

SHUFFLE OFF TO BUFFALO 2026

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

September 18–19, 2026 • Buffalo Marriott Niagara • Amherst, New York

Presented by the New York State Podiatric Medical Association – Western Division

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

TIME	PRESENTER	LECTURE / ACTIVITY	CECH/CME
7:30–8:15 AM	Matthew S. Feldman, Esq.	Ethics & Professional Responsibility Learning Objectives: - Identify common ethical and professional responsibility issues encountered in podiatric practice. - Apply ethical principles to clinical decision-making, professional conduct, and patient relationships.	0.75
8:15–9:00 AM	Al Anthony Mercado, Esq.	Ending the Doctor-Patient Relationship: Proper Dismissal and Risk Reduction Learning Objectives: - Describe appropriate reasons and procedures for terminating the doctor-patient relationship. - Implement documentation and communication strategies that reduce abandonment and liability risk.	0.75
9:00–9:45 AM	Alton R. Johnson Jr., DPM	Foundations of Wound Care & Regenerative Medicine Learning Objectives: - Review core principles of wound assessment, preparation, and evidence-based management. - Discuss the appropriate integration of regenerative medicine modalities into comprehensive wound-care plans.	0.75
9:45–10:30 AM	Alton R. Johnson Jr., DPM	Medical Volunteerism During Emergency Situations Learning Objectives: - Describe the clinical and logistical considerations involved in providing medical care during emergencies and disasters. - Identify practical strategies for delivering safe, ethical, and effective care in resource-limited volunteer settings.	0.75
10:30–10:45 AM		COFFEE BREAK	0.0
10:45–11:30 AM	Jessica L. Drzewiecki, DPM, FACFAS	Mini Steps to MIS - Incorporating MIS to Your Practice When the Wound Won't Heal - Surgical Offloading Options Learning Objectives: - Identify appropriate indications and practical steps for incorporating minimally invasive surgical techniques into podiatric practice. - Evaluate surgical offloading options for chronic wounds that fail to heal with appropriate conservative management.	0.75

11:30 AM–12:15 PM	Lawrence Mark Kosova, DPM, FACFAS, FACFAO	How to Create an Office Workflow Using AI: What’s Coming Next? <i>Learning Objectives:</i> • Develop a practical framework for integrating AI tools into clinical and administrative office workflows. • Discuss emerging AI technologies and their potential impact on future podiatric practice.	0.75
12:15–1:15 PM		LUNCH	0.0
1:15–2:00 PM	Steve A. McClain, MD	Pathology of Wound Healing <i>Learning Objectives:</i> • Describe the cellular and tissue processes involved in normal wound healing. • Recognize pathologic factors that delay or impair healing and relate these findings to clinical management.	0.75
2:00–2:45 PM	Patricia Nicholas, DPM, DAMSP, FACPM, CPMA	Notes Under the Microscope: Uncovering and Correcting Documentation Errors <i>Learning Objectives:</i> • Identify common medical-record documentation errors that may create compliance, billing, or liability concerns. • Apply strategies to improve the accuracy, completeness, and defensibility of clinical documentation.	0.75
2:45–3:30 PM	Patricia Nicholas, DPM, DAMSP, FACPM, CPMA	Light at the End of the Toenail <i>Learning Objectives:</i> • Differentiate common nail disorders using clinical findings and appropriate diagnostic evaluation. • Select evidence-based management strategies for frequently encountered nail pathology.	0.75
3:30–3:45 PM		COFFEE BREAK	0.0
3:45–4:30 PM	Mitzi L. Williams, DPM, FACFAS	Congenital Foot Deformities: An Overview <i>Learning Objectives:</i> • Recognize common congenital foot deformities and their characteristic clinical presentations. • Discuss age-appropriate evaluation and treatment options for pediatric congenital foot deformities.	0.75
4:30–5:15 PM	Mitzi L. Williams, DPM, FACFAS	Tarsal Coalitions: When to Realign <i>Learning Objectives:</i> • Identify the clinical and imaging findings associated with tarsal coalition. • Determine when conservative treatment, coalition resection, or realignment procedures should be considered.	0.75
5:15–6:00 PM	Ryan Bird, MD	Lower Extremity Vascular Disease: Emerging Technologies and Treatment Strategies <i>Learning Objectives:</i> • Recognize current diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to lower-extremity vascular disease. • Discuss emerging technologies and treatment strategies that may improve perfusion and limb preservation.	0.75

