

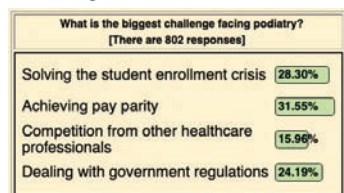
# Meeting Today's Challenges to Podiatry

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

Challenges to podiatry are not new. It's interesting to note that the word "change" is part of the word "challenge". Five decades ago, the biggest challenge facing podiatry was obtaining hospital privileges. The then American Podiatry Association and the colleges of podiatric medicine worked together to change podiatric education and training and successfully overcame this once onerous obstacle.



This concerted and combined effort has resulted in tremendous and critical steps toward reaching parity with other medical specialties on many fronts, including the Veterans Administration and the Armed Forces.



We recently asked *PM News* readers what they thought was the biggest challenge facing podiatry today.

*PM News* reader Rich Hofacker, DPM opined, "if there is not an immediate major effort to attract more, good, quality students into our podiatry colleges, I might suggest to you that the other three issues (government regulations, pay parity, and competition) will no longer be of concern." We agree.

As we go to press, the latest CASPR Residency Match figures show that 50 residencies will go unfilled. If this trend continues, these residencies will be forced to close, negating the progress we have made over the last few decades. We cannot allow this to happen. It's not a time for finger-pointing but rather a call for all stakeholders to work together to meet this latest challenge.

This issue is devoted to Practice Growth—what every podiatrist desires and strives toward. But there are myriad ways to achieve it, from creating a written plan to participating in value-based care programs, from investigating AI to expanding your use of available new technologies, from becoming more involved in your community to using a marketing firm to help you retain existing patients and gain new ones. Take some time to explore this special issue and its many and varied recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

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