

**PM Lifetime Achievement Award: Warren Joseph, D.P.M.**

**This year's recipient is an editor, author, and lecturer extraordinaire.**

**By Harry Goldsmith, DPM\***

**Bio: Dr. Goldsmith is Editor of Codingline and the 2004 Recipient of The Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award.**

**Warren S. Joseph received his B.A. in biology from the University of Pennsylvania, and his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from the William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago, Illinois. He completed his residency program in podiatric medicine and surgery in 1984 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Philadelphia. Following his residency program, Warren did a one-year fellowship in infectious diseases at Hahnemann University School of Medicine. He is board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics & Primary Podiatric Medicine.**

**Armed and ready, Warren served as an attending consultant in podiatric infectious disease at the North Philadelphia Health System (St. Joseph and Girard Divisions), and Cooper Hospital/Center City. Currently, he is an attending/consultant at the University of Pennsylvania Health System Presbyterian Medical Center, Section of Infectious Disease/Department of Internal Medicine Temple University Hospital, and Department of Primary Care at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Coatesville, PA.**

**Education and educating have always been a large part of Warren's life. Gifted with an inquiring mind, a desire to teach, a quick wit, "stage presence," and a loose tongue, he set out to do what no one else in our profession has done before him: give lectures in all 50 states...and be invited back.**

**Fortunately, for Warren, he is good at what he does, and is a popular speaker. Warren's trademark dinner lectures frequently involve discussions on diabetic foot infections, methicillin resistant staph aureus, current antibiotic therapy, fungal infections, bacterial infections, and distinguishing mixed infections.**

**But he's not all talk, Warren has had dozens of peer-reviewed articles in publications such as *Drugs, Infections in Surgery, Journal of Foot Surgery, Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery*, "Proceedings of the 85<sup>th</sup> American Society for Microbiology Meeting," *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association, Current Infectious Disease Reports, Drugs & Aging, Clinical Infectious Diseases*, and *Cutis*.**

While I know Warren is proud of his published articles as well as being pleased with the numerous monographs and chapters he has written in *other* people's books, most people feel his crowning achievement, thus far, is his authoritative text, *Handbook of Lower Extremity Infections*, now in its second edition.

What does Warren do for fun? In his spare time, he is the editor of the *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association*, and sits on the editorial boards for *Therapy*, *Podiatry Management Magazine*, and *Podiatry Today Magazine*. But who is this man? For the answer to this, I asked some of Warren's closest friends and acquaintances...

Judy S. Joseph, PA (Wife):

Before some of his friends and colleagues take him to task, I believe it is only fair that I contribute a little background on Warren.

Warren and I met after the end of his residency. It was on a blind date that was set up by our grandmothers. They exchanged photos. Warren got a letter "from your interfering grandmother" that was put into a drawer until he had broken up with the current girlfriend several months later. Both grandmothers denied ever having had anything to do with it. I informed my parents after the first date that I would be marrying him. It just took Warren a little longer to admit the inevitable.

I remember one of Warren's ideas of a hot date on a Saturday night: It began with a phone call from one of the residents at St. Joseph's Hospital telling him that a stable diabetic had come to the ER with a gangrenous toe. Of course, further questioning revealed that the patient had a fever of 102; a sugar >400; and an x-ray that couldn't be evaluated thoroughly due to the gas in the tissues. He arranged for us to meet at the hospital, the surgery started after 9 PM, and I got to take the photographs.

**Warren's Hopes:** That life stays relatively routine, everyone is healthy, and there are no major traumas; he's not too keen on surprises.

**Warren's Fears:** That our boys will move back in with us after they graduate from college (just kidding...sort of).

**Warren's Hobbies:** When something sparks his interest, he researches and reads and explores and shops, and then he remembers all of the information. He can hold an intelligent conversation about so many things, ranging from cigars and pipe tobacco to wine to gourmet foods. He has been a ham radio operator since junior high. He has been a private pilot since just before I met him. He has achieved his instrument rating, multi-engine rating, and recently bought into a multi-owner plane. He'll deny that

it was a mid-life crisis, but he bought a motorcycle a few years ago. When we took our big trip five years ago to the mid-west, he became very interested in Navajo weaving; we just purchased our first rug (wall hanging) after significant research. He decided that we should be educated about eBay, so he is doing his research currently on that.

