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25th Anniversary to be held in Orlando

Professional Actors Aid PA Program
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Urmala Roopnarinesingh, director of continuing medical education

The Importance of Continuing Medical Education to Podiatric Medicine

The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine is approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education to offer recognized continuing podiatric medical education programs. Over the past two decades the attendance at Barry University’s CME Program offerings has steadily increased. The editor spoke with Urmala Roopnarinesingh, MS, director for continuing medical education about the programs the School offers and the innovative programs she has planned for the future.

EDITOR: You just returned from Orlando and coordinating Barry University’s highly successful 2009 Comprehensive Board Review Course. Describe your experience.

MS. ROOPNARINESINGH: The course was very well received by the podiatric physicians who are studying for the various board examinations. In fact we had the largest attendance since the program was first offered with more than 80 podiatric physicians participating. The goal of the comprehensive board review course is to educate and prepare DPMs to take the certification examination in podiatric surgery, orthopedics, and primary podiatric medicine. Relevant materials are presented in an abridged manner due to the extensive material covered on the certification examination. We even offer mock oral interviews and the materials are presented by Barry University faculty who are on the cutting edge in surgical knowledge, treatment, and care options. We are very grateful to Soluble Systems’ TheraGauze who was our course sponsor.

EDITOR: How important is Continuing Medical Education to podiatric physicians?

MS. ROOPNARINESINGH: Continuing Medical Education (CME) is extremely important to podiatric physicians as it is to all licensed health professionals. In order to maintain their license in Florida, podiatric physicians are required to complete 40 CMEs before the end of the biennium which is March 2010. Barry University’s School of Podiatric Medicine is approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) to offer CME programs for podiatric physicians. In October 2008, we were approved by CPME for an additional 5 years based upon our review of our petition for re-accreditation. We demonstrated that we were meeting CPME standards for CME by meeting the continuing medical education needs of the attendees and maintaining accurate records for attendance.

EDITOR: What do you provide the podiatric physician when they take a course or seminar at Barry?

MS. ROOPNARINESINGH: Barry University offers the most current trends in podiatric medicine, research, and treatment modalities as we select faculty for our programs who specialize in the topics and subjects covered in the seminars. Within two weeks of the course we provide each attendee with a transcript indicating the number of CMEs earned. This serves as documentation the DPM will need for the State of Florida when providing validation of the completion 40 CMEs every 2 years.

EDITOR: What courses will you be offering in the fall?

MS. ROOPNARINESINGH: Each fall we offer The Mini-Seminar Series which begins in September and runs through December providing doctors of podiatric medicine with the opportunity to attend short CME seminars offered during convenient evening hours on the campus of the School of Podiatric Medicine in Miami Shores. The fall series will be posted to our website shortly and you can even go on-line to register at www.barry.edu/podiatry/cme.

EDITOR: Does the School offer CME in any other format?

MS. ROOPNARINESINGH: We most certainly do. We provide the State of Florida Required Courses for Podiatric License renewal including Medical Errors, Risk Management, Florida Law and Rules, and HIV/AIDS on DVD. We sell the DVD of each topic with a self administered test which the DPM completes and returns to the CME office for grading and CME credits.

EDITOR: What are your plans for future CME offerings?

MS. ROOPNARINESINGH: I am glad you asked that question as this fall we are pilot testing the mini-seminar series with new equipment we have purchased. This will enable the doctor of podiatric medicine to be at home and watch the seminar on his or her own computer using web-based seminar technology. This cutting edge technology will allow us to test the web seminar attendee on-line after the course has been completed. We are also looking into starting a CME publication which could be mailed to the physician and read at their convenience and they would mail back an exam which would be evaluated for CME credit.
Dr. Barton Baggett, DPM, '90 Remembered

The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine is saddened to report the loss of one of its alumnus, Barton Dean Baggett of Valdosta, Georgia. Dr. Baggett, 46, passed away on March 22, 2009. A lifetime resident of Valdosta, Dr. Baggett was born on August 31, 1962, the son of Alice Amos and the late Lawrence Baggett. Dr. Baggett earned his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in 1990 from the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine. He served as a podiatric physician at Family Podiatry Center in Valdosta. The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine sends its condolences to the Baggett family.
DR. PARKHURST: The Physician Assistant Program is accredited by ARC-PA, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. The Commission evaluates each program to determine if they are meeting an acceptable level of quality to produce competent PAs. The accreditation process helps to set national standards for PA education.

