WHY CHOOSE PODIATRIC MEDICINE?

Did you know that Podiatric Physicians/Board Certified Foot & Ankle Surgeons are a part of the healthcare team?

A podiatrist is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), known also as a podiatric physician or surgeon. DPMs are specialists in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lower extremity disorders, diseases and injuries. DPMs make independent judgments and performs or orders all necessary diagnostic tests.

At TUSPM, students in their 3rd year learn all about surgical procedures & surgical techniques! TUSPM even has two Surgical Suites directly on campus! Students are able to apply their knowledge and assist attending physicians with procedures directly on campus while still completing their didactic coursework.

See what else TUSPM students are doing by following them on Instagram @templepodiatry

COVID-19 ALERT

We hope you and your families are safe and well. TUSPM recognizes the extraordinary situation current and future students are experiencing during this pandemic. We would like to reassure advisors, faculty, and staff that TUSPM will accept pre-requisite courses delivered in either on-line including labs or distance learning formats completed between January 2020 through July 2021.

TUSPM has agreed to accept coursework graded as Pass/Fail or for Credit Courses taken between January 2020 through July 2021. We will allow various modifications of in-person Observation/Shadowing. We want to reassure applicants that disruptions to their educational trajectory during this time will be recognized and honored as “special circumstances beyond your control.” Further, TUSPM is suspending, in part, its current Traffic Rules to alleviate requirements for the following: in-person interviews (interviews may now be conducted via video-conference technology or other acceptable means). We have also waived the MCAT (on a case by case basis) for entrance with the Class of 2025. However, we reserve the right to ask for additional information.

Be well and stay safe.

Virtual TUSPM Pre-Health Professions
Day
November 21, 2020
11am–1pm EST.

TUSPM will host a Pre–Health Day for students and advisors interested in learning more about the educational process and career opportunities within various medical professions. The Pre–Health Day will be held virtually. For those students anticipating entry into the health professions it would be an excellent opportunity to meet representatives from Temple University Health Science Center to learn more about podiatric medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and much more.

Learn more by visiting our website.

Virtual Webinar Series

"STUDENT INSIGHT" ANATOMY 101
OCTOBER 13, 2020
6:00PM–7:00PM

"DOCTOR ON CALL" JENNIFER VAN, DPM, FACFAS,FACFAOM
CHAIRPERSON AND CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
WHY CHOOSE PODIATRIC MEDICINE 101
OCTOBER 22, 2020
1200PM–1:00PM

"WATCH THE RESIDENTS" GRAND ROUNDS
TUSPM RESIDENTS
OCTOBER 29, 2020
7:30 AM–8:30AM

REGISTER
Christie Stawicki is a third-year TUSPM student who is from New Jersey and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in theatre/pre-law and completed a post-bac program at Thomas Jefferson University. As the daughter of a physician, medicine has been an integral part of her life. She has had the opportunity to witness the impact a physician can have not only on a person’s health but on the entire vision of themselves. By conducting research in an orthopedic practice and by shadowing a podiatrist, Christie was quickly convinced that podiatric medicine was the right field for her. She states that, “becoming a foot and ankle surgeon, in addition to treating sports injuries, wounds, general podiatric conditions made me realize I had been missing out on the best kept secret in medicine.”

With her background in theatre, Christie has discovered that the practice of podiatric medicine is as much an art as it is a science. She states that “Surgery is an art in the way it requires skilled methodical movements that can alter the human body. Patient care is an art in how one develops connections with patients as well as listens and responds to a patient’s concerns, fears, and aspirations. Dedication and commitment are required to successfully master a performance and those same characteristics are integral to succeeding in medical school.”

The shadowing experience has been an important part of Christie’s journey, whether it be a practicing podiatrist or an upper classman in the clinic. She has been able to see a diversity of pathologies and cases. She states that “A strong physician must think on their toes.” As a life-long athlete who has taken part in every sport, from bodybuilding to swimming, she wants to emphasize the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. In the next 10 years, Christie sees herself as a foot and ankle surgeon who incorporates educating patients on the benefits of fitness, nutrition, and prevention of disease, and who hopes that her patients will see the power of their body through their daily choices and habits. By being their physician/surgeon, Christie hopes that her patients see her as a friend who supports and believes in their pursuits and potential, because even with all of the changes in healthcare, the one thing that should remain is the emphasis on the patient–doctor relationship.