**Warren Stories:** Warren used to be (and still is) very cautious. He ran away from kindergarten and a school-wide search ensued. As his mother relates the story, she locked him in his room and fed him bread and water every hour, and smacked him on the bottom with a belt for good measure. His family used to call him “Mr. Mumbles,” apparently when he went away to Scholl. This is hard to believe when you hear him give one of his lectures, but he frequently reverts back to that at home. I sometimes feel like I’m going deaf. He was a football hero in high school...until he hurt his finger at a practice, and refused to go back on the field. He participated in track (shot put) through high school and college. He still holds the record for distance at Upper Dublin High School - and never lets me forget it. Yawn.

But I wanted more...

I wanted more, and Warren’s friends and colleagues stepped up to the plate with what I’m sure they thought were helpful comments, recollections, kudos, jealousies...well, you be the judge:

**Harold Glickman, DPM (President, American Podiatric Medical Association):**

Warren has been a leader, educator and friend for over 30 years. As the foremost podiatric specialist in infectious diseases, Warren has been able to educate and elevate the awareness of the podiatric profession to standard and current trends in infectious diseases. Congratulations, Warren.

**Glenn B. Gastwirth, DPM (Executive Director, American Podiatric Medical Association; 2005 Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award winner):**

I am honored to extend my congratulations to Warren Joseph on his selection to the Podiatry Management Hall of Fame. Although still very much in the prime of his professional career, Dr. Joseph has already left an indelible mark on the educational landscape of podiatric medicine.

As one of podiatric medicine’s most prolific scientific writers and lecturers, Warren has distinguished himself as, perhaps, the most popular and sought after educator in our profession. It is virtually impossible to not speak the name Dr. Warren Joseph when asked to identify podiatric

medicine's leading authority on the diagnosis and management of infectious disease of the lower extremity.

His personal and professional commitment to the advancement of podiatric medical education and research goes far beyond the dozens and dozens of yearly scholarly articles and lectures. Dr. Joseph's greatest and most profound contribution has been made as the Editor of the Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association (JAPMA).

During his tenure as Editor, JAPMA has become unquestionably the most highly regarded and influential source of podiatric medical information in the world. Beyond its new look, its super advanced JAPMA Online, and sophisticated electronic manuscript submission and review process, JAPMA has the highest Institute for Scientific Information's (ISI) Impact Factor of any podiatric medical publication. The ISI Impact Factor measures the frequency of which a scientific journal's articles are cited in other scholarly scientific publications. In addition, JAPMA has received more honors, awards and citations of excellence than all other podiatric scientific publications combined.

You have left quite a legacy for a guy who is still going strong. Congratulations my friend and colleague.

David G. Armstrong, DPM, PhD (Professor of Surgery; Chair of Research and Assistant Dean, Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science):

While there is much I can say, I thought that I'd share one particular event that really sums up Dr. Joseph.

Two years ago, Warren was invited to a well-known diabetes meeting in Malvern, England. It was Warren's first visit to this meeting and he was feeling a bit out of sorts. Even though this was the case, he gave a first-rate lecture which was universally commended by the assembled academic gliterati. At the gala dinner, he spotted me and my wife, Tania, at the head table and ambled over (ambled is an apt definition of Dr. Joseph's locomotion strategy-- another is loped-- still another is traipsed). As we were chatting, he noticed that the doctor next to me at the head table, a particularly (shall we say) opinionated orthopedist, was launching into a tirade against "chiropodists." Seizing this as an opportunity for education (as is his natural inclination), Dr. Joseph rapidly began informing this physician about the wide ranging skill set and strong didactic underpinning of the American podiatric physician. When this intervention proved less than successful, Dr. Joseph rapidly moved to plan B. "You, my good man," Dr. Joseph related, now standing approximately 8 to 10 uncomfortable inches from his pupil's nose, "are a first-class ass."

The entire head table (and then the room-- filled with several hundred guests) became silent. This was, I am willing to wager, at least partially

because Dr. Joseph made his proclamation directly into the podium microphone, now squeaking with feedback.

That's Dr. Joseph. Podiatry's Kofi Annan and John Bolton, all rolled into one. I am proud to call him a colleague and friend. We should all be proud to celebrate his induction into this most prestigious collection of ambassadors. Cheers.”

