



Meet the Master

Dr. Bret M. Ribotsky enters the *PM* Podiatry Hall of Fame

BY WILLIAM P. SCHERER, DPM, MS

It is my profound privilege, pleasure, and honor to introduce Bret Ribotsky, DPM as the recipient of the 2016 *Podiatry Management* Lifetime Achievement Award and announce his induction into the *Podiatry Management* Hall of Fame.

Bret has been a close friend of mine for the past 25 years and I have had the opportunity to collaborate with him as a student, resident, surgeon, teacher, lecturer, APMA leader, father of two successful children, entrepreneur, boater, skier, scuba diver; and have greatly enjoyed canceling office hours on a Friday afternoon to meet him at a local theater whenever a new *James Bond* or Sci-Fi movie is released.

Bret Ribotsky's personality is larger than life. He is one of a handful of podiatrists in the country who is instantly recognized by the majority of other podiatrists. His contributions to the profession are innovative, impactful, and have touched the lives of thousands of podiatrists, and he has single-handedly improved our profession.

Dr. Ribotsky was born and raised in Miami Beach where he developed an early fascination with photography, boating, and medicine. He attended The University of South Florida in Tampa where he graduated with a degree in biology and then attended Temple University College



Dr. Ribotsky

of Podiatric Medicine where he was elected president of his class. Bret completed two separate residencies: one year in Podiatric Orthopedics in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and two additional years in Advanced Foot and Ankle Surgery in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Bret is a fellow of the American College of Foot & Ankle Orthopedics & Medicine. From 1999 to 2001, Dr. Ribotsky served as two-term President of the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics & Medicine.

He has been honored multiple times during his career in podiatric medicine, including a Bronze Stickel Award in 1996 for Research in Podiatric Medicine from the *Journal of the APMA* and was inducted into the National Academy of Practice as a Distinguished Practitioner. *Podiatry Management Magazine* has chosen Dr. Ribotsky as one of the top VIP DPMs in every listing over the years.

Dr. Ribotsky has worked as a consultant alongside General Alexander Haig on *Health Journal TV* where he was seen by 10 million people and has been a national and international speaker and researcher, along with serving on the editorial boards of several medical publications. Prior to entering private practice in Boca Raton, Dr. Ribotsky was the first podiatrist to be employed at the Cleveland Clinic Florida and was a member of the Department of Orthopedics where he treated many celebrities and famous athletes.

One of Bret's greatest talents and where he has the most passion is public speaking. He has conducted over 750 lectures over the past 20 years and has lectured at every major podiatry conference in the world. Over the past decade, he has shared the stage, studied, or partnered with internationally known peak performance superstars such as Anthony Robbins,

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Zig Ziggler, Les Brown, Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Dr. John Gray, Depak Chopra, Jay Abraham, and too many more to list. Dr. Ribotsky has also created several medical seminars including: “Step Ahead”—a multi-disciplinary approach to the foot and ankle, “Putting it into Practice”—a practice management seminar series, “Be Certified’s Boot Camp for your Mind”—a board certification preparatory course, and “Remember the Knee”—the first educational course specializing in knee disorders for podiatrists.

In 2009, Dr. Ribotsky created an innovative educational program for podiatrists called “Meet the Masters”, where he has interviewed over 250 physicians and influential leaders in the field of podiatric medicine, surgery, and practice management. This extremely valuable archival collection of advice for new and established practitioners highlighting the best in podiatric medicine with an audience over three thousand physicians each week is also available for free on his www.PodiatricSuccess.com website.

