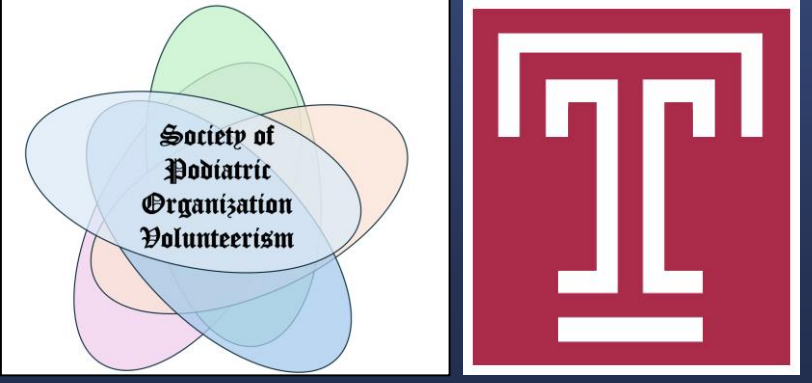
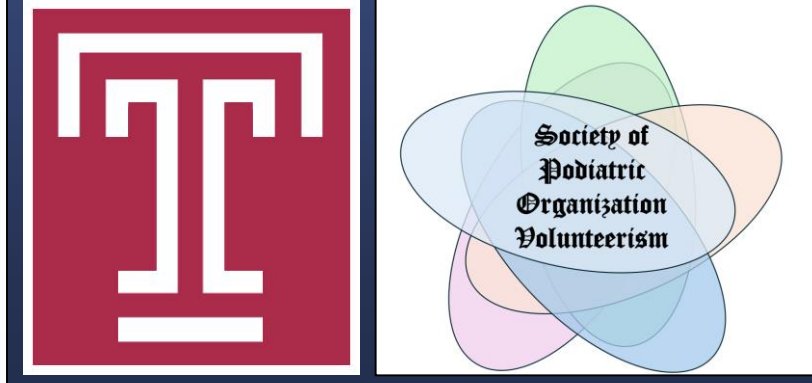


Circles of Service in the Podiatric Profession: 2023-2024 Professional Service Position Snapshot

Presented by the Society of Podiatric Organization Volunteerism

Jeneen Elagha, DPM¹, Asmaa Ibrahim, DPM¹, and Andrew J. Meyr, DPM FACFAS²



¹Resident, Temple University Hospital Podiatric Surgical Residency Program, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

²Professor and Residency Program Director, Department of Podiatric Surgery, Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine and Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (AJMeyr@gmail.com)*

*Please don't hesitate to contact AJM with any questions/concerns. He's happy to provide you with a .pdf of this poster if you email him.

Statement of Purpose and Literature Review

The Society of Podiatric Organization Volunteerism was founded in 2024 to investigate, recognize, encourage and support the concept of volunteerism throughout the podiatric profession [1-4].

The objective of this investigation was to describe a cross-section of professional service positions in the podiatric profession during the 2023-2024 academic year. The specific aims were to 1) recognize multi-organizational volunteerism in service positions, 2) promote collaboration and cooperation between organizations, and 3) provide organizations with a visual representation of potential areas for growth.

Methodology

Data was collected predominantly from publicly available information published through individual organization newsletters and websites during the 2023-2024 academic year. We considered 4 professional services positions: residency program directors from CPME-approved residency programs, fellowship program directors from ACFAS-recognized and CPME-approved fellowships, delegates and alternates the 2024 APMA House of Delegates, and faculty from the 11 CPME-approved podiatric medical colleges.

For the purposes of this investigation, we considered "volunteers" as Doctors of Podiatric Medicine identified by the respective organizations as serving as a committee member or as a volunteer. Students and non-DPMs were excluded from the analysis. Websites were accessed in September of 2024.

-Residency Program Directors: Program directors from CPME-approved residency programs were identified on the CPME website. (Available at: <https://www.cpme.org/residencies/list-of-approved-residencies/>)

-Fellowship Program Directors: Program directors from CPME-approved and ACFAS-recognized fellowship programs were identified on the CPME and ACFAS websites. (Available at: <https://www.cpme.org/fellowships/list-of-approved-fellowships/> and <https://www.acfas.org/professional-resources/fellowship-resources/list-of-fellowships-with-acfas-status>)

-APMA House of Delegates: Delegates and alternates from the 2024 APMA House of Delegates were included.

