Dr. Stelnicki Honored for Scholarship Gift

PA Convocation Makes History

Barry Alumni Elected to FPMA Offices
MESSAGE FROM THE dean

Podiatric Physicians Play Key Role in Public Health

With the aging of the American population and the dramatic increase in the incidence of diabetes, the podiatric physician plays a key role in public health education and the identification, treatment, and prevention of diabetes. The editor spoke with Dr. Chet Evans, dean of the School of Podiatric Medicine about the importance of the podiatric physician in public health.

EDITOR: Why is the podiatric physician vital to public health?

DR. EVANS: Podiatric physicians are vital to public health as they are often the first health care providers to identify chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease that have outcomes and symptoms which show up in the lower extremities. Some of these hallmark indicators include poor circulation, edema, and discoloration of the feet. When the podiatric physician makes such a diagnosis, he/she refers to the appropriate medical specialist for follow up of the systemic disease.

EDITOR: What critical role does the podiatric physician play in diabetes care and identification?

DR. EVANS: The podiatric physician will often detect signs of diabetes in the lower extremities before the patient’s medical doctor. These signs may include neuropathy, ulcerations, and bleeding within calluses. Because of neuropathy, diabetic patients lack sensitivity in the foot and as a result the podiatric physician may find foreign bodies in the feet which could cause infections. The podiatric physician is the primary health professional for care of the diabetic foot for patients with diabetes. Podiatric physicians care for diabetic neuropathy, ulcerations, and other complications which can result in limb amputation.

EDITOR: How can the podiatric physician get involved with public health issues and policy making?

DR. EVANS: All podiatric physicians should join the American Public Health Association (APHA). This organization is the single largest health organization which impacts health policy making through its relationship with Congress.

DR. EVANS: I would encourage them to seek the Barry University Professional Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. It will be very helpful to them in their future practice of podiatric medicine. The MPH gives practitioners an added qualification in health and medical administration for expanded career opportunities and a wider medical knowledge base. The degree can be completed as a dual degree at the same time the student is completing the DPM degree.

EDITOR: You have taken a personal interest in public health, how have you been involved?

DR. EVANS: I am an active member of the Podiatric Section of the APHA and have served as chair of the section. I recently authored a chapter, “Public Health Educational Considerations,” for a new textbook Public Health and Podiatric Medicine: Practice and Principle, 2nd Edition, published by APHA. The chapter discusses the important role that podiatric medical education plays in the public health arena. I currently serve as chair elect for the Governor’s Diabetes Advisory Council for the State of Florida. I believe it is very important for health professionals to play an active role in public health issues and activities.

MEDx is published for the alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the Barry University Division of Medicine. The primary purpose of Barry University is to offer its students a quality education. Furthermore, Barry University commits itself to assuring a religious dimension and to providing community service and presence within a more caring environment.

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Who’s on the Cover – Richard Fixen, MD, MPH; Tim Patton, MPH; James O’Connor, MPH, PA-C; Daren C. Parkhurst, MD, FACEP; Keith Moore, JD, PA-C; Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD; Charles Culver, MD, PhD; David Malnar, PhD; Dimitri Hilton; Linda Peterson, PhD; and Ann Patton
A Matter of Fact
by David Molnar, PhD

Sample Results from Physician Assistant Employer Survey

Based on responses from 31 employers, the quality of Barry PA graduates' education is affirmed.

% Who agree or strongly agree "PA's fund of knowledge is adequate." 97%

% Who agree or strongly agree "PA has good clinical skills." 97%

% Who agree or strongly agree "PA's knowledge and skills meet current acceptable practice." 100%

% Who are satisfied or very satisfied with "PA's patient interaction." 100%
The Barry University Physician Assistant Program is very proud of its Class of 2007. They will do well and will make a difference in the world. The 10 Commandments of Medical Practice make practicing medicine a little easier and ensures quality care.

1. Listen to the patient. The patient will always tell you what is wrong. If you have left the room and you don’t know what’s wrong, go back and ask again. Listen to the family and, if the patient is a child, listen to the mother.

