



APMA Update

Holly Spohn-Gross, DPM, Trustee



Advocacy

2025 Advocacy Agenda

- **Lead efforts to advance parity and modernize scope of practice**
 - Ensure podiatrists are recognized and permitted to practice to the full extent of their education and training in all laws and regulations.
- **Ensure fair reimbursement & financial security**
 - Ensure fair and sustainable payment rates for services provided by podiatrists.
- **Ensure continuity for a strong podiatry workforce**
 - Lead efforts for policy and funding for educational programs to recruit, retain, and grow the podiatric workforce.
- **Public promotion of podiatry**
 - Educate policymakers and the public on the role of podiatrists in preventing and managing chronic conditions.

Advocacy in Action: Lead efforts to advance parity and modernize scope of practice

- **Successfully** fought against **Optum's** misclassification of Doctors of Podiatric Medicine.
- Congress **passed** a **DEA MATE Act Fix** to ensure podiatry organizations are accepted providers of required opioid education!



Advocacy in Action: **Ensure fair reimbursement & financial security**

APMA is working with AMA and the entire House of Medicine:



Participated in the
**AMA National
Advocacy
Conference.**



Signed on to
joint letters to
Congress with
**90+ health-care
societies.**



Advocated with
**75+ medical
specialty societies**
for payment fixes in the
One Big Beautiful Bill.

Result: Congress passed The One Big Beautiful Bill in early July, **securing a 2.5-percent Medicare physician payment increase for 2026.**

APMA continues to advocate for a permanent solution.

Advocacy in Action: **Ensure fair reimbursement & financial security**

- **Fighting to preserve access to podiatrists in Medicaid** following the passage of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act and cuts to Medicaid.
- **Endorsed** the Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (HR 3514/S 1816). This bill streamlines the Medicare Advantage plans' time-consuming prior authorization processes.
- **Engaged with Aetna** regarding downcoding, orthotics and prior authorization.
- **Partnered with national orthopedic societies** to oppose Cigna's new 50 Modifier policy.
- **Opposed** Cigna's Downcoding policy.
- SALT Deduction **Preserved** in The One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Advocacy in Action: Ensure continuity for a strong podiatry workforce

- **Opposed student loan proposals** in The One Big Beautiful Bill
 - Partnered with AACPM and APMSA on a grassroots campaign opposing harmful student loan proposals
 - Signed joint letters with over 100 health-care and medical organizations urging Congress to protect student loan access
 - Proposed alternative policies to key Senate leaders with AACPM and the Association of American Medical Colleges
- **Promoting an eAdvocacy campaign** for *Resident Education Deferred Interest Act (REDI) Act*
- **Continue to collaborate** with other health professionals to address the student debt crisis

Advocacy in Action: Public promotion of podiatry

- APMA staff is reintroducing APMA to Congressional offices and rebuilding champions. Staff have conducted over 30 bipartisan meetings on the Hill since July
- Meeting with Members of Congress on key committees.
- Building relationships with Members of Congress who have podiatric schools in their districts.
- Building relationships with the GOP Doc Caucus and Dem Doc Caucus members
- On Nov. 6, during Diabetic Awareness Month, APMA is planning a Congressional briefing on the role of podiatry and preserving limbs. APMA is also planning a mini-Hill Day for BOT and ELP members



Advocacy in Action: Public promotion of podiatry



**Take
Action!**

Current Campaigns

Tell Congress to Prioritize Patients, Not Paperwork!

APMA needs all podiatric physicians to urge their members of Congress to cosponsor S. 1816/H.R. 3514, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act!

Write

Contact your Members of Congress to Cosponsor the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act Today!

Help Protect Patient Access to Care by Supporting This Critical Legislation

Write

Urge your Member of Congress to Pass Legislation Expanding VA CPE Eligibility for VA Podiatrists

Write

Urge your Members of Congress to Pass Legislation Reducing Podiatric School Debt Burden

APMA needs your help to call on Congress to pass the bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2028/S. 942, the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act today!

Write

Political Advocacy

Key APMA Staff PAC Activities

- Lunch with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), House Minority Leader
- Breakfast with Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Chair, House Energy & Commerce
- Reception with Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Committee
- Coffee with Rep. John Joyce, MD (R-PA), Co-Chair, GOP Doc Caucus; House Energy & Commerce Committee Member
- Coffee with Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL), House Energy & Commerce Committee Member
- Coffee with Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Senate Finance Committee Member
- Hosted Fundraiser for Diana DeGette (D-CO), Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee, House Energy & Commerce; Co-Chair Diabetes Congressional Caucus
- Reception with Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Co-Chair, Diabetes Congressional Caucus; House Ways & Means Committee Member
- Dinner with Neal Dunn, MD, (R-FL), Vice-Chair, House Energy & Commerce Committee



Meghan McClelland and Chad Appel with
Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)



Meghan McClelland and Chad Appel with
Rep. John Joyce, MD (R-PA)

Political Advocacy

APMA Member PAC Activities



Steve Merckx, DPM with
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)



Seth Rubenstein, DPM and **Man Cho, DPM**
with Rep. James Walkinshaw (D-VA)



Holly Spohn-Gross, DPM with
Rep. Peter Aguilar (D-CA)



Brad Jimerson, DPM with
Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA)

Support Legislators who Support Podiatry!



