



Stephanie Wu, DPM, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

The *PM* Podiatry Hall of Fame welcomes its first female podiatrist.

Dr. Stephanie Wu, dean of Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, is a dedicated podiatric physician, educator, and researcher widely recognized for her work in limb preservation and the treatment of diabetic wounds. She is among a new generation of physician scientists inventing and using cutting-edge technologies, including tissue, bone, and blood supply regeneration aided by adult stem cells and grafts using various tissue grown in the lab. Her work in the academy, the lab, and the clinic has helped advance the future of podiatric medicine and improve health and healing of the lower extremity.

A fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, Dr. Wu has served Scholl College since 2004, when she was recruited as a research fellow and assistant professor by Dr. David Armstrong, the founder of RFU's innovative Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research (CLEAR). In 2011, she was named director of CLEAR, where she oversees the work of faculty renowned for groundbreaking work in the treatment and prevention of lower extremity complications associated with diabetes. She also serves as professor, with tenure, in the Department of Podiatric Surgery and Applied Biomechanics and the Center for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine.



Dr. Stephanie Wu

Under Dr. Wu's leadership, Scholl College became the first and only podiatric medical school in the nation to be awarded an NIH T35 research training grant, which funds its Summer Research Program, designed to increase the number of future podiatric physicians who engage in biomedical research.

Dr. Wu, who grew up in Canada, was a new resident at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia when word was received of the attack on the twin towers in New York City; then the Pentagon threw the Level I trauma

center into disaster mode. She recalls volunteering her services, a line of blood donors that stretched around the block, and a self-discovery: "I knew at that moment I was ready to be a U.S. citizen, to truly be a part of this great country," she said.

As part of her residency training, she completed a fellowship in lower extremity reconstruction and diabetic limb salvage at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC. Early in her career, Dr. Wu was Director of Clinic and Medical Education for the National Center for Limb Preservation, Advocate Medical Group, Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL.

Dr. Wu devotes significant time to CLEAR's research fellowship program and the Masters in Wound Healing program which is an international collaboration with Cardiff University. Her thoughtful and tireless mentorship of young podiatric physician scientists continues to strengthen the profession, as she continually works to foster an environment that promotes interprofessional, collaborative practice, and research.

Dr. Wu is an integral part of the University's effort to accelerate the development of new therapies. Her research collaborations at RFU include work with basic scientists in the Center for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine on cell-based therapies to promote diabetic wound healing through increased blood flow and

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blood vessel formation. She has also partnered with the Midwest Proteome Center to examine and compare altered protein composition in wounds

tect, and treat them,” Dr. Wu said. “This will not only help the general population but, given the escalating threat of highly resistant pathogens associated with overseas military operations, our work can eventually

complications in diabetes mellitus; and proactive prevention of lower extremity complications of diabetes.

A leader in scientific symposiums, Dr. Wu is an internationally recognized speaker on wound healing and has given more than 500 keynote lectures and presentations in numerous countries. In addition to serving as Editor in Chief of the *Foot and Ankle Quarterly*, she is a prolific author, with more than 200 abstracts, book chapters, and both peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed publications. She currently serves on the board of directors of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine and as an advisory board member of the Peter Sheehan Diabetes Care Foundation in New York City.

She also sits on editorial boards for the *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association*, *Wound Management and Prevention*, and *Podiatry Today*. Dr. Wu helps lead RFU’s Global Health Partnership, Mexico.

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of diabetic and non-diabetic patients. She is working to discover biomarkers that can help reveal why some people heal and others don’t; why some people are more prone to wound infections; and why some with diabetes develop wounds, but not others.

“We want to identify people who have the propensity for developing non-healing wounds and infections so that we can better prevent, de-

be used to lessen the suffering from wounds and infections and improve the lives of our service personnel.”

In addition to stem cell and tissue regeneration, Dr. Wu’s areas of research interest include: biofilms and wound bioburden; activity monitoring and modulation in people at high risk for diabetic foot ulceration and amputation; offloading the diabetic foot; risk factors for lower extremity

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She served as an advisory member for the establishment of diabetic foot and wound care clinics at St. Jude Hospital in Vieux Fort, on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, and as an international advisory board member of the Diabetes Update for Clinicians Conference, Lucknow, India.

