



ACFAS Update

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

NEWS from the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FOOT AND ANKLE SURGEONS

Free App Keeps ACFAS 2016 Close at Hand

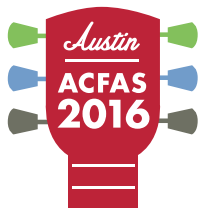
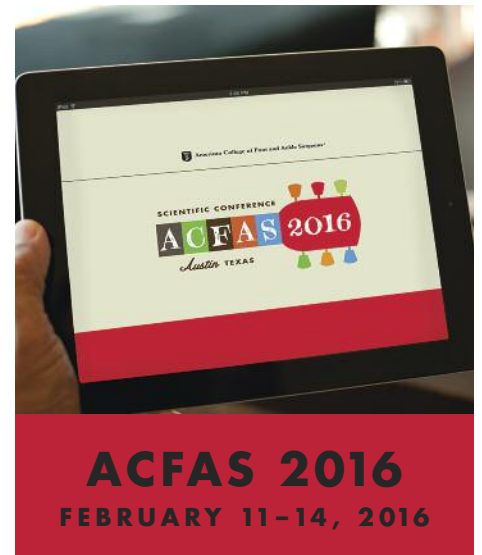
Stay up to date on everything ACFAS 2016 with just a simple tap of your finger! Download the free ACFAS 2016 mobile app to your iPhone, iPad, Android or Blackberry for instant access to:

- your sessions plus all conference events and activities
- immediate conference alerts
- live Twitter and Facebook feeds with the latest conference news
- easy-to-navigate convention center maps
- a complete directory of exhibitors

Download your ACFAS 2016 mobile app to your phone or tablet through one of three ways:

1. Search your app store for ACFAS 2016 (iOS and Android).
2. On your mobile device Web browser, type <http://m.core-apps.com/acfas2016>.
3. Visit acfas.org/austin for a link.

Once you've downloaded your app, watch for an email from ACFAS in early February with your login credentials to gain access to your personalized schedule.



Follow the Buzz of Austin with #ACFAS2016

Never miss a moment of ACFAS 2016—follow #ACFAS2016 on Twitter, Facebook and the social media feeds on the conference's mobile app (downloadable at <http://m.core-apps.com/acfas2016>) for up-to-the-minute news and photos from Austin. Also be sure to use #ACFAS2016 in your social media posts to join in the conversation!



Surgical Coding Workshop Helps Ease into ICD-10

page 9



Research Grant Recipients

page 3

ACFAS 2016 Session Evaluations Going Green

page 2



ACFAS 2016 Session Evaluations Going Green

New this year—all conference sessions will be evaluated electronically through the ACFAS 2016 mobile app only. Search your app store for ACFAS 2016 or visit acfas.org to download the app to your mobile device and then share your feedback after each session you attend. Your input will help us determine session topics for next year's conference.

ACFAS on the Road in Houston

Join us in Houston April 15–16, 2016 for *ACFAS on the Road: Complex Forefoot Surgery with Advanced Solutions* and learn new treatment approaches for forefoot injuries and deformities.

This intensive two-day program kicks off on Friday night with a presentation and case studies. Saturday includes hands-on instruction in four sawbones labs as well as insightful lectures with expert faculty. Earn 12 continuing education contact hours upon course completion.

Space is limited, so visit acfas.org/ontheroad to reserve your spot today.

ACFAS Teams Up with the Austin Marathon

Not only will ACFAS 2016 be taking over the streets of Austin but more than 12,000 runners are also set to hit the streets during the Austin Marathon and ACFAS is a part of the big event!

On February 14, the final day of the Annual Scientific Conference, the Austin Marathon will welcome runners from all 50 states while ACFAS members meet them at the Finish Line with ice packs and the opportunity to get answers to foot and ankle health questions. ACFAS will also be on hand to meet runners and their families during the marathon's Marketplace Expo at the Palmer Events Center on Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13.

