

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



J. CHRIS COETZEE, MD

Dear Colleagues,

Amazingly enough, it's been a year since I took over as AOFAS President. I am not sure if it is a privilege or a punishment, but since the Annual Meeting moved from July to September, I will have an extra two months to be in charge.

As expected, 2018-19 presented a number of challenges. As I stated a year ago in Boston, the only constant in life is change. We dealt with and are still dealing with several significant changes on all levels.


Advocacy became a very important factor for the AOFAS not only on a national level, but also on state and local levels. It is more important than ever to be aware of legislative issues, and to make sure we are at the table when decisions are made.

We are also working through several member benefit projects. The new AOFAS website was launched at the beginning of 2019 and continues to evolve and improve. The online Physician Resource Center has been updated as well and offers a wealth of educational materials and other information for surgeons. Both websites are now much easier to navigate and provide

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## AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019 September 12-15, 2019

### Celebrate 50 years of excellence in Chicago

AOFAS invites you to join your colleagues next month at AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019 and the AOFAS 50th Anniversary Celebration. This year's meeting will be held **Thursday, September 12, through Sunday, September 15**, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

In recognition of the Society's milestone anniversary, the Annual Meeting program will reflect on the past while challenging attendees to look forward and consider new, innovative approaches to foot and ankle surgery.

Read on for highlights of the scientific and social programs to help you map out your individual meeting experience.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE, CONTINUED

more comprehensive resources than in the past. Other projects are in progress, including a more robust "Find a Surgeon" online search and a new online forum where members can connect, discuss cases, and share ideas.

The Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation continues to expand its scope and outreach. In addition to the annual outreach trip to Vietnam, there is a new opportunity to serve in Kenya this fall. China is being explored as a future site as well. These trips will create exciting and fulfilling opportunities to teach and treat our global neighbors.

The AOFAS cannot function at the level it does without the dedication and commitment of all the chairs, vice chairs, and members of our AOFAS committees. I would like to thank all of you for volunteering your time and energy to help our Society grow and lead the way in orthopaedic foot and ankle care. After attending several committee meetings over the year, I have been amazed at the knowledge and enthusiasm that everyone brings to these important groups.

I would also like to thank the AOFAS Board of Directors. We spent many — maybe *too* many — hours together, either in person or on conference calls, but it was always productive, challenging, and even sometimes fun. I really appreciate everyone's effort. Same goes for our executive director, Elaine Leighton, and her amazingly competent staff. I encourage all members to stop by the AOFAS's office in Rosemont, Illinois, the next time you are in the Chicago area. It is a well-oiled machine and fun to experience.

I want to express my gratitude to Tom Lee, who paved the way to smoother grounds with his great leadership the year before me, and also to Bill McGarvey, who was my wingman this year. It was fun to see him slowly taking over the reins and I know he will hit the ground at full speed in September. The AOFAS is set to be in great hands with Bill at the helm.

Our Society is healthy and strong with great members and leadership at all levels. I am excited to see where we go over the next 50 years!

Respectfully,  
J. Chris Coetzee, MD

I would like to thank all of you for volunteering your time and energy to help our Society grow and lead the way in orthopaedic foot and ankle care.

### InStride Volume 33, Issue 3, Summer 2019

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## AOFAS advocacy: If you see or hear something, say something!

Is there upcoming legislation in your state that affects foot and ankle orthopaedic surgeons? Let us know so that we can take action on behalf of our members and patients. Please email [research@aofas.org](mailto:research@aofas.org) with any news.

## ANNUAL MEETING 2019, CONTINUED

Adam Alexander Photography/Choose Chicago

Located in the heart of the United States, Chicago is a perfect spot to celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary. Chicago's O'Hare Airport is one of the most connected airports in the world, making it easy to make the trip from across the country and around the world. Once you are in Chicago, the Hyatt Regency Chicago is your "one-stop shop" for all meeting sessions, industry symposia, the exhibit hall, and even sleeping rooms. Plus, the Hyatt is just one block off Michigan Avenue, also known as the "Magnificent Mile," with historic landmarks, high-end shopping, and fabulous restaurants.



### Educational offerings

No matter where Annual Meeting is located, you can always count on an outstanding educational program with important topics, excellent speakers, and new perspectives. The Program Committee has worked hard to recruit and select high-quality content that will equip you with new tools and insights to improve patient care.

**Don't forget, Annual Meeting registration now includes the Pre-meeting Course!** For the second year, the AOFAS Pre-meeting Course is included with registration. You won't want to miss this program highlighting the evolution of foot and ankle surgery over the past 50 years. Co-chairs Michael J. Coughlin, MD, Patrick B. Ebeling, MD, and Christopher B. Hirose, MD, have crafted a jam-packed agenda that features presentations by physicians who pioneered modern surgical techniques and explores the practices used today.

### Customized programs

The Thursday schedule also features full-day programs for orthopaedic residents and allied health practitioners (included with registration).

The **Resident Program** begins with a series of presentations from the Young Physicians Committee, led by Committee Chair Pamela C. Luk, MD, and Vice Chair Amgad M. Haleem Amin, MD, PhD. These lectures on key topics in foot and ankle surgery will increase orthopaedic residents' knowledge base and help them to understand the advanced concepts that will be discussed during the Annual Meeting's scientific session.

During lunchtime, the Fellowship Committee, chaired by James R. Holmes, MD, will host a "meet and greet" Fellowship Fair, giving residents an opportunity for face-to-face interaction with fellowship program directors. With 34 programs participating, this event will give residents exposure to the various types of foot and ankle fellowships available, from those at large institutions to ones in private practice.

In the afternoon, the Post Graduate Education and Training Committee presents an informal, small group case discussion. Attendees will be grouped at round tables by their year in training. A faculty/moderator pair at each table will present the cases and facilitate the discussion. Committee members Eric W. Tan, MD, and Tyler A. Gonzalez, MD, MBA, are leading the activity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**Register by August 15 to save!**  
[aofas.org/annualmeeting](http://aofas.org/annualmeeting)



## ANNUAL MEETING 2019, CONTINUED

The **Allied Health Practitioner Program**, developed by the new AOFAS Allied Health Work Group under the leadership of Thomas M. Hearty MD, DPT, will cater to advanced healthcare professionals who work with patients before, during, and after foot and ankle surgery.

The daylong program includes presentations on operative, non-operative, and postoperative care of various foot and ankle conditions. Attendees will gain in-depth knowledge of the Foot and Ankle Exam through lectures and a hands-on breakout session. In the breakout, attendees will work in smaller groups to perform a foot and ankle exam with expert faculty guiding them through the process.