EDITOR: What is involved in preparing for a site visit?

DR. PARKHURST: It takes one to two years to prepare for a site visit. There must be a designated time frame for periodic self study in which the Program personnel evaluate compliance with all of the accreditation standards. Following that, a Self Study Report and Application are prepared. These are lengthy documents. The material is submitted two months in advance of the actual site visit. In addition, we scheduled a consultant from another Program to conduct a “mock site visit” with us to determine if we needed to make any last-minute improvements.

EDITOR: How did the PA faculty and staff participate in preparing for the visit?

DR. PARKHURST: Faculty members prepared many of the materials necessary for the self-study effort and the application. The staff made all of the arrangements for the site visitors and invited friends, graduates, students, preceptors, administrators, and adjunct faculty to participate. This involved complex scheduling of activities. They audited all files to ensure that they were complete. There is no question it takes a monumental effort by a well-organized and dedicated team.

EDITOR: How important is the self-study?

DR. PARKHURST: The self-study is incredibly special because it delivers the didactic portion of the education through the innovative paradigm of interactive videoconferencing. We have students in Miami Shores and students at the University Partnership Center at St. Petersburg College. Lectures are delivered from either campus to all students synchronously. Each campus can see the other students on camera and the students have microphones to ask questions. The Program has placed a strong emphasis upon technology and is effectively paperless. All course materials are posted on Black Board. All testing is done online. Students in the clinical year carry hand-held computers to track patients and to reference information. We believe that we are training students for the future of medicine, which will be reliant upon technology.

EDITOR: How long was the program accredited in the past?

DR. PARKHURST: The initial provisional accreditation was for two years. In 1999, the Program was granted three years. At the subsequent evaluation, we were awarded five years. Most recently, prior to this evaluation period, we were awarded two years.

EDITOR: What comments were you given from the visit in January?

DR. PARKHURST: There were only two areas in which they judged we needed to improve: one was our data collection for student experiences in long-term care facilities, and the other was for a more frequent survey of our graduates. They found the Program compliant with all of the other standards.

EDITOR: If the accrediting body finds areas of concern that need improvement, how do you go about making changes/modifications?

DR. PARKHURST: Depending upon what the issues are, the accrediting body may place a Program on probation or they may require frequent Program reports about correction of the issue.

EDITOR: The use of accreditation assures students are getting a high quality PA educational program – what makes Barry’s PA program so special?

DR. PARKHURST: No, actually, the process of accreditation addresses the minimal required standards for a Program. Barry’s PA Program is special because it delivers the didactic portion of the education through the innovative paradigm of interactive videoconferencing. We have students in Miami Shores and students at the University Partnership Center at St. Petersburg College. Lectures are delivered from either campus to all students synchronously. Each campus can see the other students on camera and the students have microphones to ask questions. The Program has placed a strong emphasis upon technology and is effectively paperless. All course materials are posted on Black Board. All testing is done online. Students in the clinical year carry hand-held computers to track patients and to reference information. We believe that we are training students for the future of medicine, which will be reliant upon technology.

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Barry Podiatric Grads Challenged to Improve the Profession

“As you graduate today, I want to remind you that this profession is being loaned to you by your peers,” advised Dr. Briant Moyles, keynote speaker for the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine’s Commencement to the 43 students who received the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree on May 2, 2009. “So, I challenge you to improve it during your years of practice and leave it in better condition than the way you found it,” Moyles added. Since his graduation 34 years ago at the Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine, Dr. Moyles has lived up to his creed. Five years after his graduation, Dr. Moyles was honored by the Florida Podiatric Medical Association (FPMA) as Young Podiatrist of the Year. He followed that up by becoming the FPMA president. He is a member of several podiatric professional organizations and has done much to promote scholarship fundraising for podiatric medical students serving as president of the Fund for Podiatric Medical Education, now the APMA Educational Foundation.

