

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Regarding the Physician and Surgeon Project**

### **What is the joint agreement between the California Medical Association, California Orthopaedic Association and the CPMA?**

The California Medical Association (CMA), the California Orthopaedic Association (COA), and the California Podiatric Medical Association (CPMA) have together agreed to launch a joint task force to evaluate the education and training of future graduates of California podiatric schools – with the goal of preparing these students to have the education, training, and certification to allow them to be licensed as physicians and surgeons in California. The agreement includes an understanding that the California podiatric schools would be expected to be accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

### **Who will be on the Physician and Surgeon Joint Task Force?**

The Task Force will be comprised of a mixture of medical educators, academicians and clinicians who possess the reputation of being objective and willing to follow the evidence regardless of personal preference. We foresee a group of no larger than 10, more likely a group of 6 so that timelines for meetings and conference calls remain manageable. Currently the due diligence for the makeup of the eventual Task Force has been entrusted to a steering committee that so far consists of Lawrence Harkless, DPM; Jack Bois, DPM and Stephen Wan, DPM. The deans of both in-state podiatric medical schools will be intimately involved in this project.

### **Does this mean a degree change to MD?**

In California the plenary license is attached to the Physician and Surgeon Certificate to practice and has nothing to do with the specific professional degree. In California at present, the P&S certificate is granted to MDs and DOs. Therefore, when podiatrists receive the P&S certificate, it will enable DPMs in California to be granted the plenary license to continue to practice foot and ankle medicine and surgery, but without the occasional misunderstandings, regrettable omissions, unreasonable regulatory confinements and other inconveniences that interrupt proper patient care and patient access to our expertise.

### **Will this increase our scope of practice?**

With a P&S certificate, there will not be an artificial boundary defining the scope of practice. Rather, the scope will be defined as it is for all other specialists: residency training, competency and documented continuing education.

### **What if someone who graduates from a California Podiatric Medical School wants to practice out of state - is the P&S license recognized?**

This will need to conform to each state's laws governing the practice of podiatric medicine and surgery.

### **I understand that the plenary physician and surgeon license will be for new graduates. What about those who are already in practice?**

A pathway can be established to enable those who wish to obtain the plenary license to do so.

### **What is your timeline?**

We project approximately 4-5 years for the process to be completed.

### **What is the money for the Physician and Surgeon Fund being used for?**

To assess the current podiatric graduate medical curriculum, the postgraduate education and training (residency training), the testing processes and the accreditation of our 2 in-state podiatric medical schools to ascertain if those all meet the requirements to qualify for a P&S Certificate.

### **How can I help?**

By contributing generously to the fund so that this worthwhile project can go forward with ease. Please kindly direct your contributions to the "Foundation for Foot and Ankle Education".

***We fully understand that there can be more questions not reflected here and we strongly encourage our members to attend their respective local society meetings so that other questions can be answered by your CPMA leaders.***

# CONTRIBUTION TO THE PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON TASK FORCE



Foundation for Foot and Ankle Education  
2430 K Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(800) 794-8988/(916) 448-0258  
www.calpma.org

Contributor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Check (enclosed)  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  AmEx

*Please make checks out to **Foundation for Foot and Ankle Education** with "P&S Task Force" in the memo field.  
Donations are tax deductible.*

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Ex. Date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

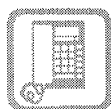
***On behalf of the profession, thank you for your support.***



**FAX:** (916) 448-0258



**MAIL:** CPMA - 2430 K Street, Suite 200 - Sacramento, CA 95816



**PHONE:** (800) 794-8988