



2022 Residency Directors Forum
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
1 – 5:30 PM CST

Speaker Biographies

Susan Claffey

Susan K. Claffey is the Director, Office of Graduate Services at the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM). She serves as the AACPM's Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) liaison to the Post Graduate Affairs Committee which is responsible for the planning and execution of the Residency Directors Forum. She has completed a master's degree in business administration, is a certified expert in commercial contract management, and holds bachelors of science degrees in medical technology and biological sciences.

Keith Cook, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Cook earned his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine in New York City. He went on to complete a residency in podiatric surgery at University Hospital. He is certified in foot and reconstructive rear foot and ankle surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. Dr. Cook serves as the director of the Podiatric Residency program at University Hospital. Dr. Cook's clinical interests are trauma and foot and ankle reconstruction.

Randall Dei, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Dei has served on the College's Post Graduate Affairs Committee (PGA) since its inception. He has been an active ACFAS member since 1986 and has served on multiple committees. He served as the Chair and was a regional representative for the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) and is now their liaison to the PGA. Dr. Dei is the residency program Director for the Ascension Wisconsin PMSR-RR/A. He is a past president of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS). Dr. Dei represents the board to the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) as a site reviewer and/or Chair of more than 100 residency program site evaluation. He has served as a board member of the CPME's Residency Training Committee also for ABFAS. He represents ABFAS on the Collaborative Residency Evaluator Committee that is tasked with training and assessing residency evaluators. Dr. Dei has been a Chair of Podiatry Residency Resource (PRR) and is a current Board member for ABFAS.

Paul J. Dougherty, MD

Dr. Dougherty is Chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation Department at the University of Florida Health – Jacksonville. He is also residency program director for their orthopaedic surgery residency.

Steven A. Godwin M.D., FACEP

Steven "Andy" Godwin, MD, FACEP, is a University of Florida College of Medicine - Jacksonville professor and chair of emergency medicine, and assistant dean for simulation education. He was named the 2017 Distinguished Educator in Simulation by the Simulation Academy of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine.

Tatyana Hamilton, DPM, AACFAS

As a child, Dr. Hamilton was a ballerina and suffered multiple ankle injuries. Understanding how curing foot problems can positively impact a person's life led her to podiatry. Dr. Hamilton attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. She then attended Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine before completing her surgical residency at TriHealth - Bethesda North Hospital. Currently, Dr. Hamilton practices at the TriHealth Orthopedic and Sports Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Hamilton has served on the state board for the Southern Ohio Academy of Podiatry as vice president since 2019.

Mark Hardy, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Hardy serves as the Head of the Division of Foot & Ankle Surgery and Biomechanics and Assistant Dean for Clinical Education and Research at the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine (KSUCPM). He also serves as the residency director of the Mercy Health Foot and Ankle Residency Program here in the Cleveland area. He previously has served as the Scientific Chairman for the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS), and has been a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery. He is currently the Director of the Northern Ohio Foot and Ankle Foundation (NOFA) and Chairman of the Global Foot and Ankle Community (GFAC).

Paul J. Kim, DPM, MS, FACFAS

Dr. Kim is the Medical Director of the Wound Program at University of Texas Southwestern Clements University Hospital, Dallas, Texas. He has the rank of Professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery and Orthopedic Surgery. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. Dr. Kim has received both intramural and extramural research grants and has over 125 publications with a focused interest in the Diabetic limb.

Rachel King, JD

Ms. King is the Director, Educational Equity/Title IX Coordinator at Cleveland Clinic. In this role, she addresses reports of discrimination and harassment in the Clinic's educational programs, as well as provides guidance related to disability accommodations. She recently published an article on establishing a Title IX program in an academic medical center. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, Ms. King practiced higher education law in private practice and as the Chief Compliance Officer for Cleveland State University.

Katherine Kreiter

Ms. Kreiter is the Executive Director for the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery, based in San Francisco.

Danae Lowell, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Lowell serves as the VA Site Director for Mercy Health Regional Medical Center PMSR/RRA program. She is Board Certified in both Podiatric Medicine and Podiatric Surgery. Her non-VA endeavors include being the Chair of COTH, RRC and 320 Ad Hoc Committee Member as well as an on-site evaluator for CPME. National Field Advisory Committee member. She is also the president of PRR. Dr. Lowell actively lectures, publishes and mentors students interested in pursuing podiatry as a profession.