The ceremony held at the Broad Auditorium on the Miami Shores campus was the 21st graduation of the School of Podiatric Medicine, which now has more than 1,000 graduates. Over 600 family members, friends, faculty, and staff attended the commencement event. Dr. John Nelson, DPM, interim dean of the School of Podiatric Medicine led the Oath of Hippocrates for the first time. Dr. Nelson congratulated the class of 2009, “who are among the brightest and most promising of all our graduating classes at Barry and I am very proud of your accomplishments,” he exclaimed.

Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, president of Barry University who conferred the degrees on the seniors, praised the graduates “for the great sacrifices you endured on the journey you have taken to get where you are today as a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.” She recommended that each grad, “take the time for your faith, family, and friends.”

The Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee of the Administration, the faculty and staff of Barry University congratulated and honored outstanding students. Receiving the President’s Award for leadership and service to the School of Podiatric Medicine and $750 from Podiatry Billing Services and Northwest Labs and a $250 gift certificate from Gill Podiatry was Joseph Dickinson, DPM. The Dean’s Award (class valedictorian) and a check for $1,000 from Northwest Labs and Dade County Podiatric Medical Association was presented to William Thetford, DPM. The plaques presented for the President’s and Dean’s Awards were sponsored by Dr. Bradley Bakotic, DO, DPM ‘92 and Bako Podiatric Pathology Services.

The Leadership Award and a check for $750 from Northwest Labs and Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine and a $250 gift certificate from Gill Podiatry was awarded to Jeanna Van Pelt Mascorro, DPM. For her outstanding volunteer work, Olivera Jovic, DPM received the Outstanding Civic Service Award and $250 from Gordon’s Labs.

The Award for Excellence in Podiatric Dermatology was presented to Joseph Dickinson, DPM and Amy Riedel, DPM along with a check for $1,000 from The Institute for Podiatric Pathology/Dermpath Diagnostic for demonstrating clinical and academic excellence in podiatric dermatology. Amy Riedel, DPM was honored with two other awards, including the Florida Podiatric Medical Association’s Dr. Irving and Muriel Block Award in Radiology and Radiological Surgery and $250 for the highest cumulative average grade in these two courses and the Excellence in Biomedical Sciences Award and $250 from JSB Orthotics. The American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics and Medicine recognized Tyreen Heybeck, DPM as outstanding student in podiatric medicine with a book, Review Text in Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Medicine, the 2009 Dr. Timothy Holbrook Memorial Award Plaque, and a $100 check.

Darleen Abadco, DPM received the William Delavari Memorial Graduation Award and $500 from Bio Pro, for exemplifying the traits of dedication and commitment to the profession of podiatric medicine. Adam Toren, DPM was honored for Excellence in Clinical Science and received a check for $250 from Vilex, Inc.

The Outstanding Biomechanics/Orthopedics Award was presented to Masoud Moradi, DPM and a check for $250 sponsored by Pelinol Pharmacal, Inc. Marie Shin, DPM was selected for the Scholarly Development Award and a check for $250 from Falk, Waas, Hernandez, Cortina, PA.

(continued on page 12)
Dr. Dickinson Mentored by Barry Alumna Dr. Crane

Dr. Joseph Dickinson graduated with honors on May 2, 2009 from the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine with his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree. He was honored by the Barry faculty at graduation with the President’s Award based on his demonstrated leadership and service to the School.

EDITOR: How did you become interested in the field of medicine?

DR. DICKINSON: My curiosity in the medical field began at age six when my uncle, an anesthesiologist, would tell me stories of the numerous surgeries he participated in. He would describe the organs he would be able to see in the body and how his work helped patients get well. His office literally was the operating room and these stories captured my fascination about working one day in the medical field.