The program also features a keynote presentation from CarolLynn Meyers, PT, regarding compression wrapping and postoperative care after foot and ankle reconstruction.

### Special presentations

AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019 includes compelling invited speakers and special symposia for attendees.

**Keynote Speaker** Rebecca Costa, a sociobiologist, futurist, and author of the international bestseller *The Watchman's Rattle: A Radical New Theory of Collapse*, will look at advances in Big Data, genomics, and other cutting-edge technologies and how you can use these tools to anticipate and prepare for the future.

**Kenneth A. Johnson International Speaker** Cristian A. Ortiz, MD, of Chile will discuss if there is a rotational component to metatarsus primus varus in a special symposium on forefoot treatment on Friday morning.

**Presidential Guest Speaker** Richard Kent, PhD, also joins the program on Friday to speak on the biomechanics of injury and the design and assessment of injury prevention countermeasures. Dr. Kent's background as an international expert in automotive crash injury prevention has informed the NFL's research to improve assessment tools for sports injury protection.

The **Posters with the Presidents Tour** is back by popular demand! Join AOFAS past presidents in the Exhibit Hall on Friday to view scientific posters, ask questions of the poster presenters, and enjoy light refreshments.

**Research Guest Speaker** James G. Wright, MD, MPH, FRCSC, FRCSEd, will deliver a talk on Saturday focused on his work to advance evidence-based orthopaedics. Dr. Wright is an adjunct senior scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) Research Institute in Toronto, Canada, and the chief of economics, policy, and research at the Ontario Medical Association.

The Saturday program also includes concurrent symposia, allowing attendees to choose from sessions on coding and practice management, research, allied health topics, and humanitarian service.

The AOFAS designates this live activity for a maximum of **24.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



### Social activities

Have fun and connect with fellow attendees at these Annual Meeting social events.

#### Welcome Reception

**Thursday, September 12, 5:00 – 7:00 pm**  
**Exhibit Hall – Hyatt Regency Chicago**

Open to all registered meeting attendees and registered guests, this event is the perfect opportunity to catch up with colleagues as you explore the Exhibit Hall. Enjoy beverages and light appetizers before you head out to dinner on your own.

#### Celebrate Chicago Event

(formerly known as the Gala)

**Saturday, September 14, 6:30 – 9:30 pm**  
**Museum of Science and Industry**

Join us for an AOFAS 50th Anniversary Celebration at the iconic Museum of Science and Industry! Explore the museum's interactive exhibits and watch a special movie highlighting AOFAS history and past leaders. This ticketed event is open to all Annual Meeting and industry attendees and their guests of all ages.



Adam Alexander Photography/Choose Chicago

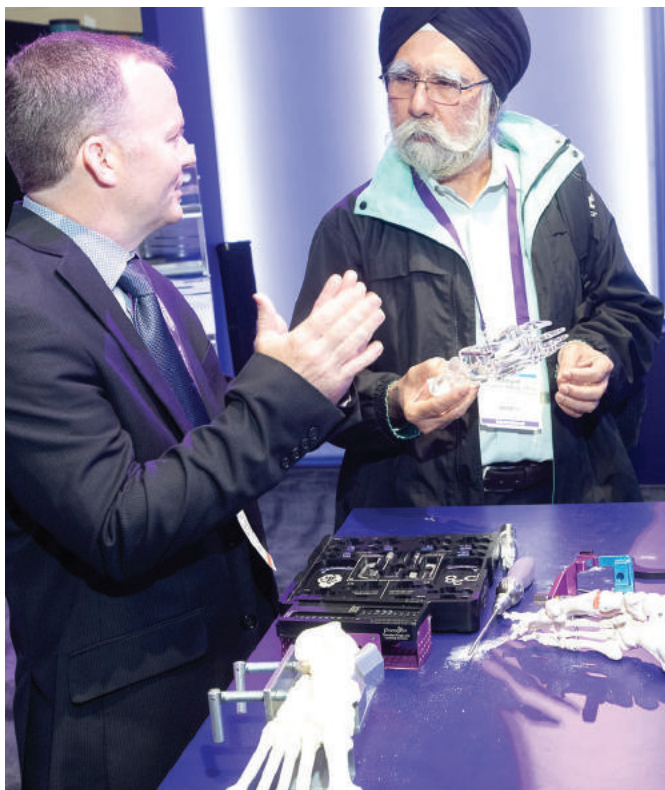
### Exhibit Hall and industry programs

Open Thursday evening through Saturday morning, the Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall offers opportunities to interact with corporate colleagues and explore new products and technologies.

Industry Symposia provide another way to discover new techniques. Make time in your schedule for non-CME programs from the following companies (*current as of July 2, 2019*):

- Arthrex, Inc.
- CONMED
- CrossRoads Extremity Systems
- CurveBeam, LLC
- Exactech, Inc.
- In2Bones USA, LLC
- Integra LifeSciences
- Medartis, Inc.
- Paragon 28
- Stryker
- Treace Medical Concepts, Inc.
- Wright Medical Group N.V.
- Zimmer Biomet, Inc.

For the full schedule of Industry Symposia, visit [aofas.org/annualmeeting](http://aofas.org/annualmeeting).



### Returning for 2019! Happy Feet Kids Camp

We are very excited to offer childcare at Annual Meeting in response to member feedback. Happy Feet Kids Camp provides an engaging, educational, and fun experience for children aged 6 months to 12 years. For more details, visit [aofas.org/annualmeeting](http://aofas.org/annualmeeting).

### Innovations in Foot and Ankle Surgery: Getting Your Head (and Hands) Around Them

Wednesday, September 11  
Rosemont, Illinois



Enhance your experience at AOFAS Annual Meeting with an optional surgical skills lab course. Held at the state-of-the-art Orthopaedic Learning Center in Rosemont, Illinois, this course offers hands-on training utilizing the latest equipment and techniques. Course attendees should plan to fly into O'Hare Airport and stay at the Marriott Suites O'Hare on Tuesday night. A shuttle will be available to take attendees to the Orthopaedic Learning Center on Wednesday morning, and to the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel after the course concludes.

Course registration is separate from Annual Meeting; visit [aofas.org/innovationscourse](http://aofas.org/innovationscourse) for registration fees and information.

The AOFAS designates this live activity for a maximum of **9.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## ANNUAL MEETING 2019, CONTINUED

Thank you to the following companies for their support of AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019!

Current as of July 2, 2019

Arthrex, Inc.  
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Find the most up-to-date information on registration, educational sessions, social events, travel, childcare, and much more at [aofas.org/annualmeeting](http://aofas.org/annualmeeting).

