

## Letter from the Editor – Theodore Varoz, DPM

Dear Valued Diplomates of ABMSP:

At the end of 2009 unemployment in the United States was approximately 10%. All the administration's billions of dollars worth of stimulus money is going to start drying up in 2010. Weakening of the U.S. dollar and continued increase in real estate debt are trends expected to continue throughout 2010 and beyond. We can expect the downsizing by the health insurance industry to find the smallest excuse to remove podiatrists from provider networks. We know that this will mean the credentials of doctors and their Board Certification status will affect their decisions as they look to save more money by reducing the number of doctors on their provider panels. This is the reality of our economy. Quality care will still be necessary and desirable for Podiatric patient care. The good news here is that the American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry will help to re-formulate and continue to move us in the new directions of the highest quality of care by certification that will create an exceptionally good American health care system that we hope will be better than the one we're leaving.

- Editor, Theodore L. Varoz, D.P.M.

### Watch for Us in 2010!

The ABMSP will be staffing a booth at the following shows in 2010:

Florida Podiatric Medical Association, Orlando, FL. January 21–23, 2010. Booth #090

New York Podiatric Medical Association, New York, NY. January 29-31, 2010. Booth #505

Midwest Conference in Chicago, IL. March 11–13. Booth #235

As part of the Midwest Meeting we will also be hosting a wine and cheese reception for those diplomates who will be in Chicago. This meeting/reception will be on March 12, 2010 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the Horner—Silver W room of the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Western Meeting in Anaheim, CA. June 24-27. Booth # TBD

## Letter from the President – Earl R. Horowitz, DPM

By now you may have seen our ad in *Podiatry Today* and *Podiatric Management* magazines which is an open letter to the podiatry community objecting to the American Podiatric Medical Association's (APMA) requirement that in 2015 podiatrists will be required to have served a three-year residency in order to become eligible to sit for primary care and surgery certification examinations. The ABMSP feels that this will preclude a number of very fine podiatrists from being able to obtain a certification because there were no three-year residencies available when they first graduated.

We are calling our campaign "Equal Access for All" and are urging podiatrists to speak up against this decision of the APMA. If they persist in the 3-year residency requirement, then at least let's urge them to add some form of equivalency, such as "x" number of years of practice is equal to one year of residency. Please contact your APMA delegate, which you can find on their website at [www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org) and urge him/her to re-visit their decision about a three-year residency. We also welcome your comments on our own website, [www.abmsp.org](http://www.abmsp.org).

## APPROVED METHODS OF ADVERTISEMENT

Every Board Certified member of must use one of the following designations listed below:

1. Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine
  - a. Diplomate, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Board Certified in Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine; or
  - b. Board Certified, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine
2. Podiatric Surgery
  - a. Diplomate, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Board Certified in Podiatric Surgery; or
  - b. Board Certified, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Podiatric Surgery
3. Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and in Diabetic Foot Wear
  - a. Diplomate, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Board Certified in Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and in Diabetic Footwear; or
  - b. Board Certified, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and in Diabetic Footwear
4. Multiple Board Certifications
  - a. Diplomate, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Board Certified in Podiatric Surgery, Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine and Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and in Diabetic Footwear; or
  - b. Board Certified, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Podiatric Surgery, Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine and Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and in Diabetic Footwear; or
  - c. Combinations of any two certifications are listed as specified in a. and b. above, in the following order:
    - Podiatric Surgery and Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine, or
    - Podiatric Surgery and Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and in Diabetic Footwear, or
    - Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine and Prevention and Treatment of Diabetic Foot Wounds and in Diabetic Footwear

## VETERAN AFFAIRS AND THE ABMSP CREDENTIAL

I have been practicing podiatric medicine and surgery for the past 12 years at both private practice and medical groups. I have been accepted and recognized as an ABMSP board certified provider without any rejection. For the past two years, I have been working as a Staff Podiatrist for the San Juan VA Hospital located in Puerto Rico. Working for the VA administration has been a wonderful job-related experience. I have been respected and accepted by patients, nurses, clinical directors, and providers. However, there is one huge problem. I am not getting pay for my ABMSP board certification. The VA administration relies on professional boards for provider accreditation and grading which would determine your salary. Podiatrists are evaluated by a Podiatry Professional Standard Board. When I submitted all my credentials I was informed that I could not include my ABMSP certified status because it was not a CPME approved board. I felt that I have been discriminated against because I do recognize that the ABMSP board is a qualified certification for the podiatry profession. Recently, The Podiatry Handbook for the VA administration was reviewed and stated that only CPME approved certification board certification would be recognized. There is a CPME/APMA liaison that would provide podiatry guidance and recommendation to the VA administration. I just want to share this experience with all of you to see if any of you have had a similar experience with the VA. If you have experienced a similar situation with a VA hospital, please contact us at [abmsp@abmsp.com](mailto:abmsp@abmsp.com)

Carlos Sepulveda, DPM

Diplomate, American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, Board Certified in Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine

## REPORT ON MEETING MARRIOTT SAN JUAN

As usual our meeting took place in a beautiful hotel in a beautiful area, The Marriott San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Our main discussions and accomplishments included:

We authorized marketing dollars to be spent for advertising in NYC during the NYSPMA meeting, possibly in the transit system. Also other marketing strategies were discussed.

"Equal Access For All" was discussed and how we intend to get equal access for all those who do not have a three year residency and allow them to become Board Certified. An open letter will go out to all Podiatrists explaining this course of action.

During the annual meeting in Chicago, we will host a membership wine and cheese reception at the Hyatt Regency on Friday evening.

We will also start a page on Facebook and LinkedIn for ABMSP.

We also authorized funding to develop a Limb Salvage Board Certification which can be earned by only those Diplomates who have passed the Primary Care, Surgical, and Diabetic Foot Wound examinations.

Our next annual Board Meeting will be this Fall in Savannah.

Anthony J. Borrelli, DPM, Vice President

### NEW EXAMINATION ON LIMB SALVAGE PLANNED

The ABMSP, as part of its mission to represent "multiple specialties in podiatry", will be introducing a new certification examination in Limb Salvage, which is an increasingly important part of our profession.

Unlike our current examinations in Primary Care, Podiatric Surgery, and Diabetic Foot Wounds, this new examination will test the higher level critical thinking skills and inter-relationships which are needed for limb salvage.

The Board of Directors of the ABMSP will be soliciting questions for this new examination when our current diplomates pay their annual dues. Anyone who sends in at least 10 questions (in one batch) for this new examination will receive \$100 off their annual dues.

### SOCIAL NETWORKING

We are now on Facebook and Linked In. If you are too, follow us—we will post information regarding where we will have booths at conferences, member meetings, and other important information.



### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CASE REVIEWERS

We are looking for more volunteers to help review the case submission of the board eligible candidates. If you think you would be interested in this position please send us a letter including:

- Your Name
- Phone number
- Brief statement of why you would be interested in reviewing case documentation

If you have any questions please call the Board office at (888) 852-1442.

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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