

## Podiatric Medical Assisting: Establishing an Identity

By Cheryl A Bailey, PMAC

Podiatric medical assisting is a relatively small and rapidly-changing professional career. As a result, our role is not yet understood as well as it should be by other professionals, our peers, educators, and



fields where the medical assistant does a lot of patient care, allowing the assistant the opportunity for knowledge and skill along with a study guide to take the exam to become a PMAC (Podiatric Medical Assistant Certified). *Of course, the assistant's success is dependent*

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Exams are offered online and in-person at several conferences. We have 1400 active members, with more assistants signing up weekly.

ASPMA also gives back to the profession, and one of the ways we contribute to the podiatric medical profession is via the Zelda Walling Vicha Memorial Trust Fund. This fund enables the ASPMA to award two \$2000.00 scholarships to needy fourth-year podiatry students throughout the United States. We also donate to the APMA. The ASPMA is an affiliated organization of the APMA, and we couldn't do it without the APMA's support.

*For more information, call (888) 88 ASPMA (27762), visit [www.ASPMA.org](http://www.ASPMA.org), or click here.*

the general public, which is why we need the support of you, the podiatrist.

An assistant of yours obtaining membership in the ASPMA will establish an identity as a podiatric medical assistant, a professional whose support and participation will help the profession develop and gain recognition.

Podiatric assisting is mostly on-the-job training, learning all aspects of podiatry. Podiatry is one of the only