



# Dan Vickers: Advancing Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Through Education

The Podiatry Institute's executive director is elected to the *PM* Hall of Fame.

BY JOHN A. RUCH, DPM

As Director of Medical Education for the Podiatry Institute and previous inductee into the *PM* Podiatry Hall of Fame Award, I am honored to acknowledge Daniel F. Vickers, CAE, as *Podiatry Management's* 2018 Inductee into the *Podiatry Hall of Fame*, and chronicle the many contributions Mr. Vickers has given to the profession of podiatry.

Dan received his bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in 1980 and served as Operations Manager for the Ben Meadows Company through 1986. Mr. Vickers joined the Podiatry Institute as Executive Director on January 12, 1987. He is currently in his 31st year as the Executive Director. During that tenure, he completed requirements for his Master in Business Administration (MBA) in 1993 at Mercer University in Atlanta and became certified with the American Society of Associations Executives in 1999. Mr. Vickers has also served as the president of the Georgia Society of Associations Executives during 2003–2004.

Dan has fulfilled a critical leadership role in podiatric continuing medical education (CME). One of the very first challenges Dan was charged with when he was hired to



Daniel F. Vickers

lead the Podiatry Institute was the receipt and distribution of over 15,000 copies of the first edition of *McGlamry's Textbook of Foot and Ankle Surgery* from the operations center based in E. Dalton's basement! Since that event, he has guided the Podiatry Institute in the publication of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th editions of the textbook, even serving as "author's editor" for

the 4th edition. Mr. Vickers has been responsible for many other publications from the Institute over the last 30 years, including the 31 annual publications of the *Podiatry Institute Update*, 3 editions of the *PI Manual* edited by D. Scot Malay, the *Textbook for Podiatric Medical Assistants*, multiple slide series, educational films, and workbooks.

Dan has guided the Podiatry Institute in one of its primary missions of disseminating post-graduate medical education throughout the profession. He has directed hundreds of post-graduate medical education courses which have included over 300 CME seminar courses held throughout the United States with over 57,000 attendees in the last 30 years. He has guided over 300 in-house Cadaver Surgical Skills courses, literally held every month over the last 30 years; these courses have provided hands-on training in foot and ankle surgery to more than 3,000 podiatric and orthopedic surgeons from the United States, Canada, Australia, Spain, Great Britain, South America, Germany and China. His efforts have also included eight international courses in Germany, Italy, and Canada.

Dan has also been instrumental in the evolution of one of the funda-

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Dan Vickers (from page 71)

mental training courses in podiatric education in the skills and techniques of skeletal fixation. In cooperation with AONA, training courses were held for 20 years from 1993 through 2013. At the end of 2013, the independent organization American Association of Foot and Ankle Osteosynthesis (AAFAO) was created. Dan has served as the Executive Director of this organization under the guidance of its Board of Directors, including Jack Schubert, Brian Carpenter, Mary Crawford, Chuck Gudas, Jim Thomas, and Gage Caudell. During 2013–2017, AAFAO in conjunction with Smith & Nephew provided intense basic and advanced courses on internal and external fixation skills to over 1500 podiatric residents. Beginning in 2018, the AAFAO will expand, having six courses capable of providing advanced skills training to over 700 residents each year.

Mr. Vickers has also worked closely with Dr. Michael McGlamry, the Corporate Liaison for the Podiatry Institute, in fostering a cooperative effort with corporate partners to support the continuing production of podiatric education seminars.

were at a point where our growth had plateaued, the mission was unclear, and we recognized that something was missing in order to allow us to reach our potential. We agreed that a staff executive director was needed. A few months later, Dan

and a continuing education program that changed the type of education podiatric physicians could experience, often by bringing the meetings to regions all over the country.

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**“Dan’s calm demeanor combined with a firmness of purpose has been exactly what was needed to coordinate a group of fully volunteer faculty spread around the country.”—Mahan**

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Vickers came on board as our first full-time Executive Director. There were about 25 faculty members doing three to four meetings per year with an annual budget of \$250,000. Fast forward to today and we have been through four editions of *McGlamry’s Comprehensive Textbook of Foot and Ankle Surgery*, with a faculty of over 120 doing 15-16 meetings per year with about 3,000 attendees annually on a budget of \$2.3 million. Dan has been the glue that has helped a faculty spread across the country function

exactly what was needed to coordinate a group of fully volunteer faculty spread around the country. The meeting calendar is constantly busy but Dan seems to be able to always navigate the numerous tasks at hand in order to ensure that the educational programs are top notch. Dan delivers a personal touch to podiatrists around the country who know him by first name and can count on Institute educational programs being first class.

