

Future Star in Podiatric Medicine: Richard Bruno, DPM

He exemplifies the concept of paying it forward.

BY MARC HASPEL, DPM



Paying it forward is a commendable act in almost every field. This is certainly the case in podiatric medicine. This is also well exemplified by the next nominee for *Podiatry Management's* Future Star, Richard Bruno, DPM. As lauded by Dr. Steven Blanken, Dr. Bruno works 70-80 hours per week contributing to the education of podiatry residents, is the assistant residency director of Eastern Virginia Medical School in VA Beach/

Blanken's son, who is one of the chief residents at the program.

Dr. Bruno recently took some time to offer insight on his young career and shared thoughts on his future in podiatric medicine.

PM: *Who in podiatric medicine influenced you the most thus far in your career? To whom else do you give thanks?*

Bruno: I am fortunate to have interacted with many fantastic phy-

have fun, while still providing patient services.

Dr. Marc Karpo was a huge influence on my attitude in practice. When I was in school at TUSPM, he would spend many nights talking to me about life, perspective, and my goals when I would be practicing. I will never forget everything he taught me in life and the profession.

I had a wonderful example of what a residency director should be like in Dr. Patrick Agnew, should I ever be fortunate enough to be director of a program. When it comes to more challenging cases, Dr. Michael Chung, Dr. Bradley Levitt, and Dr. William Simon showed me in training that no case would be too difficult, and taught me many pivoting techniques I apply in practice.

PM: *What first attracted you to a career in podiatric medicine?*

Bruno: When I was younger, I knew I always wanted to be a physician. I have ankle instability and have had multiple lower extremity fractures, which really drove me to wanting to learn more about the lower extremity anatomy. I want to give back to others in a way that was done for me as a child.

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Norfolk, quickly going from graduating resident to working for the program. To his credit, he successfully earned board certification by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery in just two years and is a lecturer and an officer in his state society. He already has helped expand the residency from three to six residents, one of whom is Dr.

sicians and influencers in my podiatric career thus far. Many people have impacted me in diverse ways to this point. Dr. Tracey Vlahovic is an enormous influence in the sense she showed me it was okay to be myself, and have personality while being a professional. Her glam and pizzazz is unmatched, and because of her, I am happy I can be myself,

Dr. Bruno (from page 109)

PM: *What are your goals both short-term and long-term for your career in podiatric medicine?*

Bruno: For short term, I am hoping to be director of a residency program, as I love to teach. I want to continue to provide services for the Suffolk community in Virginia as there are so many amazing people in this area. For long-term, I hope to be a pillar in my community. I also am hopeful to one day become Dean of a podiatric medical school.

PM: *What College of Podiatric Medicine did you attend? Where, and how would you describe your post-graduate training?*

Bruno: I went to Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. I did my post-graduate training at The Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. It was an amazing experience as I had a lot of auton-

wildest expectations.

PM: *What sub-specialties interest you in podiatric medicine, and why?*

Bruno: I am passionate about wound care, limb salvage, and trauma. There is no better feeling than knowing you have helped people whose backs were against the wall or had the deck stacked against them,

ties and services to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to patient care.

PM: *What should this profession do to continue to attract sound quality individuals like yourself?*

Bruno: This process starts early in undergraduate and post-graduate school. We need to show students we

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but they come out of the other side of it. I also enjoy pediatrics.

PM: *What type of practice arrangement, i.e., solo, small or large group, suits you the best?*

Bruno: I am with Sentara Medical Group in a multi-specialty group and

care about the future generation and pave the way for their success. We should be taking them out, bringing them into our offices and operating rooms, and supporting them in education in any way possible. We can show them how to embrace the idea “work-hard, play-hard” in the sense we provide great service and care to patients, but can still have a family, have fun, and be ourselves.

“Podiatric physicians should be building their relationships with other specialties and services to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to patient care.”

omy at my program to learn and grow. EVMS is a great program for those who are looking to make the most out of their training. There is great surgical volume and diversity, and there is no better family atmosphere in the country.

PM: *What are your thoughts about APMA, the certifying boards, and other organizations that function within the profession?*

Bruno: I believe that we have great representation with APMA and ABFAS. Together, they ensure we are provided with something for everyone, and I look forward to them working together in the future to push our profession beyond our

hospital network, and I cannot think of a better situation.

PM: *Where do you see your career being in 10 years, 20 years?*

Bruno: I hope to continue teaching and serving the community the way I am now.

PM: *What are your thoughts on the overall role of podiatric medicine in the current healthcare system?*

Bruno: Podiatric medicine provides a unique and essential service. Patients use their feet every day, so they need to keep them pain free. Podiatric physicians should be building their relationships with other special-

PM: *Would you be in favor of degree change as well as name change from the term “podiatric” to “foot and ankle” medicine?*

Bruno: I am indifferent to this topic. I am proud to care for patients regardless of what my degree is called.

PM: *In the event you are raising a young family, how are you managing a busy work life balance?*

Bruno: I do not have a young family yet. The residents are “my children” currently, but I am looking forward to having a true family in the future. **PM**



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.