



MPMS News

Massachusetts Podiatric Medical Society

July 2010

Reservations for the MPMS Community Service Foundation Summer Social, Fundraising Auction and Casino Night Still Available

Just a few days left to register for the first annual MPMS Community Service Foundation (CSF) Summer Social and Casino Night. Dr. Peter Paicos, Jr. will be hosting our event at his home in Byfield, MA from 5:30 to 10:30 pm. MPMS members and their guests and board members of both MPMS and CSF will be attending along with representatives for the two sponsoring companies, BioMedix, Inc. and The Tetra Corporation. Net proceeds will benefit the new MPMS Community Service Foundation. Space is limited to the first 40 guests, so don't be left out of this special, exciting evening. Send in the registration form that was mailed and emailed to you or download it from www.massdpms.org.

The evening will start with an open bar and appetizers followed by the barbecue buffet with all the fixings. Entertainment for the night will include a live auction with some pretty spectacular prizes, including two getaway weekends at a Cape Cod vacation home and a one night getaway with four passes to the CoCo Key Indoor Water Park at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore in Danvers, MA, and the chance to test your luck at the gambling tables.

We've arranged for a special rate of \$109 at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore, about 10 minutes from Dr. Paicos' home, for Saturday night for those who would prefer a short drive at the end of the night.



\$25 per person includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, barbecue buffet and casino entertainment.

APMA Region One/Podiatry Institute Conference

Friday, October 22 to Sunday, October 24

Save the date and plan to join us for the 2010 APMA Region One/Podiatry Institute Conference that will be held Friday, October 22 to Sunday, October 24 at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore, in Danvers, MA (formerly the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort). We are pleased to partner again with the Podiatry Institute who will bring several of their nationally known surgical speakers to New England. We will also be offering the PICA risk management 10% discount program to PICA policyholders.

Featured highlights of our 2010 conference include:

- 20 Continuing Education Contact Hours
- Friday morning hands-on surgical workshops, AFO and hands-on casting workshop, wound care and ancillary services workshop and wound care/Dermagraft workshop
- Friday morning and evening PAD workshops
- Podiatric medicine and surgical lectures Friday afternoon and all day Saturday - many presented by leading national speakers from the Podiatry Institute
- CPR refresher course Friday night
- Assistant program all day Friday including breakout clinical sessions for podiatric medical assistants on AFO and orthotics casting, DME and shoe fitting.
- PICA risk management presentation offering PICA policyholders a 10% discount off their malpractice insurance -- a savings of \$800-\$900 for most.
- Sunday morning biomechanics/orthotics workshop
- Sunday morning National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) Massachusetts Coalition presentation and podiatric medicine potpourri
- Registration fees include lunch Friday and Saturday for doctors and Friday for assistants
- New England's largest exhibition of podiatric products and services
- Crowne Plaza features the CoCo Key indoor water theme park -- great fun for a family weekend



Drs. Scott Horwitz, left, and Regis Boudreau at last year's conference

Full brochure including educational objectives and registration form will be mailing and posted on the MPMS and Podiatry Institute websites in early August.

Benefits of a PAD Detection Program

Based on interviews with Dr. Scott Aronson, a podiatric physician and surgeon, and his medical assistant Cindy Pezza.

"In my office, we have been using the PADnet+ vascular testing system and working collaboratively with a vascular medicine specialist for a little over a year. We have been very pleased with the ease of use and with the results of improved patient care. On more than one occasion, we have saved a patient's limb with the use of vascular testing. Many times, patients present to us with aches and pains, too often explained to them by their primary physicians as 'a part of the aging process' or 'arthritis'. But what if that's not the case? What if common symptoms such as aching in the back of the legs upon activity, or cramping that often disturbs sleep are preliminary evidence of a more serious vascular condition? Because of this concern, I often use non-invasive vascular testing when clearing a patient for surgery—we perform PADnet+ exams as part of our medical clearance protocol for patients 60 years of age and over who complain of these types of symptoms. We use the PADnet+ as a diagnostic measure, not just as a screening tool," said Scott Aronson, DPM.

