scheduled for November 7-8 at the Orthopaedic Learning Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

Course highlights include:

- More than ten hours in the Cadaver Lab
- Microfractures
- Posterior Portals
- Allografting



- Tenoscopy and Retrocalcaneal
- Arthroscopic Ankle Stabilization
- Subchondroplasty
- Ankle/Subtalar Joint Arthroscopic Arthrodesis
- 16 continuing education contact hours

If you have attended ACFAS' *Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy* course or other recognized arthroscopy courses or are a Fellow and have hospital privileges, register now at acfas.org/skills. Space is limited.

2015-16 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

November 6-7, 2015 (Friday/Saturday) Taking a Scalpel to the Evidence Seminar

Renaissance Atlanta Midtown Hotel
Atlanta, GA

November 7-8, 2015 (Saturday/Sunday) Advanced Arthroscopy for Foot and Ankle

Orthopaedic Learning Center
Chicago, IL

November 13-14, 2015 (Friday/Saturday) Complex Forefoot Surgery with Advanced Solutions

Detroit Marriott Troy
Troy, MI

December 4-5, 2015 (Friday/Saturday) Complex Forefoot Surgery with Advanced Solutions

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH

December 12-13, 2015 (Saturday/Sunday) Foot and Ankle Arthroscopy

Orthopaedic Learning Center
Chicago, IL

April 15-16, 2016 (Friday/Saturday) Complex Forefoot Surgery with Advanced Solutions

JW Marriott Houston
Houston, TX

*To be waitlisted for sold-out courses, contact Maggie Hjelm at hjelm@acfas.org.

SOLD
OUT

For a full listing of upcoming educational opportunities, visit acfas.org/education.

Contribute Your Knowledge and Expertise to *JFAS*



The *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery (JFAS)*, the College's flagship publication and a top-rated member benefit, always seeks authors to cover the latest breakthroughs and advancements influencing the profession. If you have never written for *JFAS* before or feel like you don't have time to submit a full article, *JFAS* Editor D. Scot Malay, DPM, MSCE, FACFAS, has a few useful tips for you to follow.

Contributing to *JFAS* as an author or peer reviewer not only benefits your colleagues, it can also help your career. "No matter if you're working in an academic institution or in private practice, getting involved in *JFAS* can help you develop a reputation as an expert in a specific subject," Dr. Malay explains. This can often lead to invitations to speak at clinical meetings and to referrals and consultations on the subject. And sharing your knowledge and expertise through *JFAS* is one of the best ways to keep the foot and ankle surgery profession moving forward.

According to Dr. Malay, if you are a first-time aspiring author, you should write only on topics that truly interest you. These may arise in the clinic during the course of evaluating and treating patients or from an

unusual case that warrants further investigation. "If you'd like to publish original research, then the study should be well designed in advance and executed as planned," says Dr. Malay. He also suggests learning as much as possible about clinical research methodology, either through a formal course or by joining a clinical research team at a hospital.

Once your manuscript is ready for submission, refer to the Guide for Authors on jfas.org. This guide includes instructions on writing and formatting to help improve the peer review and editorial processes and decrease time to publication. "A correctly formatted and well-written manuscript signals a serious, committed author who understands how scientific research must be conducted to obtain valid results," he notes.

He recommends new authors also use the *JFAS* Manuscript Template in combination with the Guide for Authors and have two to three other surgeons who were not part of the investigation read and critique your manuscript. Dr. Malay says this can serve as the first round of peer review and can make the article more meaningful to *JFAS* editors and peer reviewers.

If you feel you don't have time to write an article but would still like to contribute to *JFAS*, Dr. Malay recommends applying online to be a peer reviewer of journal manuscripts. Since section editors invite peers to comment on every manuscript considered for publication, peer review is key to *JFAS'* editorial process.

He indicates some additional study or training may be required to become a peer reviewer, but fortunately, several resources are readily available, such as AMA's *Users' Guides to the Medical Literature* and Trisha Greenhalgh's *How to Read a Paper*. Research and publication tools are also available on acfas.org and ees.elsevier.com/jfas. In addition, Dr. Malay says if you have a particular area of review interest, you should approach individual section editors directly. "Section editors are always looking for reliable peer reviewers," says Dr. Malay, "and nothing is better than personal communication between a potential peer reviewer and a section editor."

To learn how you can contribute to *JFAS*, e-mail Dr. Malay at editorjfas@gmail.com or visit jfas.org.

"A correctly formatted and well-written manuscript signals a serious, committed author who understands how scientific research must be conducted to obtain valid results."

