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Time for a Single Podiatric Medical and Surgical Certifying Board

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

In podiatry's quest for parity with other medical specialties, we are often our own worst enemies. There was a time when separate medical and surgical certifying boards were necessary because of the different types of residency training available. Those days are now long past as all podiatric residents now take a standardized 3-year program. The importance of having a single certifying board was stressed by William Hazel, MD, an orthopedic surgeon and a member of the American Medical Association Board of Trustees, in his address to the 2007 APMA House of Delegates. He stated that allopathic medicine could not understand why podiatry had more than one certifying board, and he opined that if podiatrists had one board and



passed the USMLE exam, they would be accepted as equals.

A July 2019 *PM News* poll shows that DPMs favor one board by an overwhelming three-and-a-half to one margin, so why isn't the board merger happening? The answer, unfortunately,

comes down to a matter of egos and money. So, rather than sit down and negotiate a single structured podiatric medicine and surgery board with added sub-specialties, the entire profession must suffer. It's time for the leaders of our certifying boards to listen to the practitioners in the trenches and work out an agreement that advances the podiatric profession.

Respectfully Submitted,

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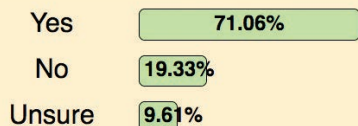
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Podiatry Management Quick Survey

Should podiatry have a single board certification with added sub-specialties?
[There are 864 responses]



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