

SUMMER 2008

BARRY UNIVERSITY • DIVISION OF MEDICINE

# MED *express*



## WHAT'S *inside*

Twenty Years of Graduating  
DPMs

Barry Foot and Ankle Institute  
at Hialeah Hospital

# MESSAGE FROM THE

# dean



**Chet Evans, DPM, CWS**

**DR. EVANS:** Our primary goal has always been to academically prepare and instruct students in the required medical disciplines necessary to produce competent podiatric physicians effectively qualified to enter post-graduate training. In order to maintain the quality of podiatric medical training provided by the School we have established the Institute for Community Health and Minority Medicine, a new physical facility which we will occupy in fall 2008. The new building will provide classroom space, faculty offices, and laboratory space for the School. The mission of Barry University and the School also encourages students to give back to the community, especially to those in need.

**EDITOR:** As you begin the fall semester in the new physical facility, what will the new facility mean to the School?

educating the public about podiatric medicine. Podiatric physicians have the best training and greatest knowledge regarding the care of the lower-extremity worldwide. It is time that, as medical practitioners, we work together on issues that are important to all of us.

**EDITOR:** What has Barry University's participation in podiatric medical education worldwide meant to the School?

**DR. EVANS:** Recently, the Federation of International Podiatrists began work on an International Model of Podiatric Practice. This model will enable Federation member organizations, government agencies, and corporate partners to understand the level at which podiatrists practice in each country and thereby make more cogent judgments about the practice of podiatric medicine and the education of podiatrists within their own and other countries. This will help pave the way to raising and harmonizing practice and academic standards for the profession. I believe that the specialty of podiatric medicine around the world will be recognized much more prominently in the future.

**EDITOR:** How do you feel about standing at the helm for over 20 years and serving nearly 1,000 DPM graduates while dean of the School?

**DR. EVANS:** I am humbled by the impact the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine has had on the profession. It is our excellent faculty, able staff, and exceptional students which have allowed Barry to establish a reputation during these 20 years in the field of podiatric medical education. Our five Foot & Ankle Institutes have continued to supply over \$1 million a year in charitable medical care to the indigent of Miami Dade County. Most importantly, 93% of alumni who responded to a recent survey said that they would recommend Barry to students considering a career in podiatric medicine – this resounding positive input says much about the School and the people who have made these last 20 years a success.

**EDITOR:** What is your advice for a student considering Barry University to prepare for a career in podiatric medicine?

**DR. EVANS:** I encourage them to pursue their dreams of becoming doctors of podiatric medicine. However, they must realize that the time and dedication that is needed to complete the intense podiatric medical program at Barry is demanding. The training is rigorous but rewards such as a wide range of specialties, flexible hours, and participation in the proud profession of podiatric medicine and surgery make the commitment worth it.

## Twenty Years of Graduating DPMs: A Look Back and a Look into the Future

*On April 26, 2008 Barry University's School of Podiatric Medicine achieved a significant milestone, graduating its 20th class of Doctors of Podiatric Medicine. The School has made tremendous strides since 1985, when there were only 18 students, one hospital affiliation, and no clinical program. There are now 21 local hospital and clinic affiliations, over 250 hospital based externships and the School has graduated nearly 950 podiatric physicians. The editor spoke with Dr. Chet Evans, vice president for medical affairs and dean of the School of Podiatric Medicine about the School's accomplishments and his thoughts on the future of podiatric medical education.*

**EDITOR:** What are the School of Podiatric Medicine's most significant accomplishments?

**DR. EVANS:** The greatest accomplishments of the School have to do with the quality of its people and professional relationships. I am proud to say that we have consistently maintained a high rate of female and minority enrollment during the last twenty years. In fact, last year we had the highest proportion of underrepresented minorities of any college of podiatric medicine in the country. We are also the only school with federal designations as both a minority and an Hispanic serving institution. Our local and international affiliations such as the Open Door Health Center in Homestead, Hadassah Hospital in Israel, Yucatan Crippled Children's Project in Mexico, and the Federation of International Podiatrists worldwide, have allowed us over the years to contribute to the field of podiatric medicine through patient care, and elevation of the educational standard of podiatric medicine internationally.

**EDITOR:** What are some of the goals for the School?

**DR. EVANS:** The new facility will allow us to prepare a new generation of health care providers with emphasis on minority outreach, develop new and innovative community health initiatives, and implement disease prevention programs tailored to minorities to reduce health disparity gaps. Through additional support from Pedinol Pharmaceuticals, the facility will include a new lounge and reading room for our podiatric medical students.