-Podiatric Medical School faculty: Individuals listed as full-time faculty on the websites of the 11 colleges of podiatric medicine accredited by the CPME were included in the analysis. (Available at: <https://www.cpme.org/podiatric-medical-colleges/list-of-podiatric-medical-colleges/>)

-ABFAS (American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery): A listing and "thank you" to ABFAS volunteers was published in the ABFAS 2023 newsletter (available at: https://issuu.com/abfas1/docs/abfas-2023-newsletter?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ).

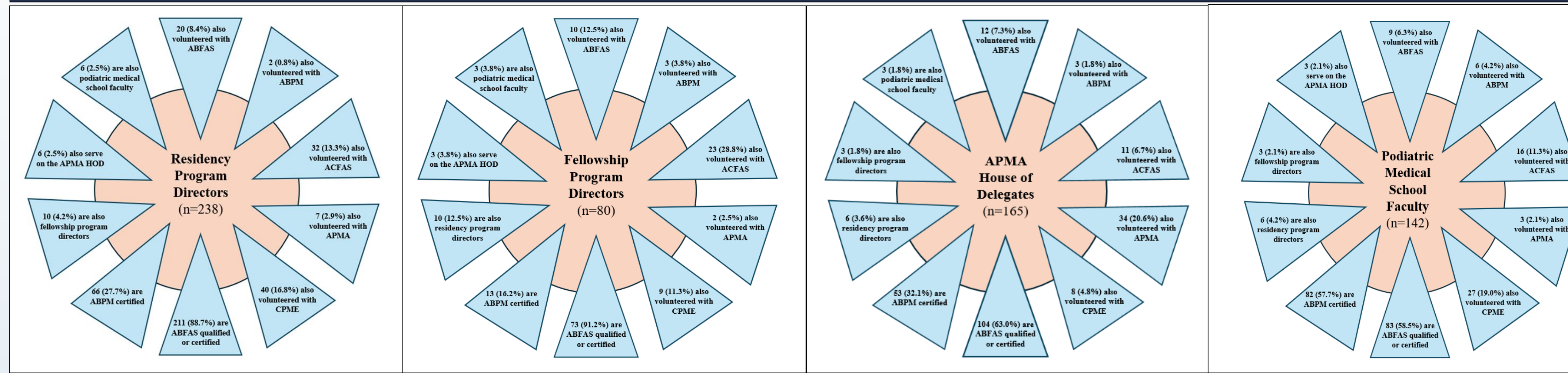
-ABPM (American Board of Podiatric Medicine): A list of ABPM volunteers was provided by the ABPM executive director following an email request in September of 2024.

-ACFAS (American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons): A listing and "thank you" to ACFAS volunteers was published in Volume 31 (Issue 1) of the ACFAS Update. (Available at: https://issuu.com/acfas/docs/acfas_update_v30i1-2024-online-final)

-APMA (American Podiatric Medical Association): A listing of APMA committee members is available to members on their website (Available at: <https://www.apma.org/AboutUs/LeadershipCommittees.cfm#tabs-2>)

-CPME (Council on Podiatric Medical Education): A listing of CPME volunteers was published in the one hundred fourth annual report of the CPME (Available at: <https://www.cpme.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CPME-Annual-Report-2023.pdf>)

Results



These "circles of service" figures (above) and table (below) demonstrate the volunteerism and collaboration of individuals serving in professional service positions (residency program directors, fellowship program directors, APMA HOD delegates and alternates, and podiatric medical school faculty) with other national professional organizations during the 2023-2024 academic year.