EDITOR: How did you further your medical training?

DR. DICKINSON: Actually after undergraduate school I played soccer for the Dallas Fort Worth Tornadoes for two years and this is how I came to meet Dr. Marybeth Crane. Dr. Crane and her husband Jim Mertz owned the team and she was the podiatric physician for many of the players on the team. To further my insight into the medical field, I began working in Dr. Crane’s office on a part time basis doing patient histories, taking x-rays, casting orthotics, and completing insurance forms. It is through this experience as a medical assistant that I gained a valuable understanding about podiatric medicine and how it can impact a person’s life.

EDITOR: What did you learn from Dr. Crane?

DR. DICKINSON: I was exposed to a variety of specialties within the podiatric profession ranging from the clinical aspects, including sports medicine, podogeriatrics, and complex surgeries to the business of running an office. It was my experience working with Dr. Crane that I discovered a passion and appreciation for podiatric medicine and I knew this was my calling. I believe that people are brought into your life for a reason to help get you to your purpose in life. For me that person was Dr. Crane and she recommended I come to Barry to pursue my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.

EDITOR: How would you describe your practice?

DR. DICKINSON: Dr. Crane’s patients are about 80% sports medicine related. She is herself an athlete, running in more than a dozen marathons. You can tell that she feels she has the greatest job in the world and this impacts those who work for her. One of her colleagues in the practice, Dr. Adriana Karpati graduated from Barry. She has mentored me from the time I started as a freshman right up to advising me on my residency at Kaiser San Francisco Bay Area Foot and Ankle Residency Program.

EDITOR: Describe your experience at the School of Podiatric Medicine at Barry University.

DR. DICKINSON: I was very fortunate to do very well in school at Barry academically, clinically, and in research. I was President of Pi Delta the Podiatric Honor Society, chairman of the curriculum committee, treasurer of the radiology club, and parliamentarian of the surgery club. I received the Dr. Marvin and Ruth Steinberg Memorial Scholarship, the Dr. Herbert Feinberg Scholarship, the PICA Scholarship, among others. I served as a teaching assistant for gross anatomy, biochemistry, lower extremity anatomy, and podiatric medicine lab. I enjoyed the rotation with Dr. Losito at the Barry Mercy Foot and Ankle Institute where we worked with many athletes including the Miami Heat players. The rotation with Dr. Gary Rothenberg at the Miami Veterans Administration Medical Center was a great experience for me helping with diabetic limb salvage and other all types of wound care of the lower extremity. This has led to me thinking about my career pursuing reconstructive surgery.

EDITOR: What advice do you have for a prospective student interested in a career in podiatric medicine?

DR. DICKINSON: It is a coincidence that you ask me that as my fiancé, Natasha Martinez’s brother, Matthew will be a freshman in Fall 2009 at the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine. I believe that people are brought into your life for a reason to help get you to your purpose in life.

Money Matters

Minimizing Financial Impact - Part I

Thinking about starting a new practice, moving your office, joining or leaving a group? These decisions can financially impact your practice. Ideally, to minimize the financial impact, implementation of your move should commence months in advance. Significant delays in Medicare and private health care insurance reimbursement often occur because of poor planning or applications which were inaccurately completed.

When starting a new practice, consider consulting your accountant or attorney as to what type of business structure best fits your needs. You will need a Federal Tax ID number. The address associated with your assigned tax ID must be absolutely correct, including the building or suite number. Once assigned, your tax ID number will be used to obtain everything from a business license to National Practitioner Identification (NPI) number and Medicare provider number.

Most changes will require a new Group (type 2) NPI number which is necessary in order to apply for a Group Medicare number. A new individual (type 1) NPI number should not be necessary unless you do not have an existing number. A week before your anticipated change is sufficient time to update your individual number.

Your malpractice insurance company, billing company or practice management software provider and clearinghouse (for electronic claims) must be notified prior to commencing operations. Request all forms necessary to complete the change and provide the exact starting date of your new business entity.