Candice Mateja, DO

Dr. Mateja is an Associate Program Director for the University of South Florida's Internal Medicine Program and has been Chair of their Clinical Competency Committee for the past 10 years. She has plenty of experience in remediating struggling learners. She also serves as the Associate Program Director of the USF's Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Mirmiran graduated from California College of Podiatric Medicine and completed a three-year surgical residency in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is board certified in Foot and Reconstructive Rearfoot & Ankle surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. Dr. Mirmiran is a Fellow of American College of Foot and Ankle surgeons and an active member of American Podiatric Medical Association. She served on the Board of Directors for New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association from 2001-2009 and ABFAS Board of Directors from 2013-2016. She currently practices in Sacramento, CA.

Moraith North

Ms. North is the Executive Director of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM).

Jason A. Piraino, DPM, MS, FACFAS

Dr. Piraino is Chief, Division of Foot and Ankle Surgery at the University of Florida College of Medicine. He is also the director of residency training for the University of Florida Health – Jacksonville, where he is also an Associate Professor. Dr. Piraino also acts as an adjunct Associate Professor at Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine.

Jeffrey M. Robbins, DPM

Dr. Robbins is a graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in Cleveland Ohio and a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr Robbins has been the Director of the Veterans Health Administration Headquarters Podiatry Services since 1997. His responsibilities as Director include writing national policy, program development and oversight of podiatry services and podiatry residency programs. Dr Robbins is also the Director of the Prevention of Amputation in Veterans Everywhere (PAVE) oversight committee for VHA.

Lee C. Rogers, DPM, FFPM RCPS

Dr. Rogers is Chief of Podiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and President of the American Board of Podiatric Medicine.

Ramez Sakkab, DPM

Dr. Sakkab is a second year resident at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, California. He graduated with honors from the California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland, California. He serves as resident representative to the College's Post Graduate Affairs Committee. He is excited to be a part of the Residency Directors Forum and is looking forward to a long career giving patients the best care possible.

Laura Sansosti, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Sansosti is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine in the departments of surgery and biomechanics and is Faculty at the Temple University Hospital Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency Program in Philadelphia, PA. After graduating from TUSPM

in 2013 she completed her residency training at Temple in 2017. She is a current Fellow Member of ACFAS, Faculty Advisor to the ACFAS Student Club at TUSPM, and is currently serving as the Chair of the ACFAS Membership Committee.

Bill Stiers, MD

Dr. Stiers is a Simulation Specialist at Samuel Merritt University. He designs, writes, programs, executes and debriefs critical care scenarios for affiliated hospitals and universities. He also constructs and delivers continuing education courses for medical professionals.

Ross Taubman, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Taubman is the President and Chief Medical Officer of the Podiatry Insurance Company of America (PICA), the nation's leading malpractice insurance company for podiatrists. Prior to joining PICA in 2011, Dr. Taubman was in private practice for 26 years in Maryland. He is a former President of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association and served as President of the American Podiatric Medical Association in 2008-2009. Dr. Taubman is Certified (retired) in foot and ankle surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (formerly ABPS) and is a Fellow - Emeritus of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS).

Mike Vaardahl, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Vaardahl is the Podiatry Residency Resource Representative with the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) and serves as Residency Director for the North Colorado Medical Center. He received his doctorate in podiatric medicine from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. He is board-certified in foot surgery and rear foot/ankle surgery by ABFAS and is a Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. In addition to treating many foot and ankle pathologies, Dr. Vaardahl also specializes in diabetic foot care and wound care. He is currently active in reviewing podiatric residency programs.

Allison Ventura, PhD

Dr. Ventura is an assistant professor and the director of the child and adolescent psychology and counseling services for the department of psychiatry at the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville. Dr. Ventura graduated from Fordham University with her doctorate in counseling psychology and received her master's degree and additional specialist's degrees from the University of Florida. Dr. Ventura currently serves as the board representative and treasurer for the Northeast chapter of the Florida Psychological Association.

David E. Waters, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Waters joined Henry Ford Medical Group in the Foot and Ankle Division of the Orthopedic Department. There he was responsible for teaching and training the senior residents at Ascension St. John and Henry Ford Macomb hospitals. He recently started his own practice in Hastings, NE and is the fellowship director of the Nebraska Foot and Ankle Reconstructive Fellowship.