

Letter from the editor – Theodore Varoz, DPM

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor the President and co-founder of the American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry Dr Earl Horowitz. This month, Dr Horowitz will be celebrating his fiftieth anniversary as a podiatrist. I have been fortunate to know and work with a living legend in our profession. He's done it all. There is not anyone in podiatry today that has not benefited directly or indirectly from the tireless work he has performed to enhance the profession of Podiatry, especially for our members. He's truly a podiatrist's Podiatrist. Over the years, he has become a larger than life figure in podiatry. The members of the Board of Directors and our staff, along with all the members of ABMSP, owe Dr Horowitz a debt of gratitude. His vision and foresight has provided many deserving members with an alternative path to board certification, for which otherwise would not be available to them. This has enhanced the professional standing of many, and on that account, personal lives and that of their families. Congratulations "Boots" for the fifty years you have dedicated to Podiatry.

Watch for Us in 2009!

The ABMSP will be staffing a booth at the following shows in 2009:

Midwest Conference in Chicago, Illinois April 2-5

Western Meeting in Anaheim, California June 25-27

As part of the Western Meeting we will also be hosting a meeting of the ABMSP diplomates who will be in Anaheim. The meeting will be on June 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm at the Disneyland Resort.

New Websites Available

Although all of the ABMSP Diplomates are listed on our website, up until now we have not provided any website information so prospective patients can locate you or learn more about your practice. We can now provide either a link to your website, or we can develop a new website for you. If you would like us to link to you, please provide us with the address of your website.

If you don't have a website, or would like a new one made in a similar look to the rest of our newly designed website, we have a template from which we can quickly make one for you. Just provide us with your full name, contact information, address (with location information), a description of your services, a biographical sketch, and any specialties of your practice that you want to mention. The one-time cost for development of the website is \$250 (there would be an additional cost if changes are required at a later date) and you'll also receive a web address that you can use in all of your marketing materials.

If you have an existing website address, please send it to Denise Wagner, dwagner@ptcny.com. If you'd like a new website, please send the above information to Denise, with a notification in the email that you'd like us to build you a new website. We will invoice you for the \$250 development fee.

And, if you haven't seen it lately, check out the new look of our website, www.abmsp.org.

Letter from the President – Earl R. Horowitz, DPM

NOCA and ANSI

Mention was made elsewhere in this newsletter about the fact that the ABMSP and its three credentials – Certification in Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine, Certification in Podiatric Surgery, and Certification in the Diabetic Foot – have earned accreditation by both the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA – www.noca.org) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI – www.ansi.org). But do you really know what this means?

In order to be accredited by these organizations the ABMSP had to go through a rigorous application process, supplying copies of policies and procedures, minutes of meetings, psychometric processes, statistical information, and other documentation about how we ensure that our examinations are valid, reliable, and equivalent, which in turn protects the public in our representation of podiatrists who have earned the credentials.

The ABMSP has been accredited by NOCA for about 10 years, but the accreditation by ANSI was received in 2008. In addition to an extensive written application, the ANSI process involved a 2-day site visit by ANSI inspectors to ensure that we are following recommended procedures for test development and administration. For both accreditations, we must submit annual reports, with a complete new application every 5 years, with interim additional site visits by ANSI inspectors.

These accreditations mean that the ABMSP adheres to the highest standards in both the development and administration of its three examinations. And, it has met the international accrediting standards adopted by ANSI. We suggest that you use this information in your marketing materials. No other podiatric certification has earned either of these accreditations.

American College of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry

In the last issue of the newsletter we announced that a new college – the American College of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry (ACMSP) had been formed. We hope you will join the organization. Call the Board office for an application. Soon the application will be available on-line.

The annual membership dues are \$250. You are eligible to join if you are a Board certified physician, licensed to practice in any area of human medicine. Your dues will include a subscription to our Journal, reduced registration at our annual conference, and other white papers and documents as they are published. You will also be considered a Charter member of the organization. All members will be called Fellows of the ACMSP with full voting rights.