Podiatry Billing Services understands the challenges associated with starting a new practice, or changing locations. We continuously provide clients with support in completing and filing insurance related documents i.e. the NPI and Medicare. Please call us at 800-394-1169.
Dear Barry Podiatric Alumni

In just a few months, the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. I’m writing to you to encourage your active participation in a wonderful celebration, The Barefoot Ball, which will take place at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando on January 21, 2010 during the annual FPMA SAM meeting.

As an alum of Barry we hope that you will purchase tickets to this historic event. I am also asking you to join me in championing deserving students who are working to complete their podiatric medical degrees at Barry. Our goal is to raise $25,000 for the Dr. Marvin and Ruth Steinberg Podiatric Alumni/Student Scholarship Fund. Since 1994 the fund has supported many students who are now practicing podiatrists. My family and Barry’s Podiatric Alumni Chapter are asking for your help for academically qualified students who desperately need support to meet the financial demands of their educations.

As you know, my grandfather, Dr. Marvin Steinberg, believed strongly in supporting the academic side of the podiatric profession. Podiatry is now making significant progress with mandatory 3 year residency programs and comprehensive curriculum review at the schools of Podiatric Medicine—changes that will bring us the same level of educational rigor as the allopathic and osteopathic fields.

While impressive progress is being made in the field of podiatry, there are many talented students who are struggling to stay in school. The recession has hit them deeply, and they are at risk of having to abandon their dreams of a medical career. My family is committed to protecting their futures. My father, Dr. Lloyd Steinberg, brother, Dr. Paul Steinberg, and the rest of the Steinberg family so believe in the importance of scholarship funding, that we are launching this 25th Anniversary fundraising project with a donation of $6,000. We hope you will join us by making your own generous donation.

Please celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine. Contribute generously to the Scholarship Fund. Just use the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine website, www.barry.edu/podiatry and complete the on-line gift form. Just five minutes of your time will change the future of a deserving podiatry student.

Best wishes to you and your family. I look forward to seeing you at the 25th anniversary celebration in January 2010 and to thanking you in person for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Steinberg, DPM ’95

25th Anniversary to Be Held in Orlando during FPMA SAM Meeting

The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine is pleased to announce that it will hold its 25th Anniversary Celebration on January 21, 2010 at 7:30 pm at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando Florida. The gala will feature a casual and fun Florida theme, “Barefoot Ball” and will take place during the annual Florida Podiatric Medical Association’s Science and Management Meeting (SAM).

Bob McKinlay, 25th Anniversary event organizer indicates, “We have a lot of surprises in store for our alumni. In addition, attendees of the SAM Meeting will be excited to know that ticket prices are very reasonable including a free menu for children 12 and under. It will be a great way to spend an evening with your family and still renew friendships with colleagues.”

The party commences with a social reception with drinks and snacks to give everyone a chance to chat with classmates and friends. Dinner will follow with a Caribbean Buffet and tropical desserts. Momentous, special guests, and a short awards program will follow. Shine up your grooviest flip flops and get ready to dance the night away to Bobby and the Beachcombers. Group leader Bob Gaffney recorded and toured for five years with the popular group Firefall, playing bass and performing vocals.

Orlando is America’s play land with Disney World, Epcot, House of Blues, Universal Studio, among many other attractions for all tastes. According to Dr. Bradley Haves, president of the FPMA and honorary co-chair, “all of us at FPMA are thrilled Barry is holding its 25th anniversary at SAM and we look forward to an unforgettable time.”

John S. Steinberg, DPM ’95

JOIN US FOR THE BAREFOOT BALL

JANUARY 21, 2010
25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN ORLANDO
GO TO WWW.BARRY.EDU/PODIATRY
DR. HAVES: I am very proud of being a Barry grad. The Barry Podiatric faculty prepared me very well to excel in my career. My teachers and mentors taught the true meaning of professionalism and giving back to my profession. I am forever indebted.

