

ACGME Podiatric Residency Accreditation and Parity/*PM* Annual Survey Results

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

In the January 1982 inaugural issue of *Podiatry Management*, the forward-looking concept of parity via a degree change was first proposed. The cover story of that issue, "Breaking the Barriers to Hospital Privileges," shows how far podiatry has progressed to achieving that goal. At the time, only a minority of podiatric graduates were able to obtain a one-year residency, and only one three-year surgical residency existed.



Today, not only do virtually all hospitals grant hospital privileges, but many DPMs serve as chiefs of medical and surgical staff. Additionally, our graduating students complete comprehensive three-year residencies. These residencies are accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).

The American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is the organization that accredits medical and osteopathic residencies. Next month, the APMA House of Delegates will consider meeting with ACGME and exploring the concept of whether to have ACGME accredit podiatric residencies. A recent *PM News* Quick Poll revealed that an overwhelming number of our readers support this concept.

While we certainly understand the opposition of some of our leaders to this potential change, we believe that once the details of what this transition involves are fleshed out and after a vigorous debate, the consensus will be to move forward on this unique opportunity. Parity has many aspects associated with it, such as equal pay for equal services and policies and legislation that include MDs and DOs but exclude DPMs. It is clear that the benefits of our residents being held to the same standards as MDs and DOs with ACGME accreditation will bode well for the future of podiatry.

PM Annual Survey Results

The results of our 43rd Annual Survey appear on page 51. We want to thank the hundreds of podiatrists who took the time to complete this survey, the most comprehensive look at podiatric practice management in the profession.

Respectfully Submitted,

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