



# ACFAS Update

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2

NEWS from the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FOOT AND ANKLE SURGEONS

## ACFAS 2019: Another Record-Breaker in the Books



Foot and ankle surgeons from far and wide brought their best to the bayou and made February's ACFAS 2019 in New Orleans the College's most highly attended conference ever. This year's turnout toppled the previous attendance record set in Las Vegas in 2017, and it is easy to see why.

An energizing keynote address by former Blue Angel John Foley kicked off the Opening General Session and showed how the same principles used in high-speed flight formations can apply to the OR. When discipline, focus, precision, teamwork and trust drive performance, said Foley, foot and ankle surgeons can achieve optimum results.

Immediate Past President John S. Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS, then gave an update on ACFAS' accomplishments from the past year before attendees flocked to the Exhibit Hall and got a running start on the back-to-back clinical sessions, cadaveric workshops and industry presentations that would fill the next three days.

ACFAS 2019 offered everyone ample opportunity to catch up with friends and to experience the sights and sounds of New Orleans. Attendees celebrated their first night in NOLA at the Premier Connection event held at Mardi Gras World where they dined and danced *(continued on page 3)*



## How I Got My Job

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## President's Perspective PERSEVERANCE, ADVERSITY AND PERSPECTIVE

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## PERSEVERANCE, ADVERSITY AND PERSPECTIVE



As the dust settles on the 77<sup>th</sup> edition of the Annual Scientific Conference, we can look back on New Orleans with a sense of great pride and success. We set a fifth consecutive attendance record with nearly 1,900 foot and ankle surgeons attending an academic program second to none. No question, the conference is the “crown jewel” of not only the College, but the profession as a whole.

I hope some of you found time to enjoy New Orleans’ culture and history. A highlight for me was visiting the National World War II Museum. For a lot of us, World War II can only be understood through movies and documentaries; but for me, it was personal.

My grandfather, who served in WWII, passed away when I was 12 years-old. He was always full of life, loved to learn and shared it with his grandson, such as reading the dictionary to improve the education he never completed. One mantra I will always remember from him is no matter the adversity, always persevere and keep perspective. As a teenager, this was pretty deep advice, but over the years, it grew in meaning and became a center point through my sports, surgical training and daily life.

What I didn’t know at the time, nor fully appreciate until recently, is exactly where his philosophy came from. Like many WWII veterans, the war was never really discussed. Recently, my father and I discovered war-time letters to my grandmother, military medals

and “souvenirs” from Europe, which helped us recreate exactly where “always persevere through adversity and keep perspective” came from.

As a combat engineer, he went ashore at Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion. His unit’s mission was to provide infrastructure and roads connecting the amphibious landing sites. After a long trek through Europe keeping transportation viable for U.S. and French ground forces, his unit was converted to infantry following attrition of U.S. forces. In one of the largest and more violent conflicts known as the Battle of the Bulge, his was one of many units overrun during night raids from German tanks and soldiers. He lived in a fox hole for many days, and despite losing a large portion of his unit, had a team of soldiers who persevered through adversity. They held the line against rapidly advancing German soldiers and, in no small part, halted the German advance. This was later shown to be the beginning of the end for the German offensive.

I would never compare a war experience to what we do as a profession, but the lessons that lie within these accomplishments can be translated through all walks of life. Looking back on the 77-year history of ACFAS, we can see that our founders, mentors and leaders were forced to persevere through adversity. We have historical perspective from our prior visionaries not afraid to take the road less

traveled, being forced to make the best decisions at the time without the benefit of really knowing the long-term ramifications—but keeping a common goal in mind.

Today, we should keep this perspective as we continue to face external and internal forces that attempt to distract us from our mission. We still face concerns over reimbursement, parity, privileging and scopes of practice. And recently, we’ve faced special interests attempting to derail us with publications that offer conclusions not based on sound scientific data. But, we’ve been here before. We’ve persevered, we’ve kept our perspective and it’s led us to successes like no other time in our history.

Perseverance and perspective through adversity: Lessons taught to a 12-year-old future ACFAS leader that were learned and shared by a soldier during some of the most horrendous and frightening conditions imaginable, in the name of survival, all for a belief in the greater good of the world. It’s a perspective that, no matter what our challenges are today, those who paved the way before us ensured that the challenges would never be as difficult today as they were yesterday.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Reeves', written in a cursive style.