EDITOR: Have you been in touch with your classmates from 1990?

DR. HAVES: Luckily, yes. I get to see many of them at local meetings or state and national association meetings. We had such a great class. They made school fun.

Podiatric Students Provide Foot Care for the Homeless

Many of Miami’s homeless and underserved will now be able to receive health care with the opening of the Miami Rescue Mission Health Clinic. The clinic had its grand opening on May 14 and Barry University students led by Dr. Albert Armstrong participated in a health fair to provide vascular screenings, foot examinations, and routine foot care to the homeless men, women, and children living at the Miami Rescue Mission’s Miami Centers.

Dr. Armstrong indicated “that efforts to provide health care to the homeless and other needy people of Miami is part of Barry’s mission and we hope that many hurting people will be served and know that we care about their health.”

Since 1922 the Miami Rescue Mission has served the needy of South Florida with food, shelter, clothing, education, job training, spiritual direction, and long term rehabilitation programs.
Professional Actors Aid PA Program

Both campuses of the Barry University Physician Assistant Program utilized a new History-taking Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) with professional actors playing patients in lieu of first-year students. This End of Rotation (EOR) exercise was designed to measure the relative worth of the use of professional standardized patients in improving the learning experience of the second-year students. The scenarios were developed and coordinated by Wendy Langen, MCMSc, PA-C, physical diagnosis lab director on the Miami Shores campus and Debby Hanson, MCMSc, PA-C assistant professor on the St. Petersburg campus.

In past years, the Physician Assistant Program utilized first-year students to play patients when testing the History-taking and physical exam skills of second-year students. The student patients were assigned a particular malady to “play”. The examining student was graded on components of the history and physical that the examining student performs.

For this new History-taking Clinical Skills Exam with actors instead of first-year students, difficult case scenarios were used and students only took a history (no physical exam).

On the Miami Shores campus, 43 students participated in the CSE exercise. The professional actors practiced their scenarios and acted them out as if they were really that patient with that problem. The six scenarios utilized by the Miami Shores and St. Petersburg campuses were: a patient with a sexually-transmitted disease, a patient needing smoking cessation counseling, a patient hit by her domestic partner, needing both medical and social services, a patient in chronic pain who was also abusing narcotic pain relievers who demonstrated drug-seeking behavior, a depressed patient, and a patient who was abusing alcohol. All of these cases are hard to deal with as a practitioner. The students were expected to ask the standard screening questions for the problems that were presented. The final grade was calculated using 60 points from the checklist, checked-off by an observing faculty member, 20 points based on a medical note on the case written by the students, and 20 points based on the “patients” impressions.

On the St. Petersburg campus, 24 students participated in the CSE exercise along with six professional patients and six faculty members. According to Debby Hanson, “this exercise gave the students a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate their history-taking skills with very realistic cases and with direct feedback from the patient actor after the exercise.”

Source: Express Buzz (India) [5/23/09]
According to Pamela Miller, MCMSc, PA-C, adjunct faculty member for the Barry University Physician Assistant Program, “I have always been interested in a career in medicine. Even in the third grade, I was calculating how long I would need to be in school. In fact, by seventh grade, I was already planning for college,” she explained. “I also loved horses and contemplated a career as a jockey. I broke a horse by myself at age 14 but at age 20 a horse reared up and fell on me. Horseback riding is a great hobby, but medicine is a safer career choice,” she added.

She heard about Barry’s PA Program while she was in undergraduate school. Miller received her B.A. degree in psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1998. She spent two years gaining extensive training in dermatology as a dermatology technician at Boulder Medical Center, prior to relocating to the Miami area to attend the Barry University Physician Assistant Program. In December 2004, she earned her Master of Clinical Medical Sciences and Physician Assistant certificate from Barry University. Miller was honored as the salutatorian of her class and was awarded the President’s Award by the faculty of the Barry PA Program for demonstration of overall excellence.