PURPOSE: The American Podiatric Medical Association Political Action Committee's purpose is to raise and disburse funds to candidates for Federal office that support the legislative priorities and goals of the podiatric medical profession. IMPORTANT: These are suggested amounts. You may contribute or not contribute without concern of being favored or disadvantaged. Occupation/Employer information is required for aggregate annual contributions of more than \$200.00 by the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal election law does not permit corporate contributions to be used for donations to candidates for federal office. Political contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes.

Save the Date!

**> 2026 APMA
LEGISLATIVE
CONFERENCE**

March 16–17, 2026
Washington, DC

Want to learn more? Email advocacy@apma.org.

apma > | Advocacy





Community

2025 Campaign Update

New Members!
156 confirmed
across multiple
states, including 4
in Ohio!

Experience the Value of Membership

- ▶ APMA's peerless **advocacy**, in the halls of Congress, in payer offices, and in your own hospital
- ▶ Exclusive **support** for your career and practice: Find a Podiatrist, our online Career Center, the Coding Resource Center, and much more
- ▶ An empowered **community** that advances the profession, at the state and national levels
- ▶ **Education**—online and in person—that includes something for every podiatrist

www.apma.org/join

Resources

APMA recognizes that different members need different support, depending on their practice setting, career stage, and more. We're here with resources designed with members in mind.

We Are APMA.

January 6, 2025

Dear Dr. Smith,

It's a new day at APMA. We have a new CEO. A renewed commitment to customer service. A fresh approach to listening, building consensus, and collaborating on behalf of our members.

Join now and you won't pay again until MAY OF 2026!

We are apma.

Join us and experience the value of membership.

Branding a Profession

- **Profession-wide campaign to include consensus on a lexicon and messaging, and outreach to prospective students, the consumer public, and other health-care professionals**
- **Contingent upon support from multiple organizations**
- **APMA has committed \$2.5 million**



A United Front

A podiatrist wearing glasses and a white coat is examining a patient's foot. The background is a deep blue with a faint X-ray of a human foot and ankle overlaid. The text is in a white, serif font.

It's 33 joints, 26 bones,
over 100 muscles,
tendons, and
ligaments—

***carrying the weight
of your world.***

Discover how podiatry makes an impact that lasts a lifetime.

[CampaignURL.com](#)

What We're Doing Now

- **Implementing a pilot program to simplify membership structure**
- **Active member recruitment campaign for 2025–26**
- **Onboarding and retention**
- **Segmented communications for better engagement**

What You Can Do



Follow

Follow us on social media platforms

Volunteer

Volunteer to participate in committees at the state and national level

Recruit

Encourage non-member peers to consider the value of membership



Education



THE NATIONAL IN NASHVILLE?

