

Dr. Blank inducted as one of 1st 33 DPMs physician members of Society for Vascular Surgery

(Martins Ferry, OH) On June 8, 2012, The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) inducted the first 33 Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) (podiatrists) as physician members of the prestigious international association. DPMs are in the same membership category as other physicians who are not vascular surgeons such as cardiologists.

The recognition of DPMs in the physician category of SVS speaks to the outstanding relationship APMA and SVS have built together and underscores podiatrists' education, training and experience.

Local Podiatric Physician and Surgeon and active member of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), Dr. Bruce G. Blank was honored to be one of these initial inductees.

The acceptance of Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs) as physician members of the SVS has been described as a "landmark achievement and is one of a number of collaborative efforts between APMA and SVS..." According to Blank, "the APMA and SVS have already jointly published an issue of our respective professional journals entitled *Strategies to Prevent and Heal Diabetic Foot Ulcers: Building a Partnership for Amputation Prevention...*" Also planned is the joint development of diabetic foot practice guidelines, and professional education and further research collaboration.

"DPMs relieve pain and deformity every day allowing patients to return to walking and running. Our treatment helps patients live healthier, longer, and more productive lives. Specifically, one of the most important contributions we make is saving limbs of diabetic patients and those with peripheral arterial disease. Being a part of the collaboration between The American Podiatric Medical Association and The Society for Vascular Surgery is a real plus in the battle to save limbs and lives" said Dr. Blank.

"I hope that more podiatric foot and ankle surgeons become members of both organizations so we can continue to learn from each other to further improve our limb salvage rates and life saving efforts" said Blank.

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. More information concerning diabetes mellitus and peripheral arterial disease can be found at www.Achillesfootandanklesurgery.com.