**Barry Block, DPM, JD (Editor, Podiatry Management Magazine and PM News):**

When one thinks of infectious diseases of the foot and ankle, the name Warren Joseph, DPM immediately comes to mind. Dr. Joseph has presented more lectures to more podiatrists on the appropriate use of antibiotics than any lecturer in the history of this profession.

When he's not busy on the lecture circuit, Warren is busy editing the award-winning Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association. As another podiatric editor, I truly appreciate the enormous effort he devotes to this enterprise. Podiatrists are not generally trained to be professional writers. This often obliges a podiatric editor to re-write substantial portions of text.

I salute the savvy readers of Podiatry Management for once again using their collective wisdom in choosing Dr. Joseph for this honor he so rightfully deserves.

**Harvey Lemont, DPM (Director of the Skin Clinic at the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine; Director of the Laboratory of Podiatric Pathology in Philadelphia and the 2000 Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award winner):**

On or about some twenty years ago, as Chairman of the Medicine Department at the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine (now Temple School of Podiatric Medicine), I interviewed a young, personable, and very articulate young practitioner by the name of Warren Joseph. Warren was fresh out of completing a fellowship in infectious disease at Hahnemann Medical School and Hospital. He not only had the rare opportunity to obtain a general infectious disease fellowship, a first for the profession at the time, but studied directly under Jack Lafrock, MD, Department of Infectious Diseases chairman, who was a national authority in infectious disease. I was impressed! After a few minutes of speaking to Warren, I quickly learned that he was going to be a star. As a faculty member, he made our schedule proud, and even was the reason why some students in the past had applied to our institution.

How lucky our department was back then, and how fortunate our profession is now to have Warren as one of its stellar representatives. I am glad to consider Warren, not only a colleague, but a friend for the last twenty years.

**Irv Kanat, DPM (1998 Podiatry Management Lifetime Achievement Award winner):**

**If I were to recount to you all the references to the books, monographs, chapters, presentations, lectures and publications that have marked the career of Warren Joseph, DPM that have benefited this profession throughout the country in such an important and recognizable way, we would indeed have only a limited space for other articles in this issue of Podiatry Management. It is difficult to relate the various hospital appointments, consultant positions, involvement in the field of diabetic, vascular and other wound care investigations and presentations, research projects regarding onychomycosis and bacterial infections, and the many professional society committees and appointments that have distinguished his career.**

**I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Warren. This honor is well deserved.**

**Brian Clemson (Former Director, Sales Force Effectiveness & Planning; Dermik Labs, a division of Sanofi Aventis):**

**Warren Joseph has meant a lot to the leadership team at Dermik. He was very instrumental in the huge success we continue to have with Penlac, and gave all of us over here great insight into the profession of podiatry. Warren has always represented podiatry with the utmost integrity and class, and has made it his duty to ensure that podiatrists are given their due in the medical community. He is a great friend, passionate presenter, and will always be respected by everyone here at Dermik.**

**Gary Dockery, DPM (Founder & Director of Scientific Affairs Northwest Podiatric Foundation for Education & Research, USA):**

**A long time ago, I interviewed Warren, and he told me several interesting things about himself:**

**“I don't like to wear a tie. In fact, I almost never wear a tie because I don't know how to tie that little knot.”**

**“I don't like to comb my hair. In fact, I almost never comb my hair because it just gets messed up again.”**

**“I spend hours memorizing big words, especially the names of bacteria, fungi and drugs, so that I can spit out these terms easily, making me sound much smarter than I really am.”**

**“I like to talk very loudly, which adds a sense of authority, and when combined with big words, really helps my presentation.”**

**“Finally, I carry around several infectious disease articles that would put an insomniac to sleep, and when I am questioned, I simply pull out these articles and say anything I want.”**

**Congratulations, Warren.**

**Gerit Mulder, DPM, MS (Associate Professor of Surgery and Orthopedics; Director Wound Treatment and Research Center Department of Surgery, Division of Trauma, University of California San Diego):**

**I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Joseph throughout the years in the capacity of a lecturer, panelist, and advisory board member. While the entire community is aware of his outstanding achievements in the areas of infectious disease, very few people know of how magnificent he looked wearing make-up at an all-day filming event at the former "Inside Edition" studios in New York a few years ago. Warren's great comment of the day was, "If only my wife could see me like this."**

