MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to start by thanking you, our members, for your ongoing feedback, participation in our surveys and passion for the podiatric profession. Based on our most recent survey, we plan to provide you more frequent electronic newsletter updates that link you to our website, but will also continue providing you this bi-annual Update in pdf format that you can read online or choose to print. Update will capture highlights from the prior six months and give you information on upcoming events.

OUTREACH:
These past six months we have presented at or participated in over a dozen workshops, receptions or lectures around the country for residents and students helping them understand the importance of certification and process on how to best prepare when they complete their residency. For the past two years we have provided the questions at the Present Conference Residency Rumbles - a great way to reuse some of our exam questions and teach a little about us in a fun and interactive way. We have also sponsored merit awards for one outstanding student at each of the nine podiatric colleges. Their pictures are in this issue.

ADVOCACY:
We continue to support the profession, most recently noted in our successful advocacy at this year’s APMA House of Delegates meeting where a proposed change would have hurt those with a three year residency (article in this issue), and in our letter to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee responding to a letter from the American Academy of Orthopedic (AAOS) where they were rationalizing the ongoing inequality in pay afforded podiatric services in the VA system. Details of our response are available on our website.

EXAM QUALITY:
As a certifying body, it continues to be our goal to ensure the highest quality examinations are given so that your membership remains valued.

Lastly, I want to personally thank Dr. Marc Benard for his 20 years of service to the ABPM. We are very thankful for his numerous contributions to the growth and support of this organization, and look forward to his continued leadership. I hope you enjoy this new Update. Please feel free to send any feedback to Admin@ABPMed.org.

Thank you!
Steve Goldman, DPM, MBA, ABPM Board President

Now a few highlights

EXAM ENROLLMENT:
This is shaping up to be another good year for us. Interest in, and understanding of, the ABPM certification continues to expand with a record number of DPMs sitting for this year’s qualification examination, and signed up for the certification examination later this year.

www.ABPMed.org
THE ABPM CELEBRATES OVER 41 YEARS
OF SUPPORT TO THE AMERICAN PODIATRIC COMMUNITY

“Many people do not realize the extensive history of the ABPM,” stated DR. MARC BENARD, who is CELEBRATING 20 YEARS as Executive Director of the ABPM this July. “We have had a few significant changes since 1975, but as a credentialing organization, our roots span 41 years.”

In 1975 the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics (ABPO) was formed to certify in the specialty of podiatric orthopedics. In 1993, as a result of a petition approved by the CPME, the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine (ABPOPPM) came to be. “We maintained that name and acronym until 2012 when our membership and our Board decided that the name American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) clearly defined the breadth of our certification… and it was easier to remember,” said Benard.

While Dr. Benard has been the Executive Director since 1996, he has been working with the ABPM since 1985. “Although I was actively involved in the profession early on, I never aspired to being an administrator. That just evolved.” Previously Dr. Benard worked on several of the Board’s committees and was instrumental in transforming the way the ABPM creates and facilitates examinations.

As a new member of the Examination Committee I remember thinking that there had to be a better way to develop and administer our examination,” he said. “When promoted to Chair I started putting a committee together by adding subject matter experts for each area in which we tested.” He also increased the activities of the Board’s psychometrician (professional test makers) to improve and develop the administrative methods utilized to make the expanded examination format reliable and valid – key criteria used in the development of tests. Orienting new committee members on the most effective way to frame questions was another priority. The committee structure still exists that way today. “Even though we were developing exam content and making structural advances, for a long while we continued to administer the exam through an older convention. I vividly remember the days of pencil, paper, Scantrons and blue exam booklets!”

Over time this changed, however it wasn’t until 2012 that the ABPM examinations converted fully to a test center mediated format. According to Dr. Benard, sometime around the late 1990’s the profession began to make serious advances in unifying the residency training structure. “At the time the profession contained too many residency types. In addition, the quality of education varied too much from program to program.” There were 1 year preceptorships, 1 year medical/surgical residencies, 1 year residencies in primary podiatric medicine, 1 year residencies in podiatric orthopedics and 1 or 2 year residencies in podiatric surgery. Many programs had these in combination. “There were also some people...”
ABPM CONGRATULATES
AND WELCOMES OUR NEW BOARD CERTIFIED & QUALIFIED DIPLOMATES

On behalf of the President and Board of Directors, we welcome the following new diplomates to ABPM.
The exam was conducted October 2015 in various US locations.
ABPM HONORS
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Annual Merit Award Recipients Honored
ABPM congratulates this year’s Annual ABPM Graduate Merit Award Recipients.