Devoted to preparing the next generation of podiatric physicians—critical members of the healthcare team—Dr. Wu works closely with Scholl College students during early clinical exposures at the Scholl Foot & Ankle Center.

“It’s an experience words can’t describe,” said one of Dr. Wu’s students. “Everyone knows when Dr. Wu is in clinic. We see wounds we don’t see with anybody else. From day one, we’ve learned about diabetes. But with diabetic wounds, you can’t fully understand the impact on the patient until you see them in person.”

Dr. Wu is a graduate of Barry University, Miami Shores, FL, where in addition to her podiatric medical degree, she earned a master’s in biomedical sciences. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including more than 30 related to her research. She is the recipient of the

“She has been an active part of a new renaissance in podiatric surgical education, research, and practice.”—David Armstrong

APMA’s 2008 Rising Star Award and RFU’s Dean’s Award and Lawrence R. Medoff Award for Outstanding Performance in Research, Teaching and Clinical Practice.

Tributes

Nancy L. Parsley, DPM, MHPE

It is my pleasure and honor to pay tribute to Dr. Stephanie Wu on her selection for the Podiatry Hall of Fame. Her many accomplishments and contributions to the profession are clearly summarized in the introduction of her. Without question, the profession is fortunate to have her and so too are her patients. I can also state unequivocally that Scholl College and Rosalind Franklin University are fortunate to have her. She is a shining star that will withstand the test of time.

I first met Dr. Wu in 2007 at Scholl College and my admiration and respect for her have grown immeasurably through time and experience. She rises to every challenge and does not disappoint. No one can deny her passion for research; her talents, determination, and work ethic are all reflected in her long and impressive list of accomplishments in that area.

But I know the Stephanie that is behind the reputation, and beyond the research papers and presentations. I consider myself lucky to be able to work with her every day. She is a valued colleague and one of the most genuine and authentic individuals you could ever meet. She is thoughtful, kind, and compassionate and cares deeply

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about her family and colleagues, her patients, and her students. She leads by example, is a hands-on type of leader, and has great instincts.

Stephanie is immensely talented and is so deserving of being recog-

nized in this way. She is truly a special and unique individual who will continue to leave a lasting impact on all whom she meets.

Dave Armstrong, DPM

I first met Dr. Wu when she picked me up from outside the Food

and Drug Administration in 2004. She had heard I was in town and, as chief resident for the Inova Fairfax Hospital/Georgetown University program, she had invited me over to spend some time with the residents. The horrible traffic from Maryland into Fairfax turned out to be something of a blessing. The next hour and change convinced me (and would have convinced any other passenger) that we were dealing with an exceptional young podiatric surgeon.

A few months later, I was recruited to help build a research program under the aegis of Terry Albright and Bill Todd at the soon-to-be-renamed Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago. One of my first hires was going to be Scholl's first limb preservation fellow. I distinctly remember picking up the phone and dialing the same cell number that I kept from the year before. I asked her, "How'd you like to make one third of the salary you'd make from your next best offer—but how'd you like to make a difference?" Her response was characteristic Stephanie Wu, "Dr. Armstrong: Where do I sign up?"

In fact, Dr. Wu has signed up and shown up consistently before that and since then. She has been an active part of a new renaissance in podiatric surgical education, research, and practice. She has done this not passively, but as an active mentor. If immortality is how we persist in others' memories, then I think that Dr. Wu—now Dean Wu—is already well on her way. Here's to you, Steph.

John Grady, DPM

It's an honor for me to be able to write a tribute on behalf of Dr. Stephanie Wu. I have known her for the past 17 years as a valued friend, esteemed colleague, extraordinary teacher, and lead researcher.

Her dedication to students is impressive as she is knowledgeable, highly skilled, and interested in teaching students more than trying to impress them as some that are involved in medical training do. She is totally engaged in the students' acquisition of concepts when she is teaching.

She is a unique physician in developing both her clinical skills and

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research position with equal zeal. This has inspired students to take an active interest in both research and patient treatment. She has helped create a generation now of skilled podiatric physicians who are capable and interested in doing research.

Now she has added to her numerous list of awards, academic achievements, publications, lectures, and service to the profession the position of Dean of Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine.

Despite all her accomplishments, she remains humble, inquisitive, selfless, and personable. She will continue to contribute to the foot health of diabetics and the education of future podiatric physicians for a long time.

