# THE OHFAMA

# JOURNAL



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# A WORD FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Kelly Whaley, DPM

# We Are All Only Human



Kelly Whaley, DPM

This has been one of the fastest and most rewarding years of my life serving my profession while living my best life filled with family, friends, and patients. Add in a few extra trips to Columbus and academy meetings and BAM!, the year is over. A worthy balance of work and life but no more or less than anyone else or any of you. We all feel the pressures to prioritize the events

of life and we push ourselves and test our limits daily as if we have some sort of superpower, but, we are all only human.

I have learned in the last couple of years to stop and smell the flowers, hug your loved ones, and be gentle, less critical of others who may need a boost at some point or another. As I wrap up my service as OHFAMA President and the past three years on the Board, I can honestly say I'm leaving the office with the full confidence that we, as Ohio podiatrists, are in good hands. We are all only human, but as a team we're a true Ohio powerhouse. Nationally we are well respected and a force to reckon with thanks to the great Trustees and a hard-working staff and lobbyists at OHFAMA. I can confidently say I fully understand and appreciate the importance of leadership, teamwork, and the power of OPPAC (please donate!).

I was nervous as heck taking on this position not too sure what would be in store for me. Those who know me well would say I'm better at planning a party than balancing a budget, but I have the same genuine interests and priorities as every one of you. We are all leaders professionally and personally, all it takes is an interest in your own life, your profession, and your family. Podiatry is our livelihood, and we continually protect and advocate as loyal ambassadors. It's what we do. Sounds silly and simple but that's it, and if you add in the time to listen, participate and problem solve then everything else is icing on the cake. Leadership and the desire to succeed is what motivates people to improve and advance. We are all only human so give yourself some credit and do what you can when the time comes to lead.

Some of my highlights and experiences while on the board have varied and include challenging legislation, proud advocacy, pearls of human resources, and the benefits of Foundation work. I enjoyed visiting Academies and members who present the same concerns and struggles about practice and how to make an honest living. I especially enjoyed attending the hybrid Annual Scientific Seminar, it was our first in-person meeting and it sure was great to hear live lectures and visit exhibit hall booths and pharm reps once again. The best part of leadership is the people involved and developing

friendships that will last a lifetime while working hard to promote the profession and ensure a successful future. That's where the term is never really over, we are all only human and we are constant leaders in a profession that we chose and love.



OHFAMA President Kelly Whaley, DPM, gives her farewell address to OHFAMA members at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting

I am continually impressed at how efficient and smooth our headquarters runs. I realize you are all only human but huge thanks to our staff and all members of the BOT for your support, suggestions, and recommendations throughout the last year. You're a cool blend of veteran knowledge, brilliant minds, fantastic ideas, and creative, modern teamwork on how to improve and grow as an association to keep Ohio on the cutting edge of our profession. I'm humbled for your consideration and appreciate the invaluable knowledge and lifelong relationships I have formed.

Headquarters would not be complete without our staff. Mike Mathy and Luci Ridolfo are a dynamic duo who accomplish more in a day than most people I know. Hard to believe they are only human but more like superheroes when it comes to keeping Ohio at the top. We are lucky to have hired Mike who has jumped in with great gusto to lead and advise our Board to greatness. He became comfortable with our profession and association in just a few short months and it's great to hear him refer to OHFAMA as 'us' and 'we' and 'our'. He's professional, knowledgeable, hardworking, flexible and team-oriented. He keeps us updated on advocacy and legislation while balancing family and an active personal life. Thank you!

Luci already knows how much I appreciate her. You're our voice of podiatry in Ohio and I love hearing your radio commercials. Your patience, strength, and knowledge is amazing. Your memory and multitasking organization skills are magical and the projects you touch turn to gold. Pretty sure that you are more than just human, and I greatly appreciate all you do for OHFAMA and OFAMF.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as OHFAMA President. Makes me proud to be a podiatrist and a leader in our field.

Dr. Kelly Whaley

# **News and Notes from OHFAMA Headquarters**

As this quickly comes to a close, it's a good time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the upcoming year



Mike Mathy, CAE

2021 was certainly unusual. The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic impacted the association in a variety of ways, most notably delaying the return of in-person events until spring. Like 2020, OHFAMA and the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Foundation was able to weather the unpredictability and make on-the-fly adjustments to bring members together

to conduct business, network, and have a good time.

The Ohio APMA delegation gathered in Columbus in March for the virtual APMA House of Delegates. While the Delegates would have certainly preferred to travel to Washington, it was great to gather in Columbus for a weekend of camaraderie and to participate in the business meeting.

Similarly, the Annual Scientific Seminar in June was held as a hybrid event to offer members the choice to attend in person or via a virtual meeting platform. Once again, OFAMF Executive Director Luci Ridolfo made magic happen by partnering with CME Online to offer virtual participants an opportunity to participate in the Seminar via a robust virtual meeting platform. I know I can safely speak for Luci when I say we are all looking forward to a return to our traditional in-person Annual Scientific Seminar next year, which will be held May 12-14 in Columbus.

As summer transitioned to fall, Dr. Whaley and I continued our visits to local Academy meetings. After being cooped up in the office for the bulk of 2020, it was refreshing to visit with so many OHFAMA members throughout the state. I cherished the opportunity to attend an Indians game, participate in a golf outing, and simply enjoy dinners and conversation at Academy meetings.

Most recently, it was great to hold the inaugural Annual Business Meeting in Columbus. While there was certainly some hesitancy from some members to transition from the House of Delegates, the more streamlined Annual Business Meeting format was well-received by attendees. I encourage you to make plans to attend the 2022 meeting next November in Columbus.

On the advocacy front, we secured Governor DeWine's signature on bills that that enable podiatrists to administer the flu and COVID-19 vaccines. We also were successful in making permanent the telemedicine rules that provided flexibility for members to care for patients during the pandemic and ensured new Medicaid rules included ankle privileges in our scope of practice and authorized payment for vaccinations.

While we had our fair share of success, we suffered a setback in November when by the State Medical Board of Ohio retracted a 2019 policy letter that affirmed it is within the scope of practice for Ohio podiatrists to perform a supramalleolar osteotomy of the tibia or fibula to correct a deformity and harvest bone marrow aspirate from the proximal tibia.

As detailed in this issue of *The OHFAMA Journal* the question of whether podiatric physicians can perform the two procedures at issue will now be determined by the credentialing committee/legal department at each hospital or surgery center across the state. This move will undoubtedly fuel the orthopedic community to continue to attack the podiatry scope of practice and we will continue to explore ways to counter these moves by modernizing the podiatry scope of practice in Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code.

