The Vegas Strip may be home to big-name stars, bets and buffets, but from February 27 to March 2, the biggest event on the boulevard was ACFAS 75. For the third year in a row, attendance at the Annual Scientific Conference reached an all-time high. The Mirage welcomed 1,850 foot and ankle surgeons from around the world who took part in the exceptional sessions and workshops the conference is known for, all while celebrating the College’s 75th anniversary.

Past, present and future came together the minute the curtain rose on the opening general session. A video detailing ACFAS’ humble roots and steady growth condensed the past 75 years into a concise timeline of the College’s extraordinary history. The 21 past presidents in attendance were then called to the stage to be recognized for their service to the profession and received a standing ovation. Keynote speaker Roni Zeiger, MD, CEO of Smart Patients, later challenged the audience to bring more connectivity into their practice by encouraging patients to communicate with and learn from one another.

(continued on page 8)
This is one of my favorite Yogi Berra quotes. Yogi made the comment after watching Mickey Mantle and Roger Marris hit back-to-back homeruns over and over again. It came to mind because it’s that time of year again: the excitement, the anticipation, the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. No, I am not talking about the opening day of baseball, I was referring to that other time-honored institution . . . the residency match.

It’s hard to believe it has been 30 years since my own match day, and surprisingly, it appears not much has changed since then. I remember the day very clearly, and although I was fortunate to match my first choice at St. Joseph’s Hospital, several of my friends and peers did not get their first choice. Then there were those with no match at all to wonder their fate after investing four long and expensive years in school. Students anxiously await this time of year to find out where they will spend the next three to four years. When match day finally arrives, some students are thrilled with their residency assignment, some are disappointed and some are devastated. At times, it has become so bad, we hear the word “crisis.” I think as a profession, we have become so accustomed to students not matching that we have become indifferent to the process. When we hear the numbers, “it’s déjà vu all over again.”

At the time of writing this Perspective, there were 571 available residency positions with 576 applicants from the class of 2017 and another 52 applicants from previous years. This means 10 percent of the students will not match a residency.

We have seen multiple attempts over the years to remedy this problem: increasing the number of residencies, adding more residents to existing programs and decreasing class size. None of these solutions appear to have worked. Thirty years later, we are still having the same discussion. And now, there is a new matter we need to consider—Fellowships. ACFAS has 38 recognized programs, and we anticipate 50 programs in the near future. While writing this Perspective, I asked several prominent residency directors their opinions on the situation. Every one of them told me they are considering a fellowship, and they all confessed there was a concern of how it would influence their residency.

It is indisputable that fellowships will add to the diminution of residency positions.

While I am a proponent of fellowships, having done one myself, we need to realize that fellowships will add to the number of unmatched students trying to attain a residency position.

So, what is the solution? Should every student get a surgical residency? Is this a “weeding out” process? I think to wait until this point in students’ careers to “weed them out” is not acceptable. That should have happened long (and many tuition dollars) before this point in their career.

Perhaps we need a new perspective; not everyone will be a surgeon, nor does everyone want to be a surgeon. There should be the availability of postgraduate training for those individuals who do not want to take the surgical track in our profession. It may be time to revisit the concept of nonsurgical residencies. This will take the pressure off the current residencies to increase their number of residents and water down the case volume. It will allow those who want to focus on podiatry and not pursue foot and ankle surgery to be educated in their trade, and it will provide an opening for the unmatched students.

If we continue to do nothing, we will most certainly be talking about the growing number of unmatched students at this time next year. And, this will be déjà vu all over again, again!

Questions for Dr. Rubin? Write him at president@acfas.org.

Laurence G. Rubin, DPM, FACFAS
ACFAS President
education

Claim Your ACFAS 75 CME Credits Online

If you attended ACFAS 75 in Las Vegas, visit acfas.org/vegas to claim your Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. Click on the red CME Information box in the center of the page, then log in to access your records. You can also print a certificate of attendance.

Contact the ACFAS Education Department at (800) 421-2237 if you have any questions or need assistance.