Fun Fact: Christie next big challenge is a triathlon and ultimately an Iron Man

TUSPM Students Believe in Giving Back through Service

Cherie Stawicki, a third-year TUSPM student, is from New Jersey and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in theatre/pre-law and completed a post-bac program at Thomas Jefferson University. As the daughter of a physician, medicine has been an integral part of her life. She has had the opportunity to witness the impact a physician can have not only on a person’s health but on the entire vision of themselves. By conducting research in an orthopedic practice and by shadowing a podiatrist, Christie was quickly convinced that podiatric medicine was the right field for her. She states that, “becoming a foot and ankle surgeon, in addition to treating sports injuries, wounds, general podiatric conditions made me realize I had been missing out on the best kept secret in medicine.”

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**Class of 2022: Adapt to transitioning from didactive to Clinical Care during a Pandemic**

During this time, 3rd and 4th-year students are practicing telemedicine in interviews with standardized patients. Now 3rd-year students have headed to the Foot and Ankle Institute Clinic at TUSPM to begin their first clinical rotation, while 4th-year students are visiting their externships.

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**Faculty Profile**

Dr. Khurram Khan graduated from New York University with a BA in biology and a minor in chemistry. During his post-bac work at Barry University, Dr. Khan decided to forgo his master’s degree and pursue podiatric medicine after spending time with podiatry students and realizing that the curriculum was similar. Dr. Khan was particularly interested in the diabetic foot, as both of his parents were diabetic at the time; he wanted to help make a difference in diabetic patients’ lives. Since PCPM, now TUSPM, had the best ranking, Dr. Khan chose PCPM/TUSPM as where he would pursue his Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine. Dr. Khan is proud of being a teacher and a mentor to podiatry students. He began his teaching career at NYCPM in 2007, and after 10 years transitioned to TUSPM in 2017.

The rewards of teaching students and being a clinician are endless. Every podiatrist feels that it is rewarding to see patients on a daily basis. From a teaching perspective, Dr. Khan feels rewarded by the lessons being implemented by the students and watching their success. The rewards in teaching do not necessarily equate to riches in one’s bank account, but through lives impacted and through career development, a lesson Dr. Khan attributes to his mentor and former residency director Dr. Lawrence Harkless. He has been awarded by the students, the “Best Teacher/Clinician Award” multiple times both at NYCPM and during his short tenure here at TUSPM. He is proud to have won this award and affect so many students’ lives at both schools. Dr. Khan explains that one of the most rewarding aspects of his position is watching his lessons being implemented and hearing feedback from students, both past and present, as they learn throughout their externships and residencies. Dr. Khan explains: “As a foot doctor, I am hands-on with maybe 20 patients a day, and affecting the lives of maybe 3,000 patients a year. Teaching the techniques to other students and having them implement the strategies, now you can imagine how that multiplies, and now your techniques are used by a 100 students in class, and if they each treat 3,000 patients, then that is 30,000 patients a year that are benefiting from what was taught.”

Dr. Khan counsels students begins with the lifelong goal of achieving happiness, and then working backwards to achieve that goal. One of the challenges of teaching is trying to get students to understand the whole picture, not just the short-term goals or deadlines. What you do now affects how you do in externships and residencies and beyond,” explains Dr. Khan. Dr. Khan also advises students to manage their time wisely, “time is the commodity, not money.” Once you graduate residency there is no constant daily barrage forcing you to learn, so it is necessary to master the material while in residency. If the experience is not utilized to the fullest extent, then the time is lost. Understanding the material, not memorizing, is the key to success in any profession, especially medicine. “Truly understanding the material and recalling is what makes a great doctor,” says Dr. Khan.

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**Fun Fact:**

Dr. Khan had a small role in a Bollywood film as a teenager.

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**Why Choose Temple**

Temple’s School of Podiatric Medicine (TUSPM) in Philadelphia is one of nine schools of its kind in the nation, and the only one in the Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania tristate area. With leading faculty experts and a focus on practical, real-world training, the school positions students to succeed before they graduate.

- TUSPM is a part of a major university, with a comprehensive allopathic Health Sciences Center and major healthcare system, which owns and operates four hospitals.
- First-year students gain clinical experience.
- With faculty supervision, third-year students begin treating some of the 35,000 annual patient visits at our Foot and Ankle Institute.
- On-campus surgical and clinical skills labs, encourage hands-on training in surgical techniques and clinical competencies.
- Temple is the only school of podiatric medicine with a fully certified on-campus Ambulatory Surgical Center.
- Students have access to Temple University’s facilities, services and activities, including libraries, computer labs, and athletic and cultural events.
- On-Campus Graduate Housing