**EDITOR:** What changes do you see in podiatric medical education in the future?

**DR. EVANS:** With the implementation of "Vision 2015," the American Podiatric Medical Association's plan for achieving professional parity with allopathic and osteopathic physicians, podiatric education will continue to provide the rigorous medical training which has made the podiatric physician the specialist of the lower extremity. This will include fostering expanded relationships with local, state, national, and international regulatory organizations as well as

# WHAT'S *inside*



Message from the Dean .....2

Program Director's Column.....4

Student News .....5

Alumni News .....6

Division of Medicine News.....7

Money Matters .....8

Research News .....11

Important Dates .....12

## Barry University Foot and Ankle Institute of Hialeah has moved to new location



The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine is pleased to announce the relocation of the Barry University Foot and Ankle Institute Hialeah Clinic to Hialeah Hospital's Medical Plaza, located at 777 East 25th Street, suite 316. The Barry University Foot and Ankle Institute, Hialeah clinic opened on May 5, 2008 and is open to Hialeah area residents from pediatrics to seniors. All forms of insurance are accepted including: HMOs, Medicare, Medicaid, Workman's Compensation, and private pay. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.barry.edu/podiatryclinics/> or to schedule an appointment, please call 305-693-7287. Hours of service are Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm.

# PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S *column*



**Doreen C. Parkhurst, MD, FACEP**

## Physician Assistant Program Enters Second Decade

*Established in 1997, the Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) has graduated more than 300 physician assistants (PAs) who are making a significant impact on the healthcare and lives of thousands of patients. Now entering its second decade, the BUPAP has achieved many remarkable accomplishments which Assistant Dean for the School of Graduate Medical Sciences and PA Program Director, Dr. Doreen C. Parkhurst discussed with the editor. She also discussed her vision for the next decade. Director of Clinical Education, Carmen Queral, PhD, PA-C and Associate Program Director, Keith Moore, JD, PA-C also provide input regarding the second decade of the Program.*

**EDITOR:** Discuss what you think are the major accomplishments of the Barry PA program in its first ten years.

**DR. PARKHURST:** The first two BUPAP classes had an average of 29 students in them. By our tenth year, we have 68 students in each class: 44 from the campus in Miami Shores, and 24 from the partnership with the University Partnership Center at St. Petersburg College. We conduct classes from two campuses utilizing interactive video conferencing. We have received two HRSA grants, one HRSA supplemental grant, and one Aetna Foundation grant to support our PA training which has emphasized cultural competency and utilizing cutting edge technology. Our faculty has spoken nationally at PA education meetings and has published in peer-reviewed journals on our cultural competency program, problem based learning lab, and collection and evaluation of hand-held computer data for program validation. We

began with three faculty members and one staff person ten years ago and now have eleven full-time and two part-time faculty members and eight staff people.

**EDITOR:** How is Barry's PA program distinct from other PA programs?

**DR. PARKHURST:** The emphasis upon technology and the video conference delivery of the didactic curriculum is what most distinguishes the Barry University PA program from others.

**EDITOR:** What are the goals for the program for the next decade?

**DR. PARKHURST:** Our goal is to continue to focus on the quality of the education. Our method of delivery is exportable to other sites and can enable PA education to reach place bound students.

**EDITOR:** Discuss how faculty preceptors view Barry's PA training program.



good students, very motivated, interested and involved. Our PAs have shown that their knowledge and attitude are excellent. Other preceptors have commented that our students are hard working, intelligent, and very compassionate in their work. They are known to have a good fund of knowledge, which they apply very well. Barry PAs are always eager to learn and they get along very well with patients,

**DR. QUERAL:** Our preceptors have embraced our students and graduates. Their comments have been very positive. Input we have received from preceptors suggests that Barry PAs are

their families and our staff. Our students represent Barry well and make us very proud.

**EDITOR:** Describe any special success stories of our PA students.

**DR. QUERAL:** There is always one student who becomes what I call the 'torment' student, the last one to be placed on rotation, the one who is reassigned to many different sites, etc. Cal Graves, Class of 2008 was my torment. However, he never complained. He has always been the epitome of a compassionate person. I was in St. Petersburg during one end of rotation when he came into the office limping, his foot wrapped in a bandage. Apparently, early that morning as he was leaving his home, he saw a woman being attacked by a pit bull. He intervened, helped the woman and ended up with his toes broken. Any other student would have stayed home after a morning like that. Mr. Graves came in, took the exams, and always had a smile on his face. This is what we seek to foster in our PA students.

**EDITOR:** What do you see for the future of PA medical education?



**MR. MOORE:** There are two major developments which will figure prominently in PA education in the next decade. The first major development in PA education is a

growing debate over the entry level credentials for physician assistants. One of the factors that drove PA education to adopt the master's degree credential was that nurse practitioners were already at that level. It was argued that in order for PAs to compete in the job market, gain credibility in legislative and regulatory settings and negotiate the credentialing processes in many health care systems, PAs in training would need a master's level credential as well.

The second major development will be clinical post-graduate programs and residencies for PAs. Currently, most PAs are trained in primary care oriented PA programs. Roughly half of PA graduates enter surgical and specialty practice and receive the additional training and supervision necessary to function in those environments from their supervising physicians. However, there are an increasing number of post PA graduate education programs. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) recently opened an accreditation process for them.