“By participating in the Austin Marathon, we have a great opportunity to give back to our fantastic host city while introducing thousands of runners to who we are as foot and ankle surgeons and what we do to help keep them running and beyond,” Alan MacGill, DPM, FACFAS, committee chair for the Consumer Education Committee said.

Before heading out of town on Sunday after the conference, stop by the Marathon to cheer on the runners and see ACFAS' booth. If you're available during the conference to meet runners in the booth or at the Finish Line, contact Melissa Matusek, director of Marketing and Communications at melissa.matusek@acfas.org.

2016 ACFAS Clinical and Scientific Research Grant Recipients Announced

With \$300,000 in grants awarded to ACFAS members since its inception, the College's Clinical and Scientific Research Grant program has funded nearly 20 research studies that have led to major advancements in foot and ankle surgery, evidence-based medicine and patient care. Each year signifies a new opportunity for the College to help members make their research ideas a reality and to propel the profession forward.

Of the eight very strong proposals received this year, the ACFAS Research Committee selected three recipients of 2016 Clinical and Scientific Research Grants:

- **Seeking Proof: Does Charcot Reconstruction Improve Physical Function?**, Alan Catanzariti, DPM, FACFAS; Lisa Grant, DPM; Matthew Hentges, DPM
- **Plantar Plate Integrity Post Direct Surgical Repair: A Case Series**, Katherine Dux, DPM, FACFAS; Jonathan Matzkin-Bridger, DPM
- **Objective Determination of the Effects of Foot Position on Clinical Measurement of Ankle Joint Dorsiflexion**, Mindi Feilmeier, DPM, FACFAS; Paul Dayton, DPM, FACFAS

Visit acfas.org/grant for a complete listing of past award recipients.



2016 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

February 10, 2016 (Wednesday) Practice Management/Coding Workshop

Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX

February 10, 2016 (Wednesday) Diabetic Deformity: Master Techniques in Reconstruction

Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX

February 10, 2016 (Wednesday) High-Frequency Foot Surgery Techniques

Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX

February 11-14, 2016 (Thursday-Sunday) Annual Scientific Conference

Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX

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.

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

news from the college

In Memory

Paul E. Hershey, DPM, AACFAS
Manhasset, NY



IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

FEBRUARY 11-14, 2016

ACFAS 2016 in Austin is just around the corner! Follow these tips as you count down the days for an outstanding, with a dash of Austin weird, conference experience.

10. Check Austin's forecast before packing.

Austin generally enjoys warm temperatures and sunshine year-round, but with El Niño in the mix this year, pleasant weather is not always guaranteed. Bring your sweater or jacket and dress in layers to stay comfortable.



9. Download the ACFAS 2016 app. Instantly access your customized conference schedule, minute-by-minute updates, interactive maps, vendor lists and more through your smartphone or tablet. Search ACFAS 2016 in your app store on your device to download.

8. Fill out your session evaluations on the mobile app.

New this year—we're going green! No more paper evaluations; all sessions will be evaluated electronically.

7. Get to the conference registration area early.

Sign in, pick up your materials and start taking in everything ACFAS 2016 and Austin have to offer.



6. Wear your badge. Your conference badge must be worn at all times for security purposes and is required for attendance at sessions, meetings, receptions and Exhibit Hall events.

5. Follow #ACFAS 2016 on social media. Use #ACFAS2016 in your Twitter and Facebook posts and to search social media engines to see what others are saying about the conference.

4. Mix and mingle at special events. Kick off ACFAS 2016 with free-flow networking at the Premier Connection opening event, cheer on your colleagues during the ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony then show off your gaming skills during the Wrap Party at Buffalo Billiards.



Also check out our industry-sponsored satellite events, including breakfasts courtesy of Amnio Medical, Crealta Pharmaceuticals and DePuy Synthes. After Hour events Friday evening hosted by Zimmer Biomet, and Wright Medical.

3. Stroll through the Exhibit Hall. Meet new vendors, join the compelling conversations in the HUB, browse more than 240 award-winning research studies in the profession's largest poster display, look for a new job or new hires at the ACFAS Job Fair or have your headshot taken by a professional photographer.



