



ABFAS NEWSLETTER

for Diplomates

April, 2019

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ABFAS Certification

My name is John Evans, and I was board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery (ABPS) in 1990. During these past 28 years, I have witnessed many changes, including my hair turning gray, and I've experienced much good fortune, especially the birth of my two grandchildren. The Board has been with me the entire way.

Working with the Board since 1994, I have followed the lead of three Executive Directors while appreciating the development of the Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS), the evolution of our residency programs, a name change, and the metamorphosis of Podiatry into the specialty it is today. From my perspective, the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) has been instrumental in achieving these advancements and in defining podiatrists as the recognized experts in the care of the foot and ankle.

I have seen Podiatry grow from an ancillary specialty on the "fringe" of accepted medicine to the integrated specialty we are today. Our allopathic and osteopathic colleagues recognize us as a valuable and respected medical specialty, and the public looks to us to help them walk effectively and to save their limbs when necessary.

When I began my career, there were few hospitals where podiatrists had active membership. Today it is precisely the opposite. During my early years I spent significant time campaigning for podiatrists to gain hospital and insurance-panel privileging. The only consistent factor that each organization accepted when determining whether a DPM should be considered for membership was ABPS certification. It was the primary wedge we had for opening doors; it was readily accepted that the podiatric physician with ABPS Diplomate designation had successfully navigated the rigorous and difficult examinations process.

What was true then remains true now. Surgeons with ABFAS certification have a designation that is respected and valued throughout the medical community and among the public-at-large.

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 Practice committee, primarily dealing with podiatric practice and reimbursement issues associated with Medicare, Medicaid, and the private insurance industry; concerns that affect every Podiatry practice. In this capacity, I work with medical directors from the insurance industry along with physician leadership representing all specialties.

Recently, newly proposed changes to physician reimbursement by Medicare threatened Podiatry by "carving out" our profession's ability to bill for medical visits, recommending that we be restricted to using "special" codes and not the E&M codes used by our allopathic and osteopathic colleagues. This would have labeled us as "different" from other professionals and we would be unable to bill for the level of care that an MD/DO physician would provide. I was quite surprised when the entire medical community (including Orthopedics) came to our defense, strongly informing CMS and the Congress that Podiatric services are equally as valuable. Podiatry is no longer viewed as an ancillary specialty but as a valuable and respected partner in medicine. ABFAS-certified surgeons have been instrumental and influential in the development of this trust.

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 to have been part of the history of the Board and our podiatric profession. The certification process remains challenging and continues to evolve to remain level with other ABMS specialties.

To those physicians who choose foot and ankle surgery as a specialty...welcome! We need you now more than ever. I look forward to working with you, along with the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery, to improve the health and welfare of our growing population.

John N. Evans, DPM, FACFAS, DABFAS, DABPM
Chief of Podiatry, Beaumont Dearborn Hospital, Dearborn, MI
Member, ABFAS Communications Committee

Advertising Guidelines

2014, the American Board of Podiatric Surgery became the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS). Diplomates should be using our new name on websites, letterheads, business cards or any other advertising pieces. Please make sure your organization's website has the correct name, and that the person who manages the website is aware of our rules.

[These are the guidelines](#) diplomates should follow when creating any piece of marketing collateral:

- Use only "American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery" in advertisements. Do not use the term "American Board of Podiatric Surgery".
- The title "Diplomate, American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®" should always appear before any additional language.

APPROPRIATE:

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

INAPPROPRIATE:

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

- Do not use the acronym "ABFAS" in any advertisements.
- Do not use the terms "Board Certified" or "Certified" unless an asterisk (*) directs the reader's attention to the name of the Board.

APPROPRIATE:

Jane A. Doe, DPM Board Certified*

*Certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®

INAPPROPRIATE:

Jane A. Doe, DPM Board Certified

- Diplomates should not use exclusive phrases such as "only board certified DPM" or "first board certified surgeon"
- The ABFAS logo must never be at a minimum of 150 dpi (dots per inch) for print media and 72 dpi online.

If you have any questions about the ABFAS' advertising policies, please read through [these guidelines](#) or email us at info@abfas.org

2019 Stone Award Winners

On February 14, ABFAS held its 45th Annual Meeting in New Orleans. It was there that Board President Danny J. Choung presented the 2019 Stone Award winners.

The Stone Awards, focusing on outstanding professional conduct, are named in honor of Michael Stone, DPM. Dr. Stone served the Board of Directors in many roles, including president in 2002-03. He left a legacy of commitment to elevating the standard and quality of foot and ankle science and education. With his outstanding devotion to his patients, he was the embodiment of professional conduct, respect, and ethics in surgical medicine.

The Stone Awards recognize a graduating senior from each of the nine podiatry colleges or schools who exemplify the highest standards of professionalism, deportment, and ethics in the student's own interactions with peers, patients, professors, and staff.

ABFAS is proud to congratulate **Ryan Lerch** from the Arizona School of Medicine at Midwestern University, **Elizabeth Ansert** from the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine, **Nassim Natalie Tabrizi** from the California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University, **Jeanne Marie Louise Mirbey** from the Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, **Bethany J. Hine** from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, **Chandler Ligas** from the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine, **Caroline Tippett** from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, **Lauren M. Christie** from the Temple University School of Medicine, and **Jeffrey R. Sanker** from the Western University of Health Sciences College of Podiatric Medicine.



Front Row (L-R): Jeffrey R. Sanker, Nassim Natalie Tabrizi, Chandler Ligas, and Caroline Tippett Back Row (L-R): Lauren M. Christie, Elizabeth Ansert, Jeanne Marie Louise Mirbey, Bethany J. Hine, and Ryan Lerch

Profile Page Updates

This month, ABFAS is adding your residency program information to your profile page. You can find this information on your main profile page underneath the "2019 Spring Exam Result" field. Please take a moment to log into your profile page to ensure all of your residency program information is correct. If you have found an error, please email us at certifications@ABFAS.org

You can log into your profile page [here](#). If you have forgotten your password, [click here](#).

Board Certification is Important to Your Patients!

ABFAS now offers a tri-fold brochure to help patients understand the extensive training that is involved in board certification. This important piece of collateral highlights board certification into three steps; education and residency training, certification process, and continuing education and recertification. Arm your patients with the knowledge that an ABFAS certification is a credential you can trust! This brochure fits in standard literature displays. Order your ABFAS Board Certification brochures [here](#).

Join Us

ABFAS will be attending more conferences in 2019 than ever before. If you are attending, we welcome you to stop by our booth.

The Western Foot and Ankle Conference

June 20-23, 2019
Disneyland Hotel and Convention Center
Anaheim, California

American Podiatric Medical Association – The National

July 11-14, 2019
Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

7th Annual ASPS Surgical Conference

August 2-3, 2019
Swissotel
Chicago, Illinois



ABFAS Profile Update

ABFAS reminds you to log into your profile and confirm all contact information, including email address and mailing address is up to date. Please also confirm that all licenses are up to date.

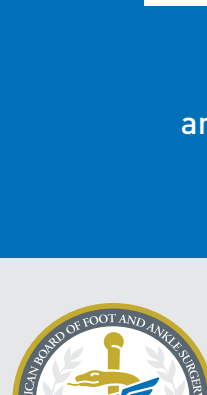
To update your license information, email your license information to licenses@abfas.org or you can call your information at 415-553-7801.

Safe Sender

ABFAS would like all communication to find its way to your inbox. Please add info@abfas.org, updates@abfas.org, and scheduling@abfas.org to your safe sender list to ensure that all of our emails arrive in your inbox and not in "spam".

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.

ABFAS.org



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