Bret has been an avid boater his entire life and is certified by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as an AuxOp, one of the most difficult-to-attain designations in auxiliary training. He has also completed the Coast Guard Crew Program, the instructor program, and is creden-

he could not move his legs and was rushed to the emergency room with bilateral fracture/dislocation of his Lisfranc joints, left calcaneal fracture, right cuboid fracture, bilateral ankle fractures, left tibia plateau fracture, left hip labrum tear, fracture of the L1, L2, L3 vertebrae, and herniation of five of his cervical spine discs. Bret underwent several surgeries,

imaginable and created an interactive environment where doctors from all over the world can participate in your Tuesday night listen-and-learn call-in show. As important are the hours of taped interviews in your library that you make available to anyone that wants to check one out. As a friend, you are loyal and trustworthy and always take a personal interest

**You have been an inspiration to so many of us
over the years, and you continue to amaze us with
your tenacity and strength.—Lepow**

had a long and difficult recovery, and has taken a sabbatical from private practice to recover.

Dr. Ribotsky has participated in every phase of podiatric medicine, as a physician, instructor, leader, visionary, and even as a patient. He has been a Master of Masters in our profession and is well deserving of the 2016 *Podiatry Management* Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the *Podiatry Management* Hall of Fame.

Tributes for Bret Ribotsky, DPM

Ronald S. Lepow, DPM

Congratulations Bret; this is a great honor and well deserved. You

in the lives of all those around you. As a role model, you have set the bar high, hanging tough even in the face of horrible adversities, as you have recently exhibited following your tragic accident. Yes, Bret, you have always been in my Hall of Fame and this Lifetime Achievement Award could not be given to a more worthy colleague.

David G. Armstrong, DPM, MD, PhD

20 years ago I recall being in a large hotel, perhaps it was in Las Vegas, but it may just as well have been in Chicago. I was in the middle of a talk with a 19th century picture of Jean Martin Charcot up on the big screen when at that very moment, blasting through the paper-thin partition comes the opening brass and woodwind stabs from Don Costa’s arrangement of Sinatra’s version of “New York, New York.” I paused my talk, stopped what I was doing, and jumped down from the stage to see what was what. About half the audience followed me. When I stuck my head in the room, I saw the smiling face of Bret Ribotsky on stage. He motioned for me and everyone else to come in. We all joined in with Bret and Frank. By the second stanza, the rest of my room was in his. That’s how I think of Bret to this day. While I’m sure his lecture was wonderful, the material didn’t matter. What mattered was the feeling of being around the man. He has been entertaining our specialty with simple and complicated truths, told with humor and

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tialed as a Coxswain where he was involved with participating in the training and certification of the Coast Guard Helicopter crew rescue exercises.

On May 20th, 2015, Bret volunteered on an evening Coast Guard safety patrol during National Safe Boating week and was a passenger in a vessel that was involved in a boating accident when the helmsman crashed into a hidden rock jetty. He was thrown from the boat and was unconscious for eight minutes and almost drowned. When he awoke,

have been an inspiration to so many of us over the years, and you continue to amaze us with your tenacity and strength. As a podiatric physician, you have always demonstrated an inquisitive mind, thirsty for more knowledge, and growth. Placing your patients’ needs first, you have enjoyed years of successful private practice. As a teacher, you have demonstrated patience and care that your students get the right information to do the right thing for the public we treat. In your role as educator, you took on the un-

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an innate goodness. We don't need to start spreading the news, because Bret Ribotsky has been doing it for us for the last generation.

Adam Landsman, DPM, PhD

I have known and been friends with Bret since our first year of

igently have given us much food for thought. He is a proponent of looking at ourselves and our attitudes and becoming aware of how much of what we perceive as limitation may actually be turned into opportunity. These types of messages are difficult to deliver, but Bret does it very well. His sharing of his personal triumphs as well as his failures is evidence of his

from the topic is central to why he is being honored for the 2016 Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award.

Allen Jacobs, DPM

It has been said that a speaker can do three things: educate, motivate, or entertain—Blending the three makes a speaker successful. Bret has mastered the art of combining all three. He has always done so for the betterment of the profession.

Marc A. Brenner, DPM

Bret has his eyes and heart on the pulse of the profession for many, many years. He is a true Renaissance man. He is talented, astute, smooth, and clear-thinking. He is at ease equally on the lecture circuit as well as intermixing with allied medical professions. His greatest gift to our profession has been *Meet the Masters*, where his silky voice resonates regularly with a host of experts. With this show, he has ingeniously tapped into a wealth of knowledge that the great thought leaders of our profession possess. With Bret at the helm, they together have officially educated and polished all those who wish to listen.

