

FPMS Report

I am pleased to report that the Florida Podiatric Medical Society (FPMS) continues to grow stronger. Last year, we highlighted some of our scholarship recipients. This year, the Society has continued its support of student leaders at Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine. The Society presents two student scholarships annually: the Dr. Irving Block Scholarship is presented to a Barry graduate who has excelled in the field of Podiatric Radiography and the Dr. Harvey Kopelman Scholarship is presented to a second year student at the White Coat Ceremony. I was extremely proud to present Student Doctor Jürgen Fernandez with this year's award and a check for \$500. Student Doctor Fernandez was given the scholarship because of the exceptional commitment he has made to becoming a leader of this profession. While battling stage II Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Jürgen served as President of the Hispanic Podiatric Medical Student's Association and President of the Florida Podiatric Medical Student Association. The \$500 scholarship is helping him deal with the enormous health care costs he has incurred since he is now uninsurable.

Earlier this year, the Society granted a young diabetic child a scholarship to attend the Florida Diabetes Camp. Alyssa is a 14 year old girl whose family was hit hard by the current recession. As a result, her family was unable to send her to this vital camp. Through the Society's generous scholarship, Alyssa was able to attend Diabetes camp this past summer. I am especially proud of the Broward Component (my component), which contributed an additional \$500 towards this scholarship fund.

The Society continues its work with Florida Special Olympics and Shoes for Homeless. But there are so many more worthy causes and people we can help. Although many of us complain about the struggles of practicing Podiatry during these tough times, we should all take a moment to remember how blessed we are to have the opportunities we all enjoy. Furthermore, I am sure that many of you have had similar experiences as my wife Cynthia and I. Both of us have had times in our lives when someone has helped us out to continue the pursuit of our dreams. It is because of that that we give to the Society as well as the other charities we support. To all those reading this who have retired from this profession, consider giving back to the profession that helped you obtain the goals that you have achieved.

In this edition of the *FPMA Footprints*, you will find an advertisement for the Society. Our motto is "Giving back to the Future of Podiatry". Please consider donating to one of the existing scholarships or even starting a scholarship of your own. There are many advantages to giving before year's end. You should review these with your accountant.

It is a privilege to represent this great profession. I look forward to the great work that we will all do together for the betterment of Florida and its needy citizens.

May Good Luck be your friend, In whatever you do.
And May Trouble be always a Stranger to you.

Fraternally,
Terence D. McDonald, DPM
President, Florida Podiatric Medical Society

Leave a Lasting Mark
give back to the future

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