2. Follow your clinical instinct. If you think someone is very sick even if their tests are all normal, you are probably right that they are very sick. Follow your gut. It will save you more times than you can guess.

3. If the patient makes you angry there is something wrong with the patient. A corollary of this commandment is that you should go to the noisiest patient first.

4. Be intellectually curious. Ask the important questions. Why does my patient have this? What are the current treatment advances?

5. Be humble. Admit what you don’t know. Ask for help in a timely fashion when you’re muddled. Know what you know; know better what you do not know.

6. If you wonder whether you should do something the answer is always “yes.” JUST DO IT. You can always ask for help. Make sure the patient gets what is warranted.

7. Be honest with your patients in a kind way and be sensitive to how much information the patient wants to know. Admit medical error.

8. Err on the side of the patient. That’s fairly implicit in all of these commandments. Always protect the patient. It is always safer to admit than to discharge if you are worried or not sure.

9. Don’t let your patient return to work the same day of an injury. It is safer to have them go home and recover from the physical and emotional trauma of an Emergency Department visit.

10. Primo non nocere. Latin for “First, do no harm.” That is in the oath you have taken. Your promise never to harm a patient.

Barry PA Grads Guided by the Ten Commandments of Medical Practice

On December 15, 2007 the Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) reached a significant milestone with the graduation of its first class seated from two campus locations in Miami Shores and St. Petersburg, Florida. Assistant Dean of the School of Graduate Medical Sciences and Director of the PA Program, Dr. Doreen C. Parkhurst delivered an inspiring keynote address to the graduates. Central to the address were Dr. Parkhurst’s Ten Commandments of Medical Practice. An excerpt from Dr. Parkhurst’s keynote address follows:

The Barry University Physician Assistant Program is very proud of its Class of 2007. They will do well and will make a difference in the world. The 10 Commandments of Medical Practice make practicing medicine a little easier and ensures quality care.
Barry Physician Assistant Convocation Makes History

During the 10th anniversary year of the Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP), the program celebrated the first graduation of one class seated in two locations. The sixty-six physician assistant graduates from the BUPAP class of 2007, forty-four from the Barry University campus in Miami Shores and twenty-two from the Barry extension in St. Petersburg, recited the Oath of Hippocrates and joined the more than 75,000 physician assistants eligible to practice medicine in the United States. This ninth convocation of the BUPAP held December 15 at the Broad Auditorium, was attended by over 900 family members, friends, faculty, and staff.

Doreen C. Parkhurst, MD, FACEP, program director, delivered an inspirational keynote address as she indicated to the Class of 2007 that “you will make a difference in the world.” Dr. Parkhurst dramatically illustrated the “Ten Commandments of Medical Practice” by example of the high quality and compassionate medical care she has provided to her patients during her medical career.

The ceremony honored outstanding students including: Michelle Jordan presented with the Dean’s Award as the class valedictorian; Kaitlin Brenny received the Program Director’s Award as the class salutatorian; Kelly LaMont and Virginia Valentin were co-awardees of the President’s Award for demonstrating overall excellence which epitomizes the values of the PA profession; the Mave and Mildred Rice Memorial Award for Excellence in Pediatrics was presented to Kyle Horner and Kaleena Francois, based on their essay “What a Child Taught Me.” Joanna Calderon was presented with the Vernon A. and Virginia M. Culver Memorial Scholarship for excellence in research analysis.

This year the Barry University Physician Assistant Scholarship Endowment was awarded to two students, Travis Rogers and Lee DeDore. Honorable mention was awarded to Kristen Szewczyk. The Jules Ross Award, a memorial to one of the PA Program’s first and finest faculty members, was awarded to Binakumari Patel for demonstration of enthusiasm and excellence in community service.

Since the inception of the Program in 1997, the BUPAP has grown tremendously. The first class had 28 students and the Program now has 68 students in each class on two campuses and has graduated more than 300 physician assistants. Through the use of interactive video conferencing, the BUPAP has successfully undertaken the training of PA students on two campuses and is proud to see this first combined class graduate.

