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### **FLORIDA PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (FPMA) HAS RECORD ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL SAM CONFERENCE**

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Podiatric Medical Association (FPMA) held its annual five day Science & Management Symposium (SAM 2018) at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida January 10 - 14, 2018. The conference, which was held at a new venue this year, was a major success and attendance hit an all-time high as over 1,300 Podiatric Physicians, Residents, Students, Speakers, X-Ray Assistants, and Front/Back Office Assistants participated in the conference’s four concurrent programs. The SAM 2018 conference also featured an Exhibit Hall with 183 exhibitors from around the country demonstrating the latest products and services in podiatric medicine and surgery.

FPMA’s educational mission is to promote continuing education in podiatric medicine, podiatric surgery, and practice management through workshops and seminars. SAM 2018 featured an outstanding group of speakers providing world class didactic lectures on a variety of subjects, from Updates on HIPAA, MIPS, and Health Information Technology to a Young Practitioner’s Track. Other tracks included AAPSM Lectures, the Bako Diagnostics Program, ASPM Lectures, and Orthoplastic Lectures. In addition to lectures, the conference featured various learning methods, including hands-on demonstrations/workshops, skills labs, case based presentations and discussion, and ample one-on-one time with nationally recognized speakers. [SAM 2018 website: <https://www.samconference2018.com/> ]

During SAM 2018, FPMA swore in its Executive Officers and handed out awards to outstanding FPMA members. FPMA’s 2018 Executive Officers include: **Dr. Andrew M. Belis** of Fort Myers (President); **Dr. Andre M. Williams** of Punta Gorda (First Vice President); **Dr. Samir S. Vakil** of Punta Gorda (Second Vice President); **Dr. John P. Goggin** of Fort Pierce (Treasurer); **Dr. Cary M. Zinkin** of Deerfield Beach (Secretary); and **Dr. Mark A. Lambert** of Pensacola (Immediate Past President). Each of the officers will serve a one year term in their respective positions.

The following awards were presented during the Annual FPMA Presidential Gala, which took place on Saturday evening: FPMA Podiatric Physician of the Year (2018) - **Mark S. Block, DPM** (for recognition of dedication, loyal service, and leadership); FPMA President's Award (2018) - **Terence D. McDonald, DPM** (in appreciation for his support and outstanding contribution to the profession and FPMA); INAUGURAL AWARDS: FPMA Hall of Fame - **William J. Beaton, DPM** (in recognition of his significant lifelong contribution, superior performance, and outstanding and dedicated service to the State of Florida, Podiatry, and FPMA); and FPMA Life Achievement Award - **William J. Beaton, DPM** (for his leadership, long term commitment, and tireless efforts towards the promotion of all aspects of the Florida Podiatric Medical Association).

FPMA would like to thank all of the SAM 2018 Sponsors, including Bako Diagnostics, the Rhett Foundation, and Organogenesis, for making this conference possible. We would also like to thank the 40+ Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine students who attended and assisted FPMA staff during the conference.

FPMA's Vision is to be recognized as the leading voice and pre-eminent resource for the Podiatric Profession in the State of Florida and the annual SAM conference is one means of doing so.

For more information, please contact FPMA at (850) 224-4085. Visit us on-line at [www.FPMA.com](http://www.FPMA.com), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

*FPMA is a Tallahassee-based, statewide, professional association representing podiatric physicians in Florida. Founded in 1927 for the purpose of advancing the science and art of Podiatric Medicine, FPMA is dedicated to promoting the importance of podiatric healthcare among the general public and healthcare professionals throughout the state of Florida. FPMA currently has over 1,000 members and represents over 70% of the active, licensed podiatric physicians in Florida. FPMA - We keep Florida walking!*