

## The Why's and How's of the Dual Degree Resolution (23-04)

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Why should the House of Delegates pass this resolution?

Because it's in the best interest of the future of podiatric medicine. This profession has evolved over the last century from a trade to a bona fide medical specialty. Our education and training now match that of other specialties, yet we are constantly expending large resources to fight for inclusion in programs that are designated only for MD's or DO's.

Podiatrists in the military, Veterans Administration, and Indian Health Service are classified as "non-physicians and thus paid less than MD's/DO's. Many podiatrists are excluded from full hospital privileges. These and other problems can be remedied by providing podiatrists the option to obtain the dual degree, DPM/MD or DPM/DO.

Resolution 23-04 encourages each college of podiatric medicine to take appropriate steps to achieve the ability to grant the dual degree.

Another benefit will be that podiatric medicine will attract better students to our applicant pool when the option of the dual degree exists.

How can the colleges accomplish this?

The most feasible way will be by establishing a relationship with US medical or osteopathic schools which already grant the MD or DO degree. The idea of such alliances was initially described in Project 2000. Several colleges of podiatric medicine already have such alliances. In some cases podiatric students sit side-by-side with allopathic students.

Additionally, those wishing to receive the dual degree will be required to pass the same medical and osteopathic national boards examinations, as well as complete additional coursework and rotations. There will be no grandfathering of degrees. The additional degree will be optional and will require additional work, time, and expenses. Residencies will also need to be modified so that they comply with the requirements of the AMA or AOA. Therefore, CPME will need to be involved in this process as well.

The dual degree concept is meant to be inclusive, meaning that every D.P.M. will have the opportunity to earn this degree if they wish. Alternate pathways will be set up that will utilize the Internet as a method of completing coursework. Additionally, a podiatrist will be assigned to a mentor at a local hospital, who will certify that the podiatrist has completed the requisite rotations necessary to earn the degree.