

Future Star in Podiatric Medicine: Samantha Landau, DPM

Her goal is to lead the profession forward through biomechanics.

BY MARC HASPEL, DPM



Having a strong family lineage in podiatric medicine, while certainly not uncommon, is something to be celebrated. A solid pedigree in the profession is worth noting, especially when the future of the newest generation podiatric physician appears to be so bright. Such is the case with the next nominee in *Podiatry Management's*

gram. In addition, she obtained her DPM degree in 2018.

And that has been only the beginning for this ambitious young podiatric physician. Dr. Landau completed her residency at NYCPM/Metropolitan Hospital in 2021 as chief resident. COVID-19 intervened while she was at Metropolitan; and for her efforts there, she received Schneps Media's Health Care Hero Award. Dr. Landau

lectured as well in advanced biomechanics at NYCPM in November '22. Dr. Landau hopes to inspire young individuals and women in particular to take an interest in biomechanics by bringing a young dynamic perspective to this vital area of study and practice.

Dr. Landau recently took some time to reflect on her young career and offered personal insight into her future as a doctor of podiatric medicine.

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PM: Who in podiatric medicine influenced you the most thus far in your career? To whom else do you give thanks?

Landau: My father and stepmother, who are both podiatric physicians. Further, Drs. Soave and Trepal, and all the attendings at NYCPM, who trained me during residency. My department chair, Dr. Logan. I have been especially appreciative of Dr. D'Amico, Dr. Cusack, Dr. Resseque and Dr. Volpe for taking extra time to train me during this fellowship of biomechanics and gait pathology.

PM: What first attracted you to a career in podiatric medicine?

Landau: I was exposed early to podiatric medicine and surgery because of my father's career.

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Future Stars in Podiatric Medicine, Samantha Landau, DPM. Nominated by Barry Block, Editor-in-Chief of *Podiatry Management Magazine*, Dr. Landau is the daughter of Laurence Landau, DPM and step-daughter of Corrine Renne Landau, DPM. She is a graduate of the dual-degree program of NYCPM and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai; she obtained her MPH (with an emphasis on healthcare management) in 2016, after only two years, the first student to do so in the history of the pro-

gram. In addition, she obtained her DPM degree in 2018. And that has been only the beginning for this ambitious young podiatric physician. Dr. Landau completed her residency at NYCPM/Metropolitan Hospital in 2021 as chief resident. COVID-19 intervened while she was at Metropolitan; and for her efforts there, she received Schneps Media's Health Care Hero Award. Dr. Landau

was also published last year in the *Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery* for original research. With a keen interest in surgical biomechanics, Dr. Landau has trained at the Hospital for Special Surgery in the Leon Root Motion Analysis Lab. At the same time, Dr. Landau finds the time to serve as secretary to the Kings Division of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association, an executive board position. She spoke at NY22, the New York Clinical Conference, in January 2022, and

Dr. Landau (from page 143)

PM: *What are your goals, both short-term and long-term, for your career in podiatric medicine?*

Landau: I would like to encourage my colleagues to incorporate biomechanics into the daily practice of podiatric medicine. Aside from bone tumors, as an example, I can argue that almost every podiatric problem has a basis in abnormal gait function.

PM: *What are your thoughts about APMA, the certifying boards, and other organizations that function within the profession?*

Landau: I think joining political organizations are important as they protect and push for policies that benefit the profession. I implore all doctors of podiatric medicine to join their state and national societies as these are the only organizations that are fighting for the rights of podiatric physicians.

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PM: *What sub-specialties interest you in podiatric medicine, and why?*

Landau: I am interested in all aspects of podiatric medicine but like to incorporate biomechanics into every aspect. I hope to treat patients of all ages with that in mind.

PM: *What type of practice arrangement, i.e. solo, small, or large group, suits you the best?*

Landau: Currently, I am a clinical instructor at NYCMPM, and am completing a fellowship in biomechanics. My father and stepmother

have a practice with several office locations. I can see myself being in both private practice and in academics in the future.

PM: *Where do you see your career being in 10 years, 20 years?*

Landau: I hope to be a leading biomechanical expert. I would love to raise my level of expertise in bio-

mechanics to that of Drs. D’Amico, Resseque, Cusack, and Volpe. I feel that would be an excellent result.

PM: *What are your thoughts on the overall role of podiatric medicine in the current healthcare system?*

Landau: Podiatric medicine is an important field of which I am lucky to be a part. Many systemic diseases show up in the lower extremity. Other specialists—like endovascular, for instance—have a symbiotic relationship with podiatric physicians as there are many patients shared among healthcare fields.

PM: *What should this profession do to continue to attract sound quality individuals like yourself?*

Landau: I feel members of the profession should continue to support their national and state political organizations. They should get in-

volved and lobby at state and national capitals.

To attract new young people into the profession, those with an interest in medicine must be made to realize that the practice possibilities in podiatric medicine are endless. It is a field that incorporates dermatology, vascular, orthopedics, biomechanics, surgery, systemic disease, sports medicine, and psychiatry all

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into one. Podiatric physicians who are successful and happy with the profession should reach out to their college alma mater and volunteer to speak to students on behalf of the faculty advisors on their positive experiences in the field.

PM: *Lastly, would you be in favor of degree change as well as name change from the term “podiatric” to “foot and ankle” medicine?*

Landau: I do not see a benefit to a name change as what I do daily incorporates more than just the foot and ankle. I evaluate the lower extremity from the hips to the toes so simply changing the degree name to “foot and ankle” would not accurately describe the examinations I perform on each patient. Doctors of podiatric medicine are lower extremity specialists, who acknowledge that while pathology may be observed in the foot and ankle, conditions may stem from a variety of sources. **PM**



Dr. Haspel is senior editor of this magazine and past-president of the New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society. He is a member of the American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management.