

## **Podiatry Basics**

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- ❖ **“Anatomy Stops at the Ankle”**
  - **Before medical school: what are MDs, DOs, DPMs, ODs, DCMs, etc.?**
  - **Don’t learn much about them in medical school. Anatomy class stops at the ankle because we ran out of time for the foot (that’s for podiatrists, anyway, right?)**
  - **Heard of podiatrists, not sure what they do or how they’re trained (or for that matter, what to do about foot problems)**
  - **My experience: trimalleolar fracture, MD/PhD orthoped fixer, does great. Ankle sprain, for a year, can’t run more than 1.5 miles due to lateral midfoot pain. Orthoped has nothing to offer. See podiatrist, get gait study, get orthotics, go back to running.**
  - **So, did a little research: learned from the web and from the library. Here’s a non-podiatrist’s history of podiatry:**
- ❖ **Podiatry, Chiropody, Orthopaedics**
  - **Corn-cutters (? physicians specializing in foot care) found depicted on ancient Egyptian tombs**

- **1600's, Britain, "corn-cutters" also pulled teeth, regarded as beneath physicians and barber-surgeons**
- **1700's, corn-cutters became respectable (and prosperous) in the UK, especially London and Edinburgh**
- **1743: "Orthopedics" first used as a term.**
- **1781: Nicholas Laurent La Forest, Chirurgien-Pedicure (corn cutter) to Louis XVI published " L'Art de Soigner les Pieds".**
- **Chiropody coined by plagiarist foot physician David Low in London in 1781; "care of the foot by the hand", also other derivations suggested (centaur Chiron, chirurg = surg) but in 1950's, US foot physicians changed to "podiatrists." Podiatry is now becoming an "in" term in UK and Australia, but Continental foot physicians are "podologs"**
- **1800: Respected corn operator Hyman Lion passing with distinction his medical studies at Edinburgh and Aberdeen University but was refused membership in the College (not "respectable")**
- **Bunion operations first in 1881**
- **1895: first society of chiropody in New York**

- **1907: first podiatric medical journal**
- **1911: first podiatric medical school in New York**
- **1918: Council On Podiatric Medical Education formed to accredit schools**
- **1950's: podiatrists in NJ forbidden to use scalpels. So, started office-based minimally invasive surgery, using dental tools through a puncture wound, sometimes with fluoro. Opposed by "standard" surgery that was done by orthopedists and more and more podiatrists.**
- **1964: podiatric residencies started**
- **1975: American Board of Podiatric Surgery**
- **The American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine (ABPOPPM)**
- **Accredited DPM schools nearby in Cleveland and Philly at Temple (only seven accredited schools); residencies here at West Penn, Southside, Mercy. Students have to do 3-4 years of college, take MCATs, have to take four years of DPM school, including the first two years of basic sciences.**
- ❖ **Common Foot problems**
- **Frostbite, Trench Foot, Tinea, Ischemic Feet, Cellulitis: already covered in other EM training; however,**

**many other common foot problems not covered: intro to Dr. Pittle of Mercy Podiatry Residency**