Keep Up to Date on New Research with SLRs

Count on ACFAS’ monthly Scientific Literature Reviews (SLRs) to bring you concise summaries of scientific studies that may affect your surgical cases.

Written by podiatric surgical residents, SLRs include podiatric relevance, methods, results and conclusions. New SLRs are posted each month at acfas.org/SLR so you can stay ahead of the latest research without having to mine through multiple medical journals and websites.

Visit acfas.org/SLR to read this month’s reviews or to browse our SLR archive for studies dating back to 2009.

2017 Education Programs

May 19-21, 2017 (Friday–Sunday)
Total Ankle Arthroplasty
Science Care, Inc. Lab (Denver Airport)
Aurora, CO

June 10–11, 2017
(Saturday/Sunday)
Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy
Orthopaedic Learning Center
Chicago

July 21–22, 2017 (Friday/Saturday)
Coding & Billing for the Foot & Ankle Surgeon
Courtyard Marriott
Philadelphia

August 12–13, 2017
(Saturday/Sunday)
Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy
Orthopaedic Learning Center
Chicago

September 17–18, 2017
(Sunday/Monday)
Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy
Orthopaedic Learning Center
Chicago

October 8–9, 2017 (Sunday/Monday)
The Athlete’s Foot & Ankle: New Trends, Management & Surgical Treatment
Orthopaedic Learning Center
Chicago

October 13–14, 2017 (Friday/Saturday)
Coding & Billing for the Foot & Ankle Surgeon
Marriott Phoenix Airport
Phoenix

November 11–12, 2017
(Saturday/Sunday)
Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy
Orthopaedic Learning Center
Chicago

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

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

FACT

Ann G. Rotramel became the first female member of the College in 1961. Rotramel was a 1948 graduate of the Illinois College of Chiropody and Foot Surgery and practiced in New Ulm, Minnesota.
Update: News from the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
This year, the College received 55 submissions for the Annual ACFAS Manuscript Awards of Excellence competition. A panel of ACFAS Fellows blind-reviewed all manuscript entries and selected 27 for presentation at ACFAS 75 in Las Vegas. Of those, seven were named the top winners.

Winners split $10,000 in award money funded in part by the Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh and presented at the ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony on February 28.

First Place ($3,000)

*Does Second Metatarsal Length Correlate with Plantar Pressure Measurements Beneath the Second Metatarsophalangeal Joint During Walking?*

Brett J. Waverly, DPM, ACFAS
Shenche Hshieh, PharmD, MS
Ryan T. Crews, MS
Jacob M. Jones, BS
Lowell Weil, Jr., DPM, MBA, ACFAS
Lowell Scott Weil, Sr., DPM, ACFAS
Erin E. Klein, DPM, MS, ACFAS
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, ACFAS

Second Place ($2,500)

*Development and Validation of the Foot Union Scoring Evaluation Tool (FUSET) for Arthrodesis of Foot Structures*

Timothy A. Karthas, DPM
Jeremy J. Cook, DPM, MPH, ACFAS
Emily A. Cook, DPM, MPH, ACFAS
Philip Basile, DPM, ACFAS
Michael R. Matthews, DPM
Daniel D. Hansen, DPM
Byron Collier, DPM
Michael L. Sganga, DPM, ACFAS

Third Place ($1,500)

*Diabetes Is Not Significantly Associated with an Increased Risk of Venous Thromboembolism After Foot or Ankle Surgery: A Retrospective Review of 5,216 Patients*

Craig K. Udall, DPM, ACFAS
Caleb McFerren, DPM
Erik Monson, DPM

Honorable Mention ($750)

*Risk Factors for Recurrence After Hammertoe Corrective Surgery*

Rachel H. Albright, DPM
Moiz Hassan, MS
Jacob Randich, BS
Robert G. O’Keefe, DPM, ACFAS
Erin E. Klein, DPM, MS, ACFAS
Lowell Weil, Jr., DPM, MBA, ACFAS
Lowell Scott Weil, Sr., DPM, ACFAS
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, ACFAS