18th Annual Agnes Seminar on the Diabetic Foot

by Martha Huerta

On Saturday February 9, 2008, the Florida Podiatric Medical Student Association (FPMA) continued Sister Agnes Stechschulte’s vision of dedication to pediatric medical education with the 18th Annual Agnes Seminar: The Diabetic Foot. This student-run continuing medical education event focused on bringing the newest developments and treatment strategies for the optimal management of the diabetic foot to Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine (BUSPM). In addition to providing continuing education to podiatrists practicing in the area, the seminar facilitated the interaction between the students and practicing podiatrists, introducing the School of Podiatric Medicine as a resource and partner to them.

Over the years, the Agnes seminar has grown considerably. This year’s seminar was exceptional in that it brought an extraordinary line up of nationally recognized speakers from all over the country. Stephanie Wu, DPM, Stephen Palmer, DPM, John Steinberg, DPM, Thomas Merrill, DPM, Robert Snyder, DPM, Desmond Bell, DPM, Paul Kim, DPM, Albert Armstrong, DPM, are the speakers who participated in our seminar and gave us such fantastic lectures in a manner both students and doctors were able to appreciate.

For information regarding other upcoming CME events you may contact 305-899-3255. www.18thAgnes.com
Barry Alumni Elected to Major Offices with FPMA

Dr. Bradley Haves, DPM, a 1990 graduate of the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine was installed on January 11, 2008 as first vice president of the Florida Podiatric Medical Association (FPMA) during their annual SAM meeting in Orlando. Dr. Haves is scheduled to be installed as the second Barry University podiatric physician graduate to be elected as president of the FPMA in 2009, following in the footsteps of Dr. Roger G. Beck who served as president in 2006.

The School of Podiatric Medicine is proud to have two other alumni elected to offices with the FPMA. Dr. Terence McDonald, DPM ’92, was installed as second vice president and will become president of FPMA in 2010. Dr. McDonald practices podiatric medicine with his wife Cynthia (Lott) McDonald, DPM ’92 in Ft. Lauderdale and Pembroke Pines. Dr. Samir S. Vakil MS ’88, DPM ’91 was elected to serve as the secretary of the FPMA. Dr. Vakil practices with the Foot and Ankle Centers of Charlotte County in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte, Florida. He is scheduled to be installed as FPMA president in 2012.

According to Dr. Chet Evans, DPM, associate vice president for Medical Affairs and dean for the School of Podiatric Medicine, "we are very proud of all our podiatric graduates for the successes and accomplishments they have had in their careers. Drs. Haves, McDonald, Vakil, and Beck are admirable alumni who have gone the extra step to assume leadership positions with FPMA which will greatly benefit the profession of podiatric medicine."

Master of Public Health Grad Makes the Grade

Regine J. Joly, RN, MPH, CHES, Barry University Master of Public Health, Class of 2006, has successfully passed the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam. She earned this distinction from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Incorporated. Joly serves as senior manager of the Regional Lifestyle Management Program for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. Joly has presented papers twice at the national American Public Health Association meeting. In 2006, as a Barry student, she presented her paper “Hypertension, Diabetes, and Health Disparities in the Black Population in Miami-Dade County.” In 2007 she submitted a paper about the “Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida: Regional Lifestyle Management Program” which promotes preventative health, identifying barriers and disparities in health care access due to racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic status in the state of Florida.

Money Matters

From Podiatry Billing Services®

At Podiatry Billing Services® we emphasize the importance of practice management. Whether you have an established podiatric practice or are preparing to begin practice, we invite your comments and questions regarding both billing and practice management issues.

The rewards of podiatric practice, both psychologically and financially are great. Yet, many podiatric physicians struggle to appreciate basic concepts which are vital in managing the financial well being of their practice.

Let’s get started with a few definitions:

“AR Days” refers to the number of days it takes for your money to turn over. It’s calculated by dividing your total accounts receivable balance by the average amount of money your practice bills out each day. In most efficient practices this number should be less than 30 days.

“Overhead Expense” is the cost of operating your office. It’s calculated by dividing the gross income of the practice by your expenses (minus your salary). This will vary based on the size and efficiency of the practice. For a small practice it might be in the area of 50% to 60%. For larger practices it’s not unusual to see an overhead expense of over 70%. Obviously, the lower your overhead expense, the less you have to work for your money.

