

Dedicated to Practice Growth
and Prosperity Since 1982

Volume 37, Number 7

Podiatry's Continuing Identity Crisis

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

It has been just over 61 years since the historic vote at the National Association of Chiropractors' House of Delegates to change the name to the American Podiatry Association, which a quarter century later became the American Podiatric Medical Association. In the last six decades, our specialty has undergone a remarkable growth to evolve from a trade to a recognized medical specialty. We've gone from a handful of six-month residencies at a time when hospital privileges were few and far between to mandatory three-year hospital residencies with comprehensive training in rear foot surgery.



Despite these advances, an identity crisis still exists. Recently, *PM News* asked its readers, "What term best describes your professional title?" Nearly three-quarters of respondents chose either "podiatrist" or "foot and ankle specialist". The final quarter (two of the choices) included "surgeon"

in their description, with only a tiny percent using other terms, such as "podiatric physician" or "podiatric physician and surgeon."

The terms we use also affect the ways others in the healthcare and lay

communities perceive us. While there are some proponents of podiatry becoming a surgical specialty, *PM News* polls have consistently shown that surgery is only a small part of most podiatrists' practices.

As to the term "podiatric physician", we believe that that would be appropriate only when it is accompanied by a degree change...but that's a topic for another editorial.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry H. Block D.P.M.

Barry H. Block, DPM, JD
Editor-in-Chief
bblock@podiatrym.com

Visit us on Facebook



- Publisher: Scott C. Borowsky
610-645-6950
- Editor-in-Chief: Barry H. Block, DPM, JD
718-897-9700
- Managing Editor: Hermine S. Block, MS
- Desktop Publishing & Graphic Design: Stephanie Kloos Donoghue
stephkloos@optonline.net
- Senior Editor: Marc I. Haspel, DPM
- Director of Continuing Medical Education: David George, DPM
- Consulting Editors: David G. Armstrong, DPM
Bradley W. Bakotic, DPM, DO
John Bergmann, DPM
Nicholas Bevilacqua, DPM
Michael Brody, DPM
G. Dock Dockery, DPM
Robert Frykberg, DPM
Alison J. Garten, DPM
Lynn Homisak, PRT
Jon Hultman, DPM, MBA
Warren S. Joseph, DPM
Stanley Kalish, DPM
Jeffrey D. Lehman, DPM
Hal Ornstein, DPM
Kenneth Rehm, DPM
Doug Richie, DPM
Jeffrey Robbins, DPM
Lee Rogers, DPM
Paul Scherer, DPM
Robert J. Snyder, DPM

What term best describes your professional title? [There are 1161 responses]	
Podiatrist	52.02%
Foot and ankle specialist	21.79%
Foot and ankle surgeon	13.70%
Podiatric surgeon	9.47%
Other	3.01%

- Legal Consultant: Michael Block
- Advertising: David Kagan
Associate Publisher
1062 E. Lancaster Ave.
Rosemont Plaza, Ste. 15F
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
215-808-0770 (m)
- Controller: Joseph W. Mellek
610-645-6944
accounting@kanec.com
- Circulation: Susan Mease

PODIATRY MANAGEMENT

1062 E. Lancaster Ave.
Rosemont Plaza, Ste. 15F
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
(610) 645-6940
FAX: (610) 645-6943

E-mail: podiatrym@kanec.com

Website:

<http://www.podiatrym.com>

Copyright © 2018 and published by Kane Communications, Inc. at 1062 E. Lancaster Ave., Rosemont Plaza, Ste. 15F, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 in the U.S. All rights reserved. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without the consent of Kane Communications, Inc. All material subject to this copyright may be photocopied for the non-commercial purpose of scientific or educational advancement. Printed in U.S.A.

Periodicals postage paid at Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 and additional entry.

Send Manuscripts and Letters to: bblock@podiatrym.com

Acceptance and publication by this magazine of an advertisement, news story, or product information does not imply endorsement or approval of the company, product, or service by this magazine or Kane Communications, Inc.