

The Society's Work Grows



By Terence D. McDonald, DPM

The mission of the Florida Podiatric Medical Society (FPMS) has been to support the podiatric profession in Florida through philanthropy that promotes the education of podiatric students, to educate the Florida public, and to promote awareness of our profession to the medical community.

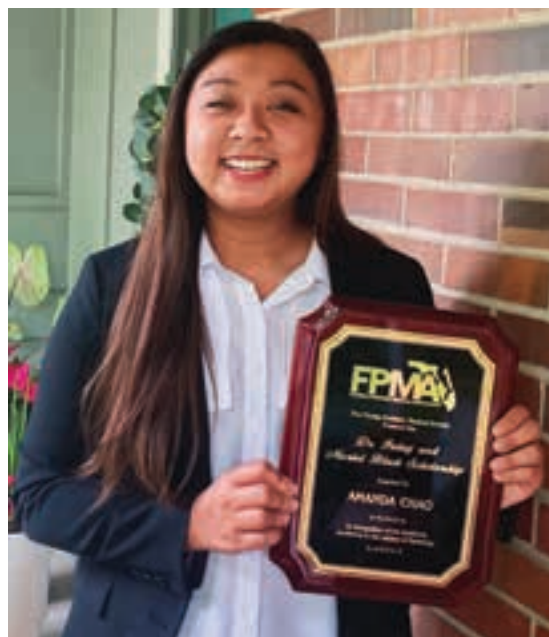
It is this mission that has guided the Society's work with the American Diabetes Association (ADA), provided numerous student scholarships and donations to the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine, and led to involvement in a recent initiative supporting Florida fellowships.

This year, the Society will expand on its mission of providing education by getting more involved with FPMA educational activities and conferences. With the Society taking the lead role in the association's educational events, corporate donors will be attracted by the Society's 501(c)(3) status. Several corporations have been hesitant about making grants available to educational activities that are "for profit." Furthermore, some corporations lock up grant money to be used for education and provide funds only to 501(c)(3) events. By allowing the Society to take over the educational arm

of our association, we are hopeful that we will be able to increase non-dues revenue to make our educational programs stronger and better than they already are.

The FPMA Convention Committee and Tallahassee staff will continue to provide excellent educational activities at some of Florida's best hotels and destinations. The Society's role will be procuring funding as well as paying the costs to run these educational programs. This change will be seamless and virtually unnoticeable. We are hoping to bring in bigger dollars at a time when corporate donations and educational grants have become extremely competitive.

Society Board members, myself included, are excited about this new change. We are looking forward to continuing our work in promoting our profession as well as increasing the quality of education for our members.



The 2020 Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine FPMS scholarship winners include Dr. Julio Gutierrez, who received the FPMA Past President's Scholarship, and Dr. Amanda Chao, who received the Dr. Irving and Muriel Block Scholarship.