“Productivity” is the amount of money your practice must generate each hour to cover your basic expenses. This is calculated by dividing the gross income of the practice by your expenses (minus your salary). This will vary based on the size and efficiency of the practice. For a small practice it might be in the area of 50% to 60%. For larger practices it’s not unusual to see an overhead expense of over 70%. Obviously, the lower your overhead expense, the less you have to work for your money.

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Email your questions or comments to: pbsmail@podiatrybilling.com or visit the website: www.podiatrybilling.com
Barry Physician Assistant Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

by Paige Stein

Since the inception of the program in 1997, the BUPAP has graduated more than 300 physician assistants and has received two three-year Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Professions grants of nearly $1 million for training PA students in primary care.

"The program has grown tremendously from the first class of 28 students to the current class of 68. We have developed an original and successful cultural competency program and "problem based" learning lab. We have also set standards in collecting and evaluating hand-held computer data," Parkhurst said.

In 2005, Barry began offering its PA program at the University Partnership Center at St. Petersburg College EpiCenter. Via interactive learning between the two classrooms, students in the Barry University classroom at the EpiCenter are completing the same Master of Clinical Medical Science Degree with the Physician Assistant Certificate as students at the Barry University campus in Miami Shores.

Consequently, the December commencement ceremony was the first time that PA classes seated on both campuses graduated together.

"As someone who has been the recipient of physician assistant care through my primary physician, I am very grateful for the services, care and compassion those who exercise your profession so exemplify," Bevilacqua told the gathering, which included many PA students who graduated at Barry’s December 15th commencement.

The Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) celebrated its 10th anniversary held on December 3, 2007 at a joint reception at both the Miami Shores and St. Petersburg, Florida campuses.

The campus receptions were connected through interactive videoconferencing allowing the students, faculty, and other guests at the St. Petersburg campus to hear speeches by Barry University President, Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, and Dr. Doreen C. Parkhurst, assistant dean of the School of Graduate Medical Sciences and director for the PA Program.

Miami Shores Campus: Richard Fien, MD, MPH; Tim Patton, MPH; James O’Connor, MPH, PA-C; Doreen C. Parkhurst, MD, FACEP; Keith Moore, JD, PA-C; Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD; Charles Culver, MD, PhD; David Molnar, PhD; Dimitri Hilton; Linda Peterson, PhD; and Ann Paton

St. Petersburg EpiCenter: Deborah Winton; Richard Ball, PhD; Maritza Silio; Suzi Kramer, LPN; Terry Helopoulos, PA-C; Chris Helopoulos, PA-C
Dr. James Stelnicki Honored for Scholarship Gift to Barry’s School of Podiatric Medicine

The Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine (BUSPM) honored Dr. James Stelnicki of New Port Richey, Florida for his $100,000 donation to establish the James V. Stelnicki Scholarship for Excellence in Lower Extremity Vascular Medicine at Barry University. The gathering honoring Dr. Stelnicki was celebrated at the 15th Annual Alumni Reception of the Barry School of Podiatric Medicine on January 10th in Orlando during the Florida Podiatric Medical Associations (FPMA) Science and Management (SAM) Symposium. Nearly 250 celebrants had an opportunity to participate in the festivities. Dr. Chet Evans, vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of the School of Podiatric Medicine presented Dr. Stelnicki with a recognition plaque acclaiming him as an honorary alumnus of Barry University’s School of Podiatric Medicine as well as a School of Podiatric Medicine commemorator for his significant contributions to the School and the profession of podiatric medicine.

The James V. Stelnicki Scholarship for Excellence in Lower Extremity Vascular Medicine will award one $10,000 scholarship each year to a deserving senior podiatric medical student. “This tremendous gift to our podiatric medical scholarship program is most sincerely appreciated by our students and the School of Podiatric Medicine,” said Dr. Chet Evans. The scholarship will recognize students who have excelled in lower-extremity vascular medicine clinical training beginning in fall 2008 and for years to come.

