

FPMS Continues Its Growth



By Terence D. McDonald, DPM



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FPMA is realizing significant savings by utilizing the Florida Podiatric Medical Society (FPMS) mission for education and having FPMS take the lead for educational projects our association provides. One example of this is SAM (the FPMA Science and Management Symposium). Although this change has been a tremendous undertaking, thanks to the hard work of FPMA Executive Director Karen Lambert, Tallahassee staff and the FPMA Convention Committee, the transition has been successful.

Several years ago, the FPMS approved the formation of the Florida Foot & Ankle Fellowship Society (FFAFS), which operates within FPMS as an entity of fellowship training sites for young podiatrists who wish to continue their training in specialized fields of podiatry once they have completed their residencies. Fellowship training has been a growing trend across our profession, and we are fortunate to have seven fellowships associated with our society. For the most part, these fellowships specialize in advanced surgical training. There is also one that specializes in sports medicine, with others expected to include wound care and other specialized training. The FFAFS has raised non-dues income through industry grants to help support the education and training of these young podiatrists. By having the FPMS as the parent organization, we hope to promote FPMA to young practitioners and expect future leaders of our profession to grow from this initiative. Florida is at the forefront of this initiative and many other states are already interested in duplicating our model.

The FPMS scholarship committee continues to present three Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine awards at BUSPM graduation and white coat ceremonies. The Dr. Harvey Kopelman Scholarship is awarded at the BUSPM white coat ceremony. The Dr. Irving and Muriel Block Scholarship, along with the FPMA Past President's Scholarship, are presented to graduating BUSPM seniors. This year, the society will be giving its fourth award to a graduating senior on behalf of the Dr. Mark Lambert family. Dr. Lambert was a past president of FPMA and a fierce advocate for education and the advancement of podiatric surgery.

The society continues to work with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) in Florida through Team FPMA during its two largest events (the Tour de Cure in Orlando and the Step Out Walk in Fort Lauderdale). Recently, Team FPMA participated in the 2022 ADA Tour de Cure led by society trustee Dr. Robert Iannacone. We look forward to live ADA events returning this year.