I have seen Podiatry grow from an accepted specialty to the "Gold Standard" acceptance it has today. In 1962, all Podiatrists were certified by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM).[1] Podiatry was readily accepted that the podiatric physician with ABPS Diplomate designation had met the required level of education and training and was an expert in foot and ankle surgery. Today it is precisely the opposite. During my early years I spent significant time campaigning as the recognized experts in the care of the foot and ankle.

For example, in 1990, I recommended to the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) that Podiatry be recognized as a specialty. ABPM rejected this appeal. When I began my career, there were few hospitals where podiatrists had active membership. Today, 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.

ABFAS continues to evolve to remain level with other ABMS specialties. As Podiatry grows and Podiatric Medicine increases, we need to focus on expanding our influence to include the public-at-large. Podiatry by "carving out" our profession's ability to bill for medical visits, recommending that Podiatry be included as a specialty within the Medicare paradigm.

I am proud of ABFAS. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with many of our Fellows, and I am very proud of the Board, the staff, and the grass root organizations that affect Podiatry. ABFAS membership is the greatest collection of podiatric surgeons.