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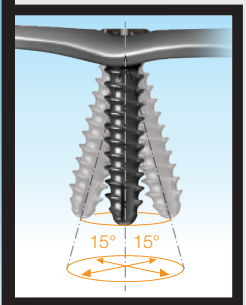
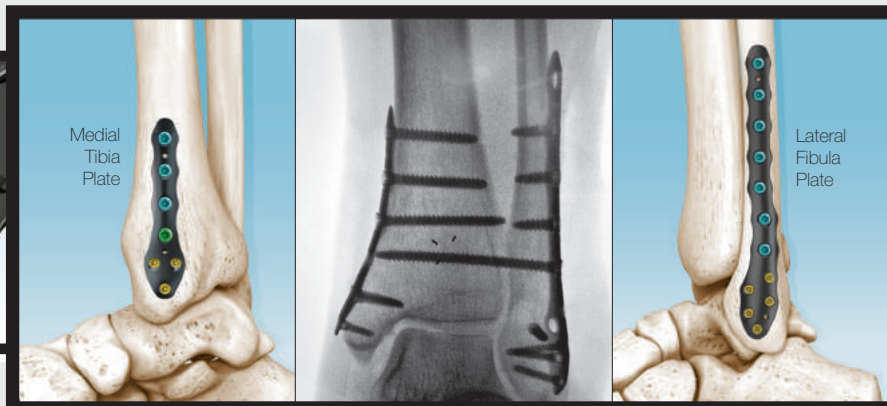
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# ANNUAL MEETING 2019 PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Visit the AOFAS Exhibit Hall to explore cutting-edge surgical products and technology from AOFAS industry partners, including the ones listed below. The Exhibit Hall opens at the Thursday night Welcome Reception and continues through Saturday afternoon.

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**Booth #229**

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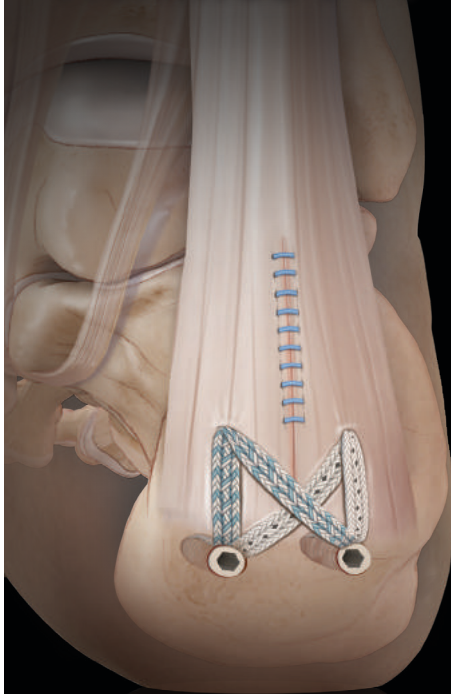
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## EDUCATION CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming education events!



**September 11, 2019 | Rosemont, Illinois**

**AOFAS Innovations in Foot and Ankle Surgery:  
Getting Your Head (and Hands) Around Them**

Course Chair: Steven L. Haddad, MD

[aofas.org/innovationscourse](http://aofas.org/innovationscourse)



**September 12-15, 2019 | Chicago, Illinois**

**AOFAS Annual Meeting**

President: J. Chris Coetzee, MD

Program Chair: Steven L. Haddad, MD

[aofas.org/annualmeeting](http://aofas.org/annualmeeting)



**October 15, 2019 | 8:00 pm CT**

**Foot and Ankle Resident Review Webinar**

Moderator: Pamela C. Luk, MD

[aofas.org/webinars](http://aofas.org/webinars)



**October 23, 2019 | 8:00 pm CT**

**Total Ankle Webinar**

Moderator: Jeremy J. McCormick, MD

[aofas.org/webinars](http://aofas.org/webinars)



**November 5, 2019 | 8:00 pm CT**

**Hallux Valgus Surgery Webinar**

Moderator: David R. Richardson, MD

[aofas.org/webinars](http://aofas.org/webinars)



**December 11, 2019 | 8:00 pm CT**

**Salvage of the Charcot Foot: Latest Techniques Webinar**

Moderator: Michael S. Pinzur, MD

[aofas.org/webinars](http://aofas.org/webinars)



**March 28, 2020 | Orlando, Florida**

**AOFAS Specialty Day 2020**

President: William C. McGarvey, MD

Program Chair: Scott J. Ellis, MD

[aofas.org/specialtyday](http://aofas.org/specialtyday)

### AOFAS Members:

Complimentary webinars and reduced registration rates for AOFAS meetings and courses are benefits of your membership. Make sure to log into your member account at [aofas.org](http://aofas.org) before registering.



## FELLOWSHIP MATCH

### New Fellowship Match cycle begins

Another cycle of the AOFAS-sponsored Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Fellowship Match began on August 5 with the opening of applicant registration. This year's match, for 2021-22 positions, will be the second one conducted across all orthopaedic subspecialties that use SF Match Residency and Fellowship Matching Services. (Hand uses a different matching service and is not included.)

This year's match has 48 programs registered to participate with a total of 76 positions offered. Applications will continue to be accepted by many of the programs until March 2020, but applicants are advised to apply as early as possible and to check individual programs for their deadlines and interview dates. The list of all participating programs can be found at [aofas.org/fellowshipmatch/applicants](http://aofas.org/fellowshipmatch/applicants).

Applications and all supporting documents, including reference letters, must be submitted to SF Match at [www.sfmatch.org](http://www.sfmatch.org). SF Match notifies programs when applications are available for review and administers the rank lists and the match process itself. AOFAS staff is available to help applicants and programs with questions or issues.

The match is designed to be a transparent, unbiased process that matches applicants to foot and ankle fellowships on a competitive basis. Participating programs sign an agreement with AOFAS, and both programs and applicants are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct of Orthopaedic Fellowship Programs and Applicants. Applicants must have graduated from an allopathic or osteopathic medical school, and fellowship is dependent upon successful completion of an approved orthopaedic surgery residency program.

Results of the 2020 match will be released on Match Day, April 21, 2020. Contact the AOFAS Executive Office at 800-235-4855 or +1-847-698-4654 (outside US) or [fellowship@aofas.org](mailto:fellowship@aofas.org) with questions.

### Key dates

**August 5, 2019:** Applicant registration begins

**September 4, 2019:** Suggested deadline to submit an application to SF Match. Individual programs may have different deadlines.