**Christopher L. Reeves, MS, DPM, FACFAS**  
ACFAS President

Questions for Dr. Reeves? Write him at [president@acfas.org](mailto:president@acfas.org).

# Claim Your ACFAS 2019 CME Credits Online

If you attended ACFAS 2019 in New Orleans, visit [acfas.org](http://acfas.org) as soon as possible to claim your Continuing Education Contact Hours (CME). You should have received an email notifying you that credits are available online.

Click on CME Credits under **Latest News and Information/2019 Annual Scientific Conference**. After you log in, you will be linked directly to the ACFAS Education Documentation and CME Tracking Center where you can print your certificate and a list of sessions you attended.

## ACFAS 2019: Another Record-Breaker in the Books *(continued from cover)*

among colorful, larger-than-life parade sculptures, figures and floats and enjoyed views of the fast-moving Mississippi River. The week closed with a Wrap Party at the renowned National World War II Museum, which included self-guided tours of hundreds of exhibits plus live entertainment featuring a medley of popular songs from the 1940s.

“For the fifth year in a row, the Annual Scientific Conference set records in both attendance and vendor space and featured an academic program that was second to none. The conference will always be ACFAS’ crown jewel and the premier meeting for foot and ankle surgeons,” says ACFAS President Christopher L. Reeves, DPM, MS, FACFAS.

Couldn’t make it to ACFAS 2019? Mark your calendar now for ACFAS 2020 in San Antonio, February 19–22, 2020 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.



## 2019 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### April 26–27, 2019 (Friday/Saturday) **ACFAS on the Road— In the Trenches**

Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek  
Orlando, FL

### May 3–4, 2019 (Friday/Saturday) **ACFAS on the Road— In the Trenches**

Hilton Americas Houston  
Houston, TX

### July 20–21, 2019 (Saturday/Sunday) **Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy**

Orthopaedic Learning Center  
Chicago, IL

**SOLD  
OUT**

### July 26–27, 2019 (Friday/Saturday) **Coding & Billing for the Foot & Ankle Surgeon**

Dallas Marriott City Center  
Dallas, TX

### August 10–11, 2019 (Saturday/Sunday) **Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy**

Orthopaedic Learning Center  
Chicago, IL

### September 6–8, 2019 (Friday-Sunday) **Total Ankle Arthroplasty**

Science Care Lab  
Denver, CO

### September 20–21, 2019 (Friday/Saturday) **Coding & Billing for the Foot & Ankle Surgeon**

Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe  
Teaneck, NJ

### October 18–19, 2019 (Friday/Saturday) **Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy**

Orthopaedic Learning Center  
Chicago, IL

### November 16–17, 2019 (Saturday/Sunday) **Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy**

Orthopaedic Learning Center  
Chicago, IL

\*To be waitlisted for sold-out courses, contact Maggie Hjelm at [hjelm@acfas.org](mailto:hjelm@acfas.org).

## Register Now for 2019 Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy Courses

Secure your spot today in one of our *Arthroscopy of the Foot & Ankle* courses and experience next-level arthroscopic training in a state-of-the-art facility.

Held at the Orthopaedic Learning Center in Rosemont, Illinois, this two-day course gives you full access to the same high-tech surgical and audiovisual equipment used by the Arthroscopy Association of North America.

Also enjoy video-enhanced, interactive lec-

tures with expert faculty, more than nine hours of hands-on laboratory time featuring fresh cadaver specimens plus a fireside chat with the opportunity to share your toughest cases.

This course fulfills privileging requirements and is worth 16 continuing education contact hours. Register now at [acfas.org/skills](http://acfas.org/skills) while space is still available in the August, October and November courses.

### Foot & Ankle Arthroscopy Schedule

Orthopaedic Learning Center  
Chicago, IL

**July 20-21, 2019**  
(Saturday/Sunday)

**SOLD  
OUT**

**August 10-11, 2019**  
(Saturday/Sunday)

**October 18-19, 2019**  
(Friday/Saturday)

**November 16-17, 2019**  
(Saturday/Sunday)

\*To be waitlisted for sold-out courses, contact Maggie Hjelm at [hjelm@acfas.org](mailto:hjelm@acfas.org).

