

FIRST STEPS TO GROWING THE SPECIALTY



It is hard to believe that ACFAS 2024 is only three months away, and with it my term ends and the next chapter begins. It is an honor to serve our profession and all of you within it, and to reflect on why we chose to make this our life's work.

No matter our specialization or style of practice, at one time we were all medical students earning the privilege of being called 'Doctor.' Many of us never thought of surgery as our calling until we took that first class, and the daunting decision to pursue one of the most demanding occupations in the medical community if not the world itself is a heavy choice for a weary student. But we made the choice to try, and every day we make a difference in our patients' lives for it.

At podiatric medical schools across the nation, ACFAS Student Clubs serve as the ambassadors to the specialty for medical students who have taken an interest or declared their intention of becoming a foot and ankle surgeon. ACFAS provides these clubs with training and networking resources to prepare their members for their next steps while bringing them into the fold of our community.

An ACFAS student membership is a compounding value that gives access to on-demand education, regional programming, and academic publication access that is critical for those considering if this the specialty they commit to. For those who have made the choice, ACFAS resources supplement their training and residency

with the latest perspectives and news across the industry to hit the ground running after graduation.

As a foot and ankle surgeon, you will hopefully come across prospective future physicians exploring their path in medicine. Share your expertise and the passion for serving your patients as a testament to why we have chosen this path and support them on their first step along this journey. And know that the ACFAS Board of Directors has approved the College as a sponsor of AACPM's 'Feet on the Street' initiative to drive enrollment in the podiatric medical schools. Watch for more on this initiative soon. I sincerely thank you for your service to those students and look forward to seeing you all at ACFAS 2024 in Tampa in February!

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric A. Barp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Eric A. Barp, DPM, FACFAS
ACFAS President