**April 14, 2020:** Rank lists due for programs and applicants

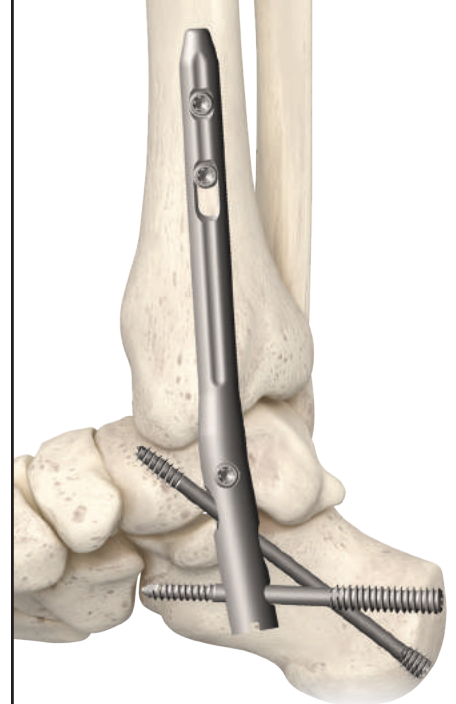
**April 21, 2020:** Match Day

**April 23, 2020:** Post-match vacancies listed on SF Match and AOFAS websites

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## JOURNALS UPDATE

### Upcoming *FAI* and *FAO* supplements

Watch your mailbox for exciting new supplements with your *Foot & Ankle International*® (*FAI*) subscription. Starting this summer, *FAI* features the International Consensus Meeting on Musculoskeletal Infection 2018 (July issue); *FAO* Essential Review Articles, vol. 2 (August issue); and AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019 Highlights (November issue).

#### Musculoskeletal Infection

The July issue supplement presented the recommendations of the International Consensus Meeting on Musculoskeletal Infection 2018: Findings of the Foot and Ankle Work Group. As stated in the opening editorial from Amiethab A. Aiyer, MD, Steven M. Raikin, MD, and Javad Parvizi, MD, "The questions contained in this supplement and their respective answers represent a guide to help manage patients with infectious complications."

"In July 2018, several hundred delegates from 98 countries gathered in Philadelphia, PA, as part of the International Consensus Meeting (ICM) on orthopaedic infections to discuss these issues. Surgeons, physicians, and scientists worked together over a two-year period to help more clearly delineate the best way to prevent, diagnose, and treat orthopaedic infections. In addition to discussing general infection concerns, delegates worked in subspecialty workgroups to identify issues pertaining to those respective fields, including foot and ankle surgery. This supplement represents the collaborative efforts of nearly 20 orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons and infectious disease specialists from across the globe that culminated in generating this document. Each question and issue were thoroughly researched and the consensus developed following the strict Delphi criteria. The recommendations are based on detailed analysis of the current available literature and the personal experience of internationally renowned physicians experienced in foot and ankle surgery."

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AOFAS Annual Meeting —  
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### FAO Essential Reviews

In August comes the second print volume of the *Foot & Ankle Orthopaedics*® Essential Review Articles. *FAO* Editor-in-Chief L. Daniel Latt, MD, PhD, and *FAO* Assistant Editor for Review Articles Daniel C. Farber, MD, invite you to read these featured reviews covering core topics in foot and ankle surgery. This printed supplement includes two classic topics: hallux valgus and hallux rigidus. Also highlighted are three important contemporary topics: stress fractures, patient reported outcomes, and biologics.

In partnership with the *FAI* CME committee, CME questions are being developed for the entire collection of *FAO* essential reviews articles. When aggregated, the complete set of questions will serve as a basic foot and ankle exam for board study and foot and ankle rotation evaluation.

The full *FAO* Essential Review series is also available on the *FAO* website (look for the starred collection at the bottom of the *FAO* homepage). These review articles are ideal for medical schools, residency programs, and fellowship training programs, as well as a resource for exam preparation and general review. Visit *FAO* to read these review articles, new research, and more.

### Annual Meeting Abstracts Highlights

Shortly after AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019, *FAI* will highlight a selection of the meeting's abstracts, as selected by Program Chair Steven L. Haddad, MD. This supplement, currently scheduled to mail with the November issue of *FAI*, will allow practitioners to review the data presented at the conference and learn how it might affect their practices.

Abstracts for meeting paper, poster, and ePoster presentations will also be published and freely available at *FAO* (look for the starred collection at the bottom of the *FAO* homepage). AOFAS members will have access to recorded meeting sessions and handouts in the Physician Resource Center (PRC).

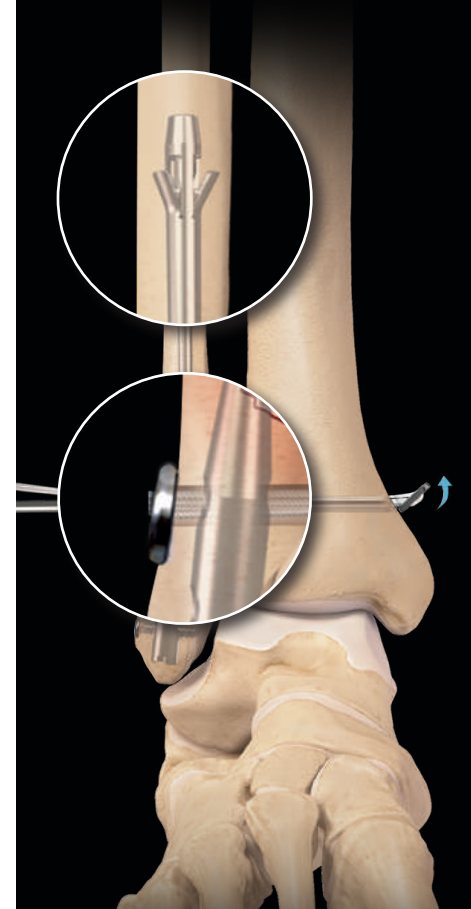
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## JOURNALS UPDATE

### AOFAS Journals on Twitter

Keep up with the latest research, podcasts, and videos from *FAI* and *FAO* by following the new AOFAS Journals channel on Twitter: @AOFAS\_Journals or [twitter.com/AOFAS\\_Journals](https://twitter.com/AOFAS_Journals).



The information on the Twitter channel is provided by the authors, or by the newly formed *FAI* Electronic Media Editorial Board. Have an article publishing in *FAI* or *FAO*? Send in your one-sentence summary of your article and key findings, so we can promote your research for you: [FAIjournal@aofas.org](mailto:FAIjournal@aofas.org) or [FAOjournal@aofas.org](mailto:FAOjournal@aofas.org).