# STUDENT *news*

## Barry Graduates 20th Class of DPMs



**Dr. Mario Cala, Mercy/Barry podiatric resident; Dr. Ginger Sellars, class vice president; Dr. Chet Evans, VP of Medical Affairs and dean; and Dr. Diana Rogers, class president**

Forty-nine students received the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree (DPM) from the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine at a commencement ceremony held on Saturday, April 26 from 11am to 1pm. The ceremony at Broad Auditorium on the Miami Shores campus was the 20th graduation of the School of Podiatric Medicine, which now has more than 950 graduates.

Dr. James V. Stelnicki of New Port Richey, Florida, the featured speaker at this year's commencement ceremony, reminded the students that as "the most well-educated, best-trained and well-rounded" class ever to graduate, their responsibilities "would be as great as their skills." A past president and member of the Executive Board of the Florida Podiatric Medical Association (FPMA), he established the James V. Stelnicki Scholarship for Excellence in Lower Extremity Vascular Medicine with a \$100,000 gift to the University. The scholarship will award one \$10,000

scholarship each year to a deserving senior podiatric medical student. During the commencement ceremony, Dr. Stelnicki was also inducted into the Barry University Society of Founders, which recognizes and honors individuals who have contributed \$50,000 or more toward the mission and goals of the University.

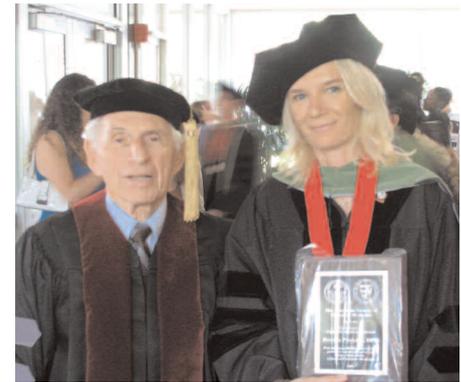
"As a proud member of the School of Podiatric Medicine's 20th graduating class, your continued dedication, determination, and enthusiasm for the future of podiatric medicine will carry you far within the profession," said Dr. Chet Evans, vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of the School of Podiatric Medicine.

Ginger Sellars was the class valedictorian and winner of the Dean's Award, sponsored by the Dade County Podiatric Medical Association while Diana Rogers, president of the Class of 2008 won the President's Award for demonstrated leadership to the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine through

recruitment, tutoring and extramural campus activities, sponsored by Gill Podiatry Supply and Equipment Company and Northwest Podiatric Laboratories.

This year's commencement ceremony also included the participation of a record-number of graduate family members who are practicing podiatric physicians. They are Dr. Alex Miraglia, father of Stephanie Miraglia; Dr. Vincent Pacella, uncle of Stephanie Miraglia; Dr. Jay Newman, father of Laura Newman; Dr. Robert Hoover, father-in-law of Jason Lutrell; and Dr. Philip Adler, uncle of Daniel Selbst.

In addition, to the students receiving a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Daniel Selbst from Weston, Florida received a dual DPM/MBA, while four students, Moise Medacier of Cap Haitian, Haiti, Danielle St. Phard, of Miami, Florida, Sherunda Simone Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio and Nooshin Zolfaghari of Miami, Florida, received a dual DPM/MPH (Master of Public Health).



**Bozena Pawelek, DPM receives Excellence in Podiatric Medicine Award from Dr. Warren Simmonds of the American Society of Podiatric Medicine**

## Outstanding Graduate Student Paper



**Master's of Anatomy candidate Kadhem Alkhenazi**

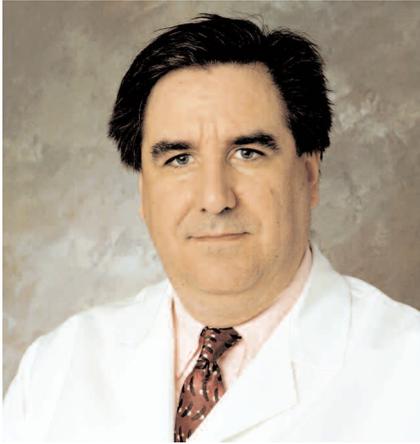
The Barry University Division of Medicine is proud to announce, Master of Science in Anatomy candidate Kadhem Alkhenazi, was awarded the "Outstanding Graduate Student Paper" for his presentation entitled, *The expression of the oxidative and*

*glycolytic capacities after skeletal muscle denervation*, at the 72nd Annual Florida Academy of Sciences meeting held jointly with the Georgia Academy of Sciences in Jacksonville, Florida March 2008. This was the first joint meeting with another Academy in Florida's history. The award is a commendable achievement and is judged based upon experiment design, significance of research findings, and delivery of material as well as on the student's responses to questions posed by Academy judges. Kadhem received a certificate signifying his achievement. The Florida Academy of Sciences is the state Affiliate of the

American Association for the Advancement of Science and is the only organization in Florida that represents all disciplines of the sciences. The Florida Academy of Sciences, Inc. also publishes the *Florida Scientist*, a quarterly journal distributed to its members and libraries worldwide, and sponsors the Annual Meeting to give its members the opportunity to present papers, honor their peers, participate in multidisciplinary scientific exchanges, and increase scientific awareness in the state of Florida.