“She is a unique physician in developing both her clinical skills and research position with equal zeal.”—John Grady

Marlene Reid, DPM

Not only is it an honor to have been asked to write a tribute for Dr. Stephanie Wu—it is certainly my pleasure to do so as Dr. Wu becomes the first female DPM to be inducted into the *Podiatry Management Magazine* Hall of Fame. As a past president of our national association representing the women in our

After only fifteen years out of residency, Dr. Wu has established a remarkable career in both academics and research with specialty interests ranging from research to diabetic limb salvage to regenerative medicine. Dr. Wu quickly found her home at Rosalind Franklin University School of Medicine and Science as the post-residency Research Fellow for the Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research (CLEAR). Her involvement and contributions at the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine (SCPM) have gone in so many directions, including being recently named dean of SCPM.

My first introduction to Stephanie was when, unbeknownst to the delegates of Illinois, she received the “Rising Star” award from the APMA in 2009. I was so excited to greet this young woman from my state as she came down from the podium and to congratulate someone who was creating such a unique path for herself within our field. I was taken with her modesty and enthusiastic commitment to an area of our profession that was unknown to me at the time.

Dr. Wu shares her devotion to our profession by providing opportunities for students and colleagues alike. Her dedication to the advancement of education is evident and she was recently quoted saying, “I get so much joy out of seeing students grow and learn”. I experienced her generosity first-hand this past summer as guest editor for an issue of *Foot and Ankle Quarterly* under Stephanie’s direction where she serves as Chief Editor. Dr. Wu was wel-

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coming and encouraging with an idea I had while participating in research at CLEAR as a colleague unrelated to the University. I can only imagine how

Podiatric Medicine to Hall of Fame inductee, it has been exciting to watch the career of Dr. Wu. Congratulations Stephanie—there is no woman that deserves the honor of being the “first” more than you!

“Dr. Wu shares her devotion to our profession by providing opportunities for students and colleagues alike.”—Marlene Reid

inspiring she must be to her students.

Over the years that I have known Dr. Wu, I have always found her to be one of the most positive and energetic women in our profession—working to promote the field and perception of podiatric medicine in a multitude of ways, clearly showing that her skills and expertise exceed any and all barriers. From “Rising Star” to Dean of the Dr. William M. Scholl College of

Patrick DeHeer, DPM

Through the years, Stephanie and I have become acquainted on the podiatric lecture circuit. Stephanie’s background in research makes her a uniquely qualified speaker. If one is asked to debate Stephanie on any podiatric-related topic, they better do their homework because her research-centric career puts her in an elite category within the profession.

As a residency director, I interact with students from each school during their extern rotations. The SCPM students are motivated by Stephanie’s dedication to research and teaching. She has not only increased the volume of research within SCPM but has done so within the profession as a whole. I admire her professional fortitude and consider her a model for up-and-coming podiatrists. Congratulations Stephanie on a well-deserved recognition.

Albert V. Armstrong, Jr., DPM

I have known Stephanie for more than 20 years. She was one year behind me when we were students at Barry University’s School of Podiatric Medicine. We had done some of the same clinical rotations. I remember her being very smart, but very humble. And I remember her receiving the Dean’s Award for superior academic achievement when she

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graduated in 2001. Deservingly, she was appointed as faculty at the Dr. William Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine after residency. There, she has earned a great reputation as a scholar, researcher, and educator.

We are so proud of Dr. Wu being a graduate of Barry University, that when I served as Dean, I asked her to return in 2014 to give the commencement address to the graduating podiatric medical students. Thankfully she agreed. She delivered a moving and inspiring speech to our seniors. I was also reminded during her visit to Barry University how humble she always is, despite her great accomplishments. Recently, she was appointed Dean of the Dr. William Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine. This shows that the administrative leaders at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science have confidence in Dr. Wu's leadership skills and abilities.

Dr. Wu has distinguished herself as a student, scholar, researcher, and leader. She is an asset to our profession now, and will continue to be so in the future. Dr.

this august body, I was surprised to see that Dr. Wu is the first female DPM to be inducted. This makes it an even greater, and long overdue honor. Add to this that she is probably one of the

“I was also reminded during her visit to Barry University how humble she always is, despite her great accomplishments.”—Albert Armstrong

Stephanie Wu is definitely worthy of the prestigious honor of being inducted into the *Podiatry Management* Podiatry Hall of Fame. I give her my highest commendation.