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### Search for new *FAI* Editor-in-Chief underway

AOFAS is now accepting applications for a new Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *Foot & Ankle International*.

#### **Requirements**

- Have a strong background in clinical and academic foot and ankle orthopaedic surgery
- Have extensive experience with peer-reviewed scholarly journals
- Be an Active Member of the AOFAS
- Possess the appropriate organizational skills
- Be willing to commit sufficient time to manage a monthly peer-reviewed publication and its editorial team

#### **Position Responsibilities**

The EIC is expected to model leadership and vision for the Journal, and to lead the editorial team in advancing the goals, scholarly achievements, academic leadership, and impact of the Journal in the field of foot and ankle surgery.

The EIC is an ambassador for the Journal to AOFAS members, the orthopaedic profession, and the field of foot and ankle surgery.

Responsibilities of the EIC include management of the Journal editorial policy and functions, including oversight of the peer-review process, all aspects of editorial review, timely management of the manuscript workflow, and coordination with the publisher.

The EIC is expected to oversee current, and to innovate future, special features of the Journal, which in the past have included editorials, letters to the editor, podcasts, special supplements, surgical technique videos, etc.

The EIC is responsible for leadership and management of the editorial board (assistant and associate editors and reviewers), holding regular meetings thereof, and preparing reports for and meeting with the *FAI/FAO* Managerial Board at least twice a year.

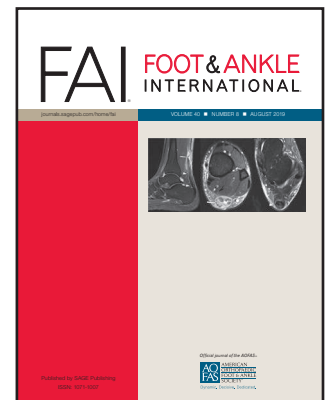
#### **Application Process**

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest with curriculum vitae by **October 15, 2019**, to:

James W. Brodsky, MD, Search Committee Chair  
c/o Elaine Leighton, MPH, CAE, Executive Director  
AOFAS  
9400 W. Higgins Road, Ste. 220  
Rosemont, IL 60018

Applications may also be submitted by email to [eleighton@aofas.org](mailto:eleighton@aofas.org).

Once the initial materials are received, applicants will receive instructions for submitting additional materials in order to complete the application process. Finalists will be interviewed in the first quarter of 2020 with the new editor announced by June 2020. The new EIC will have a four-month orientation period and assume full duties beginning in October 2020.



## FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



SCOTT J. ELLIS, MD

Fellow AOFAS Members:

We are at the cusp of a milestone in the history of our Society, and there is no more important time to celebrate our accomplishments in patient care, education, research, and humanitarian services. I would like to highlight for you the many exciting initiatives of the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation and implore you to continue to help donate funds to advance our mission.

Campaign 50 is nearly coming to a close. To date, we have raised \$1.8 million, but need your help to reach the \$3 million goal. I would like to thank Drs. Ron Smith, Greer Richardson, Tom Clanton, and Pierce Scranton for their help reaching out to esteemed members, particularly past leaders in our field, to help close the final gap. Please visit [aofas.org/campaign50](http://aofas.org/campaign50) to learn more and make a gift. We would love to

celebrate a successful campaign at AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019 in Chicago. I also would like to personally invite each and every donor to our Foundation Reception at that meeting. It would be great to see everybody.

As many of you know, the Foundation now oversees the Humanitarian Services Committee. We are excited to report that our first trip to Kenya is now planned for October. This should be a great opportunity for our members to visit Africa in a safe environment and help not only treat patients in need, but also train Kenyan doctors in foot and ankle surgery to advance their care. We hope to continue this trip in future years. I would also like to thank Drs. Tom Lee, Holly Johnson, Turner Vosseller, and Peter Mangone, as well as AOFAS Executive Director Elaine Leighton, for completing a scouting trip in April to rural China. This area is completely underserved yet has doctors and surgeons eager to be trained in foot and ankle care.

We would like to acknowledge our donors — both members and industry — for all that they have done in the past. We have a new corporate partnership program that will seek to recognize each company for their combined support across multiple Foundation and AOFAS initiatives. This program is being formalized and will be rolled out in the coming year. Similarly, we will be revamping the way we recognize our own member donors in perpetuity, as we again are extremely grateful for your donations.

Finally, the Pillars of the AOFAS initiative continues to roll forward. We are excited to report that we have reached the early target for the Pillar honoring Sigvard T. Hansen Jr., MD. I would like to thank Drs. Justin Greisberg, Andy Sands, Bruce Sangeorzan, Eric Bluman, Chris Coetzee, and Chris DiGiovanni for their efforts in leading this charge. We have now challenged the group and Dr. Hansen's former fellows and mentees to **raise an additional \$150,000 to establish an endowed research fund in perpetuity in his name.** Please consider giving to help us reach this goal. We are also seeking nominations for potential Pillars to honor next year and would welcome any suggestions, support, and help you might give.

We appreciate the support everyone has provided to the Foundation to further its mission. In a time of increased demands and regulations in our own practices that often derail us from the importance of what we do, the work of the AOFAS and Foundation serve as a beacon of light to carry us forward.

Regards,  
Scott J. Ellis, MD

There is no more  
important time to  
celebrate our  
accomplishments in  
patient care, education,  
research, and  
humanitarian services.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Scranton's vision inspires the Foundation's life-changing humanitarian efforts

"I knew I couldn't ask others for support if I didn't put my own gift on the table first," said Pierce E. Scranton Jr., MD, the founding president of what is now the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation. In 2000, Dr. Scranton launched a campaign to raise funds for an AOFAS humanitarian trip to Vietnam to treat patients with lower extremity injuries and deformities, particularly victims of landmine explosions.

As we celebrate the AOFAS 50th Anniversary and reflect on the Society's many accomplishments, the establishment of this humanitarian trip, now known as the Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam, stands out. Former AOFAS President Ronald W. Smith, MD, describes Dr. Scranton as a visionary whose insight inspired the Society's humanitarian outreach, garnering support from both members and industry partners.

"We needed to broaden our focus beyond research and education, and provide the spark to make it happen," Dr. Scranton recalled. He and his wife, Elaine, contributed the first \$100,000 to the Foundation (then known as the Outreach and Education Fund). Dr. Scranton's commitment and determination attracted \$150,000 in personal support from Biomet co-founder Dane A. Miller, PhD, and his wife, Mary Louise, as well as



One of Dr. Scranton's former patients through the Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam. Fifteen years after losing her leg in a landmine explosion, she received treatment that enabled her to wear a prosthesis.

corporate contributions and overwhelming support from the AOFAS board. The campaign exceeded its initial goal.