*Comparison of Tibial Sesamoid Position on Anterior Posterior and Axial Radiographs Before and After Tri-Plane Tarsal Metatarsal Joint Arthrodesis*

Paul D. Dayton, DPM, MS, ACFAS
Mindi J. Feilmeier, DPM, ACFAS

*Experimental Comparison of the Clinical Measurement of Ankle Joint Dorsiflexion and Radiographic Tibiotalar Position*

Mindi J. Feilmeier, DPM, ACFAS
Paul D. Dayton, DPM, MS, ACFAS
Rachel Reimer, PhD
Riane Otti, BS
Kalani Parker, BS
Merrell Kauwe, DPM
Jake Eisenschank, BS
Joshua Wolfe, BS

*Sagittal Ankle and Midfoot Range of Motion Before and After Revision Total Ankle Replacement: A Retrospective Comparative Analysis*

Peter J. Hordyk, DPM
Brent A. Fuerbringer, DPM
Thomas S. Roukis, DPM, PhD, ACFAS
Poster Awards Recognize the Best in Clinical and Scientific Research

ACFAS’ annual poster competition never fails to attract a crowd at the Annual Scientific Conference. This year’s competition held during ACFAS 75 in Las Vegas showcased 138 case study posters, 106 scientific posters and nine Student Club posters to give attendees a clear picture of where podiatric research is headed. Congratulations to this year’s award winners!

CASE STUDY FORMAT

First Place ($1,000)
Total Ankle Arthroplasty in the Patient with a Pathologic Fibula
Danielle N. Butto, DPM, AACFAS
Olivia A. Stransky, DPM, AACFAS
Lawrence A. DiDomenico, DPM, FACFAS
Keith L. Jacobson, DPM, FACFAS

Second Place ($700)
Incisional Negative Pressure Wound Therapy: Its Role in the Diabetic Foot
Justin P. Kaminski, DPM
Alison M. Migonis, DPM
Kevin L. Riemer, DPM, FACFAS
Barry I. Rosenblum, DPM, FACFAS

Third Place ($500)
Two View Gravity Stress Imaging Protocol for Minimally Displaced Type-II Supination External Rotation Ankle Fractures: Introducing the Gravity Stress Cross-Table Lateral View
Troy J. Boffeli, DPM, FACFAS
Rachel C. Collier, DPM, FACFAS
Samuel J. Gervais, DPM

SCIENTIFIC FORMAT

First Place ($1,000)
Outcomes of Wound Healing and Limb Loss After Transmetatarsal Amputation in the Presence of Peripheral Vascular Disease
Eric Fan Shi, DPM
Marshall R. Jex, DPM
Joy Garg, MD
Sumer Patel, DPM

Second Place ($700)
Look Before You Cut: Risk Factors for Skeletal Osteoporosis on Foot X-rays
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
Arezou Amidi, DPM, AACFAS
Mike Kelly, DPM
Steven Herwick, MD
Martin C. Yorath, DPM, FACFAS

Third Place ($500)
Long-Term Functional Outcomes of Permanent Cement Spacers in the Infected Foot
Tammer Elmarsah, DPM
Paul J. Kim, DPM, FACFAS
John S. Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS
Karen K. Evans, MD
Christopher E. Attinger, MD

STUDENT CLUB

First Place ($1,000)
Correlation Between Patient-Reported and Functional Outcome Measures Following Ankle Injury
Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, Pennsylvania

Second Place ($700)
Titanium Induced Foreign Body Giant Cell Reaction Following a Pantalar Arthrodesis and Lateral Calcaneal Slide Osteotomy
Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine - Midwestern University

Third Place ($500)
Relative Strengths of Intramedullary K-wire Techniques for Digital Deformities
Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine, Ohio
Throughout the week, attendees crowded the Exhibit Hall to get a first look at the latest industry products and services, view more than 250 case study and scientific posters and have their headshots taken by a professional photographer. The Member Center, HUB and Job Fair, located just outside the Exhibit Hall this year, saw steady traffic each day as did the Take a New Look at Foot & Ankle Surgeons booth, which offered quick tips and helpful handouts on how ACFAS members can increase referrals to their practices.