Looking ahead to next year, the world has changed dramatically since OHFAMA held its last strategic planning session in 2018. We look forward to gathering input from a variety of stakeholders to help chart a path to enhance your association's efforts to preserve, protect, and promote podiatry in Ohio.

We are also looking forward to revamping the OHFAMA website and *The OHFAMA Journal* to better provide vital information to you, our members.

Thank you for your continued membership in OHFAMA. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy start to 2022.



New OHFAMA President Sarah Abshier, DPM, addresses members at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting

# **Another Breach at a Vendor**

By Michael L, Brody, DPM; CEO, TLD Systems

The most recent breach was reported by QRS Healthcare Solutions who has the EHR product Paradigm. What does this mean and what can you learn to protect your practice?

There are already attorneys advertising a class action lawsuit against QRS for the following reasons:

- Did QRS fail to adopt security safeguards that would have prevented a data breach?
- Did QRS notify customers as soon as it learned of the data breach?
- Did QRS provide a complete list of all individuals affected by the data breach?
- Did QRS provide security in line with industry standards?

According to reports, this breach was due to security issues at a patient portal.

When a breach happens, the HIPAA Breach Notification Rule requires that the MEDICAL PROVIDER notify patients about the breach. QRS is the vendor and vendors are not required to notify patients as per the rule, but a good Business Associate Agreement can require the notification to be provided by the vendor.

The cost of notification in case of a breach can be huge. Now is a good time to look at the Business Associate Agreements you have in place and make sure that if one of your vendors experiences a breach, the costs associated with the breach are the responsibility of the vendor. In this case QRS sent notification letters to all affected individuals on behalf of its clients. QRS is also offering complimentary access to identity theft protection services. Once again this goes beyond the regulations but is something that can be written into the Business Associate Agreement.

The incidents of breaches at both Health Information Vendors and Health Care facilities are increasing exponentially. Even with the steps that QRS has taken the health care providers who utilize QRS for EHR services are likely to experience significant financial costs. It is important to remember that when a breach occurs, the HIPAA regulations place all the responsibility upon the health care provider. That places you and your practice directly in the cross hairs even though the breach did not occur at your location. It is still your data and your responsibility.

What can you do to protect yourself from events such as this which are completely beyond your control?

- 1. Look at all vendors that you do business with and make sure you have a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with any vendor that you share patient data with. Even if they say they are not required to give you a BAA, tell them you require one in order to do business with them. The BAA protects you and places responsibility upon the vendor so many times vendors will do everything possible to avoid signing these agreements. At TLD Systems we have seen some companies go as far as to send letters to health care providers from their attorneys explaining why they do not need to give out the BAA. The vendor is trying to protect itself and make sure all the financial and administrative burden of a breach they may create is on you. Do not let this happen.
- Review your BAA's with your health care attorney and make sure that the BAA places as much responsibility for a breach upon the vendor shielding you from many of the costs related to breach remediation, including patient notification, providing credit monitoring services and other costs
- Get Cybersecurity Insurance. The costs associated with a breach can be huge and without Cybersecurity Insurance a breach could financially ruin your practice.
- 4. Make sure your HIPAA Security Risk Analysis and risk mitigation plan are up to date. If they are not please contact TLD Systems now to take care of this vital step in protecting your practice. www.tldsystems.com

The number of HIPAA Breaches continues to increase and your risk of having YOUR data involved in a breach becomes greater every day. Don't wait until it is too late to protect your practice.

For more information, please reach out to me my email address is  $\underline{mbrody@tldsystems.com}$ 





# **Celebrating PICA's 40th Anniversary**

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# **ADVOCACY UPDATES**

# State Medical Board of Ohio Retracts Pro-Podiatry Policy Guidance

The State Medical Board of Ohio voted at its November meeting to retract portions of a 2019 policy letter that determined it is within the scope of practice for an Ohio podiatrist to perform a supramalleolar osteotomy of the tibia or fibula to correct a deformity and harvest bone marrow aspirate from the proximal tibia.

The curious decision comes five months after the Board voted to commence the rule-making process on the two procedures at the instruction of Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) chairman Rep. Jamie Callender, who criticized the Board at a May JCARR hearing for issuing a policy letter instead of going through the administrative rule-making process.

Despite years of tradition of issuing policy letters in response to scope of practice questions from licensees, the Board voted to commence the rule-making process in May to avoid a directive from JCARR to create and approve an administrative rule.

Throughout the summer, the Board solicited input from licensees on the podiatric scope of practice. OHFAMA, APMA, and over 30 OHFAMA members submitted letters encouraging the Board to put forward its pro-podiatry policy as a rule. These letters were countered by orthopedic associations, which argued the Board exceeded its statutory authority when it issued its 2019 guidance.

Rather than go through the rule-making process as expected, the Board opted to retract a portion of the letter, adopt a stance of neutrality on this issue, and direct licensees to consult with their institutions on questions relating to these procedures. A memo from the Board, issued November 23, reads:

In June 2019, the State Medical Board of Ohio considered a request from a podiatrist as to whether specific procedures were within the scope of practice of a podiatrist. Subsequently, we sought comments and after review of the comments, the board issued the following statement at the November 2021 meeting, withdrawing its June 2019 letter:

The board has considered the comments received as we started the rule-making process with respect to whether supramalleolar osteotomy of the tibia and fibula and the harvest of bone marrow aspirate from the proximal tibia are within the scope of practice of podiatry. Based upon this gathered information, the board determined that it has acted prematurely in this matter and that additional legislative guidance is necessary. Therefore, the board is withdrawing its statement on these two procedures. It is our understanding that podiatrists were credentialed to perform these procedures prior to the issuance of the board's statement in 2019. It is recommended that providers work with their hospital systems and legal counsel going forward.

## **Rationale for the Board's Decision**

The Board's decision to retract portions of a 2019 pro-podiatry policy letter was an overt effort by the Board to remove itself from a longstanding scope of practice debate between podiatrists and the orthopedic community.

This is problematic and disappointing because the Board not only has the legal authority to define the scope of practice of its licensees, but it is uniquely qualified to do so because it is composed of a variety of medical professionals, consumer representatives, and attorneys.

The Board's decision is even more perplexing considering it voted on three separate occasions over the past 2.5 years to affirm that it is permissible for an Ohio podiatrist to perform a supramalleolar osteotomy and harvest bone marrow aspirate from the proximal tibia.