When Dr. Scranton was AOFAS president in 2001, the worldwide financial crisis was worsening. The Society needed to reassess its programs and direction.

While Dr. Scranton noted the importance of research and education, he said, "We needed to demonstrate that we make a difference, showing that as the world's experts in foot and ankle health, we live our values in the service of others."

What began as a small group of physicians traveling to Vietnam at their own expense to perform surgeries and teach overseas has expanded to an annual trip involving more than 60 Society members to date. Through the Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam, more than 3,500 patients have been seen by AOFAS members with nearly 1,500 of the patients receiving surgical treatment. This fall, an additional humanitarian program is planned in Kenya with other locations being explored for 2020.



Past AOFAS and Foundation President Pierce E. Scranton Jr., MD, and his wife, Elaine, in front of the "Survivor Tree" at the World Trade Center Memorial in New York City.

Speaking of his work in Vietnam, Dr. Scranton said, "it has taught me to be a better doctor." He recalled one year when he and AOFAS member William H. Gondring, MD, MS, performed a surgery on a young woman who had lost her leg from a landmine explosion. The procedure enabled the patient to wear a prosthetic leg. "Before the operation, she had felt hopeless and tried to end her life," Dr. Scranton reflected. "This surgery changed her life."

Dr. Scranton's philanthropic work extends beyond the Foundation as well. Five years after graduating from medical school, he endowed a scholarship at Kenyon College, his undergraduate alma mater, in memory of his track coach, Donald White. Dr. Scranton also played an important role in Kenyon College's record-breaking endowment campaign as a member of the college's Board of Trustees.

Currently in active retirement after a long career in private practice and 18 years as the team physician for the Seattle Seahawks, Dr. Scranton is assisting the final fundraising activities for the Foundation's Campaign 50 along with Drs. Smith, E. Greer Richardson, and Thomas O. Clanton. The campaign aims to raise \$3 million in honor of the AOFAS 50th Anniversary.

Join the campaign with your gift to the Foundation! Target your contribution to humanitarian missions, research, education, women's leadership, or the area of greatest need by visiting [aofas.org/campaign50](http://aofas.org/campaign50).

## HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH

### AOFAS surgeons treat underserved patients in Vietnam

AOFAS surgeons returned to Vietnam this year to care for children and adults with lower extremity deformities and disabilities as part of the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam.

This year's volunteer group included 11 foot and ankle orthopaedic surgeons from four different countries. Each doctor spent one week working with local surgeons to evaluate and treat patients in hospitals and clinics in Hanoi, Vinh, and Ba Vi. Many of these patients are from impoverished areas and are unable to afford specialized medical services.

"The program is a life-changing experience both personally and professionally. It will take you out of your comfort zone and remind you why you decided to be a doctor and surgeon," said volunteer Justin L. Cashman, MD, MBA, of Annapolis, Maryland. "Treating patients who have the greatest need, with little to give in return, is very rewarding. I can't say enough about the experience."

Many resources and advanced techniques used in the United States are not available in Vietnam. Volunteer Phinit Phisitkul, MD, from Sioux City, Iowa, noted that his most memorable experience during the trip was "performing the first ever flatfoot reconstruction at the Viet Duc Hospital for a young man with severe flatfoot deformity, despite limited instruments and without intraoperative radiography."

Volunteer F. Scott Gray, MD, from Danbury, Connecticut added that, despite the language barrier between the AOFAS and Vietnamese surgeons, there was an unspoken rhythm present in the operating rooms. "On many occasions, I had no problem getting any instrument I needed without asking," he said.

Recognizing the importance of education and collaboration with their Vietnamese counterparts, the volunteers from the third week presented at the Nineteenth Annual Seminar on Surgery of the Lower Extremity, co-sponsored by AOFAS, Mobility Outreach International, Vietnam Ministry of Health, and Viet Duc University Hospital. The Vietnamese orthopaedic surgeons attending the seminar utilized simultaneous interpretation devices.



Volunteers Angel Arnaud, MD (left), and Altug Tanriover, MD (right), care for a young patient at The Hospital of Orthopedics-Rehab in Hanoi, Vietnam.



Volunteer Phinit Phisitkul, MD (second from right), poses with local surgeons and guests at the Viet Duc Hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam.

In addition to Drs. Cashman, Phisitkul, and Gray, AOFAS volunteers included Angel Arnaud, MD, Monterrey, Mexico; John A. DiPreta, MD, Albany, New York; Justin M. Kane, MD, Dallas, Texas; Kathleen A. McHale, MD, Alexandria, Virginia; Naomi N. Shields, MD, San Antonio, Texas; Altug Tanriover, MD, Ankara, Turkey; Joan R. Williams, MD, Santa Monica, California; and Yuan Zhu, MD, Shanghai, China.

Surgeons volunteered their time and paid for their travel to Vietnam. In-country expenses were covered by the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation, supported by a grant from Stryker. The Society's partner organization, Mobility Outreach International, provided onsite assistance.

The Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam is open to Active, Candidate, and International AOFAS members. Applications for the 2020 trip will open this fall. Visit [aofas.org/overseasoutreach](http://aofas.org/overseasoutreach) for updates.

## FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

### Grants awarded to foot and ankle fellowship programs

Thirty-four orthopaedic foot and ankle fellowship programs have been selected to receive a grant this August from the **Wright Medical Fellowship Scholarship Fund**.

Established last year by the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation from a \$500,000 gift from Wright Medical Group N.V., the fund was created to support orthopaedic fellowship training programs, specifically by enhancing the fellows' educational and research or other scholarly experience during their fellowship year.

The grant money is being divided equally by the number of fellows at the selected programs—56 in all—and apportioned to the programs according to the number of fellows they have for 2019-20. At the close of the grant year, the programs must submit a report detailing their use of the grant.

The Fellowship Grants Review Committee, chaired by James R. Holmes, MD, established program eligibility requirements and set guidelines for use of the funding. They also reviewed all application materials and recommended the selected programs to the AOFAS Board of Directors for their final approval. Grant award notices were sent to the selected programs in July, and checks are being distributed in August.



The new Wright Medical Fellowship Grants will support educational and research endeavors for orthopaedic foot and ankle fellows, including attending AOFAS meetings and courses.

