To those physicians who choose foot and ankle surgery as a specialty…welcome! We need you the finest foot and ankle surgeons in the world, and to have been part of the history of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) has been instrumental in achieving these goals. From my perspective, the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery is one of the most creative and innovative boards I have seen.

I am proud of ABFAS. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with many of the finest foot and ankle surgeons in the world, and I am now more than ever. I look forward to working with you, along with the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

During my career I have been involved in local and national leadership positions, and over the past few years I have had the privilege of serving as a Chair of the APMA Health Policy and Research Council. This would have labeled us as “different” from other professionals and brought us to the edges of organized medicine. I believe it was the recognition of this by the Board of Directors of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) that paved the way for Podiatry to be “carved out” our profession’s ability to bill for medical visits, recommending that Podiatry practices be reimbursed for services.

The American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) and the American Board of Podiatric Surgery (ABPS) joined forces to become the ABFAS. The intent was to bring Podiatry into the fold of mainstream medicine, and I believe it has worked. Podiatry is no longer viewed as an ancillary specialty but as a valuable and respected one. Podiatry is now considered a focal point for the care of the foot and ankle.

I have seen Podiatry grow from an ancillary specialty on the “fringe” of accepted medicine to an integrated specialty we are today. Our allopathic and osteopathic colleagues recognize us as a specialty with which they can work effectively and to save their limbs when necessary.

What was true then remains true now. Surgeons with ABFAS certification have a valuable resource to which they can turn for expertise and leadership. It was readily accepted that the podiatric physician with ABPS Diplomate designation had membership was ABPS certification. It was the primary wedge we had for opening doors; you had to be a member of ABPS to be a diplomate. Today it is precisely the opposite. During my early years I spent significant time campaigning for the acceptance of ABFAS and the Board Certification in Foot and Ankle Surgery. I told all of you who were certified that you were the “leading edge” of Podiatry.

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Advertising Guidelines

• Diplomates should not use exclusive phrases such as “only board certified DPM” or “ABFAS diplomate” in advertisements
• Do not use the acronym “ABFAS” in any advertisements
• Diplomates should not use the term “American Board of Podiatric Surgery” in any advertisements
• The title “Diplomate, American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®” directs the reader’s attention to the name of the Board.
• Diplomates should not use the phrase “the Board of Directors of the American Podiatric Medical Association certified me”, since the word “certified” is ambiguous. Diplomates should use the phrase “the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery certified me.”
• Diplomates should not use the web address “www.abfps.org” in any advertisements. Instead, they should use “www.abfas.org” or “www.abpms.org” as appropriate.

APPROPRIATE:

John A. Doe, DPM
Certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery
Diplomate, American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®

INAPPROPRIATE:

John A. Doe, DPM
Certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery
Podiatric Surgeon (American Board of Podiatric Surgery)

• The ABFAS logo must never be at a minimum of 150 dpi (dots per inch) for print media and 72 dpi online.

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1711 Stone Award Winners

The Stone Awards recognize a graduating senior from each of the nine podiatry colleges or schools. The Stone Awards are given to a student who demonstrates the embodiment of professional conduct, respect, and ethics in surgical medicine. With his outstanding devotion to his patients, he was the embodiment of professional conduct, respect, and ethics in surgical medicine.

Michael Stone, DPM. Dr. Stone served the Board of Directors in many roles, including president and president-elect. He has served on the ABFAS Board of Directors since 1988 and has been a valuable member of the Board.

President Danny J. Choung presented the 2019 Stone Award winners.