



Member Spotlight, Andrew Belis, DPM, FASPS



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How did you initially become involved with the organization?

I first joined ASPS in the early days of its origin. I was eager to get involved in different groups and excited to be part of something new in regards to education. Because of my early involvement, I was recognized as a Founding Member of the organization. Initially, my experience was as a member; however, as the years went on, my involvement continued to increase which eventually led me to run for a board position. It was at that point that I really got to know the society a lot better and chose to take on a greater role, which ultimately led me to my current role as Chair of the ASPS Board of Directors.

What excited you the most about ASPS Mission?

The American Society of Podiatric Surgeons is an independent organization focused on advancing the knowledge and skills of podiatrists in the area of surgery of the foot, ankle and related structures of the lower extremity. This mission of education, along with collaboration with the APMA, excites me the most. First, I have always had an interest in education. If one can learn it, do it, and then teach it, they have truly become an expert in their field. More than that, being an educator constantly challenges me to learn the newest techniques and become familiar with current technology in foot and ankle surgical care. Continued education of our membership will improve our profession and allow us to continue to become the preferred provider of education to the medical community.

What do you find most challenging about supporting the ASPS?

One challenge that the ASPS faces is the same one that most organizations face: apathy and lack of interest in joining and getting involved. This challenge may be our greatest strength because it constantly encourages the society to improve its member benefits and level of educational offerings. For example, in 2017, we look forward to introducing the ASPS Surgical Webinar Series, our online Student & Resident Corner and our upcoming 5th Annual ASPS Surgical Conference. We value member feedback and encourage our members to get involved; I personally would like to hear member ideas for improvement.

What do you wish other health professionals and Podiatrists

knew about the ASPS?

I wish they understood that our mandate is one of pure education and there are so many opportunities available to our membership to get involved. We are the only surgical affiliate associated with the American Podiatric Medical Association. ASPS offers a variety of opportunities for DPMs at all stages within their career. Students and Residents will have a section on the ASPS website dedicated to providing enriching articles tailored to their professional interests. Young Physicians, Associates and Fellows have a chance to directly influence the organization through participation on the ASPS Board of Directors. Affiliate and Emeritus members have an opportunity to share their rich knowledge base with the entire membership through lecturing at the ASPS Annual Surgical Conference and participating in the new ASPS Surgical Webinar Series. Being part of this organization will enrich a practitioner's practice and help further our standing as podiatrists in a constantly evolving medical landscape. Lastly, I wish they knew how passionate the ASPS Board of Directors and staff are about making this organization a success.

What does your position at the ASPS involve?

I have recently been elected to serve as the Chair to the ASPS Board of Directors for 2017. Previously, I served as Treasurer on the board. I experienced the challenges of overseeing our budget while being directly involved in the decision-making processes that ultimately create the future direction of the organization. Our board usually meets once a month by conference call and once per year in person. In my current role as Chair, I will be trying my best to grow our organization and increase member benefits as well as position our society as the premier surgical education organization in our profession. I will work with the other experienced and knowledgeable board members and our committee chairs to help advance our society.

As you look forward to the next several years what do you see for the ASPS?

I foresee a thriving organization promoting the surgical education of podiatrists across the country, offering a variety of opportunities to learn and improve their skills.

Dr. Andrew Belis is currently the Chair of the ASPS Board of Directors. He is double board certified in Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot & Ankle Surgery. He specializes in arthroscopic and reconstructive surgery of the foot and ankle, traumatic lower extremity injuries, sports injuries, and reconstructive forefoot surgeries. Dr. Belis is an owner/partner of a multispecialty orthopedic medical practice in Fort Myers, FL. His current role as an associate professor at the Florida State University allows him to train Family Practice Residents that rotate through his clinic. He has experience as a national surgeon educator and lecturer to orthopedic surgeons, podiatrists, as well as other physician specialists.

With a membership total of 1,000+, the ASPS Member Spotlight serves as an opportunity to highlight and connect the membership in an effort to promote and advocate networking within both the organization and profession. Interested in being featured in the ASPS Member Spotlight? Please contact ASPS Administrator Sara Chergosky at skchergosky@aspsmembers.org.

Be sure to check the ASPS website for details on the 5th Annual ASPS Surgical Conference and upcoming events!

<http://www.aspsmembers.org/>

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