Cool evening temperatures did not stop attendees from enjoying special after-hours events, such as the Premier Connection, held poolside in the Siegfried & Roy Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, and the colossal Wrap Party in the heart of the LINQ entertainment promenade. Closing festivities began with rides on the High Roller, a towering observation wheel featuring bird’s-eye views of the Las Vegas Valley in all its glory, then concluded at Brooklyn Bowl where attendees and their guests bowled and danced the night away to a live band.

“I’m proud that we set another attendance record with 1,850 surgeons present at the conference,” said ACFAS President Laurence G. Rubin, DPM, FACFAS. “The Annual Scientific Conference committee provided a great educational program. Thanks to everyone who attended and made this event so memorable,” he added.

Dust off your cowboy boots and join us next year for the 76th Annual Scientific Conference March 22–25, 2018 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

“I’m proud that we set another attendance record with 1,900 surgeons present at the conference.”

—ACFAS President Laurence G. Rubin, DPM, FACFAS

If you were unable to attend ACFAS 75 and would like a free copy of *The Evolution of a Profession: The First 75 Years of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons 1942–2017*, send your name and mailing address to jolinda.cappello@acfas.org.
### 2017 Manuscript Judges
Naohiro Shibuya, DPM, MS, FACFAS, Chair
J. Randolph Clements, DPM, FACFAS
Jeremy J. Cook, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
Thanh L. Dinh, DPM, FACFAS
Paul J. Kim, DPM, FACFAS
Javier LaFontaine, DPM, FACFAS
Adam S. Landsman, DPM, PhD, FACFAS
Travis A. Motley, DPM, FACFAS
Nsima M. Usen, DPM, MPH, FACFAS