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

TIME	PRESENTER	LECTURE / ACTIVITY	CECH/CME
7:30–8:15 AM	Gurmat Gill, DO, MPH	Osteomyelitis Learning Objectives: • Recognize the clinical, laboratory, and imaging findings used to diagnose osteomyelitis of the foot and ankle. • Develop an evidence-based approach to medical and surgical management of osteomyelitis.	0.75
8:15–9:00 AM	Karen A. Langone, DPM, DABPM, FAAPSM, FACPM	Athletic Shoe Update 2026 Learning Objectives: • Review current athletic footwear technologies, design features, and trends relevant to foot and ankle care. • Apply footwear characteristics to patient-specific recommendations for activity, biomechanics, and pathology.	0.75
9:00–9:45 AM	Karen A. Langone, DPM, DABPM, FAAPSM, FACPM	Dinking and Faulting in the Kitchen: Pickleball Injuries Pediatric Sports Injuries Learning Objectives: • Recognize common foot and ankle injuries associated with pickleball and identify prevention and treatment strategies. • Evaluate common pediatric sports injuries and formulate age-appropriate management and return-to-activity recommendations.	0.75
9:45–10:30 AM	Lawrence Mark Kosova, DPM, FACFAS, FACFAO	Where AI Is in the Medical Space: What's Working Now? What's Not? Learning Objectives: - Identify current applications of artificial intelligence that can support clinical and administrative medical practice. - Evaluate the benefits, limitations, and potential risks of currently available AI technologies in healthcare.	0.75
10:30–10:45 AM			0.0
10:45–11:30 AM	Ira Kraus, DPM, FACFAS, FASPS	Safely Forging a Cash-Pay Practice Learning Objectives: • Describe key operational, financial, and compliance considerations when developing a cash-pay practice model. • Identify strategies for implementing transparent pricing and patient communication while maintaining quality of care.	0.75
11:30 AM–12:15 PM	Ira Kraus, DPM, FACFAS, FASPS	DVT Prophylaxis Learning Objectives: • Identify patient- and procedure-specific risk factors for venous thromboembolism in foot and ankle patients. • Apply risk assessment principles to select appropriate mechanical and pharmacologic DVT prophylaxis.	0.75
12:15–1:15 PM		LUNCH	0.0
1:15–2:00 PM	Robert J. Duggan, DPM, PhD, FACFAS	Sesamoid Disorders Learning Objectives: • Differentiate common traumatic, degenerative, inflammatory, and structural disorders of the hallucal sesamoids. • Develop appropriate diagnostic and treatment plans for patients presenting with sesamoid pain.	0.75

2:00–2:45 PM	Robert J. Duggan, DPM, PhD, FACFAS	Neurogenic Bone Disease Learning Objectives: • Describe the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of neurogenic bone disease affecting the foot and ankle. • Formulate diagnostic and management strategies to reduce deformity, ulceration, and limb-threatening complications.	0.75
2:45–3:30 PM	Peter M. Stasko, DPM & Paul A. Stasko, DPM	Raising the Arch: The Art & Science of Flatfoot Reconstruction Learning Objectives: • Evaluate the clinical and radiographic components of adult-acquired flatfoot deformity. • Select reconstructive procedures based on deformity pattern, flexibility, and patient-specific surgical goals.	0.75
3:30–3:45 PM		COFFEE BREAK	0.0
3:45–4:30 PM	Andrew G. Puckett, DPM, FACFAS	3D Printing: Improved Surgical Outcomes Learning Objectives: • Describe current applications of 3D printing in foot and ankle surgical planning and reconstruction. • Evaluate how patient-specific models, guides, and implants may improve surgical precision and outcomes.	0.75
4:30–5:15 PM	Andrew G. Puckett, DPM, FACFAS	A Pathology of One: Trainwrecks... What's Not Taught in School Learning Objectives: • Analyze complex foot and ankle cases in which standard treatment pathways may be insufficient. • Apply systematic problem-solving and multidisciplinary principles to challenging surgical and limb-salvage scenarios.	0.75

FEATURED FACULTY

Matthew S. Feldman, Esq.	Partner, Feldman Kieffer LLP; health law, professional liability, employment law and compliance counsel.
Al Anthony Mercado, Esq.	Health law educator, national medical-legal speaker and partner at Feldman Kieffer LLP.
Alton R. Johnson Jr., DPM	Podiatric physician, wound-care educator and national lecturer with extensive work in limb preservation and regenerative wound care.
Lawrence Mark Kosova, DPM, FACFAS, FACFAO	Board certified in foot surgery and foot orthopedics; fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and American College of Podiatric Orthopedics.
Steve A. McClain, MD	Medical Director, McClain Laboratories; board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and dermatopathology.
Patricia Nicholas, DPM, DAMSP, FACPM, CPMA	Podiatrist, certified professional medical auditor, healthcare consultant, educator and wound-care specialist.
Mitzi L. Williams, DPM, FACFAS	Pediatric foot and ankle specialist/surgeon; Fellow, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.
Ryan Bird, MD	Vascular surgeon; fellowship training in vascular surgery at Englewood Health.
Gurmat Gill, DO MPH	Physician at Internal Med and ID Associates, Buffalo, NY and Infectious Disease consultant at Millard Fillmore Suburban
Karen A. Langone, DPM, DABPM, FAAPSM, FACPM	Diplomate, American Board of Podiatric Medicine; Fellow, American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and American College of Podiatric Medicine.
Jessica L. Drzewiecki, DPM, FACFAS	Podiatric foot and ankle surgeon, Trinity Medical WNY Orthopaedics; board certified in foot surgery and reconstructive rearfoot/ankle surgery.
Ira Kraus, DPM, FACFAS, FASPS	Physician executive, practice owner and industry leader; Fellow, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and American Society of Podiatric Surgeons.
Robert J. Duggan, DPM, PhD, FACFAS	Board-certified foot and ankle surgeon; Fellow, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons; educator with extensive sports medicine and wound-care experience.
Peter M. Stasko, DPM & Paul A. Stasko, DPM	Foot and ankle surgeons with advanced training in reconstructive surgery and complex deformity correction.
Andrew G. Puckett, DPM, FACFAS	Chief of Podiatry, VHA Western New York Healthcare System; Director, Comprehensive Limb Salvage Fellowship Program; board certified in foot and ankle surgery.