Beth S. Pearce, DPM

Bret Ribotsky? Podiatric Passion, Podiatric Compassion, and Podiat-

Bret been entertaining our specialty with simple and complicated truths, told with humor and an innate goodness.—Armstrong

school at Temple. He instantly emerged as a leader, but not by following the status quo. Instead, Bret was always the one who spoke up on the students' behalf, and always advocated for a brighter professional future. Bret was and is proud of our profession, and saw the potential in all of us, long before we did. His vision led us to elect him as our class president. Not one to ever remain stagnant, Bret has continued to evolve and grow—as a doctor, photographer, cyclist, Association President, and even as a motivational speaker. If you have ever attended one of Bret's lectures, you know that it is always entertaining, and usually the highlight of the meeting. Most recently, while on duty in the Coast Guard Reserves, Bret experienced a catastrophic injury that would have probably ended most of our careers, but Bret continued on, giving his successful podcast, *Meet the Masters*, without hardly missing a beat.

Bryan C. Markinson, DPM

It is my pleasure to write a tribute for my friend and colleague, Bret Ribotsky. I have known of Bret for many years but I only got to know him fairly well in the past 15 years. I cannot remember a time when Bret was not involved in some educational project or effort, the aim of which was to enhance the profession of podiatric medicine, as well as the practitioners of it. Bret has always asked the tough questions, and his motivational talks on which he works so dil-

unselfish nature when it comes to his podiatric colleagues. After my talks at meetings in which he is in attendance, Bret makes it a point always to give a kind reflection, for which I am always grateful. Bret and I share a common goal of increasing interest in podiatric dermatology, both as a professional obligation and an opportunity to increase the bottom line. Through his *Podiatric Success—Meet the Masters* weekly interview show, Bret has brought advice and guidance from the best and brightest of all the podiatric sub-specialties right into our homes—another measure of his devotion to our profession. I wish Bret my heartiest congratulations on

Bret has always asked the tough questions, and his motivational talks on which he works so diligently have given us much food for thought.—Markinson

his election to the *Podiatry Management* Hall of Fame.

Ross E. Taubman, DPM

Bret has been a leader in talking about the “business of medicine” well ahead of his peers. Early on, his ideas raised some eyebrows. But, staying true to his convictions, Bret proved himself to be right. Recently, he has created a forum for the sharing of ideas sometimes mainstream, sometimes controversial. The fact that Bret never shies away

ric Commitment. He unwaveringly shined the light for others to ‘always find another way’ by reframing/re-grouping to be successful. He walks his talk. I love this guy!!

Warren Joseph, DPM

I would like to congratulate Bret Ribotsky on joining the ranks of those selected by the profession to receive *Podiatry Management's* Lifetime Achievement Award. I have known Bret since he was a student

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at PCPM. Even in his early days as a student, he demonstrated his ability to garner votes from his colleagues by being elected as Class

early participant in the “Masters” series and have appeared on the program a number of times. Again, I would like to congratulate Bret on receiving this great honor. I wish him all the best.

Bret is considered the father of the new method of lecturing called “infotainment.”

Nobody sleeps during Bret’s lectures.—Morgan

President. I don’t remember if he used his now infamous poker chip business card at the time to win votes or that came later! (“You Can’t Lose with Ribotsky”). Bret has worn many professional hats: surgeon, technology guru, motivational speaker, cosmetic podiatrist and, most recently, Web host of the long-running series “Meet the Masters”. I am honored to have been an

Jack Morgan, DPM

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bret Ribotsky since 1990. He has always been a maverick in our podiatric profession, a leader, an educator, and an outspoken advocate. I met Bret when he first barged in on an ABPO board meeting and had a ton of advice for the board although he was not a board member. He was resident

at the time. By the time that board meeting had completed, I had already asked for our staff to contact both Bret and Gregg Young to bring them into serving the board. Bret went on to become president of the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics & Medicine where he served as an outstanding president. Bret has been an innovative educator from the time he joined the profession. He is considered the father of the new method of lecturing called “infotainment.” Nobody sleeps during Bret’s lectures.

