

Biomechanics in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

Historically, *Podiatry Management's* September issue has been biomechanics-themed. We are proud to continue that tradition this year, while still acknowledging the ongoing pandemic that has played havoc with every segment of the population.

As podiatric education has evolved, an increasing amount of emphasis has been placed on surgical skills. While this has perhaps aided in podiatry's quest for parity with allopathic medicine, it has come at the expense of biomechanics. In this month's issue (page 105), we are printing a recently-discovered unpublished manuscript by the late Richard O. Schuster, DPM, a pioneer in the areas of orthotics, gait analysis, and sports medicine. It was the work of giants like Schuster, Root, and others that propelled podiatry to the forefront of medicine.

Orthopedists have been doing foot and ankle surgery long before us, but it is our biomechanical expertise that lets us determine the etiology of a foot deformity and helps us select the optimal procedure to perform. Then, with the correct type of orthotic, we can address the forces that could lead to recurrence of the deformity. This is what sets us apart as a medical specialty.

In order to assure podiatry's future, it is incumbent on today's educators and residency directors to ensure that today's podiatric surgeons remain educated in this essential area of practice.

Respectfully Submitted,

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