2. Complete your post-conference evaluation. Share your thoughts and suggestions via the app at the conference. We value your feedback!

1. Have fun at ACFAS 2016!

the HUB Is Where It's At!

Be a part of the sensation known as the HUB at ACFAS 2016 and find out for yourself why this interactive theater has become one of the most popular spots at the bustling annual conference! Conveniently located in the Exhibit Hall, the HUB brings speakers and attendees together through spirited discussion on practical topics and trends affecting today's foot and ankle surgeon.

This year's HUB in Austin features several new sessions based on ACFAS members' responses to our 2015 Member Survey. Drop by the HUB to learn how you can:

- negotiate contracts with insurance companies for better reimbursements
- evaluate if hiring a PA or NP is right for your practice
- understand how telemedicine and virtual medicine are evolving
- bring your idea for a new product to fruition

Attendee favorites, including *Don't Say 'Umm'—Effective Public Speaking* and *The Great Job Hunt*, make a return to the HUB's schedule with plenty of tips and takeaways to help you no matter where you are in your career.

No preregistration is necessary to participate in HUB sessions, but space is limited to 45 seats. Visit acfas.org/austin for the complete HUB lineup and to pick the sessions you don't want to miss!



Attend Your Regional Division Meetings in Austin

Hear the latest on the events and activities of your Regional Division and meet your newest Division officers while at ACFAS 2016. All Divisions meet Thursday through Saturday in the Exhibit Hall (full schedule below). Plus, your attendance places you in a drawing to receive one of two Apple iPad minis!

Regional Division Meetings Schedule

(Look for your Division's table sign in the Exhibit Hall.)

Thursday, February 11, 1-2pm

Division 8: New England

Division 9: Greater New York

Division 10: Upstate New York

Division 11: Mid-Atlantic

Friday, February 12, 1-2pm

Division 3: Southwest

Division 4: Desert States

Division 5: Florida

Division 6: Midwest

Saturday, February 13, Noon-1pm

Division 2: Northwest/Canada

Division 7: Michigan

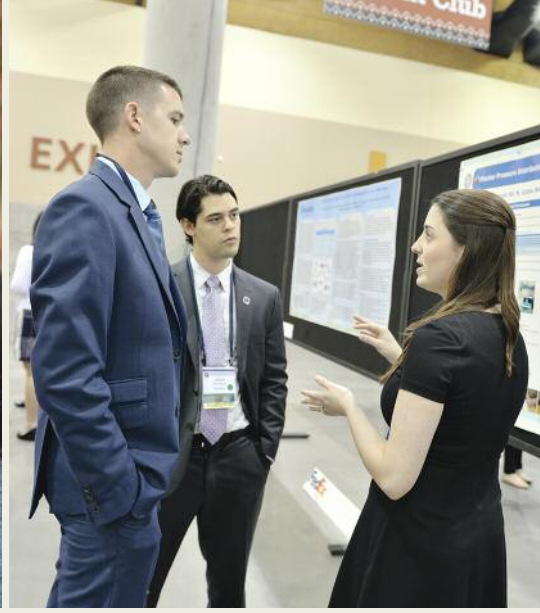
Division 14: Southeast

Saturday, February 21, 1-2pm

Division 1: Pacific

Division 12: Tri-State

Division 13: Ohio Valley



Make the Most of ACFAS 2016 with Special Events

What could complement your ACFAS 2016 experience better than special events that connect you with your colleagues and celebrate the extraordinary city of Austin?

Kick off your experience with the **Premier Connection Opening Event** on Thursday night at Brazos Hall to enjoy live music and delicious food and drink, all while meeting new faces and catching up with old friends.

If you're a resident or student, stop by the invitation-only, ABFAS-cosponsored **Resident and Student Networking Event** before the Premier Connection to network with ACFAS and ABFAS board members, widen your professional circle and participate in prize drawings.

