

Fall 2021 Newsletter



ABMSP Fall Newsletter 2021 Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the ABMSP Newsletter Fall edition. It has been a trying time for all during this past couple of years. We hope that we all will continue to move forward and learn from our past experiences. This time of year brings us all to reflect on the past and prepare for the coming months and next year. Looking at the falling leaves from the trees, one may think the tree is dying but the tree is alive and will produce new leaves in the spring. This is a comforting fact for us to remember. This time of the year we give thanks for those around us and give gratitude for what we have. Here at ABMSP, we are very grateful and thankful to all of you, the diplomates, those who make our board strong. We thank you for participating in whatever way you can and a special thank you to those who have joined the House of Delegates, those who have participated in the task analysis and those who have participated in the Distinguished Authors Series, numerous committees and other countless ways. ABMSP is thankful to you and if you wish to participate in any way or have any suggestions or comments, we look forward to hearing from you.

I want to wish you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your time together and give thanks!

Thank you,
Caroline Tiglio, DPM

Letter from the President American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry Dr. Kenneth Rehm

It was August of 1993 and was a typical hot humid summer day in Carville Louisiana. I was doing a fellowship in the diabetic, neuropathic and high- risk foot, sponsored by the California College of Podiatric Medicine at the U.S. Public Health Service Gillis W. Long Hospital Hansen's Disease Center.





It was one of my assigned duties to mentor the students who visited there. We had over 100 students rotate through Carville each year, each spending at least a week dedicated to learning from the icons of diabetic foot medicine in such areas as total contact casting, biomechanics, gait and wound healing. Dr. Earl Horowitz was one of those students. That was really uncanny for me, as Dr. Horowitz, more commonly known as “Boots”, was my residency director at Jacksonville General Hospital and my respected mentor for years; and now the roles were reversed. Here I was...his mentor; and he was my student! We had an extremely engaging, interactive, and educational two weeks learning from each other. In the process, we had many long discussions about the foot in diabetes; plus, how this area of interest was burgeoning among those in the podiatric community.

Some type of credentialing was sure to be needed to distinguish those who had extra training and expertise the identification, treatment and prevention of diabetic foot disease. As a result of these encounters, we were able to develop the skeleton of what was to become the *first ever board certification in Diabetic Foot Wounds and Footwear*, which was the springboard for board certification in Limb Preservation and Salvage. It was through this avenue that I became fully invested in the American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, which recognizes the value of podiatric practice outside of its traditional paradigm of foot surgery and primary podiatry. Together, its members and board of directors, fortified by the close corporate culture of ABMSP, forged its way to become the premier certifying organization which recognizes the wide spectrum of expertise that a podiatric physician and surgeon possesses. Our commitment to the highest standards of care for our patients generated additional board certifications in foot and ankle surgery, primary care, lower extremity geriatric medicine, minimally invasive foot and ankle surgery and podiatric sports medicine as well as a prestigious international designation. Our vast network of delegates representing the principle regions of the nation integrates the many facets of our board; and creates its celebrated “*spoke in the wheel*” concept, insuring the successful engagement of every single board member.

It is with pride, promise for our future and dedication to our past that I feel honored to have been voted in as President of the American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry introducing my platform that simply states:

“We are all stronger together!”



I look forward to serving you,
With the deepest sense of gratitude and humility,
Warmest Regards,
Dr. Kenneth Rehm

The Honor Goes To....

Dr. Howard F. Liebeskind

In September, he became a **Fellow of the Faculty of Podiatric Medicine to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.**

Congratulations on this great honor. Dr. Liebeskind is Board Certified in Podiatric Sports Medicine with ABMSP. He is a team and consulting podiatrist with Los Angeles Lakers, US Women’s National Soccer Team, US Men’s National Soccer Team, Los Angeles Galaxy, Los Angeles Football Club and Pepperdine University Athletic Department.



