

2024 Wisconsin Foot & Ankle Conference

Faculty Biographies & Disclosures

Bradley Abicht, DPM

Disclosures: Enovis (Consultant-Self), In2Bones (Consultant-Self), Acera Surgical (Consultant-Self), Avitus Orthopedics (Consultant-Self), Surgical Fusion Technologies (Consultant-Self), Gundersen Health System (Employee-Self), Podiatry Today Editorial Board, FASTERAC Editorial Board

Dr. Abicht is a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon practicing for over a decade at Gundersen Health System (GHS) in La Crosse, WI. He is a fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and currently serves as department chair for the Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Department at GHS. Dr. Abicht is actively involved in medical education, medical leadership, as well as research with regular publications in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks. Additionally, he serves on the editorial board for multiple journals. Dr. Abicht is a leading innovator pertaining to percutaneous and MIS techniques for the foot and ankle, and regularly lectures nationally and internationally on foot & ankle topics with great interest. Outside of work, he enjoys spending as much time as he can with his wife and two sons.

Abdulla Akfaly, M.D.

Disclosures: None

Abdulla Akfaly, M.D. Chair of Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS), Community Internal Medicine (CIM) Division and Medical Director of the Preoperative Evaluation (POE) Clinic in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He led a workgroup to establish the POE clinic in 2021 with the objectives to improve patients' clinical outcome, minimize procedures cancellation, and provide consistent patient experience

Robert B. Anderson, MD

Disclosures: Enovis (Consultant-Self), Arthrex (Consultant-Self), BioTissue (Consultant-Self), Stryker (Consultant-Self), Artelon (Consultant-Self)

Dr. Anderson is the founding orthopaedic surgeon of the O.L. Miller Foot and Ankle Institute of OrthoCarolina in Charlotte, North Carolina, practicing there for 29 years. Joined the Tilletown Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Clinic in Green Bay as Director of Foot and Ankle in 2017 and recently returned to OrthoCarolina. Served as a team orthopaedist to the Carolina Panthers from 2000-2017 and as associate team physician to the Green Bay Packers since 2017. Is a past-president of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society.

Brian Burgess, DPM

Disclosures: Arthrex (Consultant-Self, Grant/Research Support), Fusion Orthopedics (Consultant-Self), Conventus Flower Orthopedics (Consultant-Self), Paragon28 (Grant/Research Support), Biologica Technologies (Grant/Research Support)

Dr. Burgess comes to us from the southwest suburbs of Chicago where he is fellowship director of the Hinsdale orthopedics foot and ankle fellowship. Hinsdale orthopedics is a division of the Illinois bone and joint institute.

Scott Carrington, DPM

Disclosures: Styrker (Consultant-Self), ConMed (Consultant-Self), DePuy-Synthes (Consultant-Self), SiNaptic Surgical (Consultant-Self)

Dr. Carrington is an attending physician at Gunderson health in La Crosse WI. He earned his degree from Des Moines University and underwent residency training at the Highlands/PSL program in Denver, CO. Following this, he pursued a fellowship in advanced foot and ankle reconstruction at Coordinated Health in Bethlehem, PA. Dr. Carrington is dedicated to research and resident education, serving as a surgical skills committee member for the American College of Foot and Ankle surgeons. Additionally, he contributes as a case reviewer and exam item writer for the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

Jay Christensen, DPM

Disclosures: DJO Healthcare (Consultant-Self)

Originally from South Dakota, Dr. Christensen attended Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine before completing the Wheaton Franciscan residency program in Milwaukee, WI. He now owns North Shore Foot and Ankle in Appleton, WI.

Jason DeVries, DPM

Disclosures: Medartis (Consultant-Self), Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center (Honorarium)

Dr. DeVries is a partner at Orthopedics & Sports Medicine at BayCare Clinic. He is Board Certified in Foot and Ankle Reconstructive Surgery and is fellowship-trained from the Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Center in Columbus, OH. He is an active speaker and researcher with many peer-reviewed publications.