Dr. Stelnicki has been a vital supporter of the School for many years, contributing to the Yucatan Crippled Children’s Project, the Center for Community Health and Minority Medicine building fund, and the Steinberg Scholarship Fund. As a physician, Dr. Stelnicki has achieved high recognition within his specialty of podiatric medicine, having led many legislative delegations to Capital Hill and serving as president of the Florida Podiatric Medical Association.

The reception featured officials from Barry University including Ann Paton, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Sean Kramer, assistant vice president for Alumni Relations who welcomed alumni and guests to the reception on behalf of Barry University.

The celebration also benefited the Dr. Marvin and Ruth Steinberg Memorial Scholarship Fund with a 50/50 raffle that raised more than $600. Dr. Terence McDonald (DPM ’92) second vice president for FPMA was the cash grand prize winner. Dr. McDonald donated back to the scholarship fund a portion of his winnings.

Barry Offers 2008 Comprehensive Board Review at the Walt Disney World Resort

Make your plans early to register for the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine’s unique 2008 Comprehensive Board Review Course to be held at the Regal Sun Resort in the Walt Disney World Resort, May 21-25, 2008. The goal of the comprehensive board review seminar is to educate and prepare podiatric physicians to take certification examinations in podiatric surgery, orthopedics, and primary podiatric medicine. Relevant materials will be presented in an abridged manner with notes supplied in respective areas and insight will be given on how to prepare for the oral examination. After completing the course, physicians should be able to identify disease processes, appreciate conservative treatment, surgical criteria, and appropriate therapeutic procedures. For further info or to register contact CME Director, Urmala Roopnarinsingh at 305-899-3266 or 800-756-FEET.

Dr. Southerland Presents at American Public Health Association Meeting

Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Southerland conducted his research on uncompensated neurospastic equinus, a deformity commonly seen among children born with cerebral palsy. This neurological complication becomes a vital delimiter of a child’s capacity for independent ambulation. As such, the deformity carries with it both physical and social infirmities which significantly effect productivity and quality of life. Over the last 10 years, outcomes have been tracked in pediatric patients (aged 2 years to 17 years) presenting with this disabling physical impairment, seen through the Barry University Yucatan Crippled Children’s Project. Treatment on the majority of these patients has consisted of a Murphy-Perrot Tendo Achilles tendon transfer procedure, which appears to have effectively brought the heel to the ground with a retained positional reduction in contrast to Tendo-Achilles lengthening procedures, which have uniformly resulted in recurrence of deformity over time. Favorable outcomes have been evaluated and can be associated directly with increasing individual productivity and social enhancement.

Charles Southerland, DPM with young patient in Mexico

Dr. Charles Southerland, DPM, professor of Podiatric Medicine at Barry University presented a paper on the “Use of Murphy-Pierrot Procedure in Treatment of Pediatric Neurologic Equinus Deformities” at the 135th Annual
Barry’s Physician Assistants Keeping It All in the Family

At the December 2007 Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) Convocation, Matthew Deachin, son of BUPAP team members Terry and Chris Helopoulos, graduated as a PA and became the third member of the family to join the ranks of the PA profession. The editor spoke with Terry Helopoulos, MMS, PA-C, assistant professor of medical education for the Barry University PA Expansion at St. Petersburg College about this accomplishment and her family’s passion for the PA profession.

HELOPOULOS: Matthew has always been interested in the sciences, and received his bachelor’s degree in medical technology from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. While practicing as a medical technologist in Gainesville, he was introduced to friends and colleagues who were PA students and PAs. Since his mother and step-father were both PAs, he had an inside view into what it takes to practice medicine in various areas. Chris and I had already practiced in different settings (family practice, urgent care, dermatology, addiction medicine, and education), and the options seemed desirable to a young family man. When the Barry University PA program announced its plans for expansion into the St. Petersburg area, this seemed like an opportune time for Matthew to be able to fulfill his goals.

EDITOR: What area of specialization and practice does he plan to go into? Will he be staying in Florida?

HELOPOULOS: Matthew holds a medical technology specialization in histocompatibility, so he would like to build on that background by working as a PA in transplant medicine or hematology/oncology. He plans to stay in Florida, preferably in the Tampa area where he is currently interviewing.