After completing her degree at Barry, Miller began her practice as a Dermatology Physician Assistant in North Miami Beach with Dr. Tory Sullivan. She is board certified and specializes exclusively in dermatology. Miller is experienced in cosmetic, medical, pediatric, and surgical dermatology. Her special interests include Ethnic Skin, Botox, dermal fillers, laser, sclerotherapy, and skin cancer.

Born in Mobile, Alabama and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Miller lived in Boulder, Colorado for eight years before moving to South Florida in 2002. No longer a mountaineer, Miller enjoys surfing, horseback riding, cooking, photography, and many outdoor sports. She is a huge animal lover with two cats and a greyhound, all rescues.

At Barry’s PA Program, Miller instructs students in Physical Diagnosis Lab, prepares and gives the dermatology lectures for Physical Diagnosis Class and the Board Review Course.

In addition to her clinical practice and teaching responsibilities at Barry, Miller presents professional lectures on acne and psoriasis disease states and treatments. She is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the National Commission on Certification for Physician Assistants, the Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants, and the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants.

“I really enjoy working with PA students at Barry. I believe that my teaching here gives the students an opportunity to see that there is light at the end of the tunnel and they will be in their clinical careers as a PA shortly,” Miller said.

When asked what advice she has for students at Barry pursuing a career as a PA, Miller replies, “the harder you study now the easier your future will be.” Miller has lived by her adage as she completed the rigorous program at Barry and now serves as a clinical role model and faculty mentor for the students she now teaches.
The Significance of Statistics to Podiatric Medical Research

Kaloian G. Ouzounov, DPM

EDITOR: What is the main aim of using statistics in podiatric medical research?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The main aim of using statistics in podiatric medical research is to provide unbiased assessment. Statistics is a language used in research to justify the conclusions and delineate the information presented. Because it is not used in everyday life for communications between people, it lacks the emotions, attitudes and prejudices associated with ordinary languages based on words. Therefore its precision, accuracy, and implications are unmatched when it comes to describing facts and their relationships for the people who understand its meaning.

EDITOR: What statistics are most commonly used in podiatric research?

DR. OUZOUNOV: There are really only two categories of statistics used in research: descriptive and analytic. Descriptive statistics is involved with quantifying observable phenomena. Analytical statistics is involved with quantifying relationships between already quantified observable phenomena. Descriptive statistics ordinarily precedes analytical statistics in its application to a specific object of research. Although there are a variety of methods developed with applicability to different situations, all statistical methods fall into one of the two categories.

EDITOR: How important is sample size to clinical significance?

DR. OUZOUNOV: Sample size is very important to clinical significance. In order for the observed phenomenon to be defined (descriptive statistics), and perhaps related to another one (analytical statistics) a certain number of observations has to be made (power of study). Failure to make sufficient observations will result in loss of accuracy and precision when describing the phenomenon, and will also make the analysis inconclusive.

EDITOR: In what course at Barry are students introduced to statistics?

DR. OUZOUNOV: Barry students are introduced to statistics in their first year of study through the Basic Research Methodology course which I teach. The main objective of the course is to enable the students to understand research in all of its phases as applicable to the field of medicine and create a sound knowledge base onto which they could add more skills as necessary in pursuing their future research endeavors.

EDITOR: How can research information be integrated into clinical practice?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The current answer to this question is known as the construct of "EBM" (evidence based medicine). There are books written about EBM and it would take more than a few sentences to describe it. Suffice it to say that EBM teaches how to distinguish between the validity of accumulated research studies and how to extract only applicable pertinent information. The key concepts of the EBM construct are LOE (level of evidence), POE (patient oriented evidence) vs. DOE (disease oriented evidence), and development of CATs (critically appraised topics). For those who would like to learn more about EBM, I recommend the following site: http://www.cebm.net/levels_of_evidence.asp

EDITOR: How can statistics be misused?