Notwithstanding the three overwhelming votes – which included hours of debate at Board meetings and multiple public comment periods – the Board concluded this month that it acted prematurely in issuing its policy guidance.

The rationale provided by the Board is that the definition of foot and ankle in Ohio Administrative Code is not clear and further legislative guidance is required. This argument is puzzling when you consider the Board:

- Thoroughly examined the procedures in question and concluded on three separate occasions within the scope of practice for podiatrists
- Acknowledged that podiatrists throughout Ohio have been credentialed to perform the procedures in question prior to the Board's policy statement issued in 2019
- 3. Stated on several occasions it has received zero complaints relating to podiatrists who performed these procedures

So, why did the Board reverse course and retract its policy?

In short, Board staff was convinced by allies of the orthopedic community, most notably the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) chairman Rep. Jamie Callender, that advancing a rule that mirrored its pro-podiatry policy would result in an unfavorable outcome for the Board.

Rather than devote the time and energy to back the Board's policy, the Board voted to adopt Board staff's recommendation to retract a portion of the policy letter, adopt a stance of neutrality on the two procedures in question, and direct licensees to consult with their institutions on questions relating to these procedures.

# **ADVOCACY UPDATES**

# Impact of the Board's Decision

While OHFAMA and our members lost a key trump card in the ongoing battle with the orthopedic community over the podiatric scope of practice, the Board's decision does not prohibit podiatrists who have the proper credentials/privileges from performing supramalleolar osteotomies or harvesting bone marrow aspirate from the proximal tibia.

Moreover, the Board's decision removes JCARR's jurisdiction over this issue since the Board has no official policy on the procedures in question. This is critical, as JCARR is led by an ally of the orthopedic community and the committee has the power to invalidate all or part of a rule if committee members feel a rule exceeds the agency's statutory authority, conflicts with an existing rule, or is contrary to legislative intent.

That said, the Ohio Orthopedic Association and its members are sure to use the Board's vote to pressure hospital systems to terminate existing podiatry privileges relating to these procedures and/or prevent podiatrists from securing privileges to perform these procedures. It is important for all members who are facing such challenges to contact OHFAMA headquarters as soon as possible.

The Board also took no action on two other procedures -- surgically removing ingrown nails from the hands and excising warts from the hands -- deemed within the scope of practice for Ohio podiatrists in the 2019 policy letter.

# **Next Steps**

The ongoing debate on the policy paper demonstrates a need to modernize the podiatry scope of practice in Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code to better reflect current practices in podiatric medicine and surgery.

Section 4731.51 of the Ohio Revised Code states "the practice of podiatric medicine and surgery consists of the medical, mechanical, and surgical treatment of ailments of the foot, the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the foot; and superficial lesions of the hand other than those associated with trauma."

Foot is further defined in Chapter 4731 of Ohio Administrative Code as "the terminal appendage of the lower extremity and includes the ankle joint which consists of the tibial plafond, its posterolateral border (posterior malleolus), the medial malleolus, distal fibula (lateral malleolus) and the talus."

The OHFAMA Board of Trustees and staff are currently working with APMA and our lobbying team to determine the best means to accomplish our goal of modernizing Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code. As we work to implement our strategy, we will be calling on all members to reach out to their legislators to educate them about podiatry and the need to empower podiatrists to work at the top of their license to increase patient access to care in Ohio.

This will require significant effort, but with your help, we can continue to advance podiatric medicine and surgery in Ohio.

# **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

# **OHFAMA Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members**

Dr. Stephen Smik and Dr. Kristin Shaw joined the OHFAMA Board of Trustees in November.



Dr. Smik

Dr. Smik was elected by the Northeast Academy to serve a three-year term on the OHFAMA Board of Trustees. Dr. Smik is a lifelong Ohioan, attended Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, and completed his surgical residency at the Foot Clinic of Youngstown.

Dr. Smik started in private practice alongside his father in Lakewood in 1988, is Board

Certified by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery, and is a staff physician at Lakewood Hospital, Fairview General Hospital, and St. John Medical Center.



Dr. Shaw

Dr. Shaw was elected by her peers to serve as the Young Physician Trustee on the OHFAMA Board of Trustees. She graduated podiatric medical school from Midwestern University in 2020 and is a 2nd year resident at Mercy St. Vincent in Toledo. Dr. Shaw previously served as an American Podiatric Medical Students Association delegate throughout podiatric medical school, where she was secretary of APMSA's Legislative Committee.

Dr. Shaw will represent the interests of the Ohio Podiatric Young Physicians Section, which is composed of OHFAMA Members who graduated from podiatry school within the past 10 years. She replaces Dr. Anastasia Koss, who was elected to serve as Central Academy trustee in November.

# OHFAMA Members Elect 2021-22 Leadership Team

OHFAMA members elected a new leadership team at the Annual Business Meeting on November 6 in Columbus. Dr. Kelly Whaley, who completed her term as OHFAMA president in November, will serve on the OHFAMA Executive Committee as immediate past president with the following leaders:



# Sarah Abshier, DPM, CWS, President

Dr. Abshier will serve as President in 2021-22 and will lead efforts to generate support for the Ohio Podiatric Political Action Committee. Dr. Abshier is a graduate of the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine and

has been a member of the Columbus Podiatry & Surgery team since 2010. She has served on the OHFAMA Board of Trustees since 2015, serves on the APMA coding committee, and previously served in several leadership roles with the Central Academy.



# Adam Thomas, DPM, FACFAS, 1st Vice President

Dr. Thomas will serve as 1st Vice President in 2021-22 and will lead efforts to generate support for the Ohio Podiatric Political Action Committee. Dr. Thomas is a graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine and has

operated his own practice with his wife, Dr. Jennifer Trinidad, in Hilliard since 2016. He served the Central Academy as Secretary (2010-12), Vice President (2012-2014) and President (2014-2016) before joining the OHFAMA Board of Trustees in 2016 and Budget and Finance Committee in 2021.



# Thom Arnold, Jr., DPM, FACFAS, 2nd Vice President

Dr. Arnold, a lifelong Ohio resident, was elected to serve as 2nd Vice President.
Dr. Arnold is a graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, is a partner in Stark County Foot and Ankle Clinic, LLC, and

is Section Head of Podiatry at Canton Mercy Medical Center. Dr. Arnold served his profession as a Past Secretary and Past President of the Mideast Academy and served numerous times as Reference Committee Chairman for the OHFAMA House of Delegates.