	Residency Program Director	Fellowship Program Director	APMA HOD	Podiatric Medical School Faculty	ABFAS volunteer	ABPM volunteer	ACFAS volunteer	APMA volunteer	CPME volunteer	ABFAS qualified/certified	ABPM certified	Neither ABFAS nor ABPM qualified/certified
Residency Program Director (n=238)		10 (4.2% of residency program directors also serve as fellowship program directors)	6 (2.5% of residency program directors also serve on the APMA HOD)	6 (2.5% of residency program directors also podiatric medical school faculty)	20 (8.4% of residency program directors also volunteered with ABFAS)	2 (0.8% of residency program directors also volunteered with ABPM)	32 (13.3% of residency program directors also volunteered with ACFAS)	7 (2.9% of residency program directors also volunteered with APMA)	40 (16.8% of residency program directors also volunteered with CPME)	211 (88.7% of residency program directors are ABFAS qualified/certified)	66 (27.7% of residency program directors are ABPM certified)	9 (3.8% of residency program directors are not qualified/certified by either ABFAS or ABPM)
Fellowship Program Director (n=80)	10 (12.5% of fellowship program directors also serve as residency program directors)		3 (3.8% of fellowship program directors also serve on the APMA HOD)	3 (3.8% of fellowship program directors also podiatric medical school faculty)	10 (12.5% of fellowship program directors also volunteered with ABFAS)	3 (3.8% of fellowship program directors also volunteered with ABPM)	23 (28.8% of fellowship program directors also volunteered with ACFAS)	2 (2.5% of fellowship program directors also volunteered with APMA)	9 (11.3% of fellowship program directors also volunteered with the CPME)	73 (91.2% of fellowship program directors are ABFAS qualified/certified)	13 (16.2% of fellowship program directors are ABPM certified)	4 (5.0% of fellowship program directors are not qualified/certified by either ABFAS or ABPM)
APMA HOD (n=165)	6 (3.6% of the APMA HOD also serve as residency program directors)	3 (1.8% of the APMA HOD also serve as fellowship program directors)		3 (1.8% of the APMA HOD are also podiatric medical school faculty)	12 (7.3% of APMA HOD delegates also volunteered with ABFAS)	3 (1.8% of APMA HOD delegates volunteered with ABPM)	11 (6.7% of APMA HOD delegates also volunteered with ACFAS)	34 (20.6% of APMA HOD delegates also volunteered with APMA)	8 (4.8% of APMA HOD delegates also volunteered with CPME)	104 (63.0% of APMA HOD delegates are ABFAS qualified/certified)	53 (32.1% of APMA HOD delegates are ABPM certified)	28 (17.0% of APMA HOD delegates are not qualified/certified by either ABFAS or ABPM)
Podiatric Medical School Faculty (n=142)	6 (4.2% of podiatric medical school faculty are also residency program directors)	3 (2.1% of podiatric medical school faculty are also fellowship program directors)	3 (2.1% of podiatric medical school faculty also serve on the APMA HOD)		9 (6.3% of podiatric medical school faculty also volunteered with ABFAS)	6 (4.2% of podiatric medical school faculty also volunteered with ABPM)	16 (11.3% of podiatric medical school faculty also volunteered with ACFAS)	3 (2.1% of podiatric medical school faculty also volunteered with APMA)	27 (19.0% of podiatric medical school faculty also volunteered with CPME)	83 (58.5% of podiatric medical school faculty are ABFAS qualified/certified)	82 (57.7% of podiatric medical school faculty are ABPM certified)	18 (12.7% of podiatric medical school faculty are not qualified/certified by either ABFAS or ABPM)

Discussion

As with any scientific investigation, critical readers are encouraged to review the study design and specific results in order to reach their own independent conclusions, while the following represents our conclusions based on the preceding results. We also never consider data to be definitive, but do think that these results might be worthy of attention and future investigation.

-This investigation aimed to describe volunteerism within podiatric professional service positions during a specific time frame of the 2023-2024 academic year. Our conclusions are intentionally generalized, broad, non-comparative, and supportive of all organizational volunteerism.

---We observed substantial volunteerism of individuals in podiatric professional service positions. Residency program directors and fellowship program directors in particular demonstrated overlap with other national professional organizations during this time frame, and high rates of board qualification/certification.

-There are certainly some limitations to consider with this project:

---This is a cross-section methodology describing a single period of time, and does not demonstrate or describe patterns or trends. However, it is our intention to repeat this project every 2-3 years in order to elucidate potential trends.

---The term "volunteer" is subjective and likely varies from organization to organization. The reporting and recognition of volunteers by individual organizations is also variable. Hopefully these results encourage organizations to evaluate their practices and appropriately recognize their volunteers for their contributions.

---There are likely other professional service positions and national podiatric organizations with volunteers not included here. If you are a part of an organization that would like to be recognized by our Society, please don't hesitate to send us an email. Our aim is encourage and support organizational volunteerism in all forms.

References

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- [4] Mun F, Suresh KV, Pollak AN, Morris CD. Professional society opportunities and involvement for early-career orthopaedic surgeons. J Am Acad Orthop Surg. 2023 Feb 15; 31(4): 167-180.