



Member Spotlight: Jessica Nowak, DPM



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Where is your residency program?

UPMC Podiatry Residency, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

What is something new you would like to see ASPS develop or offer to its members?

I greatly enjoy the ASPS webinars and learned an immense amount from the recent first ray coding webinar. While we have some exposure to coding and billing during residency, I think that adding more interactive coding and billing education in the form of a sample case with subsequent review multiple choice questions would be beneficial to residents (& all members!).

What is your favorite thing about being a podiatrist?

I love the wide variety of treatment measures we have the potential to provide our patients. While some individuals may require advanced surgical reconstruction, others may be able to attain significant improvement with more conservative modalities such as accommodative or functional bracing and in office procedures. I truly feel patients benefit when they are provided with a full range of treatment options that, many times may only be offered by a podiatrist.

What made you decide to join ASPS?

As a member of APMA, it was a natural extension to join ASPS. Just as APMA provides me with updates on a wide variety of topics within podiatry, ASPS provides invaluable information keeping me on the forefront of surgical developments in our field.

What is an example of a rewarding experience you have had as a surgeon?

As a resident at UPMC, I have had the benefit of training extensively in reconstruction of the foot and ankle in individuals with Charcot neuroarthropathy. It is truly humbling to see the detrimental effects that this disease process has on many individual's lives, limiting their day-to-day activities, social interactions, and overall physical and mental well-being. At their initial evaluation with our residency director Dr. Patrick Burns, it is encouraging to see the hope in patients' eyes at the possibility of having a functional limb. The greatest reward is providing a life changing surgical intervention & successful limb reconstruction that allows a patient & their family to enjoy a better quality of life.

Jessica Nowak is currently a third-year resident at the University of Pittsburgh (UPMC)

Podiatric Residency located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to residency, she completed her undergraduate studies at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. While completing her podiatric studies at the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago, Illinois she was the president of the Pi Delta Honor Society and received the Highest Proficiency in Scholarship Award after finishing first in her class. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Dr. Nowak will be returning home to begin practicing at Buffalo Orthopaedics Group in August 2017.

With a membership total of 1,000+, the ASPS Member Spotlight serves as an opportunity to highlight and connect the membership in an effort to promote and advocate networking within both the organization and profession. Interested in being featured in the ASPS Member Spotlight? Please contact ASPS Administrator Sara Chergosky at skchergosky@aspsmembers.org.

Be sure to check the ASPS website for details on the 5th Annual ASPS Surgical Conference and upcoming events!

<http://www.aspsmembers.org/>

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