# Tom McCabe, DPM, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. McCabe was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer and chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Dr. McCabe is a past president of OHFAMA, has served on the OHFAMA Board of Trustees since 2015, and

is a past president of the Northwest Academy. He is a graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine and owns Trilby Foot Center in Toledo



# The 2021-22 OHFAMA Board of Trustees & APMA Delegates

The 2021-22 OHFAMA Board of Trustees gathers for a photo following the 2021 Annual Business Meeting.

Front, from left: Richard Kunig, DPM; Anastasia Koss, DPM; Kelly Whaley, DPM; Sarah Abshier, DPM; Adam Thomas, DPM; Thom Arnold, DPM; John Clarke, DPM.

Back, from left: Amy Masowick, DPM; Student Doctor Sydney Rudy; Marc Greenberg, DPM; Martin Lesnak, DPM; Karen Kellogg, DPM; Michael Bodman, DPM.

Not pictured: Bruce Blank, DPM; Ramy Fahim, DPM; Tom McCabe, DPM; Kristin Shaw, DPM; Stephen Smik, DPM.

# **Member News and Notes**



Mideast Academy members
Richard Hofacker, DPM,
Margaret McLean, DPM,
Jessica Mullins, DPM,
and Dr. Karen Kellogg,
DPM, volunteered for the
medical station at the Akron
Marathon in September.

Mark Gould, DPM, stepped down as Northeast

Academy Trustee after 22 years of service. Dr. Gould, who served as OHFAMA president in 2008, was awarded the OHFAMA Service Award in 2016 for his longstanding service to the association. Dr. Gould will continue to serve OHFAMA as an APMA Delegate.

**Rich Kunig, DPM**, completed his service on the OHFAMA Board of Trustees at the November Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Kunig served as president in 2019-2020 and successfully navigated the association through the COVID-19 pandemic and hiring of a new executive director. Dr. Kunig will continue to serve OHFAMA as an alternate APMA Delegate.

**Anastasia Koss, DPM**, was elected to the Village Council in Minerva Park, a Columbus suburb, on November 6. Dr. Koss serves as a Central Academy Trustee on the OHFAMA Board of Trustees.

**James LaPolla, DPM**, was re-elected to a third term as Howland Township trustee on November 6. Dr. LaPolla also serves as chairman of the Trumbull County Council of Governments, an organization formed to enable the sharing of resources from local governments.

**Joy Rowland, DPM**, was elected president of Northwest Academy, replacing Joe Favazzo, DPM, who completed his term. OHFAMA Immediate Past President **Kelly Whaley, DPM**, will serve as Academy vice president.



**Dr. Seth Holland** (left) and **Dr. Scott Littrell** of ABC Podiatry volunteered their time to help runners at the Columbus Marathon in October

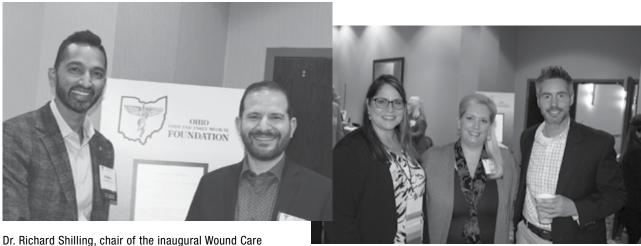
The North Central Academy elected a new leadership team this fall: **President:** 

Brian Zimmerman, DPM; Vice President: Jessica Brent, DPM; Secretary/Treasurer: Jeremiah Dillon, DPM. The new leadership team replaces longtime Academy leaders Chris Bohach, DPM, Tina Demou, DPM, Kevin McGarvey, DPM, and David Hintz, DPM.

**Martin Lesnak, DPM**, was re-elected as North Central Academy Trustee this fall. Dr. Lesnak, who also serves as the Private Insurance Advisory Council representative, has represented North Central Academy on the OHFAMA Board of Trustees since 2018.

The Northwest Academy elected **Ashley Fernando, DPM** as president this fall. Dr. Fernando replaces **Annu Goel, DPM**, who completed her term.

Please email OHFAMA Executive Director Mike Mathy at <u>mmathy@ohfama.org</u> if you have news you would like to share with your fellow OHFAMA members



Dr. Richard Shilling, chair of the inaugural Wound Care Seminar, poses for a picture with faculty member Krishna Mannava, MD, a board-certified vascular surgeon.

Karen Kellogg, DPM, MBA (left) connects with Wound Care Seminar faculty member Windy Cole, DPM, and new OHFAMA 2nd Vice President Thom Arnold, DPM, prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

# Dr. Bruce Blank Announces Retirement

Longtime OHFAMA leader Bruce Blank announced his retirement in February after over thirty years of practicing Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in the Ohio Valley. Dr. Blank reflected on his career in an interview with OHFAMA Executive Director at the APMA House of Delegates in March.

# Why did you get involved in podiatry? What led you to this career path?

Well, I was interested in medicine since I was kid. My parents encouraged me early on, but I did not know what field of medicine I wanted to pursue.

At one point, I was somewhat turned off to the idea of becoming a doctor. I started to become more aware of how difficult it can be for doctors to be able to pay attention to their families and have a good married life because they are at the office and the hospital for so many hours a day.

So, I went to graduate school to study neuroanatomy. I lived in a building with a student who was a senior at OSU studying biology. He planned to matriculate at OCPM the next year. We used to work out together and he would tell me about the field of podiatry and surgery, and why he made the choice to pursue a career as a podiatrist.

I also had another friend from college, who was going into podiatry. It turns out that these two fellows ended up in the same class, one year ahead of me.

The more I started thinking about it, working in a laboratory and doing research was not for me. I really wanted to become a doctor and to treat people. So, I chose podiatry, and it was the best decision.

# How has the field of podiatry changed since you began your career?

When I was looking for a residency, there were a lot of one-year residencies, and there were a much smaller number of two-year residencies. There weren't enough residencies at the time, but I was fortunate enough to get a two-year surgical residency, which really made a big difference for me. Now, all residencies are three years, virtually all graduates get residencies, and there are more residency slots than there are graduates.



Bruce Blank, DPM, greets Rep. Bill Johnson, who represents Ohio's 6th Congressional District. When I was in school there were some states, maybe even Ohio, where you could practice directly out of school without a residency. So, some things have changed a whole lot.