### 2017 Poster Judges
Matthew D. Sorensen, DPM, FACFAS, Chair
Kyle W. Abben, DPM, AACFAS
Tim C. Abigail, DPM, FACFAS
William R. Adams, II, DPM, FACFAS
Patrick S. Agnew, DPM, FACFAS
Jeffrey H. Alexander, DPM, FACFAS
John J. Anderson, DPM, FACFAS
Martha A. Anderson, DPM, FACFAS
Jeff R. Baker, DPM, FACFAS
Scott L. Basinger, DPM, FACFAS
Kimberly Lynn Bobbitt, DPM, FACFAS
Adam M. Budny, DPM, FACFAS
Bradly W. Bussewitz, DPM, FACFAS
John E. Cade, DPM, FACFAS
Craig A. Camasta, DPM, FACFAS
Russell M. Carlson, DPM, FACFAS
Christopher Chow, DPM, FACFAS
C. Stan Churchwell, DPM, FACFAS
Benjamin L. Clair, DPM, FACFAS
J. Randolph Clements, DPM, FACFAS
Keith D. Cook, DPM, FACFAS
James M. Cottom, DPM, FACFAS
Benjamin D. Cullen, DPM, FACFAS
Thomas B. DaSilva, DPM, FACFAS
Paul D. Dayton, DPM, MS, FACFAS
William T. DeCarbo, DPM, FACFAS
Denise De Alba, DPM, FACFAS
Eugene L. DaLaCruz, DPM, FACFAS
Sebastien G. Demoisy, DPM, FACFAS
Jason G. DeVries, DPM, FACFAS
Michael D. Dujela, DPM, FACFAS
Sean P. Dunn, DPM, FACFAS
Mindi J. Feilmeier, DPM, FACFAS
Corey M. Fidler, DPM, AACFAS
Timothy C. Ford, DPM, FACFAS
Jennifer B. Hada-Ondriek, DPM, FACFAS
Daniel J. Hatch, DPM, FACFAS
D. Jeffrey Haupt, DPM, FACFAS
Byron J. Ho, DPM, FACFAS
Shane M. Hollawell, DPM, FACFAS
Matthew A. Hopson, DPM, FACFAS
Matthew S. Ivey, DPM, FACFAS
Kelly J. John, DPM, FACFAS
Scott F. Jorgensen, DPM, FACFAS
Sean E. Keating, DPM, FACFAS
Ray H. Kim, DPM, FACFAS
Erin Klein, DPM, MS, AACFAS
Kristopher W. Krannitz, DPM, FACFAS
David M. Krausse, DPM, FACFAS
Gary Kugler, DPM, FACFAS
Jonathan M. Labovitz, DPM, FACFAS
Adam S. Landsman, DPM, PhD, FACFAS
Thurmond D. Lanier, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
Daniel K. Lee, DPM, PhD, FACFAS
Chris D. Lotufo, DPM, FACFAS
Drew Lundquist, DPM, FACFAS
Alan A. MacGill, DPM, FACFAS
Jeffrey A. Marks, DPM, FACFAS
Jody P. McAleer, DPM, FACFAS
Jeffrey E. McAlister, DPM, FACFAS
Brant L. McCartan, DPM, MBA, MS, FACFAS
Timothy J. Mineo, DPM, FACFAS
Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS
Anoosh Moadab, DPM, FACFAS
Heidi E. Monaghan, DPM, FACFAS
L. Jolene Moyer, DPM, FACFAS
Scott C. Nelson, DPM, FACFAS
Jerome S. Noll, DPM, FACFAS
Julio C. Ortiz, DPM, FACFAS
Meeta S. Pancholi, DPM, FACFAS
Amberly C. Paradoa, DPM, FACFAS
Hai-En Peng, DPM, FACFAS
Stacey L. Perry, DPM, FACFAS
Kyle S. Peterson, DPM, AACFAS
Mark A. Prissel, DPM, AACFAS
Ryan B. Rigby, DPM, FACFAS
Daniel F. Riley, DPM, FACFAS
Eugene M. Rosenthal, DPM, FACFAS
Kathryne F. Rupley, DPM, FACFAS
Bryan S. Russell, DPM, FACFAS
Brett D. Sachs, DPM, FACFAS
James C. Sang, DPM, FACFAS
Brandon M. Scharer, DPM, FACFAS
Harry P. Schneider, DPM, FACFAS
Ryan T. Scott, DPM, FACFAS
Jonathan J. Sharpe, DPM, FACFAS
Ginny S. Shim, DPM, FACFAS
Thomas E. Shonka, DPM, FACFAS
Matthew D. Sorensen, DPM, FACFAS
Gregory P. Still, DPM, FACFAS
Sean R. Stoddard, DPM, FACFAS
Ben J. Summerhayes, DPM, FACFAS
Nicholas J. Tanner, DPM, FACFAS
Michael H. Theodoulou, DPM, FACFAS
Daniel J. Tanner, DPM, FACFAS
Nsima M. Usen, DPM, MPH, FACFAS
Michael D. Vaardahl, DPM, FACFAS
Eric G. Walter, DPM, FACFAS
Philip Wrottslauvsky, DPM, FACFAS
William A. Yoder, DPM, FACFAS

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**THANK YOU TO OUR MANUSCRIPT AND POSTER JUDGES!**

A heartfelt thank you to those members who volunteered to review and judge entries for the annual manuscript and poster competitions at ACFAS 75 in Las Vegas. The College greatly appreciates the time and care the judges put into evaluating each submission.
This year’s Residency Directors Forum held February 26 at The Mirage in Las Vegas was the largest gathering of residency directors at the ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference to date! Residency directors and program faculty from across the country met to hear the latest news from the ACFAS Post-Graduate Affairs (PGA) Committee; Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems; Council on Podiatric Medical Education; American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine; American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery; Podiatry Residency Resource; American Board of Podiatric Medicine; and other speakers.