**What Dr. Joseph has contributed will be remembered as another great step in placing podiatry in the international forefront.**

**H.F. “Bunny” Brown, III, DPM (Past President, American Podiatric Medical Association):**

**Warren Joseph, DPM, in my humble opinion, is without a doubt the most knowledgeable individual when it comes to antibiotics. Warren also has a special ability while lecturing on a subject - he makes you feel very comfortable with your response to his question, and then in his very strong, intimidating voice, informs you that you don't know what you are talking about. He tells you that your answer was 180 degrees from being correct. He then proceeds to inform you of the correct answer, throws in kudos (so you don't feel too stupid), pulls out some articles he had on the podium, and proceeds to baffle you with his knowledge, and use of really big words. One cannot attend any lecture that Warren Joseph gives without walking out a better informed, more intelligent practitioner.**

**Mark Kosinski, DPM (Professor in the Department of Medicine at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine and member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and American Society for Microbiology):**

**I first met Warren back in 1982, during my first of two interviews for St. Joseph's Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was one of a team of interviewers (paired with an attending who I think was the program director). During the interview (actually it was during the question, “What**

do you do in your spare time?"), we found that we were both ham radio operators. Needless to say, we bonded, having the same hobby. This I believe formed the basis for our friendship. The ham radio fraternity is small, but fiercely loyal, and I credit Warren for my getting the second interview, and ultimately the program.

As our residency progressed, we found that we were like-minded in our ethics, patient care, and general professional interests. During our residency, we both became friendly with the then - chief of infectious diseases, Jack LeFrock, MD. Jack was an iconoclast who was very supportive of podiatry and realized the importance of infectious disease training for our field.

One afternoon, a group of us were sitting eating lunch in the hospital cafeteria with Jack, as we had done many times before. Jack asked Warren his plans after residency. I believe Warren had thought about private practice, and wanted to open a small office, maybe in his apartment for starters (i.e., he had no plans). It was then that Jack asked Warren if he had ever thought about doing an infectious disease (ID) fellowship with him at Hahnemann - the first and only one of its kind. Jack had the power to do this, being the chief of ID at Hahn (and being the iconoclast he was, would like nothing better).

Warren expressed an interest since it would mean memorizing big words, and possibly not wearing a tie, but probably didn't really expect anything to come of it. To everyone's astonishment, the end of the year came, and Jack kept his promise. Of course, the rest is history.

In the beginning of his fellowship, Warren spent long days and weeks gram-staining slides and growing stuff in the micro lab, paying his dues from the ground up. Throughout his residency and fellowship, Warren was admired by each and every one of us for being a man of honesty, principle and character.

The intervening years between 1985 and today seem like weeks (they've gone by so fast), but what remains constant is that Warren has never missed an opportunity to help me, to open doors for me, to bring to me opportunities, and to support me at every turn. It has gotten back to me that he has said many kind things on my behalf, things he probably doesn't know I'm aware of. For these and other reasons, I am forever in his debt.

Enough professional praise! What of the "other" side of WSJ? Today, Warren is, in case you were unaware, a brown belt, and soon to be black belt in Kempo karate (and as he'll gleefully tell you, the most deadly form of karate); he's a daredevil motorcyclist, flies a plane, and, yes....still and always... an active ham radio operator.

Thank you for everything, and congratulations, Warren.

**Nick Cutrone (Marketing Director, Glaucoma Disease Management Team, Pfizer, Inc.):**

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Warren Joseph in the past while I served as national product manager of Lamisil for Novartis. Dr. Joseph is a leading opinion leader in podiatric medicine, and a highly respected advisor to the pharmaceutical industry. As systemic therapies such as Lamisil were made available to treat toenail onychomycosis in the '90's, Dr. Joseph was a leading proponent for appropriate usage of these agents, as well as traditional debridement techniques. Rather than criticize the pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Joseph acknowledged the value that the industry provided to both academic and community-based podiatrists. He treated product managers, medical directors, and sales representatives in a collaborative manner.