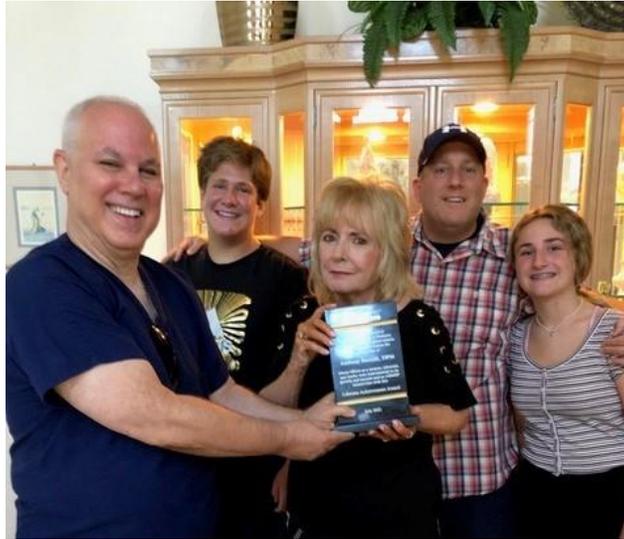
ABMSP Lifetime Achievement Award

On Saturday July 24 2021 Dr. Mark Spal presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr Anthony Borelli. Unfortunately Dr Borelli passed away three years ago. Dr. Spal is pictured with and presenting the award to Mrs Barbara Borelli , her son, AJ Borelli an attorney in Morristown New Jersey, and his two grandchildren, both young teenagers.

The family unit at the Borelli house was extremely loving and giving. Mrs Borelli lives 6 miles from her son and his family. Barbara’s daughter is a Ph.D. in the Boston area doing research at Boston College. Unfortunately, she could not be present to accept the award, but her mom said such nice things about her, you would have thought she was there. Dr Borelli and Dr Earl Horowitz were instrumental in the inauguration of ABMSP, almost 4 decades ago.

Dr Borelli had a stroke six years ago. Mrs Borelli said he was an excellent patient, never complained and was in no pain at all. The highlight of Barbara’s days back then, was going to see her husband, her best friend, at the hospital, every day. When Dr. Spal was in Doctor Borelli’s home on the 24th of July, he could almost see his presence there. Pictures and plaques are out for

all to view. It helped show what type of man Dr Borelli was: an extraordinary husband, and a wonderful father and grandpa. A well deserved honor was bestowed on his family this day.



House of Delegates Status Report

November 2021

Steve Permison, MD, Chair

The ABMSP House of Delegates, known simply as the “House” is on the move. Composed of 12 regions, the House is growing significantly. Region I through Region X now have Delegates representing all U.S. states and territories. Region XI has a growing number of government agencies, and Region XII has the first, hopefully of many, delegates representing our foreign diplomats.

Certified Diplomates in good standing with ABMSP are nominated as Delegates to the House by members of our Board of Directors. When approved, they serve as principal advisors to the board regarding policy direction and legislative action. Delegates represent the states in which they practice, and are encouraged to participate in their local and state medical associations, public health organizations, hospital networks, etc. House Delegates are the essential communication, policy, and membership links between our certification board, professional and healthcare organizations, and fellow grassroots physicians.

When recruiting a nominee to the House I am often asked what the expectation is in terms of time commitment. Delegates are required to participate in one formal, online House meeting annually. And, as a vital part of the ABMSP leadership team, House Delegates are encouraged to take part in all board-sponsored activities and events.

Networking is a core value of our House of Delegates. Networking provides opportunities to trade information and build new, possibly long-term, relationships between our board and a Delegate’s local medical community. Based on their networking experiences, Delegates are asked to identify ABMSP policy actions that might serve their local community. Delegates are



also asked to alert the board of any practice-related problems that we might help resolve. When participating in professional events Delegates are requested to share opportune information with our board. There is no specific additional time commitment for such networking.