- **VALERIA ALFANO**
  Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine

- **TENAYA WEST**
  California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University

- **TRAVIS KOTTER**
  Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery

- **MELANIE KOCEVAR**
  Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine

- **MARISSA DAVID**
  Midwestern University Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine

- **ELIZABETH BONARIGO**
  New York College of Podiatric Medicine

- **ASHIM WADEHRA**
  Dr. William M. School of Podiatric Medicine at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

- **MARK FILLARI**
  Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine

- **LEILANI MAGAT**
  Western University of Health Sciences College of Podiatric Medicine

This award is given annually to an outstanding student graduating from each of the nine podiatric colleges. Selections are made with recommendations from the Dean of each college based on specific criteria, input from the faculty and information provided by the student. According to the criteria, each candidate selected must exhibit “high standards of professional conduct, probity, academic achievement and moral rectitude.” This includes punctuality, timely completion of all assignments, positive and favorable evaluations and a GPA of at least 3.5. The candidate is to exhibit aptitude in Podiatric Medicine and Podiatric Orthopedics which includes but is not limited to dermatology, biomechanics, sports medicine and infectious disease.

Each recipient receives a pecuniary award of $2,000 and a certificate.

ABPM Board members present the awards to these outstanding students. Congratulations to each of these deserving recipients.
ON THE ROAD...

Drs. Marc Benard & Steve Geller with podiatric students at Midwestern University for the Student Podiatry Mixer hosted by the ABPM.

ABPM President, Dr. Steve Goldman, with podiatric students at Barry University for the Student Wine and Cheese event hosted by the ABPM.

The ABPM Board of Directors at the ABPM Annual Reception during the Midwest Podiatry Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

ABPM Past President, Dr. David George, & Dr. Lee Rogers at the Present Superbones Superwounds Conference in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Drs. Marc Benard & Lawrence Harkless, and Lester Jones with Western University podiatric students at the ABPM hosted Wine and Cheese event.

Drs. William Chagares, Katherine Frush, and Gina Painter with podiatric students at Des Moines University at the ABPM Why Certify presentation.

ABPM Executive Director, Dr. Marc Benard, demonstrating the pediatric examination to area residents in NY attending the ABPM Speakers Bureau event.
WHAT ARE MEMBER ANNUAL FEES USED FOR?

Periodically Headquarters is queried by members regarding the annual requirement for registration fees (dues), and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) fees. While this topic has been addressed in prior newsletters, as new diplomates are brought in annually, it’s timely to cover it once again.

Although the Board’s primary functions are conducting national examinations in the specialty of podiatric orthopedics and podiatric medicine and evaluating the ongoing competency of its membership, there are other tasks in which the Board is involved to provide prudent stewardship of the organization and preserve the value of the diplomates’ certificates. Our profession’s size and internal structure compel the major entities associated with it to be involved in other areas essential to the profession’s growth and ongoing success. A partial list of these entities includes the state podiatric associations, the certifying boards, professional colleges, Council on Podiatric Medical Education and its committees, colleges of podiatric medicine, the Council of Teaching Hospitals, etc. Accordingly, the ABPM has both a direct responsibility to its members and an indirect responsibility through its input on various national committees working toward the betterment of the profession as a whole. What follows, while not comprehensive, should give the membership insight and perspective on the activities of the ABPM, and the relevance of the member’s ongoing financial responsibility with the organization.

As expected, the administrative staff is salaried and outside consultants are compensated. A large majority of the Board’s activities, however, are conducted by our Directors, committee personnel and those appointed to liaison positions. These diplomats do so voluntarily, and while per diems are issued, the diplomate’s time-on-task significantly outstrips the nominal compensation for expenses. Truly, their commitment is borne of a heart-felt desire to make a difference to the organization, its membership and the profession.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS holds three face-to-face meetings per year, including the Annual Meeting of Members, the Annual Meeting of Directors, and a third meeting scheduled so that the three are convened approximately 4 months apart. These are supplemented by periodic conference calls. All are required to monitor the ongoing administration of the organization, review board policy, engage in strategic planning, receive reports, assess effectiveness of standing and ad hoc committees, etc.

COMMITTEES

THE BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE works closely with headquarters in determining the annual budget, forecasting future budgetary requirements and personnel needs, reviewing monthly financial reports, etc.

THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE periodically reviews both the policy manual and bylaws to ensure that new and updated programs and actions are consistent with the language and spirit of those documents. Periodically recommendations for specified bylaws modifications are brought to the membership for a vote.

To add additional perspective for the membership, the 2016 ABPM budget is depicted graphically.

Total Income: $1,550,498 | Total Expenses: $1,473,198

BUDGET SUMMARY INCOME:
- Operations: $933,500
- Examinations: $927,000
- Re-credentialing/MOC: $310,000

BUDGET SUMMARY EXPENSES:
- Administration: $683,753
- Operations: $159,100
- Board of Directors: $55,100
- Marketing & Communications: $232,880
- Other Communications/Liaison Meetings: $40,850
- Examination Committees: $199,471
- Examinations: $312,500
- Re-credentialing/MOC: $31,250

~ continued on page 12
THE CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE evaluates case submissions from examination candidates. Although case documentation is waived for candidates with 36 months of eligible residency training, candidates exist who are required to submit cases for evaluation.

THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE is charged with evaluating state actions brought against members that impact their licensure, as well as current or former member appeals (e.g., reinstatement, change in member status, etc.). It also monitors compliance with board policies (e.g., advertising, ethics, etc.).

THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE has three subcommittees: certification, qualification/in-training, and subspecialty certification. They develop new items for the respective examinations, review and update established items, review and update reference and study guide material, interact with the Board’s psychometrist in assessing and developing current and future testing methodology, and evaluate the examination blueprint relative to current diplomate practice.

THE MARKETING COMMITTEE is tasked with disseminating relevant information to the membership both on the web site and via e-mail, developing resident and diplomate newsletters, developing tools for use by the membership in connection with insurance panel and hospital activities, developing informational materials for distribution at the ABPM booth at regional and national conferences, etc.

THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC) COMMITTEE develops criteria for ongoing compliance with board requirements for competency in the specialty. The committee also reviews case submissions in connection with component 4 of the program.

THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE reviews curricula vitae and existing committee member activity so as to make recommendations for future directors to the Board. The Nominating Committee also assists with the candidate slate ultimately presented to the diplomates for election.

THE SPEAKERS BUREAU, while not a committee, provides a presence proactively and at the request of the colleges of podiatric medicine and residency consortia to convey relevant information about board certification in general and ABPM certification in particular. Often, the Speakers Bureau personnel also deliver clinical content in a specific area, or areas, of expertise.

LIAISON POSITIONS
The Board is asked to provide input to many other relevant national committees and organizations and has liaison personnel that serve that function:

American Podiatric Medical Association (via attendance at the quarterly Board of Trustees meetings and the APMA House of Delegates)
American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics and Medicine
American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery
American Association of Women Podiatrists
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
Collaborative Residency Evaluator Committee
Council of Teaching Hospitals
Council on Podiatric Medical Education Residency Review Committee
Council on Podiatric Medical Education Joint Committee on Recognition of Specialty Boards
Podiatry Residency Resource

THE CERTIFICATE OF ADDED QUALIFICATION (CAQ) will validate a podiatrist’s specific knowledge of preventing amputations including wound care, infectious diseases, vascular diseases, peripheral neurology, orthopedics, and biomechanics. Preventing amputations includes primary prevention (before any complications), secondary prevention (the treatment of complications such as gangrene, wounds, infections, Charcot foot) and post-secondary prevention (after complications have resolved and preventing the recurrence of complications).

The subspecialty certification subcommittee, led by ABPM Director Gina Painter, DPM, determined the testing criteria and content. The subcommittee chair, Lee Rogers, DPM will lead the validation of the exam and implement the testing plan.

Certification criteria will include fellowship training or verification of specific expertise in wound care and amputation prevention. This will be the first subspecialty in podiatric medicine to be recognized by the Joint Recognition of Specialty Boards of the Council on Podiatric Medical Association under the authority of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

ABPM ANNOUNCES
NEW SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN AMPUTATION PREVENTION

ABPM has developed and will launch a subspecialty certification in amputation prevention and wound healing, and plans to certify its “Founding members” within six months.

The Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) will validate a podiatrist’s specific knowledge of preventing amputations including wound care, infectious diseases, vascular diseases, peripheral neurology, orthopedics, and biomechanics. Preventing amputations includes primary prevention (before any complications), secondary prevention (the treatment of complications such as gangrene, wounds, infections, Charcot foot) and post-secondary prevention (after complications have resolved and preventing the recurrence of complications).
with no residency training, as there were fewer residencies than there were students.” Managed care was proliferating as well, and these organizations needed clarification of the podiatric postgraduate training structure relative to their credentialing criteria. “Many were, and sometimes still are, confused about the nature of podiatric residency training and the type of procedures and care that podiatric physicians render”, stated Benard. The profession’s first major advance in streamlining the many residency types was the creation of the PM&S 24, activated in 2003. As the profession moved to a single, improved, training model the certifying boards needed to subset access to the examination for those with less than the requisite training. Then, with the advent of the PMSR program, rolled out in 2011, podiatric residency training was finally unified into a single three-year model.

Podiatrists with less than three years of eligible training will have until 2018 to become certified by the ABPM. The change to a three-year model also prompted the ABPM to evaluate case documentation outcomes as they related to examination outcomes. The Board compared the findings for those with a two year residency and those with a three year residency. “We determined that the case documentation pass rates and subsequent certification examination scores for those with the three year residency were so high, and so consistent, that the ABPM Board of Directors decided to waive the requirement for case documentation for that group,” explained Benard. “The consequence of that decision, and the good news for those coming out of their three-year programs, is significant. They are now able to sit for the qualification examination and, if successful, the certification examination within the year of completing residency,” stated Benard. This has become quite important for podiatric physicians needing to obtain hospital privileges and insurance panel access when beginning their careers.

One of the biggest shifts Dr. Benard has noticed in his time on the Board and as ABPM’s Executive Director is the importance of the ABPM credential. “It’s interesting,” observed Benard, “that whereas board certification began as a mark of professional achievement, pride and peer acceptance – i.e. a way to show that you had gone above and beyond the basic curriculum to demonstrate your credibility, in the last 10-15 years board certification has become a virtual mandate for survival.”

Both the profession and the ABPM continue to progress. “I think the future will be very interesting. There will certainly be more group and institutionally based practices and perhaps more sub-specialization. Podiatric physicians are much more integrated into the team approach to health care now. And, with so many new technologies available to large institutions that directly benefit patients, I think sub-specialization will expand within the podiatric profession. With sub-specialization, I suspect the ABPM will, where relevant, add specialty examinations, as is currently being done with the CAS in wound care/limb salvage.”

The Board of Directors asks you to join us in thanking and congratulating Dr. Marc Benard on his 20 years of service as its Executive Director, and for his 31 years as an integral contributor to the Board’s growth.

Footnote: Dr. Benard continues to enjoy his role as Executive Director. “I consider myself fortunate to have been with an organization that I clearly care about and, along with many dedicated people, have helped build over the last two decades,” he said. “I continue to approach this role not just as an administrator but as a practitioner who understands and cares about the profession and relates to the needs of podiatric physicians.”

ABPM DIRECTORS
ATTEND 2016 APMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ABPM President Dr. Steven Goldman, and directors Dr. William Chagas, Dr. Mitchell Shikoff and Dr. Sam Spadone, as well as Executive Director Dr. Marc Benard were present at the 2016 APMA House of Delegates, on March 19th-21st in Washington D.C.

One of the propositions, and a resolution, introduced by a state component society attempted to allow for alternative certifying boards, not now recognized by the JCRSB, to seek approval without establishing a specialty area recognized by the APMA House of Delegates. Unfortunately, such a development would necessarily include certified members of such a board who had less than the current requisite residency training requirements. This, in turn, would negatively impact CMS funding for residency training, and could have major negative consequences for the entire postgraduate training system, as well as the APMA “pathway to parity.”

After input from several segments of the podiatric community including the APMA Board of Trustees, CPME, the ABPM and ABFAS, the proposition was defeated and the resolution modified so as not to negatively impact the critical issue referenced above.

The ABPM continually works to support our Certification and to protect and improve the profession as a whole. Our board members are asked to attend and actively participate in these meetings, upholding our commitment to our members to maintain and expand the value of your credential. This includes, but is not limited to, having representatives on committees such as the JCRSB, Committee on Balance, Residency Review Committee (RRC), Collaborative Residency Evaluator Committee (CREC), and others.

If you would like more information about serving on an ABPM committee or acting as an advocate or delegate to state or nationwide meetings, please contact ABPM headquarters at 310.375.0700.