



PRIMARY CARE • SURGERY  
DIABETIC FOOT WOUND • LIMB SALVAGE

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[www.abmsp.org](http://www.abmsp.org)

Volume XXII Summer 2012

## Letter from the President

### Recognition in Podiatry

Board certification in all types of foot surgery, podiatric medicine, and podiatric orthopedics has become a necessity for individual recognition as a podiatrist as well as important for the development of the podiatric profession. The most essential aspect of Board certification is the fact that these boards develop recognition of the podiatrist by their own peers within podiatry. These certification processes do not depend upon outside recognition for their accomplishments.

The most common conditions that most podiatrists are treating today are associated with diabetes and diabetic complications. The profession of podiatry, through its knowledge and expertise, is a major contributor to the control of these almost epidemic conditions.

We must show the public and our allied medical professionals that we, as a profession, recognize the need to be able to show excellence and achievement in this field.

Too often podiatrists become recognized, and certified, by non-podiatric certification boards. This does not help our profession. Our profession advances and the podiatrist advances only when we recognize our own.

The American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry is the only podiatry board certifying podiatrists in diabetic foot wounds and limb preservation and salvage. We must advance our own recognition and our profession by becoming double-boarded in diabetic foot wounds and limb preservation and salvage. We must start to tell our colleagues about the importance of podiatry recognizing its own accomplishments in this field. Let your hospitals, wound centers, and insurance companies know about your accomplishments and recognition by our own peers.

The ABMSP continues to show its understanding of the needs of podiatry! We are an essential part of the podiatric profession.

Earl

Earl R. Horowitz, DPM  
President

## Letter from the Editor

Many hospitals now require in their bylaws that all surgeons on staff must be board certified in their surgical specialty by an accredited and nationally recognized surgical board. The ABMSP Podiatric Surgery examination is certainly accredited and nationally recognized. The other major requirement is that the podiatric surgeon must have completed a 2 or 3 year surgical residency. If being re-credentialed and the podiatric surgeon has not met those criteria, then they must prove their competency. This can be accomplished by providing proof that you have performed the required cases for the higher podiatric privileges. This allows for standardization without prejudice, and should prove to your hospital that you are well trained and experienced. This certainly provides the parity you should need.

Ted

Theodore Varoz, DPM  
Newsletter Editor

# Letter from the Treasurer

## Kenneth Rehm, DPM

Dear Fellow Board Members;

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my insights as to the value of our board certifications. I want all of us to be aware of how important our board certifications have become.

First off, let me acknowledge that at least two members of our board of directors have been mentioned as part of the top 100 most influential podiatrists in the country. This says something for our leadership. Congratulations once again to Dr. Earl Horowitz; and I myself am proud to be the other honored member. I pledge to use my positive image to promote a constructive and innovative image for podiatry and our board.

To that end, I also must tell you that I have retained a rather significant role at University of California San Diego. I am developing a Limb Preservation and Salvage Center at the prestigious University Of California San Diego Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center. I was accepted into this prestigious role by virtue of my credentials from ABMSP!

In addition, this certification has given me staff privileges at four other respected major hospitals in the San Diego area and I have never been denied acceptance to any insurance panel because of board certification.

My accomplishments are many because of ABMSP; and I owe this success to our prestigious credential. Lets all be proud of it; and with confidence and strength relate this to our podiatric and medical colleagues. We have created significant accomplishments in the medical and podiatric worlds, and an extraordinary opportunity to further impact our profession; as well as the ability to positively impact the lives and professions of our current and future podiatric colleagues.

We have done well, my friends.

I am truly honored to be part of ABMSP!  
Thank you,

Ken

Kenneth Rehm, DPM  
Treasurer, ABMSP Board of Directors

## Where to Find Us in 2012!

This year the ABMSP will be exhibiting at the National 2012 APMA Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC August 16-18. Be sure to stop by and say hello – and bring your fellow podiatrists so they can meet us and learn about our examinations – especially our newest one in Limb Preservation and Salvage.

APMA, Washington, DC. August 16-18, 2012. Booth # 1908

Also be sure to visit us at:

Desert Foot & Ankle Conference, Phoenix, AZ.  
November 14 – 16, 2012. Booth # TBD



## Equivalency for one-year residency

In only a few years the APMA is going to require a three-year residency be fulfilled before someone can sit for a certification examination in podiatric medicine or surgery. There will not be enough three-year residencies to meet the need of graduating podiatrists. This requirement will also prohibit those who are practicing podiatrists from seeking certification because they became podiatrists when no three-year residencies existed. Therefore, the ABMSP Board of Directors, after consulting with other organizations and looking at literature on the subject, voted to recognize ten years of practice as a podiatrist to be equivalent to one year of residency. It is their belief that, after working as a podiatrist for 10 years, the experience and knowledge would meet or exceed what would be learned in one year of residency.

## OIG Search

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) was established within the US Department of Health and Human Services to identify and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in the department's programs. It carries out this mission through a nationwide program of audits, inspections, and investigations. Additionally, it maintains a list of individuals and entities who have engaged in fraud or abuse.

Did you know that you can check their database to find out if any of your staff members are listed within the OIG as an individual who is excluded from Federal health care programs? Go to this link and enter their name(s) to find out:

<http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/>

## ABMSP Diplomates

Those of you who are diplomates of the ABMSP are in good company. Since its inception, 1,112 podiatrists have taken the certification examination for Primary Care in Podiatric Medicine; that examination has an 88% passing rate. 630 podiatrists have taken the Podiatric Surgery examination, with an 81% passing rate. The Diabetic Foot Wounds examination has been taken by 417 podiatrists with an 84% passing rate.

Last year about 50% of our candidates indicated they had a 3-year residency. 60% were male, 67% are in private practice, and 93% practice both primary care and podiatric surgery.

## Recertification

Are you recertifying in 2013? Notices will be mailed out in December. Please remember that recertification materials are due in the ABMSP office by March 1st. Any applications received between March 2—31st may not be approved by March 31st, so plan ahead and get it in on time. Any applications received between March 31—September 1 will incur a \$250 late fee. Applications received after September 2nd will not be processed, you must retake the examination and start the process anew.

Please be sure you include your current license, complete & signed application, consent form, driver's license, two multiple choice questions, certificates from contact hours in diabetic wounds (if you are certified in that specialty) and self assessment exam (s) if applicable. Incomplete applications will be returned.

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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