## ACFAS Research Strategy & Implementation Plan Takes Effect

The ACFAS Research Committee spent 2018 developing a comprehensive Research Strategy and Implementation Plan to enhance the culture of research at the College and in the profession. The ACFAS Board of Directors approved the plan in February, and the Research Committee will now begin to implement the plan

throughout 2019. The four goals of the Strategy and Implementation Plan include:

1. How to structure your work week.
2. Connect research to value for ACFAS members.
3. Develop a pipeline of members who can critically review and conduct research.
4. Increase professional stature of the profession through research.

The Research Committee will implement 24 tactics to achieve all four of these goals. The committee will meet in April to begin implementation and will provide regular status updates to ACFAS members as well as opportunities for members to become more involved. Stay tuned!

# New Board of Directors Takes Office in New Orleans

**Congratulations to the 2019–2020 ACFAS Board of Directors.**

Front Row (L-R): Thanh Dinh, DPM, FACFAS, Secretary-Treasurer; Scott C. Nelson, DPM, FACFAS, President-Elect; Christopher L. Reeves, MS, DPM, FACFAS, President; John S. Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS, Immediate Past President.

Second Row (L-R): Harry P. Schneider, DPM, FACFAS; Michael Cornelison, DPM, FACFAS; Eric A. Barp, DPM, FACFAS; Brian Carpenter, DPM, FACFAS; Meagan Jennings, DPM, FACFAS; George Tye Liu, DPM, FACFAS; Randal L. Wraalstad, DPM, FACFAS; J.C. (Chris) Mahaffey, CAE, executive director.



*A special thank you to retiring Board member Laurence G. Rubin, DPM, FACFAS, for his dedicated service.*

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# ACFAS 2019 NEW ORLEANS







# Award-Winning Manuscripts Shine Light on the Future of Podiatric Medical Research



This year, the College received 72 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 2019 in New Orleans. 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 15.

## First Place (\$3,000)

*Charcot Reconstruction Versus Transtibial Amputation Versus Bracing in Patients with Nonplantigrade Charcot Foot Arthropathy: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis*

Rachel H. Albright, DPM, AACFAS  
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS  
Dane K. Wukich, MD  
Robert M. Joseph, DPM, PhD, FACFAS  
David G. Armstrong, DPM, PhD, FACFAS

## Second Place (\$2,500)

*Total Ankle Arthroplasty Survivorship: A Meta-Analysis*

Bryon J. McKenna, DPM  
Jeremy J. Cook, DPM, MPH, FACFAS  
Emily A. Cook, DPM, MPH, FACFAS  
Jordan Crafton, DPM  
Matthew Knabel, DPM  
Eric Swenson, DPM  
Samantha Miner, DPM  
Philip Basile, DPM, FACFAS

## Third Place (\$1,500)

*Early Postoperative Physical Therapy Is Associated with Improved Recovery After Hallux Valgus Surgery*

Erin E. Klein, DPM, MS, FACFAS  
Chloe Sakow, MPH  
Ioulia Christopoulos, PT, DPT  
Christine Butz, PT, DPT  
Lowell Weil, Jr., DPM, FACFAS  
Lowell S. Weil, Sr., DPM, FACFAS  
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS

## Honorable Mentions (\$750)

*Dual-Plating Technique: Outcome Comparisons in Complex Ankle Fractures and Concurrent Complex Comorbidities*

J. Joseph Anderson, DPM, FACFAS  
Anthony M. Chesser, DPM, AACFAS  
Devin S. Bland, DPM, AACFAS  
Loren Spencer, DPM, FACFAS  
Devin Wahlen, DPM, AACFAS  
Adebola T. Adeleke, DPM, AACFAS  
Brooke Lynn Anderson, BS

*Patient Personality, Aggression and Psychological Profile in Bunion Surgery Outcomes*

Erin E. Klein, DPM, MS, FACFAS  
T. Craig Wirt, DPM  
Rachel Greeley  
Lowell S. Weil, Sr., DPM, FACFAS  
Lowell Weil, Jr., DPM, FACFAS  
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS

*Radiographic Deformity Is Not Well Correlated with Disability or Symptom Severity in Patients Seeking Operative Correction for Hallux Valgus Deformity*

Michael Matthews, DPM, AACFAS  
Erin E. Klein, DPM, MS, FACFAS  
Alyse Acciani, MPH  
Lowell Weil, Jr., DPM, FACFAS  
Lowell S. Weil, Sr., DPM, FACFAS  
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS

*Assessing Modifiable Risk Factors in Total Ankle Arthroplasty*

Jesse R. Wolfe, DPM  
Joshua J. Wolfe, DPM  
Matt VanNatta, MPH  
H. John Visser, DPM, FACFAS



This year's poster competition captured the latest surgical technologies and techniques in an expansive visual display that saw plenty of traffic in the bustling ACFAS 2019 Exhibit Hall.

Attendees browsed through 128 case study posters, 136 scientific posters and eight Student Club posters and also had the chance to speak directly with poster authors about their research. The College congratulates the 2019 poster award winners listed below.

View all poster entries at [acfas.org](http://acfas.org), and watch for details this summer on next year's poster competition at ACFAS 2020, February 19-22, 2020 in San Antonio. Poster abstract submissions are due September 10, 2019.

## CASE STUDY FORMAT

### First Place (\$1,000)

*Leiomyosarcoma: A Case Report of a Rare Pedal Soft-Tissue Mass Malignancy*

Joshua A. Sebag, DPM

Jeremy A. Jung, DPM

Christopher L. Reeves, DPM, MS, FACFAS

### Second Place (\$700)

*Treatment of Adenocarcinoma of the Prostate Metastasized to the Calcaneus*

Sarah E. Sample-Eppinger, DPM

Jay A. Wenig, DPM, FACFAS

### Third Place (\$500)

*Percutaneous Repair of Acute Achilles Tendon Rupture with Calcaneal Anchors*

Kelsey J. Millonig, DPM, MPH

Stephanie A. Oexeman, DPM

Craig E. Clifford, DPM, FACFAS

# Winning Posters Paint Clear Picture of New Discoveries in Foot & Ankle Surgery

## SCIENTIFIC FORMAT

### First Place (\$1,000)

*Ideal Angle of Upper and Lower Syndesmotic Fixation Based on Weightbearing CT Imaging in Uninjured Ankles*

Troy J. Boffeli, DPM, FACFAS

Collin G. Messerly, DPM

Tyler K. Sorensen, DPM

### Second Place (\$700)

*The Determinate Value of the Medial Clear Space for Deltoid Integrity in Lateral Malleolar Fractures: A Correlative Analysis of Arthroscopic and Radiographic Findings*

David R. Collman, DPM, FACFAS

Myles Knutson, DPM

Irina Bazarov, DPM, MS, AACFAS

### Third Place (\$500)

*Postoperative Use of Opioid Analgesic in Foot and Ankle Surgery: A Retrospective Cohort Study*

Hye R. Kim, DPM, AACFAS

William H. Brownell, III, DPM

Korey S. Dubois, DPM

Andreas C. Kaikis, DPM

Adam R. McDonald, DPM

Michael T. Rossidis, DPM

D. Scot Malay, DPM, MSCE, FACFAS



## STUDENT CLUB

### First Place (\$1,000)

*Comparison of Neurovascular Risk with the Lateral Extensile Incision Versus the Sinus Tarsi Incision: A Cadaveric Study*

California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt College

### Second Place (\$700)

*Utilization of External Fixation for the Management of Complicated Soft-Tissue Wounds Across the Foot and Ankle*

Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine & Surgery

### Third Place (\$500)

*The Effect of Three-Dimensional Printed Models on Reliability of the Assessment of the Lauge-Hansen Classification System*

Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine

## MANUSCRIPT & POSTER JUDGES—WE APPLAUD YOU!

ACFAS would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those members who volunteered to review and judge entries for the annual manuscript and poster competitions at ACFAS 2019 in New Orleans. The College greatly appreciates the time and effort these judges put into carefully evaluating each entry.

