# **Protecting** Podiatry's Future

#### BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

odiatric medicine and surgery's place in today's healthcare landscape is the result of the hard work and planning of past leadership. These visionaries had the foresight to plant seeds both educationally and politically that have led to tangible benefits such as hospital privileges, 3-year residencies, fellowships, and acceptance of foot and ankle care by podiatrists. This has also led to the expansion of podiatric medical schools to eleven.



Unfortunately, all this effort will be diminished if we can't attract high-quality students to o

ished if we can't attract high-quality students to our colleges. While there has been considerable finger-pointing as to who is responsible for this

Would you be willing to mentor a prospective podiatry student? [There are 580 responses]	
Yes	66.21%
No	24.48%
Unsure	9.31%

will be available to buy your practice when you retire?

A recent *PM News* Quick Poll demonstrated that over two-thirds of DPMs were willing to mentor a prospective podiatry student. Think back to how you became a podiatrist. There's a good chance you shadowed a practitioner before applying to school. Now it's your turn to pay it forward.

Becoming a mentor is easy. Just go to www.stepintopodiatry.com/ find-a-mentor and register. This single action will help ensure the vitality and growth of this profession.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry H. Block D.P.M.

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crisis, the fact remains that it is the responsibility of every podiatrist (leader or not) to recruit high-quality students. After all, where will all the associates come from to fill the anticipated need in your practice? Who

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