

Dr. Blank Honored with OPMA Champion of Podiatry Award



(Columbus, OH- Bruce G. Blank, DPM was honored by the Ohio Podiatric Medical Association with the OPMA Champion of Podiatry Award during the 2009 Ohio Podiatric Medical Association House of Delegates (HOD) Meeting held recently in Columbus. This prestigious award is given very infrequently and only to those who exemplify dedicated service to the advancement of the OPMA's mission and vision for podiatry.

Dr. Blank, a past president of the OPMA, also serves as a Delegate from Ohio to the American Podiatric Medical Association House of Delegates. He is a member of the OPMA Board of Trustees, is the current Private Insurance Advisory Committee Representative from Ohio to the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) and is a member of APMA's Health Systems Committee. Additionally, Dr. Blank is State Advocacy Representative from Ohio to the APMA. He has also been a key member of the OPMA Insurance Committee.

Since beginning his practice of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in 1989, Blank has given his time and expertise tirelessly to assist the Ohio Podiatric Medical Association in its endeavors on behalf of all podiatric physicians and the patients they serve. He first became active in the Eastern academy of the OPMA and served as one of its delegates to the annual OPMA House of Delegates. Later, he served as president of the Eastern Academy, which represents podiatrists in Eastern Ohio from Youngstown to Marietta.

In 1996, he was a member of the OPMA Ankle Task Force which helped clarify the scope of practice of podiatric medicine and surgery to include conservative as well as surgical care of the ankle.

"I am very thankful to have received this wonderful award. I know the other three Ohio Doctors of Podiatric Medicine who have been presented with the award over the last 20 years and am very aware of their accomplishments. I am both proud and humbled to have been included in this group" said Blank. He also went on to say, "It is wonderful to be recognized by my peers for work which I love to do and believe is a responsibility as a member of my profession."

After serving as President of the OPMA, Dr. Blank became the 2006 recipient of the Dr. Thomas J. Meyer Award for Dedicated Service and Outstanding Leadership to the OPMA. In 2005, he was honored as Alumnus of the Year by his Alma Mater, the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. During his speech to the 2005 graduating class, he discussed the important attributes of being a member

of the podiatric profession, including service to one's community. "Being a member of one's professional association allows one to be more effective in advocating for patients and public health" stated Blank.

In 2006, Dr. Blank was named as one of "America's 175 Most Influential Podiatrists" by *Podiatry Management Magazine* in a special issue published every five years,

In addition to his work with OPMA, Dr Blank has been a proponent for his patients and for the profession of podiatric medicine and surgery in his local community. He and his wife, Diane, have hosted and sponsored the Annual Halloween Candy Exchange Party for Kids with Diabetes since 1999. He was interviewed on the topic of "Diabetic Foot Conditions and Treatment, and the Role of the Podiatrist" for the Comcast Cable TV Series: *Diabetes and You*.

Dr. Blank is a Past Council President of the Upper Ohio River Valley Chapter of the American Diabetes Association. He was also Podiatry Subsection Chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Ohio Valley Medical Center and served as a Faculty member in reconstructive foot and ankle surgery for the Forum Health Western Reserve Care System Residency Program.

Dr. Blank is Board Certified in Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and is also Board Certified in Foot and Ankle Orthopedics by the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine. He has hospital privileges at EORH, OVMC and Wheeling Hospital. He is the President of Achilles Foot & Ankle Surgery, PC with offices in MF, St. C and Wheeling.

The Ohio Podiatric Medical Association (OPMA) is dedicated to serving and protecting the public's foot health and protecting, promoting and advancing the professional discipline and practice of podiatric medicine and surgery through regulatory and legislative channels in Ohio. By providing quality medical and surgical care, members of the OPMA keep Ohio's citizens independent, ambulatory and walking to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The OPMA was founded in 1915. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, the OPMA represents over 550 licensed and resident podiatric physicians and surgeons. The OPMA is the Ohio state component of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) www.APMA.org in Bethesda, MD.