Bret has never stopped innovating. Bret has for the past few years become one of the most skilled interviewers in our profession. His “Meet the Masters” Tuesday night programs have become a ritual, with participation from around the U.S. as well as downloads from doctors around the world. He takes on responsibility to assure that our profession continues to advance and that

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our members obtain the best available information to improve their practices. Yes, Bret is definitely deserving of this outstanding honor. Bret, you are our profession's "best foot forward." Congratulations again on a well-deserved honor.

Alan Sherman, DPM

Bret Ribotsky is a force of nature, a high energy guy with a passion to engage.

Robert Weber, DPM

I met Bret and Gregg Young for

the first time during an ABPO board meeting. Bret was a young enthusiastic podiatrist full of gusto testing his mettle. Through years of association with Bret in many capacities, it was quite evident that he was a person of value who encouraged others to excel in their personal and professional endeavors. I think of Bret often as having a heart of gold with great compassion for others and a very high IQ, which enables him to think outside the box. Bret has many friends and to those who don't know him well, you are missing a warm, comical, astute person who has the ability to be critical

of himself. Bret is a survivor who gets up after being knocked down. Looking forward to many years of friendship for us and the profession, which has so many great podiatric physicians who benefit from people such as Bret. **PM**



Dr. Scherer
practices in Delray Beach, FL.

Honorable Mention

Congratulations to the following podiatrists, alphabetically listed, who received the 24th next highest number of votes in the 33rd Annual *Podiatry Management* Lifetime Achievement Award.

- Joseph Addante, DPM, Fitchburg, MA
- Terence Albright, DPM, Chicago, IL
- Jerry Brant, DPM, Brentwood, TN
- H. "Bunny" Brown, DPM, Heber Springs, AR
- Wesley Daniel, DPM, Gainesville, GA
- G. "Dock" Dockery, DPM, Everett, WA
- Chet Evans, DPM, Miami Shores, FL
- Thomas Godfryd, DPM, Birmingham, AL
- John Guiliana, DPM, Hackettstown, NJ
- Marc Lenet, DPM, Baltimore, MD
- Leonard Levy, DPM, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Kenneth Malkin, DPM, Caldwell, NJ

- John Mattiacchi, DPM, Philadelphia, PA
- Samuel Mendicino, DPM, Houston, TX
- Nancy Parsley, DPM, Chicago, IL
- Jeffrey Robbins, DPM, Cleveland, OH
- Lee Sanders, DPM, Lebanon, PA
- Alan Sherman, DPM, Boca Raton, FL
- Lloyd Smith, DPM, Newton Centre, MA
- Frank Spinosa, DPM, Shelter Island, NY
- Kathleen Stone, DPM, Glendale, AZ
- Ross Taubman, DPM, Brentwood, TN
- Milo Turnbo, DPM, Chicago, IL
- Harold Vogler, DPM, Tampa, FL

Congratulations to following individuals, alphabetically listed, who received the next 23rd highest votes in the non-podiatrist category.

- Gary Adams
- Dorothy Cahill-McDonald
- Don Canada
- SuEllen Dercher
- Mary Feeley
- Charles Gibley, Jr., PhD
- Herman Hammerschmidt
- Jason Kraus
- Kevin Kruse
- Chris Mahaffey
- Anthony McNevin
- Bill Morris

- Moraith North
- Jimelle Rumberg, PhD
- Mary Pulliam
- Michael Schwartz
- Larry Shane
- Leonard Thaler
- Alan Tinkleman
- Eleanor Upton
- Daniel Vickers
- Ben Wallner
- Norman Wallis, PhD