Dr. Joseph was a staunch advocate for the podiatric profession and continually lobbied to ensure that podiatric physicians were treated with as much respect as infectious disease experts and dermatologists. He also believes in the importance of quality clinical trials and publications. As Editor of JAPMA, he provides important leadership to guide the proper peer-review process on all submissions of manuscripts. He was the first podiatrist asked by the renowned nail dermatologist Dr. Richard Scher, to contribute a chapter in his famous textbook on the management of nail disorders. Despite his tremendous workload, Dr. Joseph always speaks fondly of his wife and children, and does his best to balance a busy academic and travel schedule with quality time at home.

In summary, Dr. Joseph is a great family man, great podiatric physician, and a trusted friend. It is my pleasure to have worked with him and congratulate him on his induction into the Podiatry Management Hall of Fame.

**Bryan C. Markinson, DPM (Chief of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, NY):**

When I was first informed of the selection of Warren Joseph for PM Magazine's lifetime achievement award, my initial reaction was, "isn't such tribute typically bestowed on those more close to retirement, or at least someone who wears a tie?" It is undeniable that Warren's wealth of experience, talent, charisma, and presence on the national stage places him among the greatest achievers in our professional history. In my mind, Warren's work stands out singularly as the major engine that fueled the explosive growth of podiatric medicine since the early 90's.

My earliest recollection of just how important and talented Warren is was in the early '90's when he and I, independent of one another, showed up at the First Symposia on Medical Mycology, chaired by Bonnie Elewski, MD, who was then a dermatologist at the University Hospitals of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University, and is now the immediate past President of the American Academy of Dermatology. Warren's interest, of course, was in infectious disease, and I was in the middle of a fellowship in dermatopathology.

Although podiatrists were welcomed at the meeting, Warren and I were the only podiatrists at the meeting which was attended by at least 200 nationally and internationally prominent dermatologists, mycologists, laboratory scientists and others. By lunchtime, Warren was unassumingly in Dr. Elewski's face, telling her about our Journal, our training, and whatever could make an indelible mark on her about podiatric medicine. Warren spoke magically and unselfishly, and was professional, well-received, and very welcomed.

The Second Annual Symposia on Medical Mycology had podiatrists as featured speakers. By the time the new oral antifungal agents were brought to market, podiatric medicine was side-by-side with dermatology at major medical meetings, in research efforts, in product development, and most notably, podiatrists were thought of for the first time as "key opinion leaders" by the medical information industry. Do not underestimate how Warren's professional endeavors and conduct were crucial to these developments. Most recently, of course, Warren is a pivotal contributor to the formulation of the Diabetic Foot Infection Guidelines of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

I just have to add that he is a wonderful lecturer, animated, and always ready with the most current citations in the literature. Personally, he is a special friend in whose debt I stand for much of my own professional growth. He is truly working for the betterment of the profession of podiatric medicine day in and day out. He has done more already than most could in two lifetimes. He is indubitably deserving of this honor. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him.

Jeffrey M. Robbins, DPM (Director Podiatry Service, Veterans Administration Central Office):

There are a handful of podiatrists who you can truly say are stars; Warren Joseph is one of them. His passion for what he does is infectious (sorry, but it is). He is an engaging speaker although he does whine a bit, but he's pretty big so who's going to call him on it? We have been friends for many years, and have served together on many committees, and lectured together many times. "How many times can we lecture to podiatrists about onychomycosis?" he asks me time and time again. Since he is still lecturing to podiatrists about onychomycosis, I also presume he is going for the record.

Seriously, Warren has done more to bring the profession out of the technical era and into the intellectual era than almost anyone else. And he has used his bully pulpit to do it! How can we forget his two favorite phrases "Debridement is not treatment" and "Be a physician, not a technician." He's so right. Congratulations, Warren.

Final Thoughts

**Before closing, I think it only reasonable that I get a chance to add my comments. At the age of 50, Warren is the youngest recipient of this prestigious award. While Warren's contributions to the profession have been extraordinary, he's only just begun. We expect to see many more great things from Warren in the future. I know he won't disappoint. On a personal note, Warren is a good friend, respected colleague, and tremendous former athlete (You do know that he holds the record for shot put distance at Upper Dublin High School?) . Congratulations on being selected by your peers to this very high honor.**

**\*Harry Goldsmith, DPM**

**Former Youngest Podiatry Management Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient**