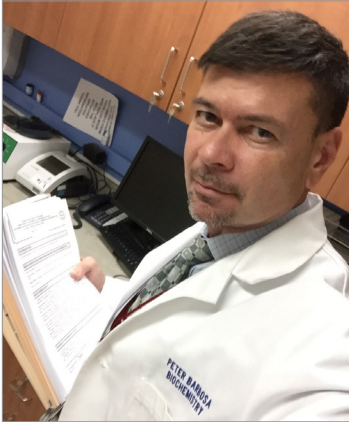


## **Get to Know NYCPM's Faculty: Peter Barbosa, PhD** *Professor of Pre-Clinical Sciences & Director of Biochemistry*

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Right now, Peter Barbosa, PhD, is celebrating his fifth anniversary at NYCPM while teaching biochemistry to the Class of 2020 and conducting research. Dr. Barbosa, Professor of Pre-Clinical Sciences and Director of Biochemistry at NYCPM, was raised in Añasco, Puerto Rico, completed his BS in biochemistry at Texas A&M University and received his PhD in biochemistry from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. After he relocated to San Francisco, he worked as a scientist and immunology professor, specializing in HIV and AIDS, and spent 17 years teaching at the California School of Podiatric Medicine, where he taught biochemistry, immunology, microbiology and research methods.

His current research centers on one of his primary interests as a scientist – chronic inflammation and AIDS; specifically, the research aims to find out if stress reduction has an impact on inflammation. Based on the mindfulness and stress-reduction teachings of Jon Kabat-Zinn, his NIH-supported research will eventually involve three cohorts (he and his co-PI, Dr. Jeffrey Weiss, at Mt. Sinai have just completed work with the first). All of the subjects are HIV-positive; half of a cohort learns meditation, and half does not. He reports that the results of the first cohort are “overwhelmingly positive.” Dr. Barbosa says that NIH is looking at the commonality of inflammation among many diseases, e.g., diabetes, cancer and arthritis, to name a few.

Dr. Barbosa is also ... a filmmaker! He studied cinematography at City College of San Francisco and San Francisco State. He has produced and directed two award-winning documentaries, *De Colores* and *I Exist*.

As a researcher, Dr. Barbosa is also looking at the podiatric complications of HIV; searching for a way to predict success for DPM students based on performance in pre-clinical courses, and seeks ways to improve empathy and patient/provider communication among podiatry students. Regarding his students, Dr. Barbosa has stated that “when they connect with your humanity, they are more likely to connect to biochemistry,” and his numerous Teacher of the Year awards testify to his successful connections.