ABPM
American Board of Podiatric Medicine
Certifying Today's Podiatrist

April 2026

Editor's Note

Jana B. Goff, DPM
Editor

Dear Fellow Diplomates,

As we move into spring, I am excited for warmer weather and longer days! This April issue highlights the continued growth, engagement, and excellence within our diplomate community.

We are pleased to feature this month's Diplomate Spotlight on Dr. James Losito, whose dedication to advancing podiatric medicine is reflected not only in his clinical work but also in his commitment to education and advancing our field, exemplifying the standard of excellence upheld by our diplomates. Dr. Losito is also our April webinar speaker and we encourage all members to take advantage of this valuable resource.

In this issue, you will also find an important article on limb preservation and salvage. As this area continues to evolve, it remains a critical component of patient care, underscoring the vital role podiatric physicians play in improving outcomes and quality of life.

Additionally, we provide highlights from the recent APMA House of Delegates meeting, where key discussions and decisions are shaping the direction of our profession and reinforcing our shared mission.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to excellence in podiatric medicine and for your continued engagement with the American Board of Podiatric Medicine community.

Sincerely,
Jana B. Goff, DPM, DABPM, FACPM
Editor

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DIPLOMATE SPOTLIGHT

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Kiana Trent, DPM
Communications Chair

Dr. James M. Losito

What inspired you to become a podiatrist?
I was inspired by my father to be a physician (He was a pediatrician). During college, I shadowed a local podiatrist in town and he was having fun and his patients were happy. The diversity of his practice and patients appealed to me most. The study of biomechanics was especially intriguing to me.

What role do you believe podiatrists play in the overall healthcare system?
Obviously, I believe that podiatrists are critical in our healthcare system. Foot problems are so ubiquitous and people must remain active for longevity. So many diseases manifest in the foot that everyone is susceptible to foot problems.

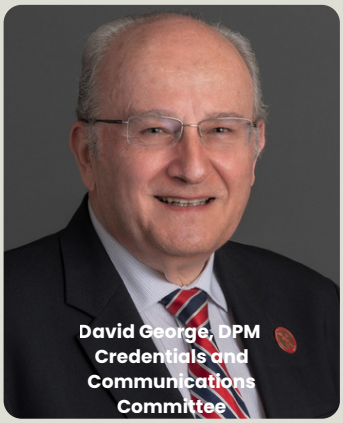
What do you find most rewarding about being a podiatrist?
The most rewarding part of my practice is making people happy by improving their lives. This is especially true when I treat children or athletes.

What strategies do you use to avoid burnout?
I love what I do but a scheduled time away from the office to relax is a must. I use athletics as a major way to decompress. I have hobbies which I schedule time for and do not let work compromise them. Currently I am learning Mandarin Chinese. In some cases, I have learned to say “No”.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES AND ITS FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE

David George, DPM

Everybody is hearing about Artificial Intelligence (AI) these days affecting various facets of our lives. It refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. These tasks include reasoning, learning, problem- solving, perception, and understanding language.



Strengths of AI:

- **Fast data processing:** AI can process large amounts of data very quickly. This helps organizations make faster and more informed decisions, especially in fields like business and healthcare.
- **High accuracy:** AI systems are designed to reduce errors. In healthcare, for example, AI can analyze medical images accurately, which can lead to earlier diagnoses and better patient outcomes.
- **Automation of tasks:** AI can automate repetitive tasks such as data entry and appointment scheduling. This allows workers to focus on more important and complex responsibilities.
- **Ability to learn:** AI systems can improve over time through machine learning. They learn from data and provide more personalized results, such as recommendations on digital platforms.

Weaknesses in AI:

- **Lack of common sense:** AI can identify patterns in data, but it does not truly understand context or use human judgment. This can lead to mistakes in complex situations.
- **Dependence on data quality:** AI relies on the data it is trained on. If the data is biased or incorrect, the results produced by AI may also be biased or inaccurate.
- **High cost:** Developing and implementing AI systems can be expensive. This may limit access for some organizations.
- **Ethical concerns:** AI raises issues such as privacy, surveillance, job loss, and accountability. It is often unclear who is responsible when AI systems make errors.

The future of AI in healthcare:

AI has strong potential in healthcare. It is already used in tools such as virtual assistants and robotic surgery. In the future, AI may allow patients to receive medical advice from home and access faster services, especially in rural areas. AI can also support medical research by analyzing data quickly, helping scientists discover new treatments and cures more efficiently.