The meeting provided a venue for dialogue between residency directors and the various organizations that influence residency education and training. It was also an opportunity to provide feedback. “With the upcoming rewrite of CPME 320, residency directors presented ideas for change that can affect residency training in the future. Dr. Emily Cook’s discussion on standardizing competencies and evaluation forms was a great example of what may be in store for residency programs in the near future,” said Tim Ford, DPM, FACFAS, chair of the PGA Committee and this year’s forum moderator.

“It is the PGA Committee’s hope that we continue to provide residency directors with the right tools to assist in their day-to-day activities of managing their programs,” added Dr. Ford.

Visit acfas.org/rdc to view and download presentations from the forum.

“It is the PGA Committee’s hope that we continue to provide residency directors with the right tools to assist in their day-to-day activities of managing their programs.”

—Tim Ford, DPM, FACFAS, Chairperson of the PGA Committee

Save the Date: 2018 Residency Directors Forum

Residency directors and program faculty should mark their calendars for the 2018 Residency Directors Forum set for Wednesday, March 21, 2018, the day before ACFAS 2018 in Nashville begins.
The ACFAS Board of Directors met on February 26, immediately prior to the 2017 Annual Scientific Conference in Las Vegas. The board welcomed newly elected directors Michael J. Cornelison, DPM, FACFAS, and Meagan M. Jennings, DPM, FACFAS. Retiring from the board was Past President Richard Derner, DPM, FACFAS, and Director Byron L. Hutchinson, DPM, FACFAS.

Actions at the board meeting included:

Appointments:
- Sean T. Grambart (Chair), DPM, FACFAS; Thanh L. Dinh, DPM, FACFAS; and Aksone Nouvong, DPM, FACFAS, to constitute the 2017 Conflict of Interest Committee.
- Thomas S. Roukis, DPM, PhD, FACFAS (Chair); Paul J. Kim, DPM, FACFAS; and Naohiro Shibuya, DPM, FACFAS, to the Fellowship Research Task Force.
- Clinical Consensus Statement Panels on Adult and Pediatric Flatfoot.
- Board liaisons to ACFAS Student Clubs at podiatry schools.

Approval or discussions of:
- Asset reallocation plan for ACFAS regions when redistricting occurs in late 2017.
- Pilot plan to help fellowship programs conduct more publishable research studies.
- Review of ACFAS media relations and individual media training of Board members and ACFAS spokespeople.
- Quality measures and outcome registries options.
- Research grant timing policies.
- Year 2 of the Take a New Look at Foot and Ankle Surgeons healthcare professionals campaign.
- Presentation and discussion with PICA CEO Ross Taubman, DPM, FACFAS.

The next board meeting will be held July 14–16 in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Questions on any board issues may be directed to Executive Director Chris Mahaffey, CAE, at mahaffey@acfas.org.

In 1965, Peggie R. Roberson became the African American member of the College. She held a doctorate from the California College of Podiatry and Foot Surgery and practiced in Los Angeles.
Wright Medical is a global medical device company focused on extremities and biologics. The company is committed to delivering innovative, value-added solutions improving quality of life for patients worldwide and is a recognized leader of surgical solutions for the extremities and biologics markets.

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CrossRoads Extremity Systems is an integrated extremity company focused on providing NOVEL innovation, SUSTAINABLE solutions and PROVEN products to a global payment world.

crextremity.com

Medartis is a Swiss leading medical device manufacturer specializing in high-precision implants for the surgical fixation of bone fractures, fusions and osteotomies. Our motto of “Precision in Fixation” is our commitment to innovative development and stringent quality standards with the goal of improving the patient’s quality of life.

medartis.com

Orthofix, headquartered in Lewisville, Texas, is a global medical device company focused on improving patients’ lives by providing superior reconstructive and regenerative orthopaedic and spine solutions to physicians worldwide.

orthofix.com
The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) strives to protect and improve the health and welfare of the public by advancing the art and science of foot and ankle surgery.

abfas.org

Amniox Medical is the leading provider of regenerative therapies from umbilical cord/amniotic membrane tissue for use within surgical (CLARIX®), wound covering (NEOX®) and injection (FLO™) applications.

amnioxmedical.com

Bioventus is an orthobiologics company that delivers clinically proven, cost-effective products to help people heal quickly and safely. Bioventus Active Healing Therapies and Bioventus Surgical make it a global leader in active orthopaedic healing.