# ALUMNI *news*

## PA Perspective: David Pavlakovich, PA-C



David Pavlakovich, PA-C, Barry University Physician Assistant Program alumni, Class of 2006 describes his experiences since graduation and his current joy in working as a Physician Assistant for the US Army.

After graduating from the Barry PA Program, I moved back to my hometown, Columbia, South Carolina and took a job in cardiovascular surgery with a local hospital. It was a very high profile job but I found I absolutely hated it. However, one day as I was doing a history and physical on a gentleman preparation for lung surgery I noticed that he had a carotid bruit (an abnormal sound pattern heard in the neck with a stethoscope. It is caused by obstructions and can predict a patient's risk of having a stroke). I reviewed all of his notes and there was no mention of a bruit. I immediately cancelled his surgery and ordered non-invasive carotid studies and then a carotid arteriogram which showed severe blockages. If the lung procedure would have been carried out he surely would have suffered from a stroke upon receiving anesthesia. The surgery he did have was not on his lungs but rather on his carotid arteries. Though I was relieved at the success with this particular patient, I stayed in this position for only about four months.

I started searching for a job and came across an ad looking for PAs at Fort Jackson, South Carolina which was about three miles from where I live. It was a short term contract position but I took the risk, not really

sure what I was getting into. As it turned out, I would see Soldiers who were in basic training for primary care, which would seem routine. However, the approach to treatment of military personnel is a little different from mainstream primary care medicine. You are expected to get the Soldier back to training as soon as possible. This often means doing procedures and giving medications a lot sooner than you might in a civilian setting. The medical philosophy of: *It may be a virus, let's just wait a few days and see how you feel*, is usually not an option. You have to get them better – and do it fast.

After my initial contract expired, I was offered a position directly with the US Army which I gladly accepted. I now have two offices. My afternoon office is at the McWethy Troop Medical Clinic in Fort Jackson, where I see Soldiers on a walk-in basis. The clinic is staffed by approximately twelve PAs and three MDs, as well as nurses and Army Medics. My morning office is in the field about twelve miles from the main base and is staffed by just one medic and myself. We see sick and injured Soldiers who are in the field training. It is interesting having your patients coming into your office with fully automatic rifles in tow, but the work is rewarding. We can do most things there except lab work and x-rays. A lot of diagnosis and treatment is intuitive because in this situation it is not practical to do thorough testing or consultation. For instance, if a female Soldier comes in and says that she is confident that she has a urinary tract infection it really is not that important what the tests may show. If she feels that she knows what she has and is symptomatic you treat her immediately. The conditions that these Soldiers are in are rarely convenient for further testing and diagnosis so it is only practical to treat them and then get them back to duty as soon as possible.

My job is truly selfless. I am helping some of the greatest people in our country on a day to day basis – US Troops. I have never been happier doing anything, or quite had the sense that I was doing some good for those who really deserve quality health care. The sense of personal fulfillment is hard to describe. I am well compensated emotionally and financially for doing something that I love doing. I am serving my country and making a living using the skills I was given during my

training at Barry as a PA.

I was at the Noncommissioned Officers Club the other day eating lunch and I noticed a gentleman was staring at me. I thought that he looked familiar so I went over to him and asked if we knew each other. He asked what I did and I told him I was a PA. He told me that he was the gentleman that I stopped from going into surgery due to stroke risk symptoms earlier in my career. He went on to tell me that he had no fear of dying. He stated that the biggest fear he has in life is to have a stroke and not be able to function. With tears in his eyes, he thanked me for being the only person to examine him thoroughly enough to make sure that didn't happen to him. This certainly served as a good example of why we PAs should do things the right way - the way we are taught at Barry. You never know when what you do can be life altering for someone.



### ATTENTION PODIATRIC AND PA ALUMNI!!!!

The MEDexpress newsletter is dedicating a special feature page called "Class Notes" for news items from alumni. Keep your classmates informed about your:

- new practice
- baby's birth
- professional achievements
- other recognitions

Forward all news items using the coupon below to:

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# DIVISION of MEDICINE *news*

## Dutch Podiatric Research Project Conducted at Barry



**Visiting podiatric medical students (l to r) Jennifer van Schooten, Birgit de Haas, Laura Eijsackers, and Jolan van Beek.**

This summer, four podiatric students from Eindhoven, Holland will be completing a senior research project on the postsurgical treatment of the deformity hallux abducto valgus, or bunions. Fontys School of Applied Sciences, final year podiatry (podophysiotherapy) students, Jennifer van Schooten, Jolan van Beek, Birgit de Haas, and Laura Eijsackers will be in the US until June 6, 2008. For their international research project these students from the Netherlands will be observing the differences in postoperative care after hallux valgus (bunion) surgery to determine if there is a difference in care between the Netherlands and the US. They hypothesize that podiatric care in the US, after bunion surgery, is more developed than in the Netherlands. They will examine how the participation in surgery and

aftercare differs between the podiatric physician in the US and the podiatrist (podotherapeuten) in Holland.

