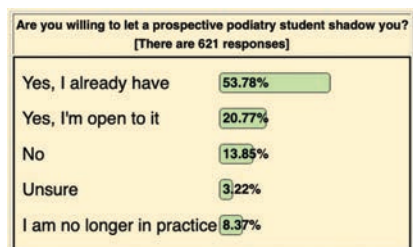


The House Is on Fire— What You Can Do to Save It

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

This month's cover story (page 55) says it all. The stark truth is that the student applicant pool is shrinking each year. This presents an existential threat to podiatry. Lower enrollment leads to lower quality students as well as the possibility of school closures. This is not the time for finger-pointing; it is time for collective action by everyone to save a medical specialty critical to America's health.

What can you do? A recent *PM News Quick Poll* revealed that over 50 percent of DPMs have had students shadow them and an additional 21 percent are



open to it. This is one of the best ways to encourage potential students to enroll. Arthur Gudeon, DPM, of Queens, NY, is a perfect role model. Over the past 60 years, he has opened his office to countless potential students, resulting in dozens of enrollments. His "podiakids" have

gone on to be academic and political leaders in the profession.

Now, we all can't be Dr. Gudeons, but if every podiatrist could have one student shadow him/her each year, we would put out the fire permanently.

P.S.: Dr. Rod Tomczak's article, which offers a different perspective on the enrollment crisis and its relationship with podiatric education, starts on page 79.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dedicated to Practice Growth
and Prosperity Since 1982

Volume 44, Number 5

Publisher Scott C. Borowsky

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