—D. Scot Malay, DPM, MSCE, FACFAS, Editor of *JFAS*

ACFAS Board Amends Code for Interactions with Companies

Last year, the ACFAS Board of Directors adopted a new “Code for Interactions with Companies” to help the College manage conflicts of interest in its governance and programs. In July 2015, the Board approved an amendment to the Code to further enhance the College’s image and reputation. The revised policy, which affects all members of the Board and the Annual Scientific Conference Committee, states:

“Section 5.1.10. Board members, directors and members of the Annual Scientific Conference Committee may not participate as leaders or presenters in company promotional/marketing events in the Annual Scientific Conference host city from two days before through two days after the conference’s official dates. This includes incoming and outgoing officers, directors and committee members.”

Previously, this only applied to company events in the Exhibit Hall, but the Board felt this should include the entire conference to avoid as many conflict of interest concerns as possible.

Questions about this amendment may be sent to ACFAS Executive Director Chris Mahaffey at mahaffey@acfas.org or to President Richard Derner, DPM, FACFAS, at richd87@mac.com.



Save Big IN THE BLOCK

No need to search online for the best Austin hotel deals—ACFAS has you covered. Our room block for ACFAS 2016 features exclusive discounted rates and complimentary amenities at hotels conveniently located near the Austin Convention Center:

Our Hotels	Our Rate	Expedia® Rate	Nightly Savings
Hilton Austin (headquarters hotel)	\$229	\$399	\$110
Courtyard Austin Downtown	\$199	\$342	\$143
Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown	\$189	\$233	\$44
Hyatt Place Austin Downtown	\$209	-Sold Out-	Exclusive
JW Marriott Austin	\$229	\$382	\$153
Residence Inn Austin Downtown	\$209	-Sold Out-	Exclusive

By booking with onPeak, our official housing partner, you also protect yourself from unauthorized third parties that sell rooms not related to ACFAS 2016. These poachers often charge higher rates and leave guests without rooms upon check-in.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so visit acfas.org/austin today to take advantage of these limited-time rates and make your stay in Austin a memorable one.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016
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2016 Volunteer Leaders Sought

Help shape the advancement of the profession, the future of the College and, ultimately, the care of our patients by volunteering for 2016 ACFAS committees. For information on becoming a committee volunteer, please visit acfas.org/volunteer. The deadline for applications is November 20, 2015.

In Memory

George F. Dalianis, DPM,
FACFAS, Park Ridge, IL

Philip I. Kempe, DPM,
FACFAS, Boca Raton, FL

Student Clubs Start the School Year Off with a Bang

ACFAS' new Student Club officers kicked off the 2015–2016 academic year with school orientations to recruit student members and highlight the benefits of active participation in Student Club events and activities.

In August, all Student Club presidents took part in a conference call, moderated by the ACFAS Membership Committee's student representative, to learn more about their roles and responsibilities. Board liaison Randal L. Wraalstad, DPM, FACFAS, also visited the AzPOD Student Club on August 28 to meet with club officers and present them with their annual stipend check.

As the year progresses, the Student Clubs will continue to schedule board liaison visits, prepare their poster contest submissions for ACFAS 2016 and work with the College to host special presentations, lectures and workshops at their respective schools.



Photos from top to bottom:

Randal L. Wraalstad, DPM, FACFAS
& Matt Mehlenbacher at AzPOD Student Club

Kent State Student Club

Temple University Student Club

Scholl Student Club

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Educate Parents

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School's back in session—the perfect time to educate parents on kids' feet while promoting your practice at the same time.

Download the latest PowerPoint presentation, *When to Worry About Your Kids' Feet*, from the ACFAS Marketing Toolbox and schedule a talk with parents through your local hospital, park district or community center.

This newest addition to the Marketing Toolbox outlines several foot conditions common among children and includes a space you can customize with your practice's contact information. A complete script also accompanies the PowerPoint to help keep your discussion on track.

More presentations are in the works, so visit acfas.org/marketing regularly for updates and many other resources to make it easy for you to promote your practice. From the quarterly *FootNotes* patient newsletter to press release templates to tips for maximizing FootHealthFacts.org and social media, our Marketing Toolbox has just what you need to boost your practice's promotional efforts.