Diane Erdman, PharmD, BCPS, CDCES, BCACP, FASHP

Disclosures: None

Dr. Diane Erdman received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy and completed a pharmacy residency at the University of Oklahoma. She started her pharmacy career at Grady Health System in Atlanta, Georgia in 1998 and then took a position at the Lawrence Joel Army Health Clinic at Fort McPherson, Georgia in 2000 and in 2005 joined Kaiser Permanente-Georgia. Dr. Erdman joined Ascension Wisconsin in 2015 where she is the Director of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Services and the residency director for three programs. Dr. Erdman is a member of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin Board of Directors, received the Pharmacy Society's Pharmacist of the Year Award in 2018 and was recognized as a Fellow of American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in 2020. Dr. Erdman enjoys traveling with her family, walking, playing piano, reading and ballroom dancing.

Cara Fontana, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Cara Fontana is a first year foot and ankle surgery resident at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon, IL. She graduated from William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in 2023 and received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Fontana is from Grayslake, IL and currently lives in Dixon, IL.

Nikita Grama, DPM

Disclosures: None

Nikita grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin. She completed her undergraduate training at UW-Madison and went on to finish Podiatry school at Rosalind Franklin University. She completed her residency at Mercy hospital as well as Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago. She is currently wrapping up her fellowship at Hinsdale Orthopaedics.

Dennis Janisse, C.Ped.

Disclosures: National Pedorthic Services (Owner-Self)

Dennis Janisse is President and CEO of National Pedorthic Services, Inc. In addition to his duties at NPS, Mr. Janisse is a Clinical Assistant Professor in Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He teaches pedorthics courses at Northwestern University Medical School, Century College, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is past President of the Pedorthic Footwear Association and an honorary member of the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society. He has written extensively on all aspects of Pedorthics, with over 80 publications to his credit and has lectured throughout the United States and the world.

Megan Kingston, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Megan Kingston is a second year podiatric surgery resident at Ascension Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI. She is originally from Omaha, NE and obtained her bachelor's degree in biology at South Dakota State University and master's degree at University of South Dakota. She then went on to complete her Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree at Des Moines University, in Des Moines, IA.

Sara Kubick, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Sara Kubick is a second-year foot and ankle surgery resident at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon, IL. She graduated from Midwestern University, Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine in 2022 and received her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Redlands. She is from Colorado and hopes to return after her surgical training to serve her local community.

Bryn Laubacher, DPM FACFAS

Disclosures: None

Assistant Professor of Podiatric Surgery, Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Loyola University Medical Center (Chicago, IL). Board Certified by American Board of Podiatric Medicine and American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. Residency at Loyola University Medical Center (Podiatric Surgery Rearfoot and Ankle), Medical Education at Rosalind Franklin William Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and Undergraduate at The Ohio State University.

Jeffrey Lehrman, DPM

Disclosures: American Podiatric Medical Association (Consultant-Self), Lehrman Consulting LLC (Principal-Self)

Dr. Lehrman is a podiatrist practicing in Fort Collins, CO and operates Lehrman Consulting, LLC which provides guidance regarding coding, compliance and documentation. Dr. Lehrman is a Certified Professional Coder and Certified Professional Medical Auditor. He serves as a staff liaison at the AMA CPT® Editorial Panel meetings where CPT codes are created, edited, and deleted.

Joshua Liberman, MD

Disclosures: None

Dr. Joshua Liberman is a preventive cardiologist and CEO/Owner of Wisconsin Cardiology Associates. He received his medical degree from Boston University. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at University of Chicago Hospitals, fellowship training in Critical Care Medicine at Rush University Medical Center and fellowship in Cardiovascular Diseases at Loyola University Medical Center in Illinois. Dr. Liberman is board certified in Cardiology, Echocardiography and Nuclear Cardiology, and is a diplomate in Clinical Lipidology.

He specializes in risk assessment, difficult dyslipidemias, and resistant hypertension. He is a supporter and advocate of a whole food, plant-based approach to nutrition, and is the medical director of the Plant-Based Nutrition Organization of Wisconsin.

He is also a Past President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, and a previous Chairman of the Section of Cardiovascular Medicine at Columbia-St. Mary's Hospitals in Milwaukee, WI.

Zach Lind, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Zach Lind is a third year foot and ankle surgery resident at Ascension in Milwaukee, WI. He graduated from Des Moines University, College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in 2021 and received his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Dr. Lind is from Shawano, WI and currently lives in Milwaukee, WI with his wife and daughter.