### 2019 Manuscript Judge

Andrew J. Meyr, DPM, FACFAS, Chair  
Rachel C. Collier, DPM, FACFAS  
Kwasi Y. Kwaadu, DPM, FACFAS  
Kyle S. Peterson, DPM, FACFAS  
Kelly M. Pirozzi, DPM, FACFAS  
Mario N. Ponticello, DPM, FACFAS  
Ryan B. Rigby, DPM, FACFAS  
Michael H. Theodoulou, DPM, FACFAS

### 2019 Poster Judges

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Joaquin F. Balaguer, DPM, FACFAS  
Nicholas J. Bevilacqua, DPM, FACFAS  
Allan M. Boike, DPM, FACFAS  
Georgeanne Botek, DPM, FACFAS  
Adam M. Budny, DPM, FACFAS  
Maria Buitrago, DPM, MS, FACFAS  
Bradly W. Bussewitz, DPM, FACFAS  
Michelle L. Butterworth, DPM, FACFAS  
Jarrett Cain, DPM, MS, FACFAS  
Gage M. Caudell, DPM, FACFAS  
D. Martin Chaney, DPM, FACFAS  
Keith D. Cook, DPM, FACFAS  
Benjamin D. Cullen, DPM, FACFAS  
Mindi J. Dayton, DPM, FACFAS  
Paul D. Dayton, DPM, MS, FACFAS

William T. DeCarbo, DPM, FACFAS  
Jason George DeVries, DPM, FACFAS  
Brian T. Dix, DPM, FACFAS  
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Duane J. Ehredt, Jr., DPM, FACFAS  
Kyle C. Fiala, DPM, FACFAS  
Adam E. Fleischer, DPM, MPH, FACFAS  
Timothy C. Ford, DPM, FACFAS  
Alan G. Garrett, DPM, FACFAS  
Michael A. Gentile, DPM, FACFAS  
Jon R. Goldsmith, DPM, FACFAS  
Paul L. Goodman, DPM, FACFAS  
Tyson E. Green, DPM, FACFAS  
Daniel J. Hatch, DPM, FACFAS  
D. Jeffrey Haupt, DPM, FACFAS  
Matthew A. Hopson, DPM, FACFAS  
Zeeshan S. Husain, DPM, FACFAS  
Allen M. Jacobs, DPM, FACFAS  
Col. Brent A. Johnson, DPM, FACFAS  
Robert M. Joseph, DPM, PhD, FACFAS  
Lisbeth Marie Keplinger, DPM, FACFAS  
Thurmond D. Lanier, DPM, MPH, FACFAS  
Stephan J. LaPointe, DPM, PhD, FACFAS  
Frank A. Luckino, III, DPM, FACFAS  
Kieran T. Mahan, DPM, FACFAS  
D. Scot Malay, DPM, MSCE, FACFAS  
Jeffrey A. Marks, DPM, FACFAS  
Jeffrey E. McAlister, DPM, FACFAS

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Jason R. Miller, DPM, FACFAS  
Jason V. Naldo, DPM, FACFAS  
Aksone Nouvong, DPM, FACFAS  
Kelly M. Pirozzi, DPM, FACFAS  
Crystal L. Ramanujam, DPM, FACFAS  
Katherine M. Raspovic, DPM, FACFAS  
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Harry P. Schneider, DPM, FACFAS  
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Jonathan J. Sharpe, DPM, FACFAS  
Gregory P. Still, DPM, FACFAS  
Wenjay Sung, DPM, FACFAS  
Michael H. Theodoulou, DPM, FACFAS  
James L. Thomas, DPM, FACFAS  
Jonathan C. Thompson, DPM, MHA, FACFAS  
Jakob C. Thorud, DPM, MS, FACFAS  
Dyane E. Tower, DPM, MPH, MS, FACFAS  
Nsima M. Usen, DPM, MPH, FACFAS  
Michael D. Vaardahl, DPM, FACFAS  
Mitzi L. Williams, DPM, FACFAS  
Jacob Wynes, DPM, MS, FACFAS  
Michael Ryan Zimmerman, DPM, FACFAS



## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR ACFAS 2018-2019 VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Without the hard work of our many members who volunteer their time and expertise to advance the College's mission, we could not achieve as much as we do from year to year. Thank you to our committee and task force members and to those who served as peer reviewers and section editors for *The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery (JFAS)*. Their names have been published in *JFAS* and can be viewed at [acfas.org/jfas](http://acfas.org/jfas).