BioventusGlobal.com

Integra LifeSciences Corporation, a world leader in regenerative medicine, manufactures and markets medical devices used in plastic and reconstructive surgery, orthopaedics and general surgery. These products focus on lower-extremity reconstruction, upper-extremity reconstruction, shoulder and elbow reconstruction, soft-tissue repair, and tendon and peripheral nerve protection and repair.

integralife.com

Paragon 28 believes the key to innovation in foot and ankle surgery is reinventing the space in which we work, rather than filling that space with more products.

paragon28.com

For ACFAS 75, we feature a breakthrough advancement in the surgical treatment of bunion deformities. The patent-pending Lapiplasty™ Procedure enables surgeons to perform a precision Triplanar Deformity Correction for true anatomic restoration.

treace.com

In2Bones USA, an innovative medical device company, specializing in the design and manufacture of sterile implants and single-use instrumentation for use in surgery of extremities.

in2bones.com

Marlinz Pharma introduces the Tolcylen™ Anti-Fungal product line. Tolcylen™ formulations provide physicians with a profit-enhancing and powerful weapon to use against fungal infections and thickened, discolored nails.

marlinzpharma.com

Podiatry Foundation of Pittsburgh supports research through the Annual Scientific Conference manuscript competition.

tidesmedical.com

Tides Medical is committed to bringing the latest products in regenerative medicine, such as amniotic tissue grafts, to market. Our biologic products are at the forefront of tissue-based innovation.
Hot Off the Virtual Press:
*The Art & Science of Orthobiologics for the Foot and Ankle*

A new e-Book is ready and waiting to take the top spot on your reading list. ACFAS’ second release, *The Art and Science of Orthobiologics for the Foot and Ankle*, examines the latest orthobiologic options and explains how to use them to achieve optimum bone healing and growth while reducing surgical complications.

With 12 chapters written by 25 renowned experts in the field and nearly 150 full-color images, this latest addition to the College’s e-Book series guides you through available bone graft materials and techniques that can help you improve patient outcomes. Keep track of your reading with the e-Book’s built-in notetaking and bookmarking tools, then test your knowledge and also earn CME by completing a short self-assessment after each chapter.

Purchase *The Art and Science of Orthobiologics for the Foot and Ankle* at [acfas.org](http://acfas.org), and stay tuned for updates on other ACFAS e-Books in the pipeline.

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Register Now for July Coding & Billing Workshop

Are you coding your cases properly to get the correct reimbursement? Find out in Coding and Billing for the Foot and Ankle Surgeon scheduled for July 21–22 in Philadelphia. Case-based and interactive, this workshop will give you the tools you need to simplify your coding and reimbursement practices. Expert faculty will walk you through multiple-procedure cases and also help you code a sample patient encounter from beginning to end.

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Developing and refining a research idea that is innovative, practical and beneficial to others starts with one simple question: Why?

Erin Klein, DPM, MS, FACFAS, a foot and ankle surgeon with Weil Foot & Ankle Institute and a member of the ACFAS Research Committee, arrives at her ideas for research by questioning the things she sees or does every day. “I like making people or conditions better,” Dr. Klein explains. “This leads me to ask questions like, ‘Why do we do this in this manner?’ ‘Why does this work and not that?’ ‘Why did this work for patient A and not patient B?’ Good questions can result in good studies,” she says.

Once a research idea is in place, Dr. Klein recommends honing it into a clear and concrete hypothesis by determining how the study results can be used in day-to-day practice and by other practitioners worldwide. While the study topic will dictate how many phases the study will have and its resources (time, money, equipment), many factors must be taken into account when selecting participants and when collecting, measuring and analyzing data.