Early detection of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) can be achieved by connecting experts to one another. Products that promote a collaborative care model help physicians to accomplish this. Using a vascular testing system in a podiatry office allows podiatric physicians to lead patients to a more definitive conclusion through effective collaboration with a vascular specialist. "It is with confidence that I am able to offer this service to patients in the convenience of my office, where we are listening to and understanding their concerns. The fact that PAD exam interpretations come from a vascular care expert is very reassuring. It improves patient satisfaction," said Dr. Aronson. Physician collaboration has the potential to increase referrals and strengthen relationships. "Vascular testing is good medicine for our patients with symptoms of PAD, and has provided a new revenue stream for my practice—it's a win-win," Dr. Aronson added.

"I sometimes wonder why more podiatrists in Massachusetts don't offer this vascular testing service to their patients and I think that most of their reluctance has to do with the common misconception that they don't have the time to spend integrating the testing procedure into their practice. In fact, my primary role is to decide which patients should be tested and then review results to determine if follow up care with a vascular specialist is needed—my podiatric medical assistant does the rest," stated Dr. Aronson.

"As the podiatric medical assistant for Dr. Aronson, I am the technologist who performs our patient vascular testing exams," said Cindy Pezza. Before the doctor sees patients, they may ask what a vascular exam entails. Medical Assistants can begin the conversation by explaining the ease of the exam and the benefits of completing a non-invasive baseline study. While the podiatric physician is performing palliative care, patients can complete an eight-question survey about their symptoms and continue to speak with the medical assistant. Ms. Pezza added, "There is no convincing involved. These patients are aware of their symptoms and they want to have the exam as soon as possible. Our patients with PAD symptoms are thankful that we take the time to address their concerns and our practice and reputation have clearly benefited from the vascular testing services we are offering," said Ms. Pezza.

"Upon acquiring the PADnet+ system, a certified BioMedix trainer (a specially-trained BioMedix Clinical Specialist) traveled to our office to instruct me in the proper utilization of the PADnet+ vascular testing system. That day, we scheduled several patients who qualified for the exam. To qualify, patients must fill out a simple survey, confirming one or more of the eight common symptoms of PAD. The trainer reviewed each exam to assure my comprehension and the patient's comfort and understanding of the test. The trainer further educated me on the importance of recognizing the symptoms of PAD, as well as how to perform the exam with confidence. We were very pleased with the ease of use and effectiveness of the BioMedix PADnet+ tester certification process. I completed my online certification exam and have been aiding in the patient screening process, performing exams, submitting for interpretation and collecting results ever since," said Ms. Pezza.

Dr. Scott Aronson is a podiatric physician and surgeon who has been practicing for 13 years and is president elect of the MPMS. Cindy Pezza, PMAC, is a certified podiatric medical assistant who has been working with Dr. Aronson for 8 years. For more information on the technologies described above, please contact BioMedix Vascular Solutions, Inc. at 877-854-0014 or info@BioMedix.com.

2010 MPMS Election Results

Thank you to the approximately 120 MPMS members who voted for our Board officers and trustees and delegates to the 2011 APMA House of Delegates in the 2010 election.

Congratulations to the following officers and trustees and delegates to the APMA 2011 House of Delegates, and thank you for your willingness to serve. Special thanks for their service to Dr. Steve Pidgeon and Dr. Greg Catalano, who are retiring from the board this year, and a special welcome to Dr. Robert Greene and Dr. Harry Schneider who are new to the board this year.

Here are the results.

Board Officers

President - Alfred J. Phillips, DPM
President Elect - Scott Aronson, DPM

1st Vice President - Jim DiResta, DPM, MPH

2nd Vice President - Susan Walsh, DPM

Treasurer - Richard Eisner, DPM

Secretary - Teresa Burtoft, DPM

Donald W. Adams, Immediate Past President

Trustees

Louis DeCaro DPM

Dominick Garibaldi, DPM

Robert Greene, DPM

Robert J. O'Leary, DPM

Barry Rosenblum, DPM

Harry P. Schneider, DPM

Thomas Vorderer, DPM

2011 APMA House of Delegates

Peter Paicos, Jr., DPM

Leonard F. Pinto, Jr., DPM