William R. Adams, II, DPM, FACFAS  
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Michael T. Ambroziak, DPM, FACFAS  
Elizabeth A. Ansert  
Jayson N. Atves, DPM, AACFAS  
Nicholas J. Bevilacqua, DPM, FACFAS  
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# Residents' Day at ACFAS 2019 a Huge Success

TOOLS FOR TRANSITION FROM  
RESIDENCY *to* PRACTICE

2019 RESIDENTS'  
DAY | *pre-conference*  
PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 13, 2019 | NEW ORLEANS



UNRESTRICTED EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROVIDED BY

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The College's first-ever Residents' Day, sponsored by Organogenesis, on February 13 at ACFAS 2019 in New Orleans was a runaway success that helped attendees better navigate the transition from residency to full-time practice.

Many of the soon-to-be practitioners in attendance appreciated the speakers' candid, real-life advice on how to stand out from the crowd, land a job and grow professionally as foot and ankle surgeons. Hearing tips not often shared during residency helped ease some of the anxiety residents at any stage can experience before they start practicing full time.

While it was hard to say which sessions were among attendees' favorites, "Don't Let the Start Be the End: Facilitating the Process," "From the Patient Chair to the OR/Complications" and "Outreach/Make Time: Get Your Name Out There" received positive feedback after the event.

Attendees topped off their day with an informal networking event featuring open Q&A and left well-equipped with tools, contacts and insights to prepare them for this next exciting stage of their career.

Based on the successful outcome of this pilot program, plans are already underway for a second Residents' Day to be held during ACFAS 2020 in San Antonio. Watch ACFAS publications later this year for details.

# 2019 Residency Directors Forum Recap



The ACFAS Post Graduate Affairs Committee, in cooperation with the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH), held its 2019 annual Residency Directors Forum on February 13 in New Orleans, in advance of ACFAS 2019. More than 100 residency directors, program faculty and podiatric medical educators attended.

The Forum's goal was to discuss best practices in residency education and to tackle important issues at the forefront of the educational system. Representatives from ACGME, CPME, PRR, AACPM, COTH and the VA system outlined current issues at hand with respect to residency education and training.

"The Forum allowed us to share and learn best practices from program standards set by ACGME and CPME," says Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS, chair of the Post Graduate Affairs Committee. "We had the opportunity to explore and discuss challenging topics currently of major concern to our residents and teaching faculty, including physician burnout, patient safety and resident remediation."

ABFAS and ABPM, the two certifying boards, also provided updates since the requirements for board certification change annually.

Visit the ACFAS Residency Director Center at [acfas.org](http://acfas.org) for wrap-up presentations from the Forum.



**"This year's Forum was one of the most beneficial faculty development programs, with a record-breaking attendance."**

—Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS

## Winter Board Meeting Highlights

The ACFAS Board of Directors met on February 13, 2019 in New Orleans prior to the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference. The Board welcomed newly elected director Brian Carpenter, DPM, FACFAS, and re-elected director Michael Cornelison, DPM, FACFAS, as well as saluted departing Board member Laurence Rubin, DPM, FACFAS. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Approval of a broad, strategic research plan designed to inculcate a research culture in the College via many tactics.
- Approval of a new position statement on opioid prescribing; revisions to the H&P privileges position statement; and revisions to the education, training and credentialing of foot and ankle surgeons position statement.
- Creation of a Board task force to respond to recent orthopaedic journal articles.
- Updates on the joint AAOS-ACFAS-AOFAS-APMA task force.
- Action to address a violation of the duality of interest policy.
- Appointment of the 2019–2020 Conflict of Interest Committee and assignment of 2019 Board liaisons to podiatric medical schools.

The next Board meeting will be held July 11–13 in Stevenson, Washington. Any questions about the Board meeting or College governance may be directed to ACFAS executive director Chris Mahaffey, CAE, at [mahaffey@acfas.org](mailto:mahaffey@acfas.org).