The Dutch students will spend time reviewing cases at the Barry University Foot & Ankle Institute at the Mercy Hospital Outpatient Center in South Miami under the supervision of Dr. James Losito, professor of orthopedics and biomechanics for the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine and podiatric physician to the Miami Heat basketball team. They will review bunion surgery cases from 2004 to 2007 in order to show that US podiatric postoperative treatment can provide a framework for future implementation by podiatrists in the Netherlands, who are limited in their postoperative participation regarding bunion cases.

The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine is hosting the students from Holland as part of an ongoing effort to further podiatric medical education and practice worldwide. This exchange began in 2000 with the first of many trips to Holland by Barry podiatric medical faculty serving as instructors at an annual sports medicine conference in Holland. In addition, there will be ongoing visits to the US by podophysiotherapy students and practicing podotherapeuten from the Netherlands. Dr. Chet Evans, vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of the School of Podiatric Medicine feels strongly about the advancement of podiatric medicine internationally. "It is imperative that we exchange information between the US and Europe in podiatric medical practice and education in order to further the profession on a global basis. We are honored to host these excellent students and will be very interested to review their findings," he states.

## PA Student Receives National Scholarship



**Terry Helopoulos, PA-C, assistant professor of medical education, St. Petersburg College campus with recipient Travis Rogers, PA Class of 2009.**

The Barry Physician Assistant Program is honored to announce that Travis Rogers, Class of 2009, is the recipient of the national Physician Assistant Foundation Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded nationally on the basis of financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and future goals as a PA. As the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) the Physician Assistant Foundation's mission is to foster knowledge and philanthropy that enhance the delivery of quality health care.



**Physician Assistant students at St. Petersburg College campus expressed their Barry pride by posing in their Barry CARES t-shirts when faculty and staff returned from Miami Shores with the shirts as gifts from the Initiative. The Barry CARES Initiative continues to engage students, faculty and staff – promoting collaboration on university-wide improvement efforts and supporting the Strategic Agenda.**

## Barry Podiatric Alum Elected Town Commissioner



**Proud family man Paul Schoppe, DPM with wife Laura and daughters Ellie (6 yrs) & Meg (4 yrs).**

Serving your hometown community in a leadership position may be unusual for many citizens. But, for podiatric physician, Dr. Paul Schoppe, it is part of a larger purpose in life that gives people a chance to make a difference. Schoppe, a 1998 graduate of the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine, was elected on March 21, 2008 to serve as town commissioner for Sewall's Point, Florida. At age 34, Schoppe was the youngest of the three new town commissioners elected. But, his youth was overshadowed by his enthusiasm and involvement in local politics and his interest in seeking community participation in the political process to better his community.

A native of Stuart, Florida, Dr. Schoppe works as a podiatric physician at Family Foot & Ankle in Stuart. His brothers, Drs. Joseph and John Schoppe completed their degrees at Barry as well, and practice together in Stuart, Florida. At the community level, he has served as the youth minister for St. Joseph's Catholic Church since 2001. Through the Light of the World Charities in Palm City, Florida, Schoppe has participated in medical mercy mission trips to Honduras to provide podiatric surgical care to the neediest patients in Central America. In the political arena, he has served the community on the underground utilities boards, airport noise advisory committee, as an alternate for the zoning board and as president Palm Town Association.

When asked what issues he would address, he indicated that budgetary and economic

concerns were top priorities. Schoppe wants to motivate citizens by setting up volunteer programs for people to become more involved in their community. Based on his past experience, Schoppe will bring a strong sense of purpose and community to the citizens of Sewall's Point in his new position as town commissioner. When asked what his greatest achievement has been thus far, he replies that it is being the best husband and father of two daughters he can be.

## Barry Alumna Wu Named to JAPMA Editorial Advisory Board



**Stephanie Wu, DPM**

the *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association (JAPMA)*. The journal, founded in 1907, is the oldest and most frequently-cited peer-reviewed journal in the profession of foot and ankle medicine.

"I am tremendously honored by this appointment," said Wu, who is also Director of Education at Scholl's Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research (CLEAR). "The ability to work closely with the top lower extremity research journal is a distinctive professional privilege." Dr. Warren S. Joseph, *JAPMA's* Editor-in-Chief, noted "Dr. Wu represents a new generation of highly-trained, academic podiatric physicians. She has already made great contributions to the Journal as both an author and an exemplary reviewer. Her election to the Board was by unanimous decision at our recent editorial advisory meeting."

Dr. Wu, in addition to her clinical and research responsibilities, manages visits to CLEAR by visiting professors, fellows and other clinicians each year from dozens of nations.

Source: *PM News*

## Money Matters

From  
Podiatry Billing Services®

### Coding 101

From our previous article in the Spring MEDexpress, you should have an idea as to the amount of money to be generated each hour to cover overhead expense. In the next few articles, the staff of Podiatry Billing Services will present real practice scenarios allowing you to check your coding skills.