EDITOR: What area of specialization and practice does he plan to go into? Will he be staying in Florida?

HELOPOULOS: Matthew was very proud of Matthew and his accomplishments. He was able to look to the future and make some tough sacrifices in order to ensure a better life for himself and his family. The education and experience that he was able to obtain from Barry University will enhance his life and that of his beautiful 5-year old daughter, Ashlyn (our granddaughter).

EDITOR: What does your husband Chris Helopoulos, PA-C, physical diagnosis lab instructor for the St. Petersburg BUPAP, think about all of this with three family members as PAs?

HELOPOULOS: Chris is thrilled about the outcome of the wave that he set in motion. His original dream of becoming a Physician Assistant began about 17 years ago when he first started shadowing a PA while working as a medical lab technician in Gainesville. After he graduated from the University of Florida PA program in 1994, the family was inspired by his enthusiasm and dedication. Over the years, Chris has been devoted to the profession and to the organization that represents Florida PAs, the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants (FAPA). He was the Daytona Beach area FAPA representative for several years, is currently the Pinellas County area representative, a House of Delegates representative to our national organization (AAPA), and a past vice president of FAPA.

Chris has been dedicated to Barry University since 1998, but made a transition to part-time faculty member last year when he decided to return to clinical practice at the Eye Institute of West Florida in Largo. His wish is that Matthew continues to carry the torch for future practitioners of the next generation.

EDITOR: What advice do you have for potential students seeking a career as a PA?

HELOPOULOS: Being a PA is extremely rewarding and has grown into a highly desirable career choice over the past several years. My advice to someone who is considering admission to a PA program is to go out and “get to work” preferably by obtaining a hands-on job in health care, shadow a practicing PA, and make sure that this is the path that you want to take for your life. PA student training is rigorous and demanding and the only thing that will get you through it is a love of medicine and a desire to help people. If you are able to prove (to yourself and others) that you are dedicated to being a good health care worker and a lifelong learner, then you have earned the right to a career as a Physician Assistant.
Barry University Hosts Meeting of the International Federation of Podiatrists

by Paige Stein

Barry University was the site of a February 5-6 meeting of the International Research and Education Committee of the International Federation of Podiatrists (FIP). The Federation was founded in 1947 and consists of podiatry organizations and individuals from 22 countries and 5 continents around the world. Its mission is to ensure access to high-quality foot and ankle care for all people, through collaboration with national and international organizations.

The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: to develop a core competency doctrine that is applicable to the practice of podiatric medicine internationally, and to recommend a body of rules and regulations for the creation of an international council of podiatric educators.

"The practice of podiatric medicine is uneven; unlike the M.D. there are different educational programs and different scopes of practice. Some countries like the United States allow podiatric physicians to do surgery, others like France do not," said conference participant Anthony J. McNevin, FIP director of global education and special projects. "The doctrine will acknowledge this unevenness and establish competencies that provide for the greater enhancement of profession in countries where podiatrists have limited capacity and scope."

The international council of podiatric educators will assume responsibility for the further development of a core competency doctrine and will assist members in expanding and enhancing educational programs in their home countries, added McNevin, pointing to the growing interest in strengthening educational programs in Mediterranean countries, such as Spain and Italy, as well as in China, Indonesia and much of South America.

In addition to McNevin, the conference participants included Dr. Chet Evans, vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of the School of Podiatric Medicine, co-chair International Research and Education Committee, FIP; David Ashcroft, co-chair, UK; Vincent Hetherington, DPM, vice president and dean, Academic Affairs, Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine; and Leonard Levy, DPM, MPH, Associate Dean for Education, Planning, and Research/Director for the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness at Nova Southeastern University.

"I am pleased that Barry hosted the meeting of FIP’s International Research and Education Committee with the goal of developing an international model of podiatric practice," said Evans. "As co-chairman of this committee with Dr. David Ashcroft of the United Kingdom, I believe that our effort will help pave the way in raising and harmonizing practice and academic standards for the profession worldwide."

McNevin agreed and stated that the conference had laid a solid foundation for further international collaboration.