Brian Loder, DPM

Disclosures: Treace (Consultant-Self, Speaker's Bureau), Enovis (Consultant-Self), Glw (Stock Shareholder-Self)

Dr. Brian Loder is Podiatrist in Clinton Township Michigan. He is Board Certified in foot and reconstructive rearfoot and ankle surgery. Dr. Loder moved from Long Island New York to Harrison Township Michigan to complete his surgical residency program. Dr. Loder was the first resident to advance to the inaugural third year of the program. He remained on staff at his alma mater for 10 years as one of the leading faculty members in the residency program. Dr. Loder's commitment to education earned him the role as Podiatric residency director of one of the neighboring hospitals, where Dr Loder formed a new Podiatric Medicine and Surgical program.

Currently the program is in its 18th year of graduating residents and Dr Loder still holds the residency director position.

Dr. Loder has always played an important role as a Physician leader at Henry Ford Macomb hospital in Clinton Twp. At first, he held an elected position on the credentials committee and then was also added to the quality committee. In 2012 Dr. Loder's leadership qualities earned him a nomination as Chief of Staff at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital. Dr. Loder won the nomination in a landslide and went on to serve four more years as chief of staff before he stepped down.

Dr Loder is a researcher and an innovator. He spends much of his time evaluating and improving the current surgical trends and has been a leader in the evolving Minimal incision surgical space. He has authored multiple papers and continues to produce new research. Dr. Loder has lectured extensively in the United States and abroad and was named a co-chair of the GFAS (Global Foot and Ankle Symposium) held in Annecy France, March 2023.

Recently Dr. Loder was granted conditional status by the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery for his Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and reconstructive Foot and ankle surgery. Dr. Loder first Fellow will begin in August of 2024. Dr. Loder is extremely proud of his dedication to podiatric education and feels that it is important for us all to make a difference in our profession and leave a legacy when we are done.

Andrew Lundquist, DPM

Disclosures: Nabla (Stock Shareholder-Self), Sky Surgical LLC (Co-Founder-Self)

Dr. Andrew Lundquist joined the Mankato Clinic in 2007. Dr. Lundquist became the Chief Medical Officer of the Mankato Clinic in January 2018. He specializes in reconstructive foot and ankle surgery, managing trauma of the foot and ankle, as well as revision of previous surgery. He thinks that he is pretty good with technology, but still hands his phone to his kids for second opinions on how to get things done.

Kevin Mahoney, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Mahoney lives and practices in Marshall, Mn with Avera Orthopedics. He was born and raised in Minnesota, later training at Regions Hospital before starting his practice in Southwestern Mn. When he is not working, he enjoys playing golf, hunting, and spending time with his wife and 4 daughters.

James McNeely, MD

Disclosures: None

Dr. Jim McNeely is a Wisconsin native, receiving his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1984. A 40-year career in anesthesiology included working in academia at Children's Hospital then entering private practice 24 years ago. The past 2 decades he has served as director of anesthesia services, completing a Master of Healthcare Administration in 2019. He is semi-retired, joining the 1 million snowbirds annually migrating to Florida.

Keaton Merck, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Keaton Merck is a first year foot and ankle surgery resident at Ascension SE Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI. He is from Minot, ND and received his Podiatric Medical degree from Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery. He enjoys his free time spending it with his wife and three kids or training MMA.

Jason Nowak, DPM

Disclosures: Enovis (Consultant-Self)

Dr. Jason Nowak joined Shasta Orthopaedics in 2013 as the group's foot and ankle surgeon. Board certified in both foot, reconstructive rear foot and ankle surgery by the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, Dr. Nowak brings specialized expertise and training in the area of total ankle replacements and rear foot and ankle reconstruction to the practice.

Dr. Nowak comes to the practice from Wautoma, WI where he participated in athletics and outdoor activities with his active family during his youth. Dr. Nowak graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI with a Bachelors of Science in Biomedical Sciences. He went on to complete his medical education at Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical School - CPMS in Des Moines, IA.

Dr. Nowak completed his foot and ankle surgical residency training at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare - St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee, WI. During his residency, Dr. Nowak worked with national leaders in the field of reconstructive foot and ankle surgery, where he received comprehensive training and experience in all areas of foot and ankle surgery.