# How I Got My Job



Danielle Butto,  
DPM, FACFAS



Michelle Detweiler,  
DPM, FACFAS

## Danielle Butto, DPM, FACFAS

Foot and Ankle Surgeon Employed in a Hospital System

Danielle Butto, DPM, FACFAS, credits her fellowship with Larry DiDomenico, DPM, FACFAS, for paving the way to her current position with Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. “Fellowship can provide parity with other medical specialties who are all required to do a fellowship, and the extra training you receive can set you apart from other job candidates,” she says.

Dr. Butto admits her fellowship year was demanding, but she would do it again in a heartbeat and appreciates the time management skills the experience taught her. However, while Dr. Butto values fellowship training and

the doors it can open, she believes a foot and ankle surgeon’s career actually starts with residency. “Picking a well-rounded residency can prepare you for a career without the need for fellowship. But if you’re thinking about a fellowship, start your research into programs in your second year of residency,” she advises.

When the time comes to find a full-time position, Dr. Butto recommends using a little creativity. “Since hospital jobs are not usually posted and not all practices list their open positions, there’s no harm in sending your CV to a human resources contact at a hospital or practice. The worst they can say is no, and at

the very best, you might get a meeting with someone,” she says. She also suggests reaching out to sales representatives you work with in the OR to let them know you are job hunting and to check online resources, such as [podiatrycareers.org](http://podiatrycareers.org).

Once you land a full-time position, Dr. Butto says to expect growing pains, but not to let them get in the way of your professional growth. “Don’t skip around from year to year,” she closes. “Put in the time and dedication to truly make the position your own.”

## Michelle Detweiler, DPM, FACFAS

Foot and Ankle Surgeon in a Private Group Practice

Michelle Detweiler, DPM, FACFAS, began her career working alongside a foot and ankle surgeon she had once worked with as a student. While she did not plan to become a solo practitioner, once her colleague retired, she decided to buy his practice. This experience not only provided a crash course in business ownership, it prepared her for her current role with Florida Foot & Ankle Associates (FFAA), which she joined in 2007 in hopes of streamlining the business aspect of practice to focus on patient care.

“Running my own office meant I also needed to learn how to negotiate with insurance companies, purchase the right equipment

and manage expenses,” she explains. “Fortunately, I had mentors to advise me, and much of what I learned during that time comes in handy in my position with FFAA.”

Many of the same challenges Dr. Detweiler faced as a solo practitioner still arise in her work at a large practice, but she feels that her past experience puts her at an advantage.

“In a practice with 30 different physicians like FFAA, some may say it’s easier to hire new doctors who have never been solo because they aren’t set in their ways and can adapt more easily to the office culture,” she says. “However, I feel that my experience as

a solo practitioner helps me find solutions to any issues concerning day-to-day business operations. I’m more understanding when these things come up because I’ve dealt with them before.”

Dr. Detweiler believes a flexible attitude is just one component of a successful career. To truly build strong working relationships with other doctors and referring providers, she says foot and ankle surgeons should never stop learning. “Your ability is just as important as your attitude. Be open to enhancing your own knowledge, be available to your colleagues and patients, and above all, be easy to work with.”





Marnell Moore,  
DPM, FACFAS

## **Marnell Moore, DPM, FACFAS**

**Foot and Ankle Surgeon in a Private Group Practice**

For Marnell Moore, DPM, FACFAS, the decision to enter into private practice immediately following residency was an easy one to make. “I had applied to several different practices and saw that many of the people working in those offices seemed unhappy,” she says.

However, starting two practices of her own from scratch did not come without its challenges. After she and her husband developed a business plan, they applied for a loan at three different banks, yet only two wanted to help them. “The loan application process was difficult,” Dr. Moore explains. “But we pushed through and eventually secured a loan to open two offices.”

Dr. Moore grew her practices one patient at a time by personally introducing herself to other doctors in the area and by advertising in newspapers, the Yellow Pages and on the internet. While she soon began receiving referrals, as well as many new patients through word of mouth, she made sure to work at other offices to help build her financial reserves.