THE
NATIONAL

NASHVILLE, TN • AUGUST 6-9, 2026

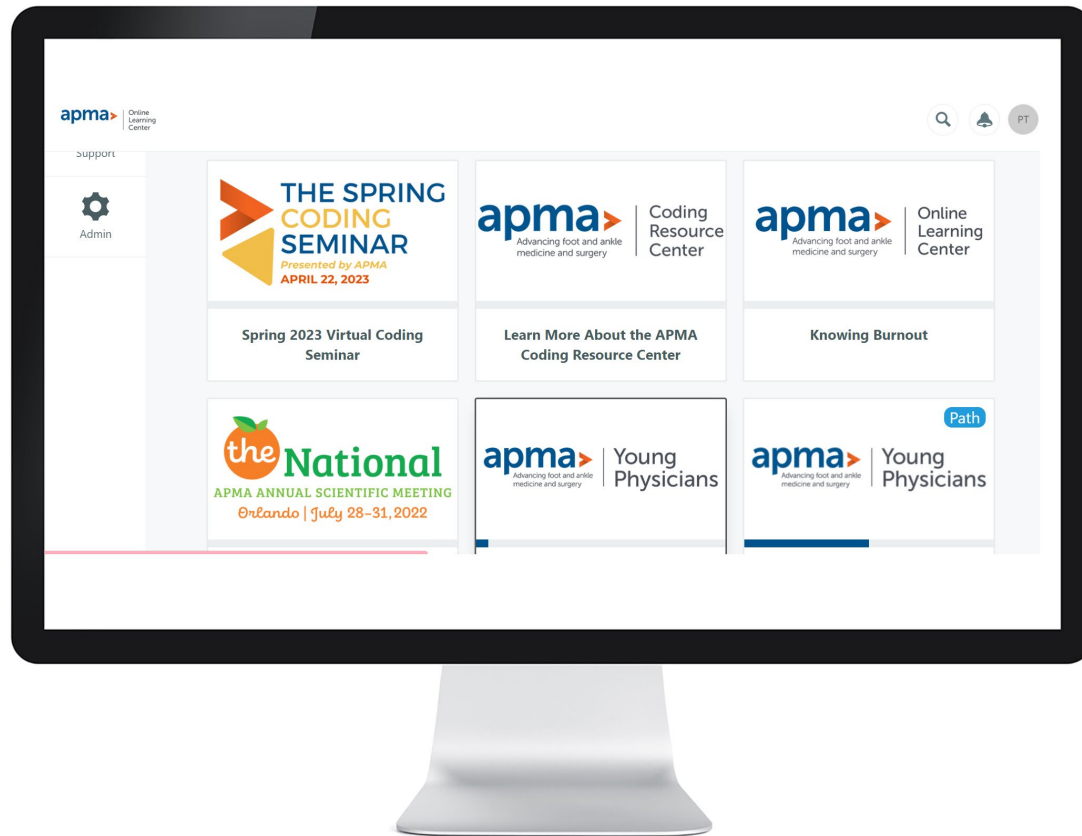
APMA ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTER

THAT'S MUSIC TO OUR EARS.

REGISTER NOW AT WWW.APMA.ORG/THENATIONAL

APMA Online Learning Center



- On-demand learning and live events
- The convenience of learning from anywhere
- More than 40 CECH

www.apma.org/onlinelearningcenter

What We're Doing Now

- Exploring partnerships to enhance and expand our educational offerings
- Identifying opportunities to engage residents and residency directors
- New task force to evaluate and reimagine APMA's educational offerings



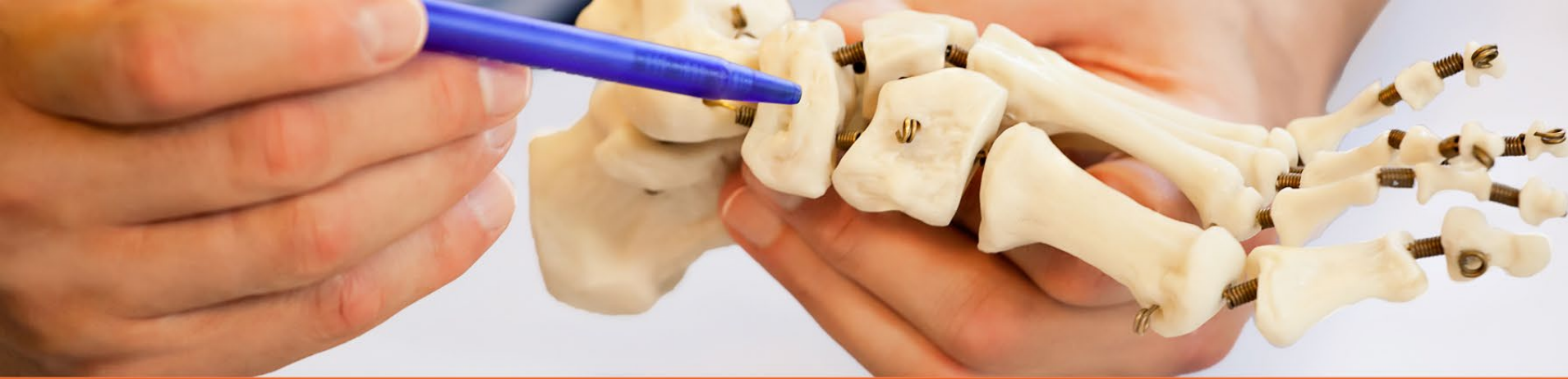
Research

What We're Doing Now

- **Planning research to support state and national advocacy endeavors**
- **Exploring enhancements to the Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association (JAPMA)**
- **Our compensation study had more than 1,200 responses; a complete report is coming to members in December!**

What You Can Do

- **Participate in research and foster research among young physicians and students**
- **Submit research for publication in JAPMA**



apma➤

Advancing foot and ankle
medicine and surgery

Thank you!

Hspohn-gross@apma.org