

The View from the Bottom Looking Up

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How ironic that Podiatry's future is in the hands of the group with the least amount of practical experience. This cruel joke is true for every aspect of life. The upcoming generations are full of drive, academic knowledge, energy and willingness to achieve. However, what we have in enthusiasm we lack in experience. As a regular feature, this column will attempt to address all these issues from a Podiatry Residents viewpoint.

Where Are You Going?

Perhaps the biggest issue from my view as a resident is will I be able to find a good job? How will I find my place in the world? Who will help me with setting up an office? How will I ever learn coding? Who can I ask about associates, partnerships or buy-ins? My questions go on and on. We as residents are extremely academically intelligent. However, when it comes to the practical side of setting up a practice or thinking beyond our residencies we fall short.

Help I Need Somebody!

Just this year, I have become involved in a fantastic resource for residents. The American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management has established a Resident Advisory Board (RAB). The charge of this board is to address the needs of Podiatry's future generations, us residents. Did you ever think to yourself, wouldn't it be great if there was a big brother of podiatry that I could pick up the phone and call for help. Well, that is exactly the idea behind the RAB. The AAPPMM has committed its resources toward helping residents take a quantum leap into success by providing knowledge on topics you cannot learn in a book, the practical side of being a podiatric physician.

Wait, There Is More

The AAPPMM has created a one on one mentor network for the young practitioners. Sounds too good to be true! According to Dr. Jeffrey Frederick, DPM, FACFAS, trustee and chairman of the Mentor project for the AAPPMM, "we have recognized the need to help our young colleagues be successful. The future of podiatry is in our hands." Dr. Hal Ornstein, DPM, FACFAS, President of the AAPPMM, is extremely enthusiastic about helping young doctors achieve their full potential. "We are the friendliest group in Podiatry. The young practitioners are our future."

I can tell you from my own experience with the AAPPMM that they are indeed extremely helpful. I liked what they are doing so much that I have volunteered to serve on their resident advisory board. Just being around these enthusiastic, positive thinking doctors gives me a shot of adrenaline. My future never looked so bright!

Pearls For Residents

- As a resident you owe it to yourself to check out two very important resources. Take a look at the American Podiatric Medical Associations Young Members Program, www.apma.org. And definitely, look at the American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management, www.aappmm.org. These are two great resources to help you succeed. However, you will need to take the first step by becoming involved in these organizations. They have a lot to offer. Also, try to attend your local state association meetings. You will get more than just free food. You will begin to understand current issues facing all of us.
- During your next surgical case, watch how your attending physician handles the patient and their family before the surgery. Observe the doctors words he uses to talk to the patients before surgery. Watch his/her interaction with family members.
- After surgery, go with your attending physician to speak with the family members in the waiting area. Again, observe how this is handled.

- If possible, pick a case and ask your attending physician if you can follow the post operative visits in their office. The amount of practice management information you will learn is amazing!

My next column will cover many “pearls” for residents and new practitioners presented at a unique seminar (with a full day track to address the specific needs of young practitioners) that the American Academy of Podiatry Practice Management is sponsoring in Chicago. I look forward to addressing the important issues from a podiatric resident’s viewpoint.

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