“Business at both of my offices picked up during this time, but working at other practices taught me that you need to know when to quit,” she says. “I took a step back to reevaluate my schedule and how I was balancing patients and referrals sources. I wanted to make sure I made myself available to my own patients as much as possible and to give them the attention and care they needed.”

To enjoy a long-lasting career as a foot and ankle surgeon, she recommends investing in continuing education and doing everything possible to stay fresh and up to date on the latest advancements. She also reminds foot and ankle surgeons that success does not come from what you know, but who you are. “Treat your patients like family, with kindness and respect,” she says, “and remember that a good bedside manner can go a long way in solidifying your reputation as a skilled and compassionate foot and ankle surgeon.”

**“Your ability is just as important as your attitude. Be open to enhancing your own knowledge, be available to your colleagues and patients, and above all, be easy to work with.”**

— Michelle Detweiler, DPM, FACFAS

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**“Treat your patients like family, with kindness and respect, and remember that a good bedside manner can go a long way in solidifying your reputation as a skilled and compassionate foot and ankle surgeon.”**

— Marnell Moore, DPM, FACFAS

**“Picking a well-rounded residency can prepare you for a career without the need for fellowship. But if you’re thinking about a fellowship, start your research into programs in your second year of residency.”**— Danielle Butto, DPM, FACFAS

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TAKE A NEW LOOK AT  
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# MARKETING TOOLBOX TALK

Each issue of *ACFAS Update* answers a question about how to market your practice and generate referrals from other healthcare providers. This issue's featured Q&A explains the approach to take when responding to negative online reviews about your practice.

**Q:** How do I respond to negative online reviews about my practice?

**A:** Respond on a case-by-case basis and ask the reviewer to contact you via email or telephone if you choose to engage. In this age of social media, you must carefully construct your response to avoid having the reviewer twist your words around and use them against you.

**For more practice marketing tools, visit [acfas.org/marketing](http://acfas.org/marketing).**

## In Memory

Robert R. Jacobs, DPM, AACFAS  
Mequon, WI

Brett Thomas Williams, DPM, AACFAS  
Carrollton, GA



# Barry I. Rosenblum, DPM, FACFAS Receives 2019 ACFAS Distinguished Service Award



When Barry I. Rosenblum, DPM, FACFAS agreed to serve on an ACFAS committee in 2003, he did not anticipate that his volunteer service would evolve into a long-term commitment worthy of the College's highest honor, the ACFAS Distinguished Service Award.

As this year's recipient, Dr. Rosenblum is humbled and thankful for the many friends and colleagues he has met through his volunteer service. "I have worked with the cream of the crop in our profession, and I feel so fortunate to be surrounded by so many good and talented people," he says. "I believe my interactions have made me a better doctor, as well as a better person."

He counts many highlights from his years as a volunteer, including chairing the 2008

Annual Scientific Conference Committee. This past year, he was part of a task force that put together the first-ever Residents' Day at the recent ACFAS 2019 in New Orleans and also participated in the ACFAS Research Committee. "The goal of Residents' Day was to create a standalone meeting designed to meet the needs of the future of our profession," Dr. Rosenblum explains. "In addition, the Research Committee has been charged with serving as a resource for many goals of the Board of Directors."

As a frequent clinical author, Rosenblum has also served on the Council for Journal Management and is now the chair of the Council for a two-year term.

Dr. Rosenblum says the rewards of volunteering far outweigh the time and effort required,

and he encourages those looking to get more involved with the College to "go for it."

"If you have any inclination to volunteer with ACFAS," he stresses, "contact the Board or the committee chairs and learn how you can spread your passion among the profession."

ACFAS Immediate Past President John S. Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS, appreciates Dr. Rosenblum's own passion for the College and spirit of service. "Barry has been a great friend to ACFAS for many years now, and he serves the College with a clear and selfless approach. He is just the person behind the scenes whom this Distinguished Service Award is designed to recognize, and I was so proud to be able to present it to him."

*The ACFAS Board of Directors selects the Distinguished Service Award recipient each year.*

**"I believe my interactions have made me a better doctor, as well as a better person."**

— Barry I. Rosenblum, DPM, FACFAS

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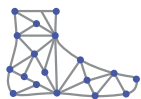
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