



# ABFAS NEWSLETTER FOR DIPLOMATES

September 2022

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## Protecting Public Health and the Profession

The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) strives to protect and improve public health and welfare by advancing the art and science of foot and ankle surgery. More than 10,000 podiatrists have earned ABFAS Board Certification by successfully demonstrating competency and proficiency in the specialty field of foot and ankle surgery. Together, we are committed to providing the best patient care and preserving trust in our profession.

Like many of you, we were disappointed in the decision by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) to open applications for a Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Podiatric Surgery outside of the profession's traditionally rigorous certification process. Several leading podiatric organizations—including the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, Council on Podiatric Medical Education, and the American Podiatric Medical Association—have raised serious concerns about ABPM's rush to launch the new CAQ and the potential confusion it may cause among patients and hospitals.

To read those comments from podiatric organizations, review our [full statement](#) on the ABPM decision.

## CPME Seeks Comment on Specialty Boards Recognition Committee Process

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) seeks the input of the podiatric community as it undertakes the rewrite of two publications relevant to this recent matter: CPME 220, Criteria and Guidelines for Recognition of a Specialty Board for Podiatric Medical Practice and CPME 230, Procedures for Recognition of a Specialty Board for Podiatric Medical Practice. Beginning this Fall, the review of these documents will be led by an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, which will consider the community survey results in its review process. We encourage you to complete [CPME's survey](#) by **November 1, 2022**.

## Talk to Us About How We Talk to You

Which communication methods do you prefer? Please take a minute to respond to [our quick survey](#) on how best to talk to you.

## The LEAD Program: Quarter 3 and Beyond

Diplomates are acclimating well to the new LEAD program, and ABFAS continues to provide timely information to help ensure successful participation. In May, we emailed you regarding how to access LEAD and outlined your individual [participation requirements](#). In June, we turned our attention to helping you understand [Measurement Decision Theory](#) (MDT), the method ABFAS uses to analyze your performance on the LEAD assessment.

If you are participating in Quarter 3, note that you must complete your LEAD assessment **by tomorrow, September 30, 2022**. As a reminder, you **do not need to participate every quarter**; you only need to meet your individual minimum [participation requirements](#).

ABFAS has received a great deal of [positive feedback](#) about the program. If you're still not yet participating or need additional assistance, start with the [LEAD homepage](#) or email us at [lead@abfas.org](mailto:lead@abfas.org).

**For Diplomates newly ABFAS Board Certified in 2022:** ABFAS will continue to communicate with you regarding when you can access the LEAD Diplomat site. If you achieved Board Certification this year, it is not necessary for you to begin the LEAD program until January 2023.

## Have You Paid Your Annual Fee?

As a reminder, ABFAS annual fee payments were **due by September 1, 2022**. This is your last chance to **avoid a \$100 late fee!** To pay online, log directly into the [Invoices webpage](#).

ABFAS has also mailed a hard-copy invoice to your address on file. You have the option to pay by mail, by fax, or through your online profile.

## Mentor Students to Strengthen the Profession's Future

The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) hosts an interactive Mentor Network with the support of student recruitment stakeholders from within the profession, including ABFAS. Mentoring helps you spread the word about podiatric surgery, gives you an opportunity to engage with up-and-coming physicians, and promotes podiatric medicine-related activities within your community.

[Learn more](#) about how to volunteer. The Mentor Network helps match pre-health students with mentors to give students the experience of shadowing professionals in the field, allowing them to better understand a career 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.



## Profile in Excellence: Nilin Rao, DPM, D.ABFAS

The September 2022 issue of Podiatry Management features a profile of ABFAS Diplomat Nilin Rao, DPM, D.ABFAS, a 2017 recipient of the Michael L. Stone, DPM, Outstanding Professional Conduct Award from ABFAS. Dr. Rao describes his own journey to ABFAS Board certification, as well as what his practice in Scottsdale, Arizona is like. [Read the full profile now](#) on the ABFAS website.

## Promoting Your Board Certification

Diplomates can now add the professional notation of **D.ABFAS** (Diplomate, American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery) to materials such as websites, email footers, business cards, and letterheads. The D.ABFAS notation should follow the DPM acronym and precede all other acronyms, like this: *Jane G. Doe, DPM, D.ABFAS, FACFAS*.

Visit the [Promote Your Board Certification webpage](#) for newsletter and press release templates to help you promote your Board Certification—and for newly-revised [Diplomate Advertising Policies](#) to assist in communicating your ABFAS status appropriately and professionally.

## Join Us in New Orleans for ASPS

Throughout 2022, ABFAS has engaged with DPMs and candidates across the country. If you're attending the [ASPS Annual Surgical Conference](#) November 4-5, stop by the ABFAS booth in the Exhibit Hall to learn more about the LEAD program or your ABFAS status—or just to hang out with Team ABFAS!



## Keep 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](mailto:lead@abfas.org), [info@abfas.org](mailto:info@abfas.org), [updates@abfas.org](mailto:updates@abfas.org), and [scheduling@abfas.org](mailto: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! Completing the "Directory Address" section of your profile will allow prospective patients to find your practice when searching by location on the ABFAS website's [Find a Surgeon](#) feature. If you practice at more than one facility, be sure to list your website.



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Since 1975, ABFAS' mission is to protect and improve the health and welfare of the public by the advancement of the art and science of foot and ankle surgery.

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