Warren Joseph, DPM

As a prior inductee to the *Podiatry Management Magazine* Hall of Fame, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome Stephanie Wu, DPM to our ranks! Looking through the list of members of

youngest podiatrists to ever be elected just points to what a special and deserving person she really is.

I have known Steph since she was serving her limb salvage fellowship under fellow inductee, David Armstrong, DPM, PhD. Even back then, one could tell she was going to be a Superstar in the profession. Her earliest academic achievements were published in internationally recognized

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journals, establishing her reputation as a researcher, author, and authority in the field of foot complications in patients with diabetes.

Given that our academic interests are somewhat aligned, I have had the opportunity to sit on a number of advisory boards with Steph. Over a decade ago, as Editor of the *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association*, I invited her to become one of a very select group of our Editorial Advisors, a Board that assists me in plotting the academic direction of the *Journal*. I always know I can count on her for guidance and advice, even if she is lecturing in some far-off corner of the world...as she frequently is. Frankly, I have lost count of the countries from which she

has emailed me! Off the top of my head, I remember the Middle East, Vietnam, Japan, and China; and those are just the places I've actually heard of before. Now that she has been recently named Dean of the William M Scholl College

among her American peers. Certainly, those of us in the diabetes and wound worlds are familiar with her work. She is also loved by her students at Scholl. Whenever I run into a student or recent graduate of the school (and my

“The quality of Stephanie’s research has garnered her an international reputation....”—Warren Joseph

of Podiatric Medicine, I am hopeful that she will be more regularly in a somewhat similar time zone to me!

The quality of Stephanie’s research has garnered her an international reputation that not only promotes podiatric medicine worldwide but may actually exceed her name recognition

alma mater), I ask if they have worked with Dr. Wu. Their response is predictable: “I LOVE Dr. Wu”, I did research with her.” The well-deserved honor conferred upon her here will firmly recognize her for what she has accomplished for podiatry both here in the States and around the world! **PM**

Honorable Mention

Congratulations to the following podiatrists, alphabetically listed, who received the next highest number of votes in the 36th Annual *Podiatry Management* Lifetime Achievement Award.

H. “Bunny Brown”, DPM, Heber Springs, AR
 James Christina, DPM, Bethesda, MD
 Wesley Daniel, DPM, Gainesville, GA
 Lawrence DiDomenico, DPM, Youngstown, OH
 Chet Evans, DPM, Miami Shores, FL
 John Guiliana, Hackettstown, NJ
 Steven Kravitz, DPM, Winston-Salem, NC
 Lawrence Lavery, Dallas, TX
 Jeffrey Lehrman, Springfield, PA
 Marc Lenet, DPM, Baltimore, MD
 Leonard Levy, DPM, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Kenneth Malkin, DPM, Boynton Beach, FL
 Bryan Markinson, New York, NY

John Mattiacchi, DPM, Philadelphia, PA
 Nancy Parsley, DPM, Chicago, IL
 Jeffrey Robbins, DPM, Cleveland, OH
 Lee Rogers, DPM, Las Vegas, NV
 Lee Sanders, DPM, Lebanon, PA
 Harold Schoenhaus, DPM, Philadelphia, PA
 Alan Sherman, DPM, Boca Raton, FL
 Lloyd Smith, DPM, Newton Centre, MA
 Frank Spinosa, DPM, Albuquerque, NM
 Kathleen Stone, DPM, Glendale, AZ
 Ross Taubman, DPM, Brentwood, TN
 Harold Vogler, DPM, Tampa, FL

Congratulations to following individuals, alphabetically listed, who received the next highest votes in the non-podiatrist category.

Dorothy Cahill-McDonald
 Don Canada
 SuEllen Dercher
 Herman Hammerschmidt
 Jason Kraus
 Kevin Kruse
 Louis Levine
 Chris Mahaffey
 Moraith North

Phil Park
 Jimelle Rumberg, PhD
 Mary Pulliam
 Krista Richter
 Shawna Shapero
 Leonard Thaler
 Alan Tinkleman
 Norman Wallis, PhD