



**Member Spotlight: Thomas Leecost, DPM, MD,
MPH, FASPS**



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How did you initially become involved with the organization?

As a board certified foot and ankle surgeon, I wanted to be part of an organization that devoted its concentration on surgical education, training, and research while focusing on further developing podiatric surgeons within the profession. In my professional life as a foot and ankle surgeon, I have served as a Residency instructor and adjunct faculty at various colleges of podiatric medicine – as such I believe it is my obligation to educate and continue to be educated.

What excited you the most about ASPS Mission?

ASPS' mission embodies my life's mission which is to educate surgeons so they provide the best possible outcome with the least amount of risk for the patients. The only way to do this is to have the education, surgical training, and confidence that you are providing the best for the patient. As the surgical affiliate of APMA, ASPS works to provide hands-on surgical training and research based practices that support quality patient care and effective results.

What do you find most challenging about supporting the ASPS?

The challenge for ASPS comes from being a younger organization, in which the mission of the organization is often misunderstood. The mission of ASPS is strictly to provide surgical education and training for all podiatrists regardless of surgical background. Through high-quality surgical education programs and continuous promotion of educational initiatives currently in development, we hope to further demonstrate our educational mission.

What do you wish other health professionals and Podiatrists knew about the ASPS?

As the surgical affiliate for APMA, ASPS' purpose is to support and encourage surgically-focused education and training, beginning at the student level and supporting all podiatrists with an interest in foot and ankle surgery regardless of their surgical skill level. We have many levels of membership, and we encourage all APMA members with a surgical interest to consider joining our organization.

What does your position at the ASPS involve?

As a member of the ASPS Board of Directors, it is my fiduciary

responsibility to positively impact ASPS' viability as a functioning affiliate organization of the APMA. While providing this service I must also ensure the public that there are no conflicts of interest. I find my work with board members and members of ASPS enjoyable.

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

Looking forward, I see the contributions of ASPS continuing to grow nationally. ASPS will continue promoting and emphasizing surgical education and training, with increases in membership, marketing and surgical contributions. Through our membership initiatives ASPS' mission and goals will further enhance the organization to better serve podiatric surgeons, and be recognized as a surgical education resource for educators and other health professionals.

Dr. Thomas B Leecost is a Podiatry Specialist in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated with honors from Temple University School Of Medicine in 1974. Having more than 43 years of diverse experiences, especially in Podiatry, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Preventative Medicine, Dr. Thomas B Leecost affiliates with many hospitals including John Randolph Medical Center, Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital, and cooperates with other doctors and specialists in medical group Richmond Foot And Ankle Institute.

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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