

# Biomechanics and Podiatry

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

**A**s 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, we are publishing a number of papers to remind practitioners that the education and training in biomechanics is part of our DNA and differentiates us from other allopathic physicians.



Orthopedists have been doing foot and ankle surgery long before us, but it is our biomechanics 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, AFO, or modification of footwear, 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 upon 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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