

Updated Web Resources: ABFAS Continuous Certification

Launching in January 2022, the new program [LEAD: Longitudinal Education and Assessment for Diplomates](#), will replace the traditional, once-every-ten-years recertification and self-assessment examinations, and at that time, all Diplomates will participate. This week we're rolling out new online resources on the LEAD webpage to help you understand the upcoming shift.

New Video: Diplomates Explain LEAD

All Diplomates will begin participating in the LEAD program in 2022, regardless of certification expiration date. A Foot Surgery ten-year certification cycle will contain two cycle periods of five years each. At minimum, each Diplomate must participate in 12 LEAD quarters during each five-year period. In our [new video](#), Diplomates explain how the flexible LEAD program meets their busy schedules.



Interactive Program Requirements Tool

The change to Continuous Certification **does not change** a Diplomate's current certification cycle. If a Diplomate recently recertified, their certification is valid through its expiration date. The certificates of Diplomates who continuously participate and meet program requirements will renew at their ten-year dates. To understand what you need to do for the LEAD program and how you can ensure your ABFAS certification will renew, click through to our new interactive [Program Requirements tool](#).

MDT and Participation Requirements

The LEAD program is not an exam—an assessment **of** learning (summative)—but rather a continuous, longitudinal assessment **for** learning (formative) that will use principles of adult learning and modern technology to increase Diplomates' retention of foot and ankle surgery principles. The program is based in the science of Measurement Decision Theory (MDT)—and new webpages explain [how MDT works](#), as well as the program's [Participation Requirement](#).

Program Cost

Unlike the now-retired recertification and self-assessment exams, there **isn't a separate fee** for the LEAD program. There will be a slight increase in the annual fee to accommodate the cost of the new ongoing program, however. In recognition of the transition to this new approach that starts January 2022, ABFAS did not raise the 2021-22 annual fee for the first year of the program. We do plan, however, to make a small increase of \$90 in the second program year (2022-23)—our first increase since 2006—to accommodate the cost of running the new program.

If you have questions about the transition to the LEAD program, please contact ABFAS at lead@abfas.org or 415.553.7800.

Mentor Students to Ensure the Future of the Profession

The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) hosts an interactive [Mentor Network](#) with the support of student recruitment stakeholders from within the profession, including ABFAS. The Mentor Network helps match pre-health students with mentors to give students the experience of shadowing professionals in the field, allowing them an understanding of careers in podiatric medicine. The program also supports pre-health advisors and counselors from colleges and universities around the country by helping them locate engaging, charismatic DPM speakers for student events.

Mentoring helps you spread the word about podiatric medicine, gives you an opportunity to engage with up-and-coming physicians, and promotes podiatric medicine-related activities within your community. For instructions on how to volunteer to serve as a mentor, please visit the APMA's [Student Recruitment Toolkit](#).

ABFAS Presents 2021 Michael L. Stone Awards



Please join ABFAS in congratulating the 2021 Michael L. Stone, DPM, Outstanding Professional Conduct Award winners. On May 11, 2021, ABFAS President William Adams, DPM, presented the awards via virtual meeting to nine outstanding individuals. [More information](#) is available on the ABFAS website, and the [video presentation](#) is available for viewing online.

Help Us Remain #FootFirst

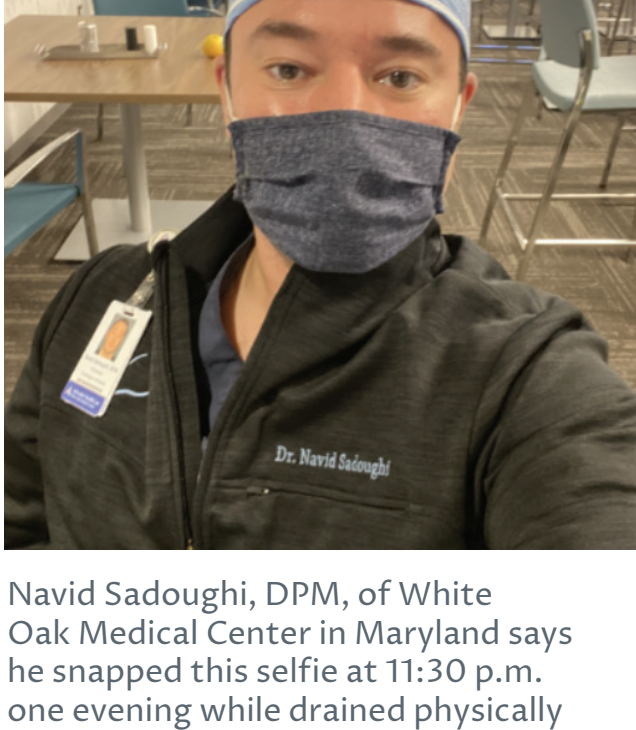
We're continuing our crowdsourcing campaign of seeking foot and ankle surgical photos from Diplomates. Email footfirst@abfas.org with photos of you performing surgery, interacting with feet, performing surgery on feet, or just hanging out with other DPMs. We'll feature our favorites in our publications and on social media.