Balancing AI and human doctors:

Although AI offers many benefits, it is important to maintain a balance between technology and human care. AI should support doctors, not replace them. In an ideal system, AI would handle routine tasks and data analysis, while doctors focus on patient care and complex decisions. By ensuring privacy, responsibility, and ethical use, AI can become a valuable tool in healthcare.

We are pleased to share this article to foster thoughtful consideration of evolving topics in healthcare. The content reflects the author's perspectives and is intended for informational purposes only; it does not represent official policy or endorsement by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine.

LIMB LOSS AWARNESS MONTH

April is recognized as Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of early intervention and the role of podiatrists in preventing amputations.

In the United States, over 150,000 lower extremity amputations occur each year, many of which are preventable, especially those related to diabetes. These cases significantly impact patients' quality of life, making prevention essential.

Podiatrists play a key role in limb preservation through early detection, treatment of foot conditions, use of orthotics, surgical care, and collaboration with other healthcare specialists. Early intervention is critical, as delays can lead to infection, tissue damage, hospitalization, and amputation.

The American Board of Podiatric Medicine supports high standards of care through education, advocacy, and promotion of best practices in podiatric medicine. Always, we encourage podiatrists to educate patients, collaborate across specialties, perform foot screenings, and refer patients early for the care they need.

Together, these efforts can reduce preventable amputations and improve patient outcomes.

By Kamran D. Farahani, DPM, MPH

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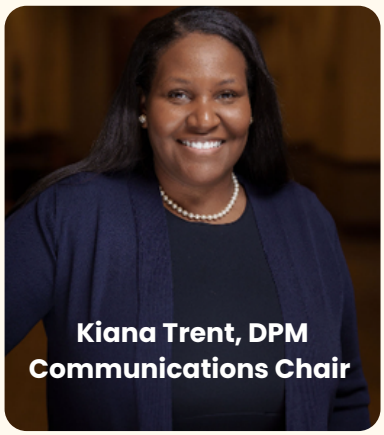
HOUSE OF DELEGATES



The 2026 House of Delegates of the American Podiatric Medical Association convened in Washington, DC from March 13 through March 16, bringing together leaders from across the profession for several days of collaboration, policy-making, and forward planning. Delegates engaged in thoughtful discussion, debate, and voting on key issues impacting podiatric medicine, including the appropriate use of the (-25) modifier and the ongoing need to ensure fair reimbursement for separately identifiable evaluation and management services. These conversations reflected a unified commitment to protecting both the integrity of clinical practice and the financial sustainability of providers.

The House also emphasized the importance of resident engagement, recognizing the value of involving early-career physicians in organized medicine and leadership development.

Student recruitment emerged as another priority, with presentations outlining strategies to attract the next generation of podiatrists. In a strong show of support, multiple state organizations and several individuals pledged funding toward student scholarships, reinforcing a shared investment in the future of the profession.

Since the conclusion of the House of Delegates, the American Board of Podiatric Medicine has continued advancing the profession by working toward the development of specialty certifications that will be formally recognized by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education. This initiative represents a meaningful step in expanding professional opportunities and standardizing advanced competencies within podiatric medicine.

The meeting also featured moments of reflection and transition. A special tribute honored Lawrence A. Santi, DPM, past APMA President, recognizing his leadership and dedication to the profession. Brooke Bisbee, DPM, APMA President also expressed heartfelt appreciation for the support during her tenure. The House of Delegates welcomed new leadership with the introduction of Patrick DeHeer, DPM, as the incoming APMA President, signaling continued progress and vision for the organization.

Overall, the 2026 APMA House of Delegates underscored the profession's commitment to advocacy, education, and innovation, setting the stage for continued growth and advancement in podiatric medicine.

Kiana Trent DPM, DABPM, FFPM RCPS (Glasg)
Communications Chair

WHAT'S NEW

Applications for the **ABPM Resident Ambassador Program** are open!
Apply at **www.podiatryboard.org**

Free virtal webinar on April 14th. Come join us and earn up to 1 CME credit.
Register at **www.podiatryboard.org**

On the road with ABPM

Upcoming Conferences

April

SAWC Spring/WHS 2026
Booth 1347
April 8, 2026 - April 12, 2026
Charlotte Convention Center,
Charlotte, NC

April

2026 AAPSM Stand Alone Meeting
April 30, 2026 - May 2, 2026
Gila River Resort & Casino - Wild Horse Pass in Chandler, AZ

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