And speaking of the annual conference, our first one will be held in Orlando on **September 12** at the Hilton Garden Inn Orlando International Airport. A special room rate of \$124 has been arranged, which includes a full breakfast. The registration for the conference will be \$50 for members of the College; \$75 for nonmembers. Additional information on the program contents and registration will be mailed shortly – **but hold the date!**

Journal Authors Sought

The College (see article above) is ready to accept articles for its Journal. Author guidelines are available. If you are interested in submitting an article, have any additional questions, or would like to serve on the review panel please contact the Journal editor, Jim Fisher, at jim.fractal@gmail.com.

Armed Services Recognition Sought

Although the Veterans' Administration will pay the application fee for our certification examinations for those who have served in the military, the branches of the armed services do not recognize our credentials once they have been obtained. The ABMSP does not believe this is fair or appropriate. Our certification examinations are valid and reliable, and have been accredited by both the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). So we are going to try and work through the system to get this changed, starting with one military branch at a time.

But we need your help. Do any of you have contacts within the military who you think could help us work through the bureaucracy? Do you know of any stories of podiatrists who have been turned down that we could use as evidence of the problem?

If you have anything you think would assist us, please let Joan Campbell, know at jcampbell@ptcny.com.

Call for Nominations

The terms of four of the eight elected members of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry (the Board) are up for re-election this year. Terms are for two years.

To run for one of the Directors' seats, you may nominate yourself by submitting your own name, or if you know someone you think would be a good Director you may submit his/her name to the Board's headquarters. Please include a letter of interest explaining why you want to serve on the Board, along with a current curriculum vitae.

The Board of Directors meets in person 2 or 3 times per year (expenses paid by the ABMSP), typically on a Friday and Saturday, with occasional conference calls between meetings. Directors will also be asked to serve on committees, in a membership booth at professional trade shows, and on other assignments as needed. During their term in office all Directors must maintain their Board Certification and their annual dues paid in full.

Please send in your typed nomination to the board office no later than **APRIL 30th** to: Denise Wagner

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I change my address, phone number or email?

Call the Board office at 888-852-1442, we will be more than happy to take this information over the phone. You can also send in your corrected information. Please note that we can only keep one address on file, whatever is in our database will show up on the online directory.

How many hours of Continuing Education is needed to re-certify?

Recertification is done every 4 years. If you are certified in Primary Care or Podiatric Surgery, a minimum of 80 contact hours are required in the area of Podiatry (office management, medicare, etc do not count). If you are certified in the Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and Footwear, you will need 16 contact hours in the area of diabetic wound care.

All contact hours in the four year time frame must fall between March 1st (4 years previous) and March 1st of the year you are recertifying.

How do I obtain a handbook and application for an examination?

The handbooks can be downloaded from our website <http://www.abmsp.org/> under the "become certified" page. Please be sure to read the handbook in its entirety. It has a lot of information regarding the examination, fees, eligibility, content outline, references, etc.

What is the time frame of cases that can be used for Primary Care and Podiatric Surgery?

For Primary Care, you can use cases from one year before you sat for the examination through one year after you sat for the examination, the total time frame is 2 years.

For Podiatric Surgery, you can use cases from two years prior to sitting for the examination through two years after you sat for the examination, the total time frame is 4 years.

How can I advertise that I am certified with the ABMSP?

Please follow our advertising guidelines. A copy was mailed to you upon certification and when you recertify. A copy can also be downloaded from our website, <http://www.abmsp.org/maintaincertification.html>

Can I get an extension to submit my cases?

Yes, a one time (per case type) extension is available for \$200. This extension gives you one additional year to submit your cases from the original due date.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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The **ABMSP Board of Directors** would love to hear from you and welcome your comments or concerns to help improve the board. You may email them directly at the emails listed below:

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