

# Future Star Timothy Miller, DPM

This fellowship-trained foot and ankle surgeon is already aiming to mentor the next generation of DPMs.

BY MARC HASPEL, DPM



**E**xcelling in one's training and then bringing that experience into private practice is certainly a fine recipe for becoming a candidate for *Podiatry Management Magazine's Future Stars in Podiatric Medicine* series. To his credit, this is certainly the case for Timothy J. Miller, DPM. Nominated anonymously, Doctor Miller is a fellowship-trained foot and ankle podiatric surgeon. He completed a residency at Atlantic Health Morristown Medical Center in New Jersey, where he performed over 1,200 surgical procedures dedicated to foot and ankle ailments, including complex reconstruction of the lower extremity, and served as chief resident in his final year. He then completed a fellowship at the Foot and Ankle Specialists of Ohio, gaining advanced surgical training, including limb reconstruction, treatment of trauma and deformity correction, and Charcot and diabetic limb salvage. Currently, he serves in leadership roles in several professional societies and associations, and his work has been published and presented at national conferences.

Doctor Miller recently took some time to share his thoughts on his emerging career and his future in this profession.

**PM:** *Who in podiatric medicine influenced you the most thus far in*

*your career? To whom else do you give thanks?*

**Miller:** Podiatric medicine is reliant on the shoulders of giants of previous generations. This profession has advanced due to the diligence and constant efforts of its amazing

predecessors. I've been fortunate to have mentors from different educational backgrounds, each offering unique insights. From doctors whose mastery of biomechanics and patient rapport taught me the importance of conservative care, to my surgical mentors who emphasized clinical excellence, precision, and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, the care that I provide is a direct result of these influences. Dr. John Steinberg, who I met through the ACFAS Leadership Development Program, has had a profound influence on my life. He has been a mentor through my leadership journey and continues to push and inspire me. He has always been support-

ive when I have had medically-related questions and is always there to offer advice and guidance. My partner, Dr. Kiana Karbasi, inspires me to advance patient care with her dedication to overcoming obstacles. I thank all of my past teachers and attendings for taking the time to help

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shape the physician I am today. I'm equally grateful to my family and colleagues who support and challenge me to grow.

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

**Miller:** My mother was an ER nurse and would come home telling me about her experiences for that day. Her daily adventures sparked my interest. I knew medicine was the choice, but I was unsure of what field. I had shadowed many but was not enamored with any of them. During my time as a college football player, I suffered a right

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*Dr. Miller (from page 103)*

ankle injury and was under the care of a podiatrist. I never knew about podiatry until then. After shadowing him and seeing him treat sports medicine injuries and perform limb salvage and trauma surgical procedures, I knew that this was the field for me. The range of pathologies seen along with the ability to

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

**Miller:** I attended the New York College of Podiatric Medicine. I completed my residency training at Atlantic Health Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, New Jersey. I completed my fellowship at

**Miller:** I enjoy reconstruction, trauma, sports medicine, and limb salvage. These areas of podiatric medicine and surgery allow me to help my patients return to function. Whether am I treating a foot ravaged by Charcot neuroarthopathy, a large soft tissue defect necessitating a muscle flap, or trauma, I am comfortable being able to use my skills and knowledge to help these patients return to function. I'm fascinated by biomechanics and the opportunity to restore function in both acute and chronic cases.

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

**Miller:** Currently, I am a partner in a small private practice. I have been a part of both large multispecialty groups as well as small single specialty groups. I enjoy the small group as the relationships that I can build allow me to provide great care for patients. I am also able to devote more time to patient care while ensuring the success of the practice. This allows me to become a positive influence in my community.

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

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positively impact patients in return to function drew me into podiatry. After several more shadowing experiences, there was no other field to which I wanted to dedicate my life. The ability to treat patients both surgically and non-surgically, and to form long-term relationships in outpatient care, offers a unique and deeply satisfying balance of challenge and continuity.

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

**Miller:** I want to continue to positively impact the field of podiatry through the organizations with which I am involved. My short-term goal is to successfully build the practice that I helped to start so that it can become a pillar of amazing health care in my community. Short term, I aim to refine my clinical and surgical skills and patient education. I want to build relationships within the community while helping patients return to their desired lifestyle. Long term, I hope to play a leadership role in promoting podiatry as an essential specialty in value-based healthcare, bridging the gap between traditional and surgical care models while mentoring future professionals. I want to become more involved and advance my leadership positions in organizations that promote and support podiatry.

the Foot and Ankle Specialists of Ohio Reconstructive, Trauma, and Limb Salvage Fellowship in Mentor, Ohio. My post graduate training helped shape me into the surgeon I am today. Learning advanced techniques in total ankle replacement, orthoplastics, reconstructive of the lower extremity, trauma and limb salvage has allowed me to positively influence my patients on a daily basis.

**PM:** *What are your thoughts about APMA, the certifying boards*

*and other organizations that function within the profession?*

**Miller:** The support structures of podiatry are strong; continuing to volunteer to advance this profession is a true passion of mine. These organizations play a critical role in advocacy, standardization, and public awareness. I want to help make organizations dedicated to our field stronger by giving my time and helping to push our profession forward.

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

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### **“I want to teach podiatrists, and other medical professionals, about the newest and advanced techniques in the field.”**

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**Miller:** I would like to see my career advance to where I am lecturing nationally and internationally. I believe that I can help others by offering my knowledge. I want to teach podiatrists, and other medical professionals, about the newest and advanced techniques in the field. I would like to serve in leadership positions within the profession. Furthermore, I would like to be a residency director and be involved in a fellowship. In 20 years, I aim to mentor the next generation, contribute to policy and education, and continue advo-

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Dr. Miller (from page 104)

cating for podiatry as an essential, integrative specialty.

ly skilled in lower extremity intricacies and complexities as podiatry. The support that podiatrists provide their patients, and the ability to help

shadowing opportunities is a must. Showing these young, bright minds that podiatry is an amazing field that offers so many opportunities is crucial. Inviting students into podiatric offices allows for firsthand interaction and showcases a sample of the profession that they will appreciate. The profession must continue pushing the boundaries of podiatry with advancements in surgical techniques. This direct impact on the field of medicine as a whole will resonate with younger generations, attracting them to the profession. **PM**

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

**Miller:** Podiatric medicine is not only an integral part of the current health care system, but it is absolutely crucial. This field promotes highly skilled physicians who deal in all aspects of lower extremity care, including trauma, limb salvage, reconstruction, and biomechanics. There is no other profession as high-

ly skilled in lower extremity intricacies and complexities as podiatry. The support that podiatrists provide their patients, and the ability to help

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

**Miller:** Medicine is an ever-evolving field. Keeping up with these evolutions is critical to the advancement of this profession. Expanding outreach to colleges and high schools with lectures and



**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.