Fall *FootNotes* Available in Marketing Toolbox

Use the latest edition of *FootNotes* to spotlight your practice this fall and connect with existing and potential patients. Just download this issue from the ACFAS Marketing Toolbox, customize it with your practice contact information then share it with your patients and community. Articles in this issue include:

- *Remember the Importance of Diabetic Foot Care*
- *Prepare Your Feet for Autumn Hikes*
- *Avoid Injuries When Playing Indoor Sports*

You can supplement this issue of *FootNotes* with *Dos and Don'ts of Diabetic Feet*, a newly released PowerPoint presentation also available for free at acfas.org/marketing. With National Diabetes Month coming up in November, combining these two tools is a perfect way to educate your patients on diabetic foot health and promote your practice at the same time.

ACFAS will add more free products and resources to the Marketing Toolbox throughout the year so visit it often and stay tuned for updates!



ACFAS Submits Comments to CMS on Proposed Rule

In a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), ACFAS asked CMS to specifically exclude total ankle replacements from CMS' proposed rule on comprehensive care for joint replacement. This proposed rule would create a comprehensive episode of care for lower-extremity joint replacement, meaning that certain acute care hospitals would receive retrospective bundled payments for lower-limb joint replacement or reattachment of a lower extremity. The episode of care includes all related care within 90 days of hospital discharge.

Quality measures in the proposed rule seem to suggest the rule is meant to capture data and quality measures about total knee and total hip replacement. The College believes that including total ankle replacements within the rule may subject some hospitals and physicians to burdensome reporting requirements and financial penalties. ACFAS is not alone in opposing this rule. Other medical associations, including the American Association of Orthopaedic Executives, have opposed the rule on similar grounds. ACFAS will continue to monitor this proposed rule's progress.

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Three Years Later, ACFAS Members Busier Than Ever

Results of the College's 2015 Practice Survey indicate ACFAS members are busier than ever, with significant segments of respondents reporting increases in:



This workload certainly has not slowed members down. In the three years since the last Practice Survey, about 36 percent of respondents have expanded their practices, with more than 40 percent planning to do so by 2018. Thirty-one percent formed or joined a practice, and 8 percent intend to do this in the next three years.

Much like the 2012 survey results, the majority of respondents (41 percent) work in podiatric group practices, while the number of those in solo practice continues to decline (28 percent). Most work in private practices (70 percent) with 13 percent in clinic or multispecialty practice (up 2 percent since 2012).

Patient demographics also echo the 2012 results. In a typical workweek, the majority

of survey participants treat patients older than age 65. Women continue to comprise the majority (57 percent) of total patients seen, and new patients are on the rise, 28 percent compared to 22 percent in 2012.

Nonsurgical care, forefoot reconstruction and wound care still rank as the top three etiologies among respondents, and orthotics, splints/braces and durable medical equipment sales round out the top three revenue-generating ancillary services provided.

When it comes to promoting their practice, survey respondents make the most use of their practice website, networking with other physicians and advertising in print (local publications, phone directories) and online media (Internet, Google AdWords).

And while most prefer to reserve social media for personal use, more than 44 percent noted their practices had their own Facebook pages, an 18 percent increase compared to 2012.

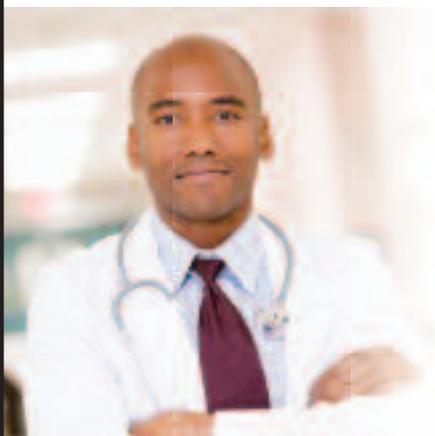
Moving forward, many respondents would like to see more ACFAS offerings on billing, coding or ICD-10 to help improve their practice. Based on participants' responses to open-ended survey questions, the College plans to develop even more tools to assist members in their practice marketing efforts and will work to clear up common misconceptions many patients have about podiatric medicine and surgery.

Thank you to those who participated in the 2015 Practice Survey and look for more survey highlights in future issues of *Update*.



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Officite



in this issue



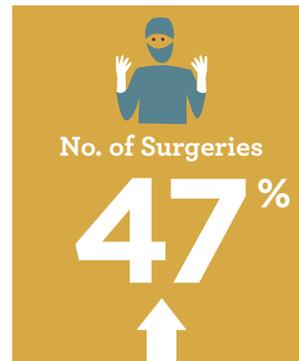
Educate Parents
and Promote Your
Practice

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Contribute Your
Knowledge and
Expertise to *JFAS*

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**ACFAS
Members
Busier
Than Ever**

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