Case: Mrs. Jones, a 66 year old Medicare patient, has been referred by her primary care physician for evaluation and treatment. From your history and physical exam, her symptoms suggest a Morton's Neuroma. X-ray examination (two views) of both feet indicates no osseous involvement.

After spending 30 to 45 minutes discussing the problem in detail with Mrs. Jones, you proceed to give her an injection of Kenalog with Xylocaine into the neuroma site and the patient is reappointed for one week to possibly repeat the injection.

How would you code the visit and procedure(s)? Because you spent 30 to 45 minutes face to face with the patient, you could code the visit as a 99203. However, since the patient was referred for consultation, a 99243 would be more appropriate. The difference in reimbursement is significant.

The correct code for two x-rays of the foot is 73620. Because it involves both feet you should have a separate charge for the right foot and left foot (RT and LT modifiers).

Unfortunately, the steroid injection (CPT 20550) given with the diagnosis of Morton's Neuroma (ICD-9 355.6) is not a Medicare covered service and will be denied. Consider using a diagnosis code such as bursitis (726.79), tenosynovitis (727.06) or capsulitis/tenosynovitis (726.90) for the injection. You can use the diagnosis of Morton's Neuroma (ICD-9 355.6) with the office or consultation visit.

We look forward to hearing from you (800-394-1169). Email your questions or comments to [pbsmail@podiatrybilling.com](mailto:pbsmail@podiatrybilling.com) or visit our website: [www.podiatrybilling.com](http://www.podiatrybilling.com).

# Relay for Life

by Hany Jeffry and Annabelle Santos



**The over 30 Relay participants from the Division of Medicine included students, faculty, staff, and family members.**

Cancer has become so common worldwide that it has affected every one of us. For this reason, the American Cancer Society holds an annual walk, Relay for Life, in memory of those who've been lost to cancer and in support of those still fighting the disease. The Asian Pacific Islanders Association of Podiatric Medical Students (APAPS), was just one of the many groups that participated in the twelve hour walk held at Barry's Miami Shores campus. APAPS is a new organization created by Dr. Ramjeet Pemsingh. The aim of APAPS is to unify podiatric medical students of multiple ethnicities and increase awareness of podiatric medicine in the community.

On April 11th APAPS contributed by decorating, baking, and setting up activities. This was all topped off by a nonstop barbeque of hamburgers and hotdogs that spanned the entirety of the event. This would not have been possible without Kasra Kaghazchi who worked tirelessly throughout the entire twelve hours. Other fundraising activities included selling baked goods, soft drinks, and face painting. Throughout the event, APAPS members entertained themselves as well as other groups through activities such as dancing, volleyball, football, frisbee, and wiffleball. By 2 am, APAPS had raised \$981.

Several people showed up to support the APAPS team including numerous Barry University staff involved in the podiatric medical program. Among these special attendees were Dr. Thomas Merrill, Mrs. Brenda Merrill, and Dr. Edward Orr. The most important APAPS supporter present was

Shirley Williams, a brave woman who has won the battle against cancer.

At 9:30 pm, the lights went down and luminaries were lit in memory of cancer victims. This was a meaningful way for those attending the event to pay respect to loved ones they have lost. Once all the luminaries were lit, Dr. Southerland played the bagpipes leading all the teams around the track once so they could reflect on how their lives have been affected by cancer.

When the closing ceremonies began, J.D. Sills-Powell finished his last lap completing his 12th hour of nonstop walking. When asked why this event was so important to him he said, "I have a lot of family that are cancer survivors and I know a lot of people who have died from cancer. When considering the duration of pain a person with cancer has to

endure, it is much longer than twelve hours. It was my way of being able to appreciate and respect those cancer victims and survivors".

APAPS plans to make Relay for Life an annual event where they hope to grow in their continuous support for cancer research.

## Barry PA Faculty Member holds Meet the Author Event



**Dr. Bernard Loeffke**

Barry Physician Assistant Program physical diagnosis lab instructor, Dr. Bernard Loeffke signed copies of his book *Our America, Our China* at a "Meet the Author" event at the Barry bookstore March 13th along with his

son Marc Loeffke who co-authored the book. *Our America, Our China* was written to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the first White House Fellows visit to China. It is Loeffke's belief that the fate of the world depends to a large extent on how Chinese and Americans behave toward one another. "We learned much as we were looking at the two countries from different perspectives. In many primitive languages the words 'stranger' and 'enemy' are the same. Join us in making friends out of strangers," stated Loeffke.



**April 11th & 12th Barry's Miami Shores campus hosted "Day of Sports Medicine," a joint effort between the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine and the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine (AAPSM). Pictured here is Dr. James Losito, professor of orthopedics and biomechanics with the officers of AAPSM: Dr. Jamie Yakel, Dr. Karen Langone, Dr. Matt Werd, Dr. David Davidson, Dr. Rita Yates, Dr. Tim Dutra.**

# The Pied Piper

by Richard A. Webster

*Dr. John Steinberg '95 has a passion for promoting wound care and preventing unnecessary amputations.*

Each year more than 80,000 diabetics have their toes, feet or legs amputated, but it's not always necessary and can lead to additional problems, says Dr. John Steinberg, a graduate of the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine and currently an assistant professor in the department of plastic surgery at Georgetown University School of Medicine.

