

## Fellow Spotlight

Scott Byron, DPM



*The American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine would like to congratulate Scott Byron, DPM, on achieving Fellow status. Dr. Byron passed a written examination along with an oral interview. Read a little more about the AAPSM's newest Fellow.....*

Typical: defined as “conforming to a particular type”, synonyms include “normal”, “average” and “usual”. My road to becoming a podiatrist has been far from typical.

Podiatry came to me as a second career, having gone back to school at age thirty. I originally received my undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Fine Arts, from Eastern Michigan University. I spent over ten-years in the field of advertising and graphic design, but, as the saying goes, “one step forward, two steps back” was a constant theme. Having a young family to consider and setting my sights on an interest in

the natural sciences, I changed course toward the field of medicine and specifically the specialty of podiatry. I graduated from OCPM (now Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine) being as close to an interstate commuter student as you can get; driving home to my family in Michigan each weekend. I didn't match at CRIPs, turned down a program that was offered to me during "scrambles", and accepted a residency that was yet to be accredited which was also undergoing a change in directors; the new director, unbeknownst to me, being Dr. Irv Kanat.

Definitely not your typical path to becoming a foot and ankle specialist, and far from normal, average or usual.

As for my interest in sports medicine, and my fellowship pursuit through AAPSM, my children have been my ultimate inspiration. Watching their development and training regimen has given me insight on how much youth sports have changed since mine and my wife's years in athletics. The time of the multisport athlete has taken a backseat to the single sport specialist; this has led to a rise in repetitive, chronic injuries. Living in a community that is very driven toward its athletics, I've worked on the philosophy of "get 'em while they're young". I instruct both parent and child on using the right "tools" for the sport they're pursuing, and to break the department store mentality. Forget about colors, forget about the name on the side of the shoe; the task at hand is showing the importance of the right equipment to avoid injury and improve performance. Having watched my son and daughter play upper level tennis, I've lost count of the times where someone was competing in running shoes or "fashion fitness" shoes. As the "official, unofficial trainer" for their tennis teams, I worked with Asics to provide the opportunity to get the court shoes the team needed, as well as managing a multitude of their injuries.

While most of my efforts have come at the middle to high school level, I've had the opportunity to work with several collegiate athletes and even one professional; yes, a PBA Player of the Year can use a foot specialist occasionally. I am humbled by my acceptance as a fellow of the AAPSM; it is remarkable the level of training, experience and credentials of the colleagues of which I am now affiliated. As for me, I'm ABPS certified, and secretary and board member for the NE Division Michigan Podiatric Medical Association. I have to thank my incredible wife of 25-years for supporting my career change and pursuit of this fellowship program, as well as two great children (not really kids at 23 and 18) who many times doubled as my "guinea pigs".

Thank you Dr. David Jenkins, Dr. Alex Kor and the rest of the AAPSM board for considering me worthy of fellowship status, and a special thank you to Rita Yates for walking me through the entire process. I look forward to playing an active role in the AAPSM, bringing my not-so-typical background to the table.