### AOFAS awards 77 Resident Scholarships

The AOFAS Awards & Scholarships Committee has presented 77 scholarships to orthopaedic residents in training across the United States and Canada through the AOFAS Resident Scholarship Program. The program plays a key role in engaging the next generation of foot and ankle orthopaedic surgeons as it allows orthopaedic residents to attend AOFAS Annual Meeting 2019 in Chicago, Illinois, as guests of the Society.

Resident Scholarships cover registration fees for the Resident Program and Annual Meeting, as well as lodging for four nights and a transportation stipend. Each Scholar will be matched with an AOFAS member who will serve as a mentor to enhance this learning opportunity.

This year's Resident Scholarship Program is funded by the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation, supported by grants from Arthrex, Inc., Stryker, and Wright Medical Group N.V.

#### Congratulations to the 2019 Resident Scholars!

Aouod Agenor, MD  
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Amit Anand, MBChB  
*University of Toronto*

Eric C. Bellinger, MD  
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Aamir Bhimani, MD  
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Shivali Gupta, DO  
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Jensen K. Henry, MD  
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*Harbor-UCLA Medical Center*

Kaitlyn M. Hurst, MD  
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Elena M. Iguina, MD  
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## CAMPAIGN 50 DONORS

### Thank You to Our Donors!

The Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation acknowledges the following individuals for their charitable contributions to Campaign 50, which support the three pillars of the Foundation's mission: research, educational outreach, and humanitarian service.

The Honor Roll of donors below reflects Campaign 50 outright gifts and multi-year commitments made between January 1, 2014, and June 30, 2019, and donations made to the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation with a designated gift to the Foundation as of April 30, 2018. Any payments for pre-existing, multi-year pledges made prior to Campaign 50 that were not completed by December 31, 2013, are applied as outright gifts to Campaign 50.

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## PATIENT EDUCATION

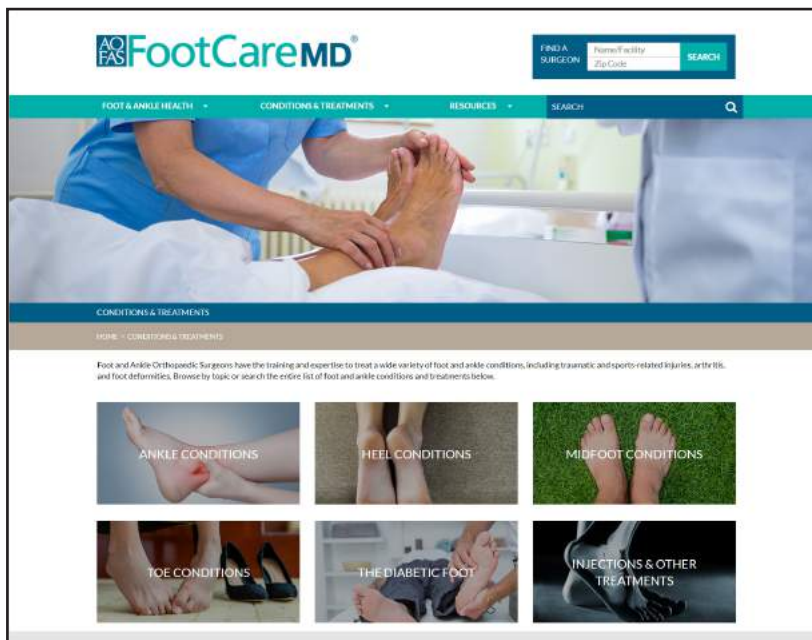
### New FootCareMD website coming soon

*FootCareMD.org*, the AOFAS patient education website, has been redesigned to improve patients' access to trusted, reliable foot and ankle information and AOFAS-member surgeons. Developed and reviewed by AOFAS members, the content on *FootCareMD.org* includes articles on foot and ankle conditions and treatments, "how-to" resources, and information on overall foot and ankle health.

The new site features:

- Prominent "Find a Surgeon" search box on every page directing patients to locate an AOFAS member near them
- Responsive design that enables both desktop and mobile users to navigate the site seamlessly
- Vibrant colors and images to engage site visitors

Explore the new site at *FootCareMD.org* and share the content on your practice website and social media pages.



### Upload a photo to your Member Profile

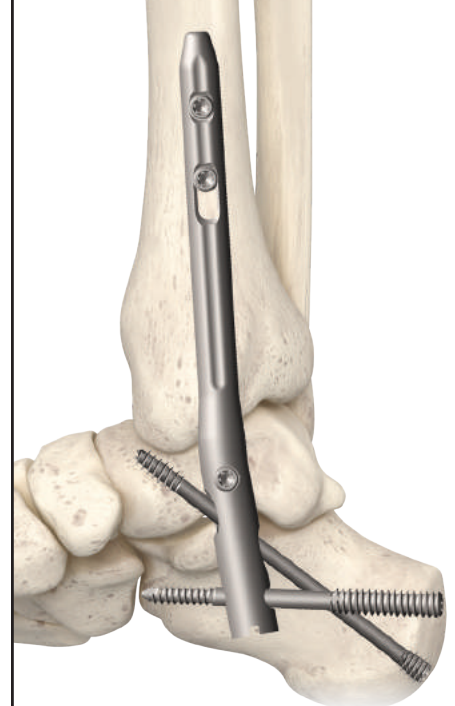
In conjunction with the *FootCareMD.org* redesign, the online "Find a Surgeon" search of AOFAS members\* is being updated to make it even easier for patients to find foot and ankle orthopaedic surgeons in their area. The new search results will include the photo from your online Member Profile. **To upload a photo and confirm your information, go to [aofas.org/myAOFAS](http://aofas.org/myAOFAS) and select "Member Profile"** (login required).

\* AOFAS Active, Candidate, and International Members are included in the "Find a Surgeon" search.

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## CODING CORNER

### Revisiting the 22 modifier

By John A. DiPreta, MD, Vice Chair, AOFAS Practice Management Committee, and AMA CPT Advisor

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Carriers Manual, Appendix A, modifier 22 defines an “unusual procedural service” and “when the work required to provide a service is substantially greater than typically required.” When used properly, the 22 modifier allows the provider to recover reimbursement above and beyond the regular payment for a difficult or time-consuming procedure.

The challenge of using the 22 modifier is knowing what exactly constitutes “increased procedural services.” Factors contributing to “increased services” include the intensity of the procedure, the technical difficulty of the procedure, the time required, the severity of the patient’s condition, and the physical and mental effort required. Specific instances could include:

- excessive blood loss
- trauma that is extensive and would complicate the particular procedure
- conditions or malformations that would make the procedure significantly more complex

While there are instances in which a particular procedure exacts a greater amount of time, effort, or difficulty, it is imperative that the provider submit very clear and explicit documentation of what was done and why it represents “increased services.” Such documentation might include steps and time spent in patient positioning, approach, and additional steps to complete a particular procedure beyond what might be considered standard.

