



2021 Residents Day
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
9 AM – 2:15 PM CST

Speaker Biographies

Susan Claffey

Susan K. Claffey is the Director, Office of Graduate Services at the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM). She serves as the AACPM's Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) liaison to the Post Graduate Affairs Committee which is responsible for the planning and execution of the Residency Directors Forum. She has completed a master's degree in business administration, is a certified expert in commercial contract management, and holds bachelors of science degrees in medical technology and biological sciences.

Karla De La Mata, DPM

Dr. De La Mata is a second-year resident at Lenox Hill Hospital at Northwell Health in New York City. Present podiatric engagements include research on the effectiveness of the LRINEC Score and serving as a resident member on the ACFAS Post Graduate Affairs Committee. She has found great enjoyment in explaining podiatric ailments, especially to those patients that have never seen a podiatrist before. Soon she will be pursuing fellowship training as a foot and ankle surgeon to continue excelling and contributing to the podiatric profession.

Christopher R. Hood, Jr., DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Hood practices at Hunterdon Podiatric Medicine, part of Hunterdon HealthCare System in Flemington, NJ. He completed his residency at Crozer Chester Medical Center, in Upland, PA, and then the ACFAS-status Pennsylvania Intensive Lower Extremity Fellowship at Premier Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine in Malvern, PA. His interests outside of clinical duties include resident education, both didactically and physician career advice/services. He is the editor-in-chief moderator for DPMQuestions.com, a podiatric board review website. Furthermore, he runs a podiatric educational website consisting of educational materials, practice management materials, and through his company Sherwood Acres Consulting, offers both CV/Resume and Employment Agreement (contract) review.

Rachel King, JD

Ms. King is the Director, Educational Equity/Title IX Coordinator at Cleveland Clinic. In this role, she addresses reports of discrimination and harassment in the Clinic's educational programs, as well as provides guidance related to disability accommodations. She recently published an article on establishing a Title IX program in an academic medical center. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, Ms. King practiced higher education law in private practice and as the Chief Compliance Officer for Cleveland State University.

John T. Marcoux, DPM, FACFAS

“J.T.” Marcoux is a member of the active medical staff and podiatric residency program director at Steward-St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Brighton, MA. He has been actively involved in residency training for the past 18 years. In addition to his active reconstructive surgical practice and teaching, Dr. Marcoux volunteers his time and expertise. He serves as a member of the Council on Podiatric Medical Education as well as the Residency Review Committee and the Joint Committee on the Recognition of Specialty Boards. He is a member of the ABFAS Cognitive Examinations and has served as a case reviewer.

Candice Mateja, DO

Dr. Mateja is an Associate Program Director for the University of South Florida's Internal Medicine Program and has been Chair of their Clinical Competency Committee for the past 10 years. She has plenty of experience in remediating struggling learners. She also serves as the Associate Program Director of the USF’s Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Patrick McKee, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. McKee is a current member of the ACFAS Post Graduate Affairs Committee. He is a past member of the College’s Education and Scientific Affairs Committee. Dr. McKee serves as an ABFAS representative for on-site podiatric residency program evaluations. He is on the podiatric faculty at the Cleveland Clinic Foot & Ankle Center, and serves as the On-Site Residency Coordinator for their co-sponsored residency program and guest/visiting residents.

Sam Mendicino, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Mendicino has served as the President of the ABFAS, a member of its Board of Directors, residency training and examination committees. He serves as the Board's examination chairman and has served as an oral examiner. Dr. Mendicino recently completed 2 terms of the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at West Houston Medical Center. He has been involved in post graduate medical education for over 30 years. He is the director of residency and fellowship training at West Houston Medical Center's Podiatric Medical and Surgical Residency Program and its Fellowship in Reconstructive Ankle and Foot Surgery. He has been active in international education and has demonstrated surgical procedures or lectured to orthopedic, podiatric, and trauma surgeons in Germany, Austria, Italy, and Lebanon.

Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Mirmiran graduated from California College of Podiatric Medicine and completed a three-year surgical residency in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is board certified in Foot and Reconstructive Rearfoot & Ankle surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. Dr. Mirmiran is a Fellow of American College of Foot and Ankle surgeons and an active member of American Podiatric Medical Association. She served on the Board of Directors for New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association from 2001-2009 and ABFAS Board of Directors from 2013-2016. She currently practices in Sacramento, CA.

Colin Mizuo, DPM, AACFAS

Dr. Mizuo is a board-qualified reconstructive foot and ankle surgeon and a commissioned officer for the United States Navy. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of North Texas and his podiatry degree from Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine. Dr. Mizuo completed a three-year surgical residency at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital. His

current practice focuses on lower extremity trauma, reconstruction, and sports medicine for active-duty marines and navy personnel at his current duty station in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Moraith North

Ms. North is the Executive Director of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM).

