

Welcome to the NY Clinical Conference

NYSPMA's Board speaks with one voice.

BY MARC HASPEL, DPM

For many, the annual New York State Clinical Conference, representing APMA Region 2, held in New York City each year, is the highlight of their clinical calendar. Every January, this traditional gathering brings together podiatric physicians and staff from across the state for world-class academic lectures, a full array of trade exhibitors and a great opportunity to connect and reconnect with one another. Of course, working behind the scenes to produce the event is the New York State Podiatric Medical Association. Led by its executive board,



Daniel Keating, DPM



James Hanna, DPM



Maria Branca, DPM



Paul Liswood, DPM



Sandro Frasca, DPM

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this Association exists to serve its members to keep the practice of podiatric medicine strong and viable in New York. The current NYSPMA board includes President Daniel Keating, DPM, President-Elect James Hanna, DPM, Vice President Maria Branca, DPM, Treasurer Sandro Frasca, DPM, and Immediate Past President Paul Liswood, DPM. The Executive Director of NYSPMA is Dan Kline.

PM sat down with the executive board recently as it shared its thoughts on the direction of NYSPMA and podiatric medicine.

PM: What is the biggest challenge facing podiatric medicine in 2020?

NYSPMA Board: The new healthcare landscape is providing podiatric medicine with great opportunities. Podiatric medicine plays a very essential role in achieving the “triple aim” of improving the patient experience, improving the health of populations, and reducing costs. Podiatric care improves outcomes and reduces costs. It is not, however, getting full credit for that yet. The challenge is getting podiatric medicine more to the forefront in the minds of healthcare decision makers, health systems, legislators, and the public in order to get that credit. The challenge is to make them understand the value of podiatric medicine to the healthcare delivery system towards improving population health as part of the healthcare team. Podiatric medicine must take on more of a primary care role in order to achieve this. That will lead, in turn, to being more valued and being able to thrive as a specialty of medicine. That, however, will only happen when the profession proudly endorses the skills, education, training and degree of its members.

PM: What member benefits are most valuable to NYSPMA podiatric physicians?

NYSPMA Board: The truth is, podiatric medicine in New York would be very vulnerable without a strong

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NYSPMA. On a macro level, the most important member benefit is that NYSPMA protects its members' ability to practice in New York and advances the profession. It has insurance consultants to fix payer policy issues and educate insurance companies. It has legislative consultants helping to maintain a good relationship with the department of health, and advance vital legislation. It maintains strong relationships with key legislators. It also works to create policy favorable to podiatric medicine through its population health task force to ensure podiatric medicine has an essential role in healthcare delivery for the benefit of both members and patients.

NYSPMA also provides great continuing medical education such as this clinical conference, which is free to members. Additionally, it has a billing and coding consultant to assist with reimbursement issues, lawyers to assist members with legal issues

PM: *What is on NYSPMA's legislative agenda for 2020?*

NYSPMA Board: Some practice barriers still exist that prevent the public from seeing the full value of podiatric services. These include

NYSPMA Board: NYSPMA believes the most effective way to advance the profession is to align the interests of its members with the interests of policy makers and legislators. These interests are about improving population health and

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scope of practice restrictions and business law restrictions, for example, preventing MD/DO/DPM partnerships. By advancing the scope of podiatric medicine further, podiatric physicians will be able to practice to the maximum capacity of their licenses, which will improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs. By passing legislation to allow MD/DPM/DO partnerships, the podiatric

prevention. NYSPMA's Population Health project looks to increase awareness of podiatric medicine's key role in population health, and to influence health policy by working towards the development of a podiatric-led alternative payment model. NYSPMA has already hired a consulting firm to perform data analytics on the profession's role in key patient populations and has used that data in advocacy and public relations.

Currently, NYSPMA is working with hospital systems and the New York College of Podiatric Medicine to develop a fall prevention model that could eventually be presented to CMS. Conceptually, this could also be done with other populations such as those with diabetes and obesity. These demonstration projects are precursors to alternative payment models. By increasing podiatric medicine's importance in population health, the profession will surely be elevated. This will make it easier to pass legislation, recruit more students, and generate more referrals. The goal is full integration within the healthcare delivery of populations that can be impacted by podiatric physicians. **PM**

By passing legislation to allow MD/DPM/DO partnerships, the podiatric profession will be more integrated in the team approach to healthcare, which is critical in new value-based payment collaborative care models.

and audit protection, and a wide range of discount programs. In this Board's opinion, there is no state association that does as much for its members as does NYSPMA.

PM: *What is NYSPMA doing to help younger members?*

NYSPMA Board: Through its young member's institute, NYSPMA provides lectures, workshops, and networking opportunities for all young members. NYSPMA remains committed to the success of its young members. This Association is always there to assist them in every way possible.

profession will be more integrated in the team approach to healthcare, which is critical in new value-based payment collaborative care models.

PM: *What is new at this year's Clinical Conference? (Jan 24-26 at the Marriott Marquis in NYC)*

NYSPMA Board: NY20 will be the biggest clinical conference ever. This conference offers a great scientific program, specialized workshops, a packed trade show, and a strong opportunity for networking.

PM: *How is NYSPMA involved with Population Health Management?*



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.