DR. OUZOUNOV: Everything is just as strong as its weakest link. A tool can always be used and abused. Statistics is no exception. Every statistical method is basically a calculation based on 1) assumptions and 2) data. By using invalid assumptions and manipulation of data, a researcher could overstate results which could invalidate assumptions and manipulation of data, a researcher could overstate results which could result in loss of accuracy and precision when describing the observed phenomenon.

EDITOR: What resources would you recommend to students or readers who were interested in learning more about statistics?

DR. OUZOUNOV: A standard textbook for medical students utilized across the country, and the one which I personally like and recommend is by Stephen B. Hulley, Designing Clinical Research: An Epidemiological Approach. 3rd Edition, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2006. As always I welcome questions and comments from the readers of MEDexpress who can reach me directly at kouzounov@mail.barry.edu.

Podiatric Student Clubs Donate to Yucatan Crippled Children’s Project

The Hispanic Podiatric Medical Student Association (HPMSA) and the Pacific-Islander Association of Podiatric Students (APAPS) clubs have donated $400 to the Barry University Yucatan Crippled Children’s Project (YCCP). Anabelle Santos, president of APAPS and a member of the class of 2011 indicated that, “APAPS raised funds by selling instruments for the anatomy lab to Barry podiatric freshmen, contributing club membership fees, and holding a fundraising potluck lunch with Asian food.”

The Hispanic Podiatric Medical Student Association is a multicultural club that allows students from diverse ethnic backgrounds to learn about issues that affect practicing podiatric minority members and to help advance recognition of the profession. In addition, HPMSA advocates awareness about health issues that affect minorities in the community.

The Pacific-Islander Association of Podiatric Students formed in 2007 encompasses a wide diversity of ethnicities and strives to strengthen multi-racial relations. One of the main goals of APAPS is to increase the community’s awareness of podiatric medicine and how the profession contributes to the health care system.
The Dr. Debra Kalfas Memorial Award for Excellence in Community Health Care was awarded to Olivier Jovic, DPM, and $500 from the Kalfas Family to recognize her excellence working in community health rotations. The award honors the late Dr. Debra Kalfas, podiatric graduate of the School and dedicated clinical faculty member.

The American Board of Podiatric Surgery’s Michael L. Stone, DPM Outstanding Professional Conduct Award was presented to Caroline Smith, DPM as a $2,000 scholarship for exemplifying the highest standard of professionalism, deportment, and ethics in her interactions with peers, patients, professors, and staff. This award honors Dr. Stone who embodied commitment to the profession of podiatric medicine and surgery.

William Thetford, DPM was awarded the Excellence in Podiatric Medicine Award and a 3 year membership in the American Society of Podiatric Medicine.

Ashish Kapila, president of the Class of 2010 served as the narrator and introduced Jeanna Van Pelt Mascorro, DPM, president of the Class of 2009 and Brian Selbst, DPM, vice-president of the Class of 2009, who presented the "Class of 2009 Reflections." Dr. Mascorro indicated that "the Class of 2009 received an excellent podiatric medical education from Barry largely due to the caring professors and staff who worked closely with us to ensure our education was second to none. Our class was able to form a very close knit family made of students from around the country and the world and our friendships will last a lifetime," she added.

Dr. Mascorro also presented the Faculty Award for Professor of the Year to Dr. Albert Armstrong, the Clinical Professor of the Year to Dr. Jacqueline Brill, Academic Professor of the Year to Dr. Jacqueline Buchman, Special honor and thanks to the Dean, Dr. John Nelson, and honor and thanks to the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Briant Moyles, “who is an exceptional role model for his son, Jared Moyles, DPM and the Class of 2009.”

Results of the exercise have been overwhelming positive with students indicating that “the professional patient made it feel more like a real life situation” and “having professional patients allows the faculty to really see how we work in the field.”

Wendy Langen was pleased with the CSE results. “All of the students responding to the exercise evaluation agreed that interviewing the professional patient is more like a real patient than a first year student,” Langen said. Further 87% of the students agreed the use of the professional patient significantly enhanced their history taking abilities. Langen expects the Barry PA Program will use the exercise again perhaps with assistance of grant funding.