If a diabetic has a wound or an ulcer of the foot it's common practice for surgeons to recommend amputating the entire limb. "It's easy to cut off someone's leg because you can get them out the hospital real quick," Steinberg said. However, following that course of action isn't always necessary and can lead to additional problems and complications. In fact, more than 50 percent of patients who undergo amputations suffer infections and complications in the remaining foot and undergo additional amputations. And within five years 40 percent die. That's where Steinberg's dedication to his profession becomes a true passion.

Recent advances in podiatric medicine can prevent unnecessary amputations, and Steinberg is determined to educate the medical community to promote wound healing as an alternative to the severing of a limb. "I'm usually on a plane once a week to give a talk at a national or state meeting," he said. "This is my real passion, to try to get more people to engage in advanced wound healing [rather than resorting to] amputations."

Steinberg is looking to change the field of podiatry much as his grandfather, Dr. Marvin Steinberg, did two generations ago. Dr. Marvin Steinberg, considered the "father of modern podiatry," was one of the first to successfully treat gangrenous limbs when most doctors were relying on amputations. His father, Dr. Lloyd Steinberg, and brother, Dr. Paul Steinberg, are also practicing podiatric physicians in Ocala, Florida.

Steinberg, who holds the honor of being the first doctor of podiatric medicine (DPM) to be invited onto the faculty at Georgetown University Medical School, wants to expand on his grandfather's work by bringing together specialists who rarely work together such as podiatrists, vascular surgeons and endocrinologists. By combining their expertise Steinberg says he hopes to increase the speed and efficiency of foot care so doctors won't have to consider cutting off a patient's leg. "There are new techniques, better antibiotics, artificial



**John Steinberg, DPM**

skin and tissue. You can get new blood flow. It's a whole different ballgame from what it was 10 years ago," he said. "Now we can take off part of the foot and heal the remaining wound and leave them with something to walk on. And a part of a foot is better than taking a whole leg."

Dr. David Armstrong, a Chicago-based podiatric physician, was a professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio when he first met Steinberg and has worked closely with him ever since. Steinberg's leadership on the issue of amputations is indicative of his passion for the field and serves as a source of inspiration for upcoming podiatrists, he says. "Young doctors followed [him] around in a long string of white coats," Armstrong said. "I suppose you could say John is the Pied Piper of Podiatry. That's a tribute to his family, to his character and to his infectious enthusiasm."

Steinberg's dedication to reaching out to each new class of podiatrists and providing them with leadership has been vital in growing the field, Armstrong said. "Our profession is a young one. It hasn't had a culture of mentorship in the past," he said. "Much of this has been compensated for by excessive hubris. But John's mentoring and his characteristic humility and innate kindness has really helped to change the culture. Future doctors see this. And they're attracted to it. They benefit from it and so does our profession as a whole." In addition to inspiring the next generation of podiatrists, Steinberg wants to change the mindset of the current generation to help those most in need.

Diabetic-related amputations typically impact the poor and homeless, people who can't afford medical care, Steinberg says. They can go years without seeing a doctor during which time their diabetes can worsen and once treatable wounds go unchecked. Because these patients are poor or living on the streets, many times surgeons may not take the time to explore all options and instinctively decide to sever the limb, Steinberg says. "But once the homeless have amputations they're totally state-dependent and they end up in facilities and it becomes not only a physical burden for them but a financial burden for the state. Where we're pushing is the degree of amputation. Keep it at partial foot amputation so you don't lose the whole leg. This is the standard we're trying to establish."

*Source: Barry Magazine, Spring 2008, Vol. 14, No. 1*



**Barry podiatric medical students (l to r) Jeff Paul, Jean Pak, Jackie Schwartz, Kristen Diehl, and Stephanie Bock participate in foot washing for homeless at the Miami Rescue Mission**

# RESEARCH *news*



**Kaloian G. Ouzounov, DPM**

## Research Club to Aid Student Research Endeavors

*Dr. Kaloian Ouzounov serves as the research director for the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine. The editor asked Dr. Ouzounov to discuss the formation of a new Student Podiatric Medical Research Club at Barry.*

EDITOR: What is the mission of the Research Club?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The purpose of the Student Podiatric Medical Research Club is to provide students at the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine with an environment conducive to podiatric medical research early in their training. Planned are regular quarterly club meetings, official membership recognitions, and a semi-annual podiatric medical scholarly peer reviewed journal. Not only will this club help ensure continuity of podiatric research at Barry, but it will also pair faculty and students in mentoring relationships, integrate students from different interests, and supplement post-graduate completion of podiatric medical studies.