Dr. Nowak's expertise and training is a welcome addition to Shasta Orthopaedics team of board certified orthopedic surgeons. Dr. Nowak specializes in the following foot and ankle procedures: total ankle replacement, ankle arthroscopy, rearfoot and ankle reconstruction, adult and pediatric flatfoot reconstruction, forefoot reconstruction, tendon and ligament injuries, foot and ankle sports injuries, and foot and ankle trauma and fracture care.

Andrew Pankratz, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Pankratz is a graduate of Scholl College of Podiatric medicine. He received his residency training at Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center in Dearborn, Michigan. He has been employed by Marshfield Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin since completing his residency training. He has been on several educational committee's for ACFAS over the past 23 years and has presented regionally and nationally. When not at work, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, dog training and maple syruping.

Andrew Regal, DPM

Disclosures: None

Andrew is originally from NC and came here to Milwaukee for his surgical training at Ascension SE Wisconsin. Andrew is passionate about furthering the field of Podiatric Medicine, working on multiple research projects with clinical implications. In his spare time Andrew likes to spend time with friends, rock climbing, and/or outside on a long walk.

Graham Reid, DPM

Disclosures: None

Graham was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and later attended Montana State University where he ran Track & Field and earned a B.S. in Cell Biology and Neuroscience. After earning his D.P.M. from Kent State University, he moved to Milwaukee to begin residency at Ascension Wisconsin. In his free time he enjoys spending time outdoors and hanging out with his co-residents.

Adrienne Ross, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Adrienne Ross is a graduate of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine and attended the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for surgical residency. She then completed a one-year fellowship in trauma and reconstructive surgery at Jewish/University of Louisville Medical Center. She is originally from Ohio by way of Great Britain. Currently, she practices in Atlanta, Georgia and serves as faculty for Emory Dekalb Podiatric Surgical Residency. She is President-Elect of the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association and serves as Vice Chair of Department of Podiatry at Emory Decatur Hospital. Dr. Ross publishes, lectures, and enjoys a surgical emphasis on lower extremity skin and muscle flaps for complex wound closures as well as peripheral nerve reconstruction techniques.

Gary Rothenberg, DPM

Disclosures: Podometrics, Inc (Employee-Self)

Dr. Gary Rothenberg is a Board Certified Podiatrist, a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and Certified Wound Specialist who currently holds an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine appointment within the Endocrinology Division at the University of Michigan School of Medicine in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is also the Director of Fellowship Training for the 2-year research-based fellowship at that institution. Additionally, he serves as the Director of Medical Affairs for Podometrics, a mission-driven company committed to preventing avoidable amputations among people living with diabetes. A graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, he completed 3 years of residency training at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio followed by 4 years of private practice in Atlanta, Georgia. After private practice, Dr. Rothenberg served the veteran population as an Attending Physician and Director of Resident Training at the Miami VA Healthcare System for 11 years. His private practice, VA and academic practices have all focused on conservative and surgical management of the diabetic foot. Education has always been his passion -- whether working with students, residents, colleagues, or most importantly, patients, Dr. Rothenberg believes education is the key to successful avoidance of diabetes-related lower extremity complications.

Scott Schleunes, DPM

Disclosures: None

Scott Schleunes is the current Fellow at the Northern California Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship in Redding, Ca. Dr. Schleunes completed his residency at West Penn in Pittsburgh, PA and is originally from Manitowoc, WI.

Aaron Schwanke, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Aaron Schwanke is a second year foot and ankle surgery resident at Ascension SE Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He graduated from Rosalind Franklin University, Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in 2022 and received his bachelor's degree in Biology from Marquette University. Dr. Schwanke is from Franklin, WI.

Vanessa Scoarste, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Vanessa Scoarste is a first year foot and ankle surgery resident at Ascension SE Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She graduated from Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine in 2023, and received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Kent State University while also playing softball for the Golden Flashes.

Chris Segler, DPM

Disclosures: None

Christopher Segler, DPM, "Doc On The Run" is a sports medicine podiatrist who has a practice focused exclusively on helping injured runners run. He has written three books including Runner's Heel Pain: Self-Diagnosis and Self-Treatment and the Runner's Rapid Recovery Journal. He is a marathon runner, ultra-marathoner, 15-time Ironman Finisher and Ironman All-World Athlete. He works with elite athletes and offers telemedicine second opinions for runners via webcam in both California, Texas and Florida.