Equally as important is what the provider may consider necessary for follow-up after the surgical procedure. As an example, patients with diabetes mellitus, inflammatory arthropathy, osteopenia, or any other comorbidities that would compromise outcome for a procedure may require early and more frequent follow-ups than individuals with less complicated health histories.

**Documentation is critical.** Payers won’t automatically increase reimbursement for a 22 modifier claim without an explicit explanation of what made the procedure more complex. Be clear in documenting when a case took longer than usual, and why it did. Be clear in documenting the patient’s comorbidities and how they would influence the aftercare and the outcomes (diabetes mellitus, inflammatory conditions, smoking, etc.). If extra work adds 20-25% to the procedure, in time or effort, it constitutes use of the modifier and a reimbursement commensurate with that increased effort.

It would also be reasonable to document increased services in conjunction and consultation with anesthesia providers involved in the patient’s care.

Using the 22 modifier does not ensure increased reimbursement, and not infrequently may lead to delays in revenue without the proper documentation. As is the case for most E/M and technical services, the need for provider documentation cannot be overstated.

If you have questions for the Practice Management Committee, please contact the AOFAS Executive Office at [aofasinfo@aofas.org](mailto:aofasinfo@aofas.org) or 800-235-4855.



#### Did you know?

Past Coding Corner articles and other coding and practice management resources are online at [aofas.org/practicemanagement](http://aofas.org/practicemanagement) (member login required).

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### DiPreta and Shawen to represent AOFAS in AMA

Congratulations to John A. DiPreta, MD, and Scott B. Shawen, MD, who were recently appointed to positions on the American Medical Association (AMA) CPT Advisory Committee. In their respective roles as AMA CPT Advisor and Alternate AMA CPT Advisor, Drs. DiPreta and Shawen will represent AOFAS in matters of reviewing coding issues and recommending revisions to the CPT codes.



**JOHN A. DIPRETA, MD**

**John A. DiPreta, MD**, has been actively engaged in coding and E/M issues as vice chair of the AOFAS Practice Management Committee and AOFAS representative to the AAOS Coding, Coverage, and Reimbursement Committee. He has been in practice for 22 years and currently is a partner at Capital Region Orthopaedics Group in Albany, New York, and a clinical associate professor at Albany Medical College.



**SCOTT B. SHAWEN, MD**

After a 21-year career in the US Army, **Scott B. Shawen, MD**, joined the OrthoCarolina Foot and Ankle Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina. He also is an associate professor of surgery at the Atrium Health Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Dr. Shawen is a former member of the AOFAS Education and Humanitarian Services Committees.

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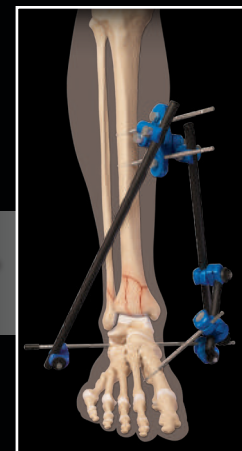
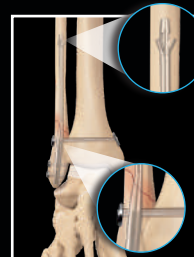
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## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### AOFAS recognizes new and elevating members

The Board of Directors approved 14 new members in May and June 2019. We welcome them to the membership and thank them for their commitment to the Society and specialty.

#### Active

Angela Scharfenberger, MD

#### Surgeon in Training

Kiran J. Agarwal-Harding, MD  
Patrick S. Barousse, MD  
Meghan Kelly, MD, PhD  
Brian C. Lau, MD  
Sreenivasulu Metikala, MD  
Andrew W. Pao, MD  
Jessica M. Reissig, DO

#### International Surgeon in Training

Diego F. Rodriguez, MD

#### Allied Health/Associate – Basic Sciences

Sarah G. Bodden, PA-C  
Jamie E. Jackson, PA-C  
Hajra Motiwala, PA-C  
Michele R. Mueller, FNP-C  
Kaitlyn A. Schimmoeller, PA-C

#### ELEVATING MEMBERS

Congratulations to the AOFAS members who have advanced to the next level of membership.

#### Surgeon in Training to Candidate

Gillian A. Bayley, MD

#### Surgeon in Training to Active

Pierre-Marc April, MD, FRCSC  
Simon Corriveau-Durand, MD  
Nayla G. Papadopoulos, MD

#### Candidate to Active

Adam D. Bitterman, DO  
James L. Head, MD

#### Candidate-Military to Active-Military

Laura K. Dawson, DO

#### International to Active

Andre Perreault, MD, FRCSC

#### Thank you to our newest Emeritus Members for their contributions to AOFAS.

Claude D. Anderson, MD  
Timothy C. Fitzgibbons, MD  
Donald C. Jones, MD  
Robert A. Kaye, MD  
Kurt F. Konkel, MD  
Walter J. Pedowitz, MD  
Gianfranco J. Petri, MD  
Brenda L. Sanford, MD  
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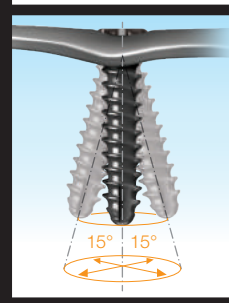
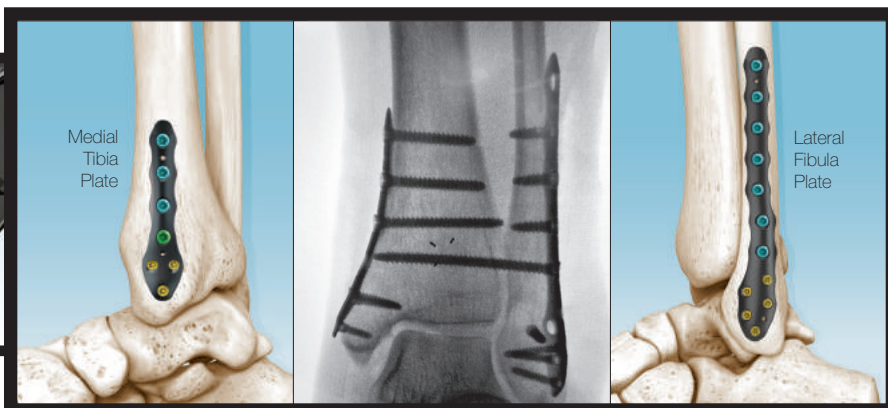
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