



## 2014 Faculty Retreat Guests and Faculty Tackle Far-Ranging Topics

Rarely do keynote speakers make their points both physically as well as intellectually when addressing their audiences, but the 2014 Faculty Retreat Keynote Speaker, **Joseph Truglio, MD, MPH**, drove home many of his points about “Small Group Facilitation: A Team Approach” meaningfully and enjoyably with a competition among small teams of faculty to build the tallest tower of ... spaghetti (uncooked).

The contest broke the ice and embodied several of Dr. Truglio’s points about the benefits of small group teaching and of delivering healthcare in small teams. The groups that built the towers embodied several of the characteristics of effective teams: they had a common purpose, measurable goals and showed good cohesion, as well as mutual respect and good communication.

Dr. Truglio, who directs first- and second-year clinical courses at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, pointed out that small groups improve knowledge and skills, and that students prefer small groups that are interactive. After defining the stages of team formation, he concluded with how students perceive effective small groups: they are safe environments; the topics have clinical relevance and integration; they foster independent thinking and problem solving; they display clear objectives and share a number of teacher characteristics.

Remarks by **both Vice Chairman of the Board Gabriel P. Caprio, MBA, LHD**, and **College President Louis L. Levine, MA, LHD, CSW** followed.

Then, the first of the day’s two faculty lectures: “Perceived stress, coffee and energy drinks consumption predict poor sleep quality in podiatric medical students: a cross-sectional study,” **by Fortunato Battaglia, MD, PhD**. Dr. Battaglia discussed the relationship between sleep problems and stress and used data he had gathered from a study of 98 first- and second-year students. His study found a “strict correlation” between both poor sleep and higher stress and lower GPAs. He showed the harmful physiological effects of less than seven and one-half hours of sleep, as well as of stress, on the brain, specifically on the hippocampus.

Guest speaker **Joy S. Reidenberg, PhD**, a Professor on the Faculty of the Center for Anatomy and Functional Morphology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, spoke about ways in which Faculty members could increase the impact and clarity of their PowerPoint presentations. Her talk, “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The Do’s and Don’ts of PowerPoint Lectures,” highlighted a number of concrete examples from actual PowerPoint presentations, and offered suggestions that faculty members could easily incorporate into their own lectures

The second faculty lecture, **by Zev Leifer, PhD**, Professor of Pre-Clinical Sciences at NYCPM, offered a fascinating look at how newly-developed digital applications are being incorporated into medical education curricula. His talk, “Digital Pathology in Medical Education: Example 1, The Use of a Wiki, Example 2, 3-D Printing,” presented cutting-edge ways in which both applications are being used in his Pathology Lab course at NYCPM. [Mr. Levine announced that a two-page write-up of Dr. Leifer’s work in his lab was just published in the book *Digital Pathology* by Yves Sucaet and Wim Waelput (Springer).

A number of awards were conferred during the Retreat -- Peter Barbosa, PhD, was honored with the President’s Award for Outstanding Service. Faculty at NYCPM were recognized for the length of their service: Steven Levitz, DPM (’79) For 35 Years; Mark Kosinski, DPM (’83) for 25 Years; Sharon Barlizo, DPM, Anthony Iorio, DPM (’81), MPH, and Mark Swartz, MD, for 10 Years; José Loor, DPM (’09) and Maria Moschella, PhD, for Five Years. In FCNY, Greg Taylor, BSPT, was recognized for Five Years of service.



*Clinical Instructor Marianne Surasi, DPM, with a spaghetti tower at the Faculty Retreat.*



*Peter Barbosa, PhD (center) received the President’s Award for Outstanding Service at the 2014 Faculty Retreat from College President Louis L. Levine, MA, LHD, CSW (left) and Joel A. Sturm, Chief Operating Officer (right).*