

ACFAP President Readies for Inaugural Annual Meeting

APMA spoke recently with Louis J. DeCaro, DPM, president of the American College of Foot and Ankle Pediatrics (ACFAP), about his goals as president. Dr. DeCaro also shared some details about ACFAP's first-ever annual meeting.

APMA News:

Tell us about ACFAP and its charge.

Dr. DeCaro:

ACFAP is APMA's only recognized group of experts in the subspecialty of podopediatrics. As an APMA-affiliated clinical organization, its goal is to educate our colleagues and the general public about the importance of caring for children's feet. ACFAP strives to disseminate new and advanced information on the latest techniques in pediatric foot and ankle care through our participation in seminars, lectures, publications, and digital media.

APMA News:

Congratulations on your new presidency. What are your main goals?

Dr. DeCaro:

Thank you. Podopediatrics is a passion of mine, both clinically and educationally. I have many goals as president. My primary one is to make sure ACFAP helps educate its members, practitioners of all specialties, and parents regarding pediatric foot care. I hope to work closely with APMA in building this stronger educational foundation. I had two other major goals when I took over in July. One was to launch a quarterly newsletter, and the other was to coordinate an ACFAP standalone meeting. Those goals have been accomplished, but making them successful is a continuing goal.

I believe a well-rounded podiatrist should recognize the implications of foot ailments in even the youngest of patients in order to prevent adult problems. Knowing how to deal with concerns before they happen (the principle of preventive care) can help facilitate lifelong normalcy of ac-



Louis J. DeCaro, DPM

tivity and prevent many acquired adult issues.

APMA News:

How long have you been an ACFAP member, and how many members are there currently?

Dr. DeCaro:

I have been an ACFAP member for eight years. I have served as vice president for two years and in July, I was installed as president of the college. We currently have almost 100 members. I have been aggressively trying to grow this number in different ways. One is by lecturing on the importance of podopediatric care and trying to drum up excitement

about the subspecialty. I have lectured 22 times this year alone. Another way is by launching educational projects like the newsletter and standalone conference.

APMA News:

Tell us about coordinating the college's upcoming meeting.

Dr. DeCaro:

I aggressively solicited top podopediatric speakers from across the country. I have secured vendors for the meeting, as well. I also have to thank Albert Armstrong, DPM, a classmate of mine and interim dean of Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine (BUSPM). When I called him, immediately he said, "Barry is in! What do you need to make it happen?" The rest is history. I am happy to say that everyone I reached out to was extremely gracious about participating in this inaugural event.

The conference will take place at BUSPM on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

Information and registration for the conference can be found at www.acfap.org/annualconference.html. I encourage my fellow podiatrists to visit www.acfap.org/membership.html and sign up as members. I also encourage anyone with a question on anything and everything ACFAP to e-mail me at ljdacfap@gmail.com.

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