"Since I began working with FIP in 1994, it has always been my hope that someday an international model of podiatric practice could be constructed," he said. "That day came this past Monday when key leaders of the profession met at Barry University to begin the construction of the international model. As an international institution itself, with a proud history of support for podiatric medicine, Barry was the right place to undertake this most noble yet challenging project."
Second Annual Podiatric Medical Student Research Seminar Held on Barry Campus

For the second year, the newly formed Research Club of the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine held a research seminar through cooperation between students and School faculty. Held this fall on the Miami Shores campus the 2nd Annual Podiatric Medical Student Research Seminar was a great success as a platform for student research and publication. American Podiatric Medical Student Association and Florida Podiatric Medical Student Association delegates also contributed to this joint endeavor for the promotion of podiatric research. The editor spoke to Director of Research for the School of Podiatric Medicine, Dr. Kaloian Ouzounov who helped to organize this event.

EDITOR: What was the name of the research seminar and the purpose?
DR. OUZOUNOV: The complete name of the research seminar is “The Annual Podiatric Medical Student Research Seminar”. Its purpose is to outline the main research avenues available for students in podiatric medicine, and discuss expressions of scientific research such as posters, abstracts, manuscripts and publications.

EDITOR: Who participated as speakers and what were topics covered and learning objectives?

DR. OUZOUNOV: Dr. David Molnar, student-doctor Janet Baatile, and I were the guest speakers for the 2007 research seminar. Janet made the opening introduction and shared personal experience from her ongoing research projects. Dr. Molnar as a professional statistician elaborated on the selection of research databases, compilation and analysis of data. I emphasized the need of podiatric research and its significance for the future of the profession. I also gave practical advice on how to participate in research according to one’s own level of interest and abilities.

EDITOR: I understand that after the seminar the students made several requests to encourage research at the School. What were these issues and how is the School responding?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The students seem to understand the importance of research for science as well as a tool for building credentials and being competitive with the other podiatric schools. There was the general perception that an Annual/Bi-annual Podiatric Student Journal of Research could be of tremendous significance for motivating and encouraging student research activities. A research club was created immediately after the research seminar with the establishment of the research journal as one of its major goals.

EDITOR: Were all students required to attend or was it voluntary?

DR. OUZOUNOV: The research seminar was voluntary and over 70 students participated in the event.

EDITOR: Will you have similar research seminars for the other students, PA, MPH, etc.

DR. OUZOUNOV: Although the primary audience for the research seminar is the podiatric student, the seminar is open to any student from the Barry University community. Currently I seem to be in contact mainly with podiatric medicine students and therefore my efforts concentrate on them. I would gladly participate in future research seminars upon invitation from the PA or MPH students.

EDITOR: How was the seminar organized and by whom?

DR. OUZOUNOV: Just as the previous year, the seminar was organized by the podiatric medicine student-doctor Janet Baatile. She was the primary driving force and coordinator for the event. Dr. Molnar and I were very happy to witness her eagerness and dedication, and were amazed by the impact a single motivated student can make. I hope that we keep up this momentum in podiatric student research, carry it on and expand it through the next generation of podiatric students.

EDITOR: How can readers or students interested in research contact you?

DR. OUZOUNOV: As always I welcome questions and comments from the readers of MEDexpress who can reach me directly at kouzounov@mail.barry.edu.
Yucatan Crippled Children’s Project Featured in National Catholic Reporter

The Barry University Yucatan Crippled Children’s Project (YCCP) was featured in an article entitled “Helping kids stand on two good feet,” written by Patricia Lefevere. The article appeared in the November, 2007 issue of the National Catholic Reporter. Dr. Charles Sutherland, medical director for the YCCP and Dr. Chet Evans, dean for the School of Podiatric Medicine are extremely proud of the YCCP and all that the Project has done in 11 years of service for over 5,500 crippled children in the Yucatan of Mexico. The story may be read in its entirety at http://natcath.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007d/110207d.htm.

Correction
MEDexpress Winter 2008 issue, Page 5
PICA to Sponsor Barry Podiatric Rite of Passage photo caption stated Class of 2009.