

Putting Our Best Selves Forward



By Terence D. McDonald, DPM

The Florida Podiatric Medical Society continues to grow and expand thanks to generous donations from you, our members. We continue to look for new opportunities to further our mission of spreading public awareness of podiatric medicine through our philanthropic activities.



The Society assists young podiatric physicians and students in order to support our best and brightest future leaders. This year, despite the cancellation of the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine's graduation ceremonies due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Society recognized two Barry graduates. Congratulations to Dr. Amanda Chao, who received the Dr. Irving and Muriel Block Scholarship for excellence in the study of radiology and imaging, and Dr. Julio Gutierrez, who received the FPMA Past President's Scholarship for excellence in leadership.

The Society continues to support the continuing education of podiatric fellows throughout the state. FPMA Past President Dr. Andrew Belis has been working hard to secure educational grants to help surgical fellows training in Florida. At the recent SAM conference, the Florida Podiatric Fellowship Society held its first symposium, where fellows from across the state were given the opportunity to present their work and interesting cases. Podiatric fellowship affords

young physicians the opportunity to advance their education while learning the skills to practice under the mentorship of a fellowship director.

The Society will be accepting donations for its Disaster Relief Fund, which was originally created to help Florida podiatrists affected by hurricanes. Currently, the COVID-19 pandemic presents a far greater challenge and will require a far greater response. Anyone who can donate to this fund is encouraged to do so. Likewise, anyone who needs assistance should feel free to contact the Tallahassee office if they need help.

These are certainly interesting and unprecedented times. It is my hope and prayer that we all get through this. Unfortunately, it is inevitable that some of our members will be affected in some way by the current pandemic. It is times like these that the fraternal nature of our organization responds to colleagues in need of help. Remember that first and foremost we are healers, so let's all put our best selves forward and represent the podiatric profession.

