

## DermFoot: The Only Dermatology-Focused Seminar of its Kind

*It's been: another day; another meeting... until now!*

By Sarah Breymeier

Meetings. Every physician has to endure them, whether they like it or not. It's about that pesky little thing called: "keeping your medical license!"

So we go to seminars and conferences, and try to remain optimistic and positively inspired when we make our way back to our offices and health care facilities. Unfortunately, far too often, we walk away dissatisfied; feeling like our time and money had been sacrificed to hear the same lectures we'd heard a year before; to make duplicate mental notes of the same takeaways, and to return to our practices Monday morning with little that is new for the diagnostic and therapeutic armamentarium that we hope will benefit our patients.

Then came **DermFoot**, a seminar that simply breaks the rules. DermFoot is a meeting with an atmosphere of excitement where physicians attend the lectures, not just because they need CME credits, but because *they want to*. DermFoot is a conference where every lecture holds within it information that is relevant and important to our daily practices. DermFoot accomplishes such lofty goals because of one simple principle: we focus on the one thing that all of our patients have in common....they all have skin! It is for that reason that DermFoot has become a premier niche meeting in the podiatric profession.

DermFoot is the only major meeting in the United States devoted to providing foot and ankle specialists a dermatology-focused experience that no other seminar can match. Instead of hours devoted to rare, intense surgical techniques, we focus on what a podiatric physician sees every day—the skin.

### Creating a Dermatology Center in Your Practice

Melanoma is the 5th most common form of cancer, for both men and women, in the United States. Though often sun-induced, melanoma is actually over-represented on the skin of the feet. Though amongst the most studied form of cancer, it remains one of the deadliest in terms of overall prognosis, especially when affecting the skin of the foot. As podiatric physicians, we can play a major role in altering these statistics, an ambition which serves as a cornerstone for both DermFoot and its parent, the **Rhett Foundation**.

Meeting co-chair Joel Morse, DPM has been focusing on the importance of dermatology in his practice for over a decade. Over the course of his career and attending meeting after meeting, he quickly realized that dermatology and dermatological content was not given the attention that it deserved. "In practice, I see more skin and nail conditions than I do surgical and biomechanical issues," Dr. Morse explains.

By providing a meeting that focuses on the integument and nail units of patients, DermFoot successfully filled a massive and necessary void in the realm of podiatric care.

Meeting co-chair Annette Joyce, DPM, e.g., has built a practice and a patient base that is centered around conditions of the nails and skin versus conditions that require surgery or biomechanical realignment.

Joyce states, "When you are tired of working long hours for reduced insurance reimbursements, consider adding non-insurance-based procedures as the key to success for every podiatric medical practice in America. At DermFoot, we know your time is valuable, so we have combined hands-on training into an accelerated program. We also provide training for new areas of revenue, like aesthetics."

### What to Expect for DermFoot 2019

DermFoot 2019 will maintain a tradition of dermatological excellence in Tysons Corner, Virginia from April 11th through the 14th. Our world-renowned faculty of podiatrists, dermatologists, and researchers will provide expert panel discussions in the areas of dermoscopy, skin neoplasia, infectious disease, and nail pathology, as well as general dermatology.

To better fulfill its mission, DermFoot recently became part of the Rhett Foundation family. Since its inception in 2017, the Rhett Foundation has initiated projects including providing financial support to podiatric associations and schools, providing educational grants to support CME education, sponsoring and working with podiatric organizations to develop better podiatric dermatology content, funding scientific research, providing dermatology-focused educational materials to students and residents, and funding scholarships for student scholars in dermatology.

The Rhett Foundation was founded by Bradley Bakotic DO, DPM and Joseph "Jody" Hackel, MD as a means to give back to a profession that had shown them over a decade of support and loyalty.

As a podiatrist and dermatopathologist, Dr. Bradley Bakotic's philanthropic spirit and lifelong enthusiasm towards diagnosing skin disease has motivated his charitable gift of over 2 million dollars to the profession of podiatry. The Rhett Foundation has already provided unrestricted educational grants for dermatology tracks at the APMA, the Podiatry Institute, the Midwest, IFAF, and numerous local and regional meetings. "Through outreach and interdisciplinary efforts we can finally bridge the gap in podiatric dermatology education that has existed with various levels of podiatric training," states Dr. Bakotic.

Founders of the Rhett Foundation, Drs. Bakotic and Hackel, have now added an illustrious staff of contributing founders including: G. Dock Dockery, DPM; Bryan Markinson, DPM; Annette Joyce, DPM; Joel Morse, DPM; Jeffrey Frederick, DPM; Michael Brody, DPM; and Mary Crawford, DPM.

For more information about DermFoot, please visit [www.DermFoot.com](http://www.DermFoot.com) or click here.