On Friday morning, fuel up at either of two **satellite breakfasts sponsored by Amnio Medical and Crealta Pharmaceuticals** then give it up for the Manuscript, Poster, Honor and Merit Award winners and new Fellows at the annual **ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony**. Saturday morning starts with a **satellite breakfast hosted by DePuy Synthes** to energize you for the final full day of sessions and workshops.

Between Thursday and Friday, be sure to visit our **expansive scientific poster display** featuring more than 240 award-winning studies from researchers worldwide. Chat with poster authors from 1–2pm each day to learn more about the reasoning behind their research and get your questions answered.

No Annual Scientific Conference would be complete without an unforgettable **Wrap Party**. On Saturday night, “get your game on” at Buffalo Billiards—located in the historic Sixth Street District—where you can show off your skills at pool, pinball, foosball, darts and shuffleboard while dining on scrumptious fare. Bring your family along and end your last night in Austin on a high note!

Visit acfas.org/austin for full details on our special events and prepare to make the most of your ACFAS 2016 experience.

ACFAS 2016 SPECIAL EVENTS AT A GLANCE

The Premier Connection Opening Event at Brazos Hall

Thursday, Feb. 11
6:15–7:30pm

Resident and Student Networking (by invitation)

Thursday, Feb. 11
5:15–6:15pm

AmnioX Medical Breakfast Satellite

Friday, Feb. 12
6:30–7:30am

Crealta Pharmaceuticals Breakfast Satellite

Friday, Feb. 12
6:30–7:30am

ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony

Friday, Feb. 12
Noon–1pm

DePuy Synthes Breakfast Satellite

Saturday, Feb. 13
6:30–7:30am

Meet Scientific Poster Authors

Thursday, Feb. 11 and Friday, Feb. 12
1–2pm

Wrap Party at Buffalo Billiards

Saturday, Feb. 13
6:30pm



Catapult Your Career at ACFAS 2016 Job Fair

If you're looking for a new job or plan to expand your practice's staff, hightail it to the ACFAS 2016 Exhibit Hall for our third annual Job Fair. Sponsored by ACFAS Benefit Partner PodiatryCareers.org, the ACFAS Job Fair gives you the opportunity to post your resumes and open positions and to arrange onsite interviews through PodiatryCareers.org's easy-to-use online scheduling tool.

A photographer and make-up artist will also be on hand again this year to take free professional headshots for your resume and social media profiles.

As always, ACFAS members receive reduced rates on online job postings and can display their available positions on the Job Fair bulletin boards at no cost. Also, if you can't make it to ACFAS 2016 in Austin, note that all positions and resumes received will be posted on PodiatryCareers.org before the conference.

Your ideal position or candidate is within reach—visit Booth No. 600 in the Exhibit Hall to find your perfect match!

Visit ACFAS Benefit Partners at ACFAS 2016

Want to learn more about special offers, discounts and services offered through ACFAS? Take time to visit our official ACFAS Benefit Partners in the Exhibit Hall at ACFAS 2016 and hear more about the valuable services they provide to help you in your practice.

HealthCare Associates Credit Union (HACU) (Booth #220)

HACU offers ACFAS members, their families and staff competitive rates and services for both business and personal banking needs. Take advantage of low-cost and no-fee business accounts, below-market and flexible-term business loans and business credit cards with fixed rates. Also enjoy free personal checking accounts and online bill pay, Visa debit cards and credit cards with rewards points, auto loans and home loans, and a nationwide network of surcharge-free ATMs. Visit HACU in Booth #220 or at hacu.org.

Henry Schein Foot and Ankle (Booth #218)

Save an average of 20 percent on medical, pharmaceutical and office supplies, as well as capital equipment through Henry Schein, Inc.'s discounted group purchasing program. Enjoy low prices, dedicated service and fast delivery with no obligations. Request your free customized savings analysis today and take advantage of equipment bargains while at the conference. Visit Henry Schein in Booth #218 or contact them at (800) 323-5110 or henryschein.com/footandankle.