Zach Farley, DPM, inserts a fibula nail at Northeast Georgia Health System.



Phong Le, DPM, (right) works with his team to repair a displaced trimalleolar ankle fracture at Dignity Health Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento, California.



Navid Sadoughi, DPM, of White Oak Medical Center in Maryland says he snapped this selfie at 11:30 p.m. one evening while drained physically and mentally after performing two procedures while the OR was all but shut down due to pandemic restrictions.

ABFAS 2022 Booth Exhibits and Conferences

In 2022, ABFAS is engaging with DPMs across the country. If you're attending any of these events—virtually or in-person—we welcome you to connect with ABFAS staff to ask questions about ABFAS recertification!

[NY22 Podiatric Clinical Conference and Exhibition](#)
January 20-23, 2022 | New York, NY

[Florida Podiatric Medical Association \(FPMA/SAM\)](#)
January 27-30, 2022 | Orlando, FL

[ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference](#)
February 24-27, 2022 | Austin, TX

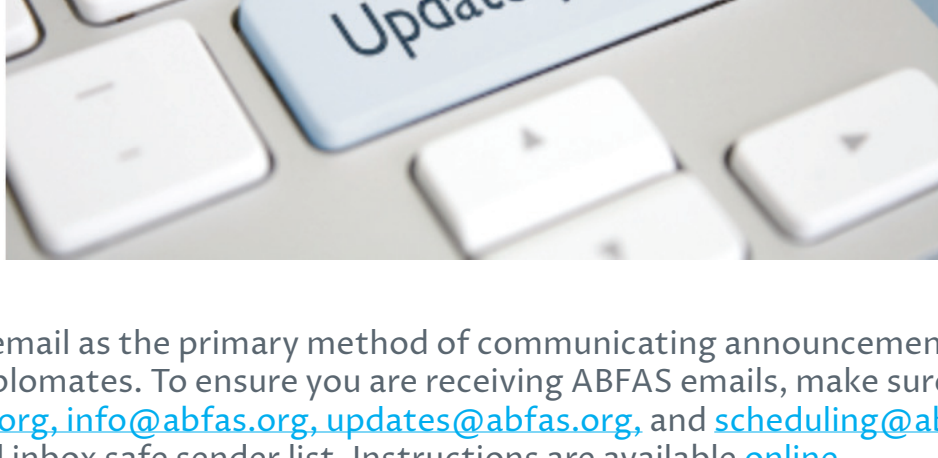
[Midwest Podiatry Conference \(MPC\)](#)
April 5-9, 2022 | Chicago, IL

[The Western Foot and Ankle Conference](#)
June 23-26, 2022 | Anaheim, CA

[APMA Annual Scientific Meeting](#)
July 28-31, 2022 | Orlando, FL

[ASPS Annual Surgical Conference](#)
November 4-5, 2022 | New Orleans, LA

Keeping in Touch with ABFAS



ABFAS uses email as the primary method of communicating announcements and details to Diplomates. To ensure you are receiving ABFAS emails, make sure you add lead@abfas.org, info@abfas.org, updates@abfas.org, and scheduling@abfas.org to your email inbox safe sender list. Instructions are available [online](#).

In addition, please log into your [ABFAS profile](#) and, if necessary, update your personal information—especially your email address! And don't forget: the directory address you input powers the ABFAS website [Find a Surgeon](#) feature.