According to Dr. Klein, inclusion criteria can greatly affect a study’s outcome. “If you want to study a specific aspect of [insert pathology here], rigorous inclusion criteria can create a more homogenous patient population,” she says. “However, fewer inclusion criteria are better for a more generalized study.”

To determine how many people will need to participate in the study, she recommends conducting a prestudy power analysis. This is usually the number of subjects who will need to be enrolled with complete data to detect whether a clinically important difference exists between the groups. The number depends on several things, including the:

- precision of the outcome being measured;
- magnitude of the effect you want to detect (small differences will require large sample sizes); and
- likelihood that you are willing to accept a type 2 error, which means not detecting a difference between the groups’ outcomes when in fact one is present.

“Ask a statistician to help with this when you first begin to develop the research question, not after,” says Dr. Klein.

Pilot studies can help obtain valuable information regarding the precision of the outcomes being measured. This in turn will help with the power analysis, which will provide insight into whether the actual study is feasible. Dr. Klein suggests searching a patient database for ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes and current procedural terminology codes to see if a study population exists and if any data on those patients is relevant. Note that this type of prestudy preparatory work is permissible under federal regulations (e.g., HIPAA and Code of Federal Regulations Article 45, Part 46); however, prior to actual data collection, institutional review board review is usually needed.

Data collection, measurement and analysis should take a two-phase approach. “First, have a theoretical idea of how the results should work in your individual practice,” Dr. Klein

“Persistence, grit and believing in yourself when everyone tells you you’re nuts—that’s what makes for great research.” —Erin Klein, DPM, MS, FACFAS
advises. “Second, take time to allow your methods to work in your practice.” She notes that being part of an institution with many active protocols and a “research culture” can help with this so data can be collected without having to think about it every day.

Dr. Klein favors self-reflection to validate research results. “If you use the results and they change patient care for the better, then your results are validated,” she indicates. If a study happens to yield surprising outcomes, she says to examine the study population to see if the results actually occurred.

Putting everything together in a clear and cohesive format need not be overwhelming. Dr. Klein compiles her own research studies by first establishing a theory and then asking herself the following questions:

1. What question(s) am I trying to answer?
2. What outcome methods/instruments would help prove or disprove my theory?
3. How many subjects do I need?
4. Is this feasible?
5. How would the study results apply to everyday life?

Once she is ready to write the study, she starts with the methods, results and discussion, then compiles the literature review and introduction and writes the abstract last.

When it comes to research funding, Dr. Klein says to explore grant programs and to ensure that the funding request is both reasonable and specific. “Ask for funds to cover expenses to make a study possible while using existing resources. I find this works better than asking a funding body to pay for labs and processes within an institution,” she shares.

While good science depends on solid ideas, methods and logistical support, Dr. Klein believes the key to a successful research study is determination. “Persistence, grit and believing in yourself when everyone tells you you’re nuts—that’s what makes for great research,” she asserts.

She also advises that those new to podiatric surgical research find a strong support system since research processes can be intimidating, frustrating and time consuming.

“When I like making people or conditions better. This leads me to ask questions like, Why do we do this in this manner? Why does this work and not that?”

—Erin Klein, DPM, MS, FACFAS
In Memory

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Charleston, WV

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Dorothy O. Smith, DPM, AACFAS
East Orange, NJ

Ronald R. Vanderheyden,
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Morton Wittenberg, DPM, FACFAS
Evans, GA

New Board of Directors Takes Office in Las Vegas

Congratulations to the 2017–2018 ACFAS Board of Directors.

Front Row (L–R): Sean T. Grambart, DPM, FACFAS, Immediate Past President; Laurence G. Rubin, DPM, FACFAS, President; John S. Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS, President-Elect; Christopher L. Reeves, DPM, MS, FACFAS, Secretary/Treasurer.

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A special thank you to retiring Board members Richard Derner, DPM, FACFAS, and Byron L. Hutchinson, DPM, FACFAS, for their dedicated service.

FACT

ACFAS launched its first website in 1998. It featured downloadable versions of The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery and consumer brochures, as well as a physician search function.
You’ve never seen a podiatry website like this before.

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