Meet the Master

Dr. Bret M. Ribotsky enters the PM Podiatry Hall of Fame

By William P. Scherer, DPM, MS

It is my profound privilege, pleasure, and honor to introduce Bret Ribotsky, DPM as the recipient of the 2016 Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award and announce his induction into the Podiatry Management Hall of Fame.

Bret has been a close friend of mine for the past 25 years and I have had the opportunity to collaborate with him as a student, resident, surgeon, teacher, lecturer, APMA leader, father of two successful children, entrepreneur, boater, skier, scuba diver; and have greatly enjoyed canceling office hours on a Friday afternoon to meet him at a local theater whenever a new James Bond or Sci-Fi movie is released.

Bret Ribotsky’s personality is larger than life. He is one of a handful of podiatrists in the country who is instantly recognized by the majority of other podiatrists. His contributions to the profession are innovative, impactful, and have touched the lives of thousands of podiatrists, and he has single-handedly improved our profession.

Dr. Ribotsky was born and raised in Miami Beach where he developed an early fascination with photography, boating, and medicine. He attended The University of South Florida in Tampa where he graduated with a degree in biology and then attended Temple University College of Podiatric Medicine where he was elected president of his class. Bret completed two separate residencies: one year in Podiatric Orthopedics in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and two additional years in Advanced Foot and Ankle Surgery in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Bret is a fellow of the American College of Foot & Ankle Orthopedics & Medicine. From 1999 to 2001, Dr. Ribotsky served as two-term President of the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics & Medicine.

He has been honored multiple times during his career in podiatric medicine, including a Bronze Stickel Award in 1996 for Research in Podiatric Medicine from the Journal of the APMA and was inducted into the National Academy of Practice as a Distinguished Practitioner. Podiatry Management Magazine has chosen Dr. Ribotsky as one of the top VIP DPMs in every listing over the years.

Dr. Ribotsky has worked as a consultant alongside General Alexander Haig on Health Journal TV where he was seen by 10 million people and has been a national and international speaker and researcher, along with serving on the editorial boards of several medical publications. Prior to entering private practice in Boca Raton, Dr. Ribotsky was the first podiatrist to be employed at the Cleveland Clinic Florida and was a member of the Department of Orthopedics where he treated many celebrities and famous athletes.

One of Bret’s greatest talents and where he has the most passion is public speaking. He has conducted over 750 lectures over the past 20 years and has lectured at every major podiatry conference in the world. Over the past decade, he has shared the stage, studied, or partnered with internationally known peak performance superstars such as Anthony Robbins.

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Zig Ziggler, Les Brown, Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Dr. John Gray, Depak Chopra, Jay Abraham, and too many more to list. Dr. Ribotsky has also created several medical seminars including: “Step Ahead”—a multi-disciplinary approach to the foot and ankle, “Putting it into Practice”—a practice management seminar series, “Be Certified’s Boot Camp for your Mind”—a board certification preparatory course, and “Remember the Knee”—the first educational course specializing in knee disorders for podiatrists.

In 2009, Dr. Ribotsky created an innovative educational program for podiatrists called “Meet the Masters”, where he has interviewed over 250 physicians and influential leaders in the field of podiatric medicine, surgery, and practice management. This extremely valuable archival collection of advice for new and established practitioners highlighting the best in podiatric medicine with an audience over three thousand physicians each week is also available for free on his www.PodiatricSuccess.com website.

Bret has been an avid boater his entire life and is certified by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as an AuxOp, one of the most difficult-to-attain designations in auxiliary training. He has also completed the Coast Guard Crew Program, the instructor program, and is creden...

Dr. Ribotsky has participated in every phase of podiatric medicine, as a physician, instructor, leader, visionary, and even as a patient. He has been a Master of Masters in our profession and is well deserving of the 2016 Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Podiatry Management Hall of Fame.

Tributes for Bret Ribotsky, DPM

Ronald S. Lepow, DPM

Congratulations Bret; this is a great honor and well deserved. You had a long and difficult recovery, and has taken a sabbatical from private practice to recover.