Krupa Patel, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Patel practices at the Scotch Plains and Union, New Jersey offices of the Foot & Ankle Specialists of New Jersey. Dr. Patel specializes in foot and ankle surgeries, diabetic foot wounds, and treatments for bunions, hammertoes, and sports injuries. She served her residency at the Morristown Memorial Hospital where she not only became chief resident but also performed over 1500 foot and ankle surgeries. She also completed additional published research on diabetic foot wounds and surgical treatment for bunions.

Thi Pham, DPM

Dr. Pham serves as Chief Resident at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine/Metropolitan Hospital PMSR/RRA program in New York City where she also attended podiatry school. As Chief Resident, Dr. Pham regularly coordinates with both her program director and school faculty in implementing effective strategies in improving resident training as well as enhancing the clinical experience for third-year Podiatry students. After completion of residency, she hopes to become a foot & ankle surgeon that can provide not only surgical treatment options to patients but also comprehensive advice on nutrition management, especially to the diabetic population.

Erin Robles-Sherman, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Robles-Sherman completed her doctorate at Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine and went on to complete her residency training at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and MedStar Washington Hospital Center. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Central Florida with a B.S. in Microbiology and Molecular Biology and is originally from Parkland, Florida, where her family still resides. She is currently President-Elect of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the ACFAS, as well as a national committee member for the organization. She continues to help train the current MedStar residents. She has particular interest in trauma and sports medicine.

Jonathan Sharpe, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Sharpe serves as the director of fellowship training at the Balance Foot and Ankle Wellness Center as well as an attending physician for the Mercy Foot and Ankle Residency Program. He enjoys teaching and has had the privilege to lecture nationally and internationally and serves as an adjunct faculty member for KSUCPM. He also serves as a board member for KSUCPM. Dr. Sharpe has been a board examiner for ABFAS and sits on multiple editorial boards.

John Steinberg, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Steinberg is the Co-Director of the Center for Wound Healing at MedStar Georgetown and is the Director of the Podiatric Residency Training Program at MedStar Washington. Dr. Steinberg is a professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery in foot surgery and in reconstructive

rearfoot and ankle surgery. Dr. Steinberg completed a three-year surgical residency at the Inova Fairfax Podiatric Residency Program and then completed a one-year Diabetic Foot/Limb Salvage Fellowship with the University of Texas at San Antonio. In addition to general foot and ankle care, a large portion of Dr. Steinberg's practice is devoted to non-healing wounds and surgical care of the patient with diabetic foot complications. His wound care team takes a progressive, often surgically based approach that helps to speed healing and avoid amputation.

Ross Taubman, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Taubman is the President and Chief Medical Officer of the Podiatry Insurance Company of America (PICA), the nation's leading malpractice insurance company for podiatrists. Prior to joining PICA in 2011, Dr. Taubman was in private practice for 26 years in Maryland. He is a former President of the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association and served as President of the American Podiatric Medical Association in 2008-2009. Dr. Taubman is Certified (retired) in foot and ankle surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (formerly ABPS) and is a Fellow - Emeritus of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS).

Michael Vaardahl, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Vaardahl is the Podiatry Residency Resource Representative with the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) and serves as Residency Director for the North Colorado Medical Center. He received his doctorate in podiatric medicine from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. He is board-certified in foot surgery and rear foot/ankle surgery by ABFAS and is a Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. In addition to treating many foot and ankle pathologies, Dr. Vaardahl also specializes in diabetic foot care and wound care. He is currently active in reviewing podiatric residency programs.

Allison Ventura, PhD

Dr. Ventura is a clinical psychologist and associate professor at the University of Florida, College of Medicine in Jacksonville. She specializes in Dialectical Behavior Therapy, which treats complex dysregulation often resulting in patient self-harm and suicidal behaviors. Dr. Ventura has been a part of the Dean's Wellness Committee since 2017, focusing on resident and faculty wellbeing, as well as developing a new Work-Life Center on site for the College of Medicine residents and physicians. Her husband is a physician, which has provided first-hand compassion and understanding of the unique challenges facing both residents and their faculty physicians.

Melanie Violand, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Violand serves as the Director of Podiatric Postgraduate Education and Clinical Education Director at Midwestern University Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine. Dr. Violand serves as a council member on CPME. In addition, Dr. Violand was recently appointed as a team chair for the Collaborative Residency Evaluator Committee (CREC).

Tonda Wooten, DPM, AACFAS

Dr. Wooten is a board qualified fellowship-trained foot and ankle surgeon specializing in advanced foot and ankle reconstruction, including total ankle replacements, sports medicine, trauma, and limb salvage. Dr. Wooten completed her DPM at Kent State College of Podiatric Medicine. She went on to residency at the University of Louisville Hospital Podiatric Residency Program in Louisville, Kentucky, followed by an additional one-year fellowship at The CORE Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. Through this extensive year of training, she performed over 1000 cases strictly foot and ankle related. There was a

large emphasis on total ankle replacements, trauma, forefoot/rearfoot reconstruction, and limb salvage. She currently works at an Orthopedic group in Macon, GA.