Becoming a Delegate is a good way to participate in your certification board's policy actions and decisions and help your fellow diplomats. Our House is growing; join in the action.

If you have questions about or would like to discuss membership in the ABMSP House of Delegates please email me at stephen.permison@abmsp.org

SHOWCASE: MIFAS BOARD CERTIFICATION

The World has changed forever. COVID-19 for nearly all of us has demanded adaptation and reorganization in every imaginable way. It has forced or at a minimum encouraged us all to slow down, take time to regroup, refocus or reformulate, incubate projects, and gain new perspective or to perish. This seismic shift has closed doors on the one hand, while opened windows of opportunity to reposition ourselves in this world; both personally and professionally.

Those of us who **answer the call** will be best positioned for future success.

Most everywhere restrictions are now being lifted or amended and patients are returning to us for much needed elective surgery. New financial pressures abound from the supply and employment shortages on the physician side, with co-pay and "out of pocket" facility charges rising for those who are considering care. Add to this equation, hospital and surgery centers are re-evaluating their bottom line. Hardware systems for elective bunion procedures are more often scrutinized and denied due to their extraordinary price tags.

Bottom line: There is no better time to offer our patients lower cost and highly effective in office corrective surgical options. With prudent procedural choices, good medical decision making and appropriate patient selection, minimally invasive foot surgical techniques are both safe and effective for correction of most all foot deformity.

As with all outcomes, proper surgical training in technique, implementation and post-surgical care are the building blocks to success. Minimally invasive foot and ankle surgery courses have now become readily available across the country to provide a basis and foundation for the skill set required for quality care. Mentoring is also now available to those new to this subspecialty.

Seize the opportunity to achieve Board Certification in Minimally Invasive Foot and Ankle Surgery. Board certification indicates to our colleagues and patients our desire to participate in training beyond what is required, and to be "a cut above." Taking the step to obtaining Board certification demonstrates a desire to practice at the top of your profession and to deliver care perceived as higher quality. It is an indication of a commitment for expansion of the special knowledge and skills required for excellence.

This can help to protect you as you practice on the leading edge of MIFAS.



In closing, increasing the numbers of those board certified in MIFAS will strengthen us individually and as a group while setting the standard of care. Become part of the legacy in our profession, follow this new path and become board certified.

Click [here](#) to explore the ABMSP MIFAS Certification.

Why a Job Task Analysis Matters

Several of our diplomates recently participated in a Job Task Analysis (JTA) for ABMSP. This is something that our policies require we conduct every five years and is vitally important to ensuring that our examinations reflect the most current practices and techniques in podiatry.

The panelists for the JTA first discussed the eligibility requirements for our Primary Care, Foot and Ankle Surgery, and Diabetic Foot Wounds examinations and made some recommendations for updates. They next reviewed the test content outlines for the examinations, eliminating practices and techniques which are no longer appropriate, and adding new ones. They also made some recommendations as to what the major domains should be for each examination. Lastly, they completed an exercise which resulted in recommendations for the weighting of each domain on the examinations. The Board of Directors of ABMSP has accepted most of their changes and will be enacting them in late 2022.

The next step is that we will be asking for volunteers in early 2022 to draft new questions for the domains where we are short of good questions. We will also be seeking volunteers to help us review the drafted questions to ensure they are clear and concise and contain only one correct answer. After that the Board of Directors will review new updated examinations and set the passing score for each one.

A JTA is vitally important to certification examinations because it results in our examinations staying current and relevant. And, as you can see, there are many steps that are taken to ensure that this is done. We want to thank our many volunteers who have helped us so far and hope that you will be willing to volunteer in 2022 to continue our work on updating the examinations.

In other news...

Thank you to Dr. Lux as a delegate from Region 6 informing us that Louisiana did catch up to many of the other states in allowing podiatrists to perform their own History & Physical examinations on patients undergoing outpatient surgical procedures and hospital admissions. Thank you for sharing with the board and our fellow diplomates.