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You have been an inspiration to so many of us over the years, and you continue to amaze us with your tenacity and strength.—Lepow

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The man. He has been entertaining the rest of my room was in his. That’s how I think of Bret to this day. While I’m sure his lecture was wonderful, the material didn’t matter. What mattered was the feeling of being around the man. He has been entertaining our specialty with simple and complicated truths, told with humor and

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and an innate goodness.—Armstrong

school at Temple. He instantly emerged as a leader, but not by following the status quo. Instead, Bret was always the one who spoke up on the students’ behalf, and always advocated for a brighter professional future. Bret was and is proud of our profession, and saw the potential in all of us, long before we did. His vision led us to elect him as our class president. Not one to ever remain stagnant, Bret has continued to evolve and grow—as a doctor, photographer, cyclist, Association President, and even as a motivational speaker. If you have ever attended one of Bret’s lectures, you know that it is always entertaining, and usually the highlight of the meeting. Most recently, while on duty in the Coast Guard Reserves, Bret experienced a catastrophic injury that would have probably ended most of our careers, but Bret continued on, giving his successful podcast, Meet the Masters, without hardly missing a beat.

Bryan C. Markinson, DPM

It is my pleasure to write a tribute for my friend and colleague, Bret Ribotsky. I have known of Bret for many years but I only got to know him fairly well in the past 15 years. I cannot remember a time when Bret was not involved in some educational project or effort, the aim of which was to enhance the profession of podiatric medicine, as well as the practitioners of it. Bret has always asked the tough questions, and his motivational talks on which he works so diligently have given us much food for thought. He is a proponent of looking at ourselves and our attitudes and becoming aware of how much of what we perceive as limitation may actually be turned into opportunity. These types of messages are difficult to deliver, but Bret does it very well. His sharing of his personal triumphs as well as his failures is evidence of his unselfish nature when it comes to his podiatric colleagues. After my talks at meetings in which he is in attendance, Bret makes it a point always to give a kind reflection, for which I am always grateful. Bret and I share a common goal of increasing interest in podiatric dermatology, both as a professional obligation and an opportunity to increase the bottom line. Through his Podiatric Success—Meet the Masters weekly interview show, Bret has brought advice and guidance from the best and brightest of all the podiatric sub-specialties right into our homes—another measure of his devotion to our profession. I wish Bret my heartiest congratulations on his election to the Podiatry Management Hall of Fame.

Ross E. Taubman, DPM

Bret has been a leader in talking about the “business of medicine” well ahead of his peers. Early on, his ideas raised some eyebrows. But, staying true to his convictions, Bret proved himself to be right. Recently, he has created a forum for the sharing of ideas sometimes mainstream, sometimes controversial. The fact that Bret never shies away from the topic is central to why he is being honored for the 2016 Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award.

Allen Jacobs, DPM

It has been said that a speaker can do three things: educate, motivate, or entertain—Blending the three makes a speaker successful. Bret has mastered the art of combining all three. He has always done so for the betterment of the profession.

Marc A. Brenner, DPM

Bret has his eyes and heart on the pulse of the profession for many, many years. He is a true Renaissance man. He is talented, astute, smooth, and clear-thinking. He is at ease equally on the lecture circuit as well as intermixing with allied medical professions. His greatest gift to our profession has been Meet the Masters, where his silky voice resonates regularly with a host of experts. With this show, he has ingeniously tapped into a wealth of knowledge that the great thought leaders of our profession possess. With Bret at the helm, they together have officially educated and polished all those who wish to listen.

Beth S. Pearce, DPM

Bret Ribotsky? Podiatric Passion, Podiatric Compassion, and Podiatric Commitment. He unwaveringly shined the light for others to ‘always find another way’ by reframing/re-grouping to be successful. He walks his talk. I love this guy!!