Officite (Booth #1420)

Receive preferred pricing on customized Web presence solutions that can help grow your practice and attract new patients, including:

- customizable websites
- search engine optimization
- social media and blogging
- reputation management
- online patient education
- upgraded mobile website

Officite's team of Web Presence Advisors can help you increase your practice's visibility and provide unlimited support to help generate success. Visit Officite in Booth #1420 or contact them at (877) 708-4418 officite.com/acfas.

PICA (Booth #1313/1315)

Podiatry Insurance Company of America (PICA) is the nation's leading provider of professional liability coverage for podiatric physicians. With an A.M. Best Co. rating of A-Excellent, PICA offers discounts, such as part-time, new practitioner, risk management, non-surgical and leave of absence, other insurance products through ProAssurance Agency, claims handling as well as consulting and brokerage services. Visit PICA in Booth #1313/1315 or at picagroup.com.

PodiatryCareers.org (Booth #600)

PodiatryCareers.org, the official sponsor of the Third Annual ACFAS Job Fair, is the leading online employment resource for foot and ankle surgeons and their practices. Candidates can apply to jobs online, post resumes confidentially and access career-related articles to assist them in their job search—all for free. Employers can post jobs and also subscribe to a resume database to contact candidates directly. Visit PodiatryCareers.org at the Job Fair in Booth #600 or call (888) 884-8242.

Surgical Coding Workshop Helps ACFAS Members Ease into ICD-10



When ICD-10 took effect on Oct. 1, many ACFAS members used those critical weeks following the transition to hone their coding and billing skills for a smooth and successful implementation. One such member, Timothy E. Pitts, DPM, FAFAS, participated in ACFAS' Interactive Surgical Coding Workshop in October and left with plenty of valuable tools and takeaways that have since improved his practice's coding processes.

"Even though I had prior training on ICD-10 and was fairly comfortable with its implementation, I felt like I needed more training on how to use the appropriate codes and modifiers, especially as they relate to specific surgical procedures," says Dr. Pitts. Since attending the workshop, he says he feels more confident in his ability to make appropriate coding choices and to obtain the highest level of payer reimbursement for a particular service.

Dr. Pitts and his staff have encountered a few challenges with ICD-10, namely finding time in their busy practice to train staff without interrupting patient care and working with their electronic health record vendors and practice management to become compliant. However, he is pleased with how the ICD-10 codes provide more accurate information to document sufficient detail for each case.

For those ACFAS members who would like assistance in their transition to ICD-10, Dr. Pitts recommends they attend the College's coding and billing workshop. "I received more critical information in a short period of time than any other ICD-10 training I have attended," he attests. He enjoyed the speakers' "knowledgeable and interactive" presentations, but his favorite part was the open forum discussions. "They allowed us to cover many different scenarios that

routinely occur in our surgical practices," Dr. Pitts says.

ACFAS' next surgical coding workshop will include a presentation on relative value units, but Dr. Pitts would like future workshops to also discuss Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative Tools as well as documentation requirements and reporting hierarchy for conditions and diagnoses.

For more on ACFAS' 2016 surgical coding workshops, visit acfas.org/practicemanagement or contact Sarah Nicholson, ACFAS director of Health Policy, Practice Management and Research, at sarah.nichelson@acfas.org.

"Even though I had prior training on ICD-10 and was fairly comfortable with its implementation, I felt like I needed more training on how to use the appropriate codes and modifiers, especially as they relate to specific surgical procedures." —Timothy E. Pitts, DPM, FAFAS

ACFAS 2015–2016 VOLUNTEER LEADERS

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

The College gratefully recognizes members who have devoted their time and expertise to ACFAS 2015–2016 committees and task forces. It also thanks those who served this past year as peer reviewers and section editors for *The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery*. Their names have been published in *JFAS* and can be viewed at acfas.org/jfas.

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ACFAS Update

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Member



Protecting Healthcare Quality,
Access & Choice of Providers

in this issue



**the HUB Is
Where It's At!**

page 5



**ACFAS 2016
Special Events**

page 6



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page 8