EDITOR: Who is involved in the formation of the Club and how are they involved?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The Research Club is student formed and governed. It will promote excellence and leadership in podiatric student publications through student research forums, guest lectures, and faculty peer review panels. All students and faculty are invited to

participate. As director of research, I will oversee the Club and supervise the activities of the students as well as help recruit guest lecturers and other support within the profession of podiatric medicine.

EDITOR: Will the club be involved in publications, research, and education?

DR. OUZOUNOV: Yes, the club will facilitate education through research and publications. The research journal will be maintained and edited by members of the Club under the supervision of myself and other Barry School of Podiatric Medicine faculty.

EDITOR: How is the club important in inspiring podiatric medical careers and teaching about research procedure and publication?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The Club will provide regular contact between beginning and upper classmates, faculty, and practicing podiatric physicians nationwide. It will give all Barry podiatric students an opportunity to present formal and informal research topics. Peer review of current research in the field allows for the exchange of research ideas and is very important to podiatric medicine. This scholarly work will further the formation of special topics within the field of podiatric medicine and help students begin to see their areas of interest.

EDITOR: How will the Club help with research projects which are required for Barry podiatric medical students?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The library research paper is a required course in the last semester of the 4th year. Students who complete a paper early will be able to not only meet the requirements of that course, but also have the time to actually submit the paper for publication and see it published before they graduate. This will relieve their academic burden during their 4th year, enhance their

position during the residency interviews, and give them the extra edge they need to secure their first choice residency.

EDITOR: Why is student research and clubs of this nature important for podiatric medical education?

DR. OUZOUNOV: It is imperative that the students themselves understand and actively support the Research Club and what it stands for. Without the students interest, active support and participation the research club could not exist. As students approach graduation they are presented with limited residency positions. The increased residency applicant load from the other seven podiatric colleges, will make the competition for entrance into these programs more and more stringent. It is up to the podiatric medical student to be proactive and prepare for success by honing their research skills early. Students who have begun to do research and have published will have the edge in the post-graduate placement. As the director of research, it is my duty to give them timely advice. I can show them the door but they themselves have to find the courage and the strength to open it and walk through.

Brian Selbst, Class of 2010, is the current student research club president. He can be reached at [selbstb@bucmail.barry.edu](mailto:selbstb@bucmail.barry.edu). I am also available for any research related questions the readers of MEDexpress may have at [kouzounov@mail.barry.edu](mailto:kouzounov@mail.barry.edu)

**MEDexpress** is published for the alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the Barry University Division of Medicine. The primary purpose of Barry University is to offer its students a quality education. Furthermore, Barry University commits itself to assuring a religious dimension and to providing community service and presence within a more caring environment.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### ■ AUGUST 21, 2008

Physician Assistant Rite of Passage Class of 2009  
 White Coat Ceremony 6pm - 9:00pm  
 Broad Auditorium, Miami Shores Campus  
 Contact: Valerie Williams 305-899-3293

### ■ AUGUST 22, 2008

Physician Assistant Rite of Passage Class of 2009  
 St. Petersburg Expansion Cohort  
 White Coat Ceremony, 6pm - 9:00pm  
 University Partnership Center Digiitorium  
 St. Petersburg College  
 Contact: Debbie Winton 727-341-4156

### ■ SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

Podiatric Dermatology:  
 Diagnosis & Treatment of Inflammatory Skin  
 Diseases  
 (3 CMEs) 5pm - 8:45pm  
 Contact: Urmala Roopnarinesingh 305-899-3255  
 Visit our website at: [www.barry.edu/podiatry/cme](http://www.barry.edu/podiatry/cme)

### ■ SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

Podiatric Medicine and Surgery  
 Class of 2010 Residency Fair  
 Barry University Campus, Andreas Hall  
 Contact: Ashish Kapila 954-235-4251

### ■ OCTOBER 16, 2008

A Guide to Improving Income:  
 Practice Mgmt & Billing  
 (3 CMEs) 5pm-8:45pm  
 Contact: Urmala Roopnarinesingh 305-899-3255  
 Visit our website at: [www.barry.edu/podiatry/cme](http://www.barry.edu/podiatry/cme)

### ■ OCTOBER 25, 2008

Florida Required License Renewal Course  
 (5 CMEs) 8am-1:45pm  
 Contact: Urmala Roopnarinesingh 305-899-3255  
 Visit our website at: [www.barry.edu/podiatry/cme](http://www.barry.edu/podiatry/cme)

Who's on the Cover - Barry University School of  
 Podiatric Medicine Class of 2008

## First Annual BUPASA Park Clean up

The Barry University Physician Assistant Student Association (BUPASA) strives to promote humanitarian ideals through fundraising and community service. With this intent they held their 1st Annual Park Clean-up event April 26, 2008. At least 40 participants, including BUPASA members and officers, classmates of the Class of 2008 & 2009 as well as members of the local community pitched in to help with the Arch Creek park renovation picking up trash, clearing brush, and revamping the butterfly garden.

This service event incorporates community involvement and promotes an awareness of the environmental issues of today. "By embracing nature and lending a helping hand to improve our local



environment, we hope to make a difference in our community," said Kendra Aalund, historian, Class of 2009.



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