For 30 years now, Dan has been just as dedicated to the advancement of the profession as each of us. I am happy to see that my friend and colleague Dan Vickers is being recognized for his contributions. Dan is still that glue holding the Institute together and more importantly has become a trusted and valued friend to everyone in the Institute. He is a first class person whose integrity and sense of excellence have represented the profession well. Congratulations, Dan!

**Helen Russell**

It is such an honor to be asked to talk about my colleague and friend, Dan Vickers. I’ve had the pleasure of working with Dan since 1999 and I believe that he is one of the most decent, honest, and hard-working men in the podiatric field. His level of integrity, enthusiasm, devotion, and loyalty to podiatry are unmatched. Not only does Dan possess superior organizational skills, his professional and interpersonal skills are admirable as well.

Dan works tirelessly and consistently to ensure that the Podiatry In-

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## **Dan Vickers, CAE, Executive Director of the Podiatry Institute, has been personally committed to the profession of podiatry for over 30 years.**

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Dan Vickers has been personally committed to the profession of podiatry for over 30 years. His contributions far exceed those listed above. He has tirelessly supported and guided the educational efforts for the Podiatry Institute and the profession of podiatry for many years. Mr. Vickers unquestionably deserves recognition; he has been totally committed in support of our profession and is truly worthy of recognition in the *Podiatry Hall of Fame*.

The following are tributes to Dan from some friends and colleagues:

**Kieran T. Mahan, DPM**

In 1986, the Podiatry Institute held a retreat for our faculty. We

as a team. The Institute would not be anything without the hard work and leadership of E. Dalton McGlamry and John Ruch. Dan’s role enabled both Drs. McGlamry and Ruch to focus on education.

From Dr. McGlamry’s basement to offices on Idlewood Road near Doctors Hospital, to the Institute offices at Northlake to the current offices at DeKalb Medical Center, the Institute has evolved and grown with the profession. Dan has actively supported a thriving surgical skills course program, the residency program of each of the hospitals where we’ve been based, an international medical mission project, the textbooks, the annual seminar textbooks,

Dan Vickers (from page 72)

stitute's faculty, guest speakers, corporate sponsors, and exhibitors have successful meetings. Dan never has an "it's not my job" attitude, and always takes extra steps to make sure that we have everything we exhibitors need for successful meetings. Congratulations Dan, no one deserves this honor more than you!

**Michael C. McGlamry, DPM**

It has been my pleasure to know and work with Mr. Vickers during his entire career at The Podiatry Institute. During that time, he has overseen the growth of the foundation from a "On a card table working out of the founder's basement and study" operation to a very busy million-dollar-a-year operation.

During his tenure with the Podiatry Institute (PI) Dan has worn almost every hat imaginable and done every job with excellence and a smile. He has grown his knowledge base during his time with us, earning his MBA, and has also

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been instrumental in the administration of other associated entities such as the American Academy of Foot and Ankle Osteosynthesis. He has also been active in the Georgia Society of Association Executives, as well as having served on the DeKalb Medical Center Residency committee.

Among his other accomplishments, Dan has been involved with the production of all four editions of *McGlamry's Comprehensive Textbook of Foot and Ankle Surgery*, which is no small feat!

As the CEO of our volunteer organization, Dan works tirelessly with the members and the Board to assure that the PI's Mission is honored but he also constantly looks for new ways that we can serve the podiatry community's educational needs. Being CEO of a volunteer organization is a huge undertaking. As a result, Dan has far more to do personally than most CEOs. His daily schedule includes not only the physical and fiscal operations of the Institute, but also involves encouraging, cajoling, harassing, and motivating the membership to stay active and produce quality educational material.

In his spare time, Dan is a very accomplished nature photographer and produces unbelievable images of our fine feathered friends in his ornithological treks.

Over the 30 years that I have known Mr. Vickers, I have witnessed a man of the utmost character. He is kind, generous and thoughtful, always looking at the

needs of others and serving with the highest integrity. It is my highest honor to submit this tribute of Dan Vickers's service to podiatry over the last 30 years.

**Jack Schuberth, DPM**

I have been asked to write on Dan Vickers' behalf consequent to his election to the PM Hall of Fame. I am honored to do so as he is most deserving. I have known Dan for over 25 years during his uninterrupted tenure as Executive Director of the Podiatry Institute. I have come to work closely with him over the past four years, as he serves as the Executive Director of AAFAO. Dan possesses all of the qualities that anyone would want in an executive director. He is informed, focused, and competent. Yet he has several qualities that stand out... He is honest and transparent, a most welcome but not ubiquitous trait. He is financially prudent in how he spends the organization's money. He is fiercely loyal and embraces a sense of trust. One never has to wonder whether Dan will do the right thing... he always does. PM



**Dr. Ruch** is Director of Medical Education for the Podiatry Institute and a previous inductee into the PM Hall of Fame Award