The fact that, virtually all our graduates, have hospital-based training has really helped us become the best that we can be in so many aspects of what we do -- in particular, surgery. I think that is one of the biggest changes. We've proven our worth and abilities and are even more respected and recognized by other physician groups, more than ever, as being an important part of the house of medicine.

# You've been heavily involved with the association at all levels throughout your career. How has that helped you for a personal and professional level?

One of the things I've enjoyed most is knowing so many people in the profession. There are a lot of great people out there. If I would have gone into practice only, I would have had just my small group of friends and colleagues.

I've enjoyed being part of a group that was actively moving things forward, and that's always been important to me, not just to sit back, watch others and wonder why things aren't changing faster or for the better. It has been a blessing to take part in helping to move our profession forward and befriending those with the same goals.

It is great to look back at all the friendships I've made. It is special and extremely helpful to be able to know who to call for advice,

# **Professional Profile**

## **Undergraduate Education:**

Bethany College Bethany, West Virginia Bachelor of Science in Biology, 1980

### **Graduate School:**

Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio Course of Study - Anatomy, 1981-1982

#### **Medical School:**

Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine Cleveland, Ohio Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, 1983-1987

#### **Residency:**

Lakeside Hospital Kansas City, Missouri Foot and Ankle Surgery, 1987-1989

### **Board Certifications:**

Board Certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgeons in Foot and in Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle Surgery

Board Certified by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine in Foot and Ankle Orthopedics

assistance, or direction if you have an issue with something. This includes help directly from OHFAMA, APMA or individual DPMs.

# Can you give us an example of a time where the association helped you overcome a challenge?

There was a dominant local HMO company that was very standoffish. They were just amazing to deal with and treated us like third class providers. I had great hospital privileges; but the HMO would not authorize and reimburse for many of the services I offered. For example, their fee schedule said that DPMs could perform a single hammertoe surgery, but DPMs could not perform multiple hammertoe surgeries on the same patient at the same sitting, which is ridiculous.

There was so much about the fee schedule that was ridiculous. It just made absolutely no sense, and there were so many procedures which I was trained and qualified to perform, which were not on their list of DPM approved procedures. I had to fight back and forth with them. It didn't matter how much training I had; it didn't matter what my medical school education was like; it didn't matter what my surgical logs said; they weren't going to pay podiatrists to do many of the procedures for which we are trained.

I got involved with OHFAMA. We started sending letters and our Executive Director and I met with the President of the HMO. Eventually we were able to get all these privileges added to the point that anything I wanted to do, I was able to be reimbursed for through this HMO.

So, every podiatrist that has practiced in my region since then, did not have to fight that battle. And this is what has happened in podiatry across the country thanks to groups like OHFAMA and APMA, and well trained, experienced DPMs who would not take no for an answer.

There are podiatrists who came 30 or 40 years before me, in other parts of the country and other parts of Ohio, that had already accomplished many of the same things with hospitals and insurance companies. Even though it was difficult and frustrating, I appreciated being able to come along when I did and still be able to make a difference like many of our predecessors did. The efforts of the association and its members helped all trained and experienced DPMs to practice to their level of expertise.

# Looking back at your career, what have been some of your greatest accomplishments?

I've worked on behalf of the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association virtually since entering practice. I was able to be involved with many issues as a Board of Trustees Member. One task that I look back upon with pride was being a member of the OHFAMA Ankle Task Force in the early 1990s

The Foot and Ankle Orthopedists attacked our scope of practice which resulted in OHFAMA having to fight for our ability to perform ankle surgery in Ohio. The leadership of the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association (formerly OPMA) fought hard on behalf of Ohio

# **Volunteer Activities**

## **APMA**

- Delegate, House of Delegates, 2000-2021
- Credentials Committee, House of Delegates, 2004-2007
- Private Insurance Advisory Committee, 2005-2017
- State Advocacy Committee Model Law Task Force, 2009-2010
- State Advocacy Liaison, 2009-2012
- Health Systems Committee, 2009-2013
- Health Policy and Practice Committee, 2014-2018
- Private Insurance Subcommittee, 2014-2018

#### **OHFAMA**

- Ankle Task Force, 1996
- Delegate, House of Delegates, 1991-Present
- Board of Trustees, 1998-2010
- President, 2005-2006

#### **Eastern Academy**

- Past President
- Grievance & Ethics Committee, 1990-1993
- Ohio Podiatric Medical Students Association President, 1984-1986

DPMs. Those on the Executive Committee were intimately involved, along with our Executive Director, in developing our case leading up to proponent and opponent testimony before the State Medical Board of Ohio. The small part I played on that task force was something I look back on fondly, because the end result clarified that the ankle was within the scope of practice for podiatrists in Ohio.

There was also Vision 2015, which aimed to ensure national recognition of podiatrists to achieve parity with allopathic and osteopathic physicians across the country. This plan came out of the OPMA House of Delegates. It was brought to the APMA House of Delegates as a resolution and passed in 2005. It started the push toward equivalency between different types of physicians—podiatric, allopathic, and osteopathic.

The work continues, but progress is being made toward the goal recognizing that podiatric medical education is comparable to that of allopathic and osteopathic physicians.



Dr. Blank earned the OHFAMA Service Award in 2018 for his longstanding service to the association.

On a personal level, when I first opened the practice, there were a lot of negative preconceptions about podiatrists at my local hospitals and no podiatrists had surgical privileges. In Ohio, we already had a law that said that hospitals had to offer surgical privileges to properly credentialed podiatrists, but in West Virginia, where I also practiced, they didn't have guite as strong of law.

There were two hospitals in Wheeling that I really had to fight for privileges. One of the hospital administrators and orthopedic departments was particularly nasty and unmoving. They told me, "Well, just because the other hospitals are giving you surgical privileges doesn't mean we have to do it." But I did eventually get privileges there.

Several years later, they hired two podiatrists and, more recently, they hired a third podiatrist. One of the podiatrists appears to have all the privileges that I had at my Ohio hospitals and all the privileges in West Virginia that I requested at the time. (Since the time of the original interview for this article, the hospital has hired a podiatric reconstructive foot and ankle surgeon with plans to start a Podiatric Surgical Residency Program)

I've been able to develop friendships with multiple State Senators, State Representatives, and United States Congressmen while speaking on behalf of our profession, as well as engaging in discussions on other social/political issues. I have kept up these relationships and still can speak to these people about issues important to DPMs. I see this as an important accomplishment as a citizen that and I may not have been able to develop if I wasn't active as a DPM promoting our profession.