Warren Joseph, DPM

I would like to congratulate Bret Ribotsky on joining the ranks of those selected by the profession to receive Podiatry Management’s Lifetime Achievement Award. I have known Bret since he was a student

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Jack Morgan, DPM

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bret Ribotsky since 1990. He has always been a maverick in our podiatric profession, a leader, an educator, and an outspoken advocate. I met Bret when he first barged in on an ABPO board meeting and had a ton of advice for the board although he was not a board member. He was resident at the time. By the time that board meeting had completed, I had already asked for our staff to contact both Bret and Gregg Young to bring them into serving the board. Bret went on to become president of the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics & Medicine where he served as an outstanding president. Bret has been an innovative educator from the time he joined the profession. He is considered the father of the new method of lecturing called “infotainment.” Nobody sleeps during Bret’s lectures.

Bret has never stopped innovating. Bret has for the past few years become one of the most skilled interviewers in our profession. His “Meet the Masters” Tuesday night programs have become a ritual, with participation from around the U.S. as well as downloads from doctors around the world. He takes on responsibility to assure that our profession continues to advance and that

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**PM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Dr. Ribotsky (from page 84)*

our members obtain the best available information to improve their practices. Yes, Bret is definitely deserving of this outstanding honor. Bret, you are our profession’s “best foot forward.” Congratulations again on a well-deserved honor.

**Alan Sherman, DPM**

Bret Ribotsky is a force of nature, a high energy guy with a passion to engage.

**Robert Weber, DPM**

I met Bret and Gregg Young for the first time during an ABPO board meeting. Bret was a young enthusiastic podiatrist full of gusto testing his mettle. Through years of association with Bret in many capacities, it was quite evident that he was a person of value who encouraged others to excel in their personal and professional endeavors. I think of Bret often as having a heart of gold with great compassion for others and a very high IQ, which enables him to think outside the box. Bret has many friends and to those who don’t know him well, you are missing a warm, comical, astute person who has the ability to be critical of himself. Bret is a survivor who gets up after being knocked down. Looking forward to many years of friendship for us and the profession, which has so many great podiatric physicians who benefit from people such as Bret. PM

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**Honorable Mention**

Congratulations to the following podiatrists, alphabetically listed, who received the 24th next highest number of votes in the 33rd Annual *Podiatry Management* Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joseph Addante, DPM, Fitchburg, MA  
Terence Albright, DPM, Chicago, IL  
Jerry Brant, DPM, Brentwood, TN  
H. “Bunny” Brown, DPM, Heber Springs, AR  
Wesley Daniel, DPM, Gainesville, GA  
G. “Dock” Dockery, DPM, Everett, WA  
Chet Evans, DPM, Miami Shores, FL  
Thomas Godfryd, DPM, Birmingham, AL  
John Guiliana, DPM, Hackettstown, NJ  
Marc Lenet, DPM, Baltimore, MD  
Leonard Levy, DPM, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Kenneth Malkin, DPM, Caldwell, NJ  
John Mattiacchi, DPM, Philadelphia, PA  
Samuel Mendicino, DPM, Houston, TX  
Nancy Parsley, DPM, Chicago, IL  
Jeffrey Robbins, DPM, Cleveland, OH  
Lee Sanders, DPM, Lebanon, PA  
Alan Sherman, DPM, Boca Raton, FL  
Lloyd Smith, DPM, Newton Centre, MA  
Frank Spinosa, DPM, Shelter Island, NY  
Kathleen Stone, DPM, Glendale, AZ  
Ross Taubman, DPM, Brentwood, TN  
Milo Turnbo, DPM, Chicago, IL  
Harold Vogler, DPM, Tampa, FL

Congratulations to the following individuals, alphabetically listed, who received the next 23rd highest votes in the non-podiatrist category.

Gary Adams  
Dorothy Cahill-McDonald  
Don Canada  
SuEllen Dercher  
Mary Feeley  
Charles Gibley, Jr., PhD  
Herman Hammerschmidt  
Jason Kraus  
Kevin Kruse  
Chris Mahaffey  
Anthony McNevin  
Bill Morris  
Moraith North  
Jimelle Rumberg, PhD  
Mary Pulliam  
Michael Schwartz  
Larry Shane  
Leonard Thaler  
Alan Tinkleman  
Eleanor Upton  
Daniel Vickers  
Ben Wallner  
Norman Wallis, PhD