

Dear



Alumni  
and  
Friends,

Please visit the  
Residency Development  
website at

[www.ocpm.edu/residency](http://www.ocpm.edu/residency)

Recently, the American Podiatric Medical Association conducted a study performed by the Center for Health Workforce Studies in the School of Public Health at the University at Albany in Rensselaer, New York. The study concluded an increased demand of 16% for podiatric services in the near future. The increased demand for podiatrists arises from an ever-increasing number of diabetics, a tendency towards obesity in the general population and the aging of the population.

According to the Podiatric Medicine Workforce Study, “Without a dramatic increase in the production of new podiatric physicians in the next several decades, there will be a significant and growing shortfall in the ability of podiatric physicians to provide their historical share of foot-related health services.” In addition, the study notes “A serious shortage of DPMs could lead some referring physicians to look for other professionals to perform some of the tasks that DPMs would otherwise provide.” *Please note that the Podiatric Medicine Workforce Study can be found in its entirety at [www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org).*

In order to meet this profession-based need of increasing the number of podiatric physicians, podiatric medicine colleges need to note the recommendation of the study by increasing enrollment. Based on this recommendation and the current status of residency programs available to podiatric students, there is simply not enough residency programs for podiatry students across the nation.

I am writing you ask your help in developing new residency programs and/or possibly expanding the number of positions available if you are currently associated with an existing residency program.

Postgraduate education has changed dramatically over the past 20 to 30 years, evolving gradually from one-year residency programs to a three-year model of residency training. This evolution also saw the movement from an insufficient number of residency programs for graduating classes to sufficient numbers to accommodate all members of the graduating classes nationwide.

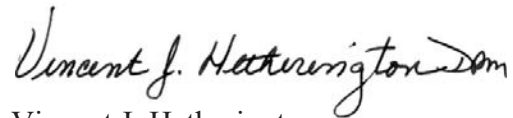
This evolution would not have been possible without a vision and desire for advancement of the many individuals in the profession. Those of us who graduated in the late 1970’s can appreciate the gifts and skills given to us by dedicated practitioners with little or no officially recognized

postgraduate training. Without their effort, the profession would not have advanced to the degree we enjoy today. This may no longer be the case for the profession without your effort now. The podiatric medicine students need the help only you can provide by developing new residency opportunities.

The Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine (OCPM) is willing to help support your efforts by serving as a resource and providing advice for the development of new residency positions. Please visit our new residency website [www.ocpm.edu/residency](http://www.ocpm.edu/residency) where you will find information helpful to this challenge. You can also contact the Office of Graduate Placement directly at 216-707-8068 and speak with Jennifer Kenney. In addition, please feel free to contact me directly at 216-707-8012 if you have any questions.

It is time for all those in the field of podiatric medicine to work together for the sake of the profession to develop quality postgraduate training positions for the future enhancement of the profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vincent J. Hetherington".

Vincent J. Hetherington  
*Vice President & Dean of Academic Affairs, OCPM*