In 2017, I volunteered as medical staff at the BSA National Jamboree. I returned to the same position for the 2019 World Scout Jamboree (WSJ). For the WSJ, I was able to develop and bring to fruition a Podiatric Medical and Surgical Exhibit to help promote our profession as a career choice for Scouts. We had approximately 700 Scouts and leaders participate in the workshops at our exhibit. Attendees included physicians and nurses, and the exhibit was well attended. Participants were impressed with the scope and training of today's podiatrist.

I am also very proud to continue to serve as one of our Delegates from Ohio to the Annual APMA House of Delegates.

# What advice do you have for those who are just beginning their journey in podiatry?

The more training you can get the better. There may be some surgical procedures that you just do not want to do in your practice, but education and hands-on experience is never going to hurt you.

If you can get a fellowship, and if your family situation allows you to train for an additional year, I'd recommend going ahead. You'll be able to do many more things competently and with more in-depth expertise.

One of the great things about what we do is having a lot of ways to attack different problems. If you're trained in multiple ways of attacking various pathologies, you just have more variety in what you can do, so that the treatment can be individualized for the benefit of the patient.

# **Honors and Awards**

#### **OHFAMA**

- OHFAMA Service Award, 2018
- Champion of Podiatry Award, 2009
- Thomas J. Meyer Award for Dedicated Service and Outstanding Leadership, 2005-2006

## **Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine**

- Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, 2005
- Hall of Fame, 2014

#### **Ohio Podiatric Medical Students Association**

■ Distinguished Service Award, 1985

Another one of the smartest things a young podiatrist can do is start some sort of retirement program. Begin as soon as you enter practice. There should be a percentage of each paycheck that is devoted to growth and retirement. If you develop this habit, it's not really going to affect your current lifestyle. However, starting now, and not waiting until you're 50, is something that can't be overemphasized.

# What are the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the field?

A significant challenge which the APMA continues to pursue is recognized equivalency of the DPM degree to that of MD and DO by changing the classification of DPMs in Medicare to R (1) instead of the R (3) classification. This change would define DPMs as physicians under Medicaid. It would remove us from State budgetary concerns of DPMs being listed as "optional services"; and would mandate reimbursement for services provided by DPMs for our Medicaid patients. Fortunately, we have demonstrated our worth in Ohio by the relationships OHFAMA has developed at the State level and we have not been at risk of exclusion for several years.



Dr. Blank with his wife, Diane, and daughter, Paulina.

Another very significant challenge is getting the word out and encouraging applicants to our colleges. We must spread the word that "Podiatry is the best kept secret in medicine." If we quadrupled the number of applicants to our colleges, it would make a huge difference concerning for future of our profession.

Our members should contribute to the APMA's goal of trying to influence young people, before they get to college, to seek careers in podiatric medicine. Everyone should be part of the mentorship program with APMA and let high school and college students shadow them in the office and in the operating room.

One project I am working on is developing a podiatric medicine merit badge for the Boy Scouts of America. There is currently a medicine merit badge, a dental medicine merit badge, and a veterinary medicine merit badge. I think a podiatric medicine badge would be a great addition and I have been working on making that a reality. I plan to continue giving back to our profession in any way I can. I will always be proud to support and promote our profession. I will always be proud to be a podiatrist.



# 2022

## February 5

2021 Current Concepts in Foot and Ankle Surgery Symposium GoToWebinar

#### February 17

Budget/Finance, BOT Meetings OHFAMA Headquarters I Columbus

## February 24-25

GXMO Didactic Course -Initial and Recertification GoToWebinar

#### February 26

GXMO Clinical Course GoToWebinar

#### March 4-6

NCAPM No-Nonsense Seminar Virtual

# April 7

Budget/Finance, BOT Meetings OHFAMA Headquarters I Columbus

### April 13

Steward Surloff Memorial Seminar Akron General Health and Wellness Center

### April 25

Executive Committee Meeting GoToMeeting

## May 12-14

106th Ohio Annual Foot and Ankle Scientific Seminar Hilton at Easton, Columbus

# August 11

Budget/Finance, BOT Meetings OHFAMA Headquarters I Columbus

## August 25-26

GXMO Didactic Course -Initial and Recertification GoToWebinar

## August 27

GXMO Clinical Course GoToWebinar

For more calendar information please visit the Events webpage at www.ohfama.org

# In Memoriam

OHFAMA recognizes current and past members who passed away in 2021 for their contributions to the profession and the association.

# Joseph Sweeney, DPM

# December 21, 2020

Dr. Joseph Sweeney, of Rocky River, died December 21, 2020. Dr. Sweeney was married to his wife, Mildred, for 65 years. He served on the board at St. John's West Shore Hospital and as past president of the Academy of Podiatry of Northeast Ohio and mentored podiatric residents at his practice.

## Patricia Lowstuter, DPM

# **January 23, 2021**

Dr. Patricia "Pat" Lowstuter died at her home in Cincinnati on January 23, 2021. Dr. Lowstuter was a graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine and practiced for many years on Cincinnati's west side. She was also a longtime supporter of the Comboni Missionaries, with a special interest in helping to provide safe drinking water to villages in Africa.

## **Arthur Weiner, DPM**

## April 9, 2021

Dr. Arthur "Jerry" Weiner passed away on April 9, 2021, in Tamarac, FL. Dr. Weiner was born and raised in Pittsburgh, and attended Peabody High School, Penn State University, and The Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. He married the love of his life, Evie, in 1956. Together they founded Ambulatory Foot Services in 1958, which later became Step Lively Foot & Ankle Centers. Jerry, who is the father of OHFAMA members Dr. Cheryl Weiner and Dr. Richard Weiner, was Past President of the Central Academy.

## **Thomas Maloney, DPM**

## June 12, 2021

Dr. Thomas L. (Tom) Maloney died peacefully, at his home, on June 12, 2021 — seventeen days after his 100th birthday. A lifelong resident of Toledo, he practiced as a podiatrist in this community for 47 years. He attended Central Catholic High School, De Sales College, and the Ohio College of Chiropody. Dr. Maloney was a decorated veteran of WWII, serving with the Fifth Marine Division Medical Corps in the Pacific Theater. He was a survivor of the Battle of Iwo Jima where, as a Navy Corpsman, he sought to save lives and provide comfort to the wounded. After the completion of his military service, he returned to Toledo to marry the love of his life, Joyce (Corrigan) Maloney. They celebrated 58 years of marriage before her death in 2005.

## **Anthony Polito, DPM**

# June 27, 2021

Dr. Anthony Polito, DPM passed away June 27, 2021, after a courageous battle with ALS. Tony graduated from St. Ignatius High School, St. Louis University and the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine (OCPM). He entered private practice, starting his own business, in 1992. He retired in 2020 due to his illness from an occupation he cherished for 25 years.

# Michael Cragel, DPM

# October 2, 2021

Dr. Michael Cragel passed away on October 2, 2021, after a battle with COVID-19. Dr. Cragel graduated from Michigan State University in 1976. He went on to complete his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine from Temple University in 1981 settling in Toledo at Riverside Hospital to complete his residency. He was Board Certified-American Board of Foot and Ankle surgery as well as a Fellow, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. From 1984-2012, Dr. Cragel was the Clinic Director at the resident training clinic at Toledo St. Vincent Medical Center where he trained future podiatrists who have gone on to practice across the country.

#### **Edward Bak. DPM**

#### October 14, 2021

Edward Bak, DPM passed away October 14, 2021, at the age of 85. Edward Bak 1936-2021. Dr. Bak was a respected podiatrist in Boardman for more than three decades and was known for his strong ethics, compassion, and kind demeanor. Dr. Bak was an honor graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine and Campbell Memorial High School. Dr. Bak was dedicated to his family and Catholic faith. He will be remembered for his strength, integrity, and dry sense of humor.

## Carl Sosinski, DPM

## October 25, 2021

Carl Sosinski, DPM passed away October 25, 2021, at the age of 96. Dr. Sosinski was a U.S. Navy World War II veteran. He paused his studies at Adelbert College to serve as a Navy Corpsman in the Pacific Theater, graduating afterwards and earning his medical degree from the Ohio College of Chiropody (Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine). Dr. Sosinski soon established a successful Podiatry practice in Parma for over 35 years while raising a family with his wife, Dorothy. Dr. Sosinski served as OHFAMA president in 1967 and was awarded the OHFAMA Service Award the first year the award was offered.

# STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO

# Members Reminded of Duty to Report Rules, New CE Requirement

Licensees of the State Medical Board of Ohio have a statutory and ethical duty to report misconduct. DPMs are obligated to report violations of law, rule and code of ethics standards to the Medical Board. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to, sexual misconduct, impairment, practice below the minimal standards of care, and improper prescribing of controlled substances.

If you suspect or have observed inappropriate behavior by a health care professional or colleague, you should file a complaint with the State Medical Board. If you believe a crime has been committed, you should also contact your local law enforcement. Knowing a colleague is violating regulations and not reporting to the Medical Board not only puts patients at risk but also puts your license to practice in jeopardy.

Licensees should not assume that by informing their supervisor their duty to report is fulfilled. Failure to report a colleague's misconduct can result in fines of up to \$20,000 and disciplinary action. Ohio law is clear when a licensee needs to report information directly to the Medical Board.

You can file a complaint directly with the Medical Board 24/7 through the confidential complaint hotline at 1-833-333-SMB0 (7626) or

online at med.ohio.gov. Provisions in the Ohio Revised Code make all complaints received by the board confidential.

Effective May 31, 2021, physicians (MDs, DOs and DPMs) are required to complete one hour of Continuing Medical Education (CME) on the topic of a licensee's duty to report misconduct, with enforcement to commence with renewal or reinstatement applications submitted on or after July 1, 2021.

The board has created a one-hour course designed to educate physicians (MDs, DOs and DPMs) on the duty to report to the State Medical Board of Ohio. The video is divided into three distinct sections: duty to report, sexual misconduct and how to report. At the end of each section, you will have the opportunity to evaluate what you learned through a review of questions and answers. A certificate of completion will be provided. It can either be printed or screenshot for your records. As with all CME, records of completion should be kept in accordance with rule 4731-10-08.

# **Telemedicine Enforcement Date Extended to March**

During the November 10 meeting, the Medical Board voted to extend the enforcement date of its regulation requiring in-person visits until March 31, 2022.

The Medical Board approved telemedicine FAQs that provide guidance on telemedicine in Ohio and the Medical Board's resumption of enforcement on March 31 of its laws and rules requiring in-person visits in certain situations.



Geographical Distribution of DPM Licensees 871 total in-state DPMs – October 1, 2021



# | More than 100: 1 county | 51 - 100: 2 counties | 21 - 50: 8 counties | 11 - 20: 5 counties | 1 - 10: 54 counties | No DPM: 18 coun

State	Total
Pennsylvania	14
Indiana	12
Michigan	11
Kentucky	10
West Virginia	9
Non-border States	66
Total out-of-state DPM	122
Total DPM Licenses	993

# KENT STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE UPDATES

# KSUCPM Receives Historic \$10 Million Gift from The Podiatry Foundation

Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine announced a \$10 million gift from The Podiatry Foundation to help secure the financial and academic future of Ohio's only podiatry college.

The Podiatry Foundation's gift – the largest single gift commitment in the history of Kent State – will fund scholarships, research and continuing medical education programs within the College of Podiatric Medicine. In recognition of this gift, the current clinical space located on the first floor of the college in Independence will be named The Podiatry Foundation Foot and Ankle Clinic. Any auxiliary spaces associated with the clinic, currently including the clinical space in Cleveland's MidTown neighborhood, will also bear this name.

"A gift of this magnitude is transformational to the future education of our podiatry students, not only through our ability to award more scholarships, but also because of the increased credibility that will come from our enhanced research and continuing medical education," said Kent State President Todd Diacon. "The longstanding relationship between the college and The Podiatry Foundation has been instrumental in Kent State's recognition as a leading college in the important field of foot and ankle medicine. We are very grateful for their visionary support."

Since its inception in 2012, The Podiatry Foundation has assisted many national, state and local podiatric medical organizations as well as students and residents in the Greater Cleveland area. A notable focus has been placed on supporting Kent State's College of Podiatric Medicine in particular, having previously granted several million dollars of funding to the college. The announcement of this major gift formalizes and guarantees the foundation's ongoing support of the college. Between the foundation's 10-person board of trustees and its staff, more than 300 collective years of service have been provided to Kent State's College of Podiatric Medicine throughout the years.

"This gift is the first step in the foundation's plan to be the predominant philanthropic source for all podiatric medical groups nationwide, including the nine current colleges of podiatric medicine, the several national podiatry organizations, the state podiatric medical associations, local academies in Ohio and many allied groups," said David Nicolanti, Ph.D., executive director of The Podiatry Foundation. "The grant is the culmination of several years of dialogue between the foundation and the university, and it will help to secure the financial strength of this important local institution."

At least one of the scholarships created through this gift will be named the Thomas V. Melillo Scholarship, on behalf of Thomas Melillo, DPM, the president of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine (now Kent State's College of Podiatric Medicine) from 1984 through 2012.

Additionally, funds are available for Kent State's College of Podiatric Medicine to conduct and publish research, and to enhance its continuing medical education offerings within the field of podiatry.

"As a podiatrist, an educator and an administrator in this field, I can unequivocally tell you how important philanthropic gifts like this are to the future of our field," said Allan Boike, DPM, FACFAS, dean of Kent State's College of Podiatric Medicine. "We must be able to support these high-achieving, future doctors through scholarships to ensure our field has enough qualified practitioners in the future. Additionally, the support for our research and continuing medical education allows us opportunities to continue to grow our national reputation as a best-inclass medical research and educational institution. This partnership means so much to our college and to this medical field."

The funding for this historic gift began September 30 and will be held in a newly established endowed fund, The Podiatry Foundation Endowment, within the Kent State University Foundation.

# Hall of Fame & Alumni Awards Dinner

The following alumni were recognized during the awards ceremony:

- Marc Lenet, DPM, Class of 1970 2020 Hall of Fame Inductee
- James Dooley, DPM, Class of 1968 2020 Hall of Fame Inductee
- David Alper, DPM, Class of 1983 2021 Hall of Fame Inductee
- Robert "Tim" Yoho, DPM, Class of 1985 2021 Hall of Fame Inductee
- Frank Luckino, DPM, Class of 2011 2020 Young Physician Professional Award
- Lauren Kishman, DPM, Class of 2011 2021 Young Physician Professional Award
- Debra Thornton, DPM, Class of 1986 2020 Alumni Service Award

- Coleman Clougherty, DPM, Class of 2012 2021 Alumni Service Award
- Robert "Tim" Yoho, DPM, Class of 1985 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award



Dr. Jim Dooley was inducted into the KSUCPM Hall of Fame in August. Dr. Dooley, pictured with his wife, Deborah, was instrumental in securing privileges for podiatrists to perform surgeries at hospitals, including successfully winning a case before the Ohio Supreme Court.



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# **OHFAMA CLASSIFIEDS**

#### Associate Position - Part-time - Cincinnati

Cincinnati Foot & Ankle Care (CFAC.net) is offering a partnership track opportunity for a capable podiatrist to meet our expansion needs. The ideal candidate must have excellent medical, surgical, communication, and organization skills with the ability to work well in a team environment amongst our constituency. Must be ABFAS certified or qualified.

CFAC is a fully merged, podiatrist-owned medical group operating across the Greater Cincinnati, Ohio region. Our regional scope and quality have generated dedicated referral relationships with some of the region's highest quality primary care physicians and groups. Having the depth and resources of a large podiatry group, we have developed a business model that accelerates practice growth and success.

Our group offers an attractive employment package including guaranteed salary, health, retirement and other benefits and performance incentives. Partnership is typically considered after four years of employed status. Send your CV to <a href="mailto:David.Gibson@MediSync.com">David.Gibson@MediSync.com</a>.

## Partnership Opportunity - Cincinnati

Cincinnati Foot & Ankle Care (CFAC.net), a regional 18-physician podiatric group has a partnership track position for which we are now recruiting. Our ideal candidate has excellent medical, surgical, communication, and organization skills sufficient to manage higher volumes with quality. The ability to work well in a team environment is also important. Due to a potential shorter pre-partnership term a minimum of two years' post-residency experience is required and ABFAS certified or qualified.

CFAC is a fully merged, podiatrist-owned medical group operating across the Greater Cincinnati, Ohio region. Our quality of service and care have generated dedicated referral relationships with some of the region's highest quality primary care physicians and groups and an excellent reputation. Having the depth and resources of a large podiatry group, we have developed a business model that accelerates practice growth and success.

Our group offers an attractive employment package including guaranteed salary, health, retirement and other benefits and performance incentives. Send your CV to <a href="mailto:David.Gibson@MediSync.com">David.Gibson@MediSync.com</a>



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as of 12/2/2021

Please consider financial support of our state legislative efforts by contributing to the Ohio Podiatric Political Action Committee (OPPAC). With your help, we can continue to make Ohio a fantastic state to practice podiatric medicine. To make your contribution, visit the OHFAMA website or text Foot to 855-750-1575 to contribute via our new online donation portal.

# **Central Academy**

Sarah Abshier, DPM lan Barron, DPM Alan Block, DPM Anthony Cozzolino, DPM Elizabeth Hewitt, DPM David Kaplansky, DPM Lynette Mehl, DPM Donnalyn Moeller, DPM Richard Schilling, DPM Mark Stanos, DPM Adam Thomas, DPM Jennifer Trinidad, DPM

#### **Eastern Academy**

Bruce Blank, DPM Kenneth Cooper, DPM Edward Cosentino, DPM James LaPolla, DPM

#### **Mideast Academy**

Thomas Arnold, DPM Richard Hofacker, DPM Karen Kellogg, DPM Richard Kunig, DPM Renee Mackey, DPM Leslie Niehaus, DPM Kenneth Nixon, DPM L. Russ Sayner, DPM

#### **Midwest Academy**

Deanna Chapman, DPM Sandra Fox, DPM Marc Greenberg, DPM Anastasia Koss, DPM Donald LeMelle, DPM Elizabeth Nicely, DPM Thomas Retzios, DPM John Stevenson, DPM Kevin Sunshein, DPM Erica Suprenant, DPM Susan Yu, DPM

# **North Central Academy**

Christopher Bohach, DPM David Hintz, DPM Martin Lesnak, DPM Jeffrey Schwein, DPM Elizabeth Wakefield, DPM Brian Zimmerman, DPM

## Northeast Academy

Windy Cole, DPM Coleen DeBarr, DPM Vincent Hetherington, DPM Neal Marks, DPM Joy Rowland, DPM Debra Thornton, DPM Howard Waxman, DPM Kelly Whaley, DPM

## **Northwest Academy**

John Carroll, DPM John Clarke, DPM Michael Cragel, DPM Stephanie Kastel, DPM Thomas McCabe, DPM Corey Russell, DPM Pamela Sheridan, DPM Michael Walkovich, DPM Thomas Zoldowski, DPM

## **Southern Academy**

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