Podiatric Surgery Residency Training (PM&S-36), University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT; Board Certified, American Board of Podiatric Medicine; United States Patent Holder #7,097,647: Tarsal Joint Distractor; Surgical Instrument; Lecturer and Author of multiple journal and trade articles; Faculty and Board of Medical Advisors, International Foot & Ankle Foundation for Education and Research; Practice: Doc On The Run Podiatry, San Francisco, California.

Rachit Shah, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Rachit Shah is a third year foot and ankle surgery resident at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon, IL. He graduated from William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and received his Masters of Biomedical Sciences from Midwestern University and received his bachelor's degree in Chemistry from University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Shah currently lives in Dixon, IL.

Akshitha Sreeram, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Akshitha Sreeram is a third year foot and ankle surgery resident at Ascension SE Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She graduated from Scholl College in 2021 after receiving a bachelor's degree in Neurobiology and Stem Cell Engineering from UW Madison. Next year she will be attending the Innovative Foot and Ankle Surgical Fellowship in St. Pete, FL under the directorship of Dr. Adam Perler.

Jonathan Thompson, DPM, MHA, FACFAS

Disclosures: None

Dr. Jonathan Thompson is in practice at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He received his medical degree from the College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Des Moines University and completed his residency at HealthPartners/Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. He serves as the chair of the department of Foot and Ankle Services in the Orthopedic Center at Mayo Clinic Health System. He is board certified in Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle Surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

Tracey Vlahovic, DPM

Disclosures: Bako Diagnostics (Consultant-Self), Sagis Diagnostics (Consultant-Self), Ortho Dermatologics (Consultant-Self)

Dr. Vlahovic is a graduate of Yale University with a BS in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and received her podiatric medical degree from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. After finishing her surgical residency at St Luke's University Health Network in Allentown, PA, she was the first podiatrist in the US to complete a fellowship in podiatric dermatology under the supervision of Stephen Schleicher, MD. Currently, she is a Clinical Professor and J. Stanley and Pearl Landau Faculty Fellow at the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine in Philadelphia and a member of the Faculty of Podiatric Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow). She is an adjunct professor in the Department of Microbiology, Temple University School of Medicine.

She is board certified in foot surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and board certified in podiatric medicine by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine. Dr. Vlahovic currently teaches the Fundamentals of Dermatology course at Temple and has received numerous teaching awards. She has authored several articles in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, co-authored the texts: "Skin Disease of the Lower Extremities: A Photographic Guide," and "Onychomycosis: An Illustrated Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment" (along with CND member Antonella Tosti, MD), and is involved in multiple clinical research trials for various dermatological therapies and devices.

Gayana Wanniarachchi, DPM

Disclosures: None

Gayana Wanniarachchi is a second-year foot and ankle surgery resident at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon, IL. She graduated from William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University in 2022. Gayana received her bachelor's of science degree in Kinesiology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she ran Division I Cross Country and Track. She currently lives in Dixon, IL and enjoys spending time outdoors with her family.

James Whelan, DPM

Disclosures: None

James Whelan, DPM, is a podiatric surgeon at Beloit Health System in Beloit, Wisconsin. He graduated from Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery and completed his residency training at Wheaton-Franciscan in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His fellowship training at the Midwest Foot and Ankle Fellowship was focused on advanced foot and ankle reconstruction and deformity correction. He is board certified in foot and reconstructive rearfoot and ankle surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. He is also board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine and has a certification of advanced qualification in amputation prevention and wound care. He currently serves as attending faculty for the Podiatry Residency Program at Katherine Shaw Bethea. He has several publications in the Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association and is an invited lecturer at regional and national conferences.

Isaac York, DPM

Disclosures: None

Dr. Isaac York is a first year resident at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital. He is originally from Michigan where he went to undergraduate at Olivet College. He then completed his doctorate at Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in Iowa. In his free time, Isaac enjoys spending time with his dog and playing golf.

Scientific Committee

Andrea Cifaldi, DPM

Disclosures: None

Brian Fischer, DPM

Disclosures: None

Eoin Gorman, DPM

Disclosures: None

Jonathan Shih, DPM

Disclosures: None

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Disclosures: None

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Disclosures: None