

Get to Know NYCPM's Faculty: Laurence J. Lowy, DPM *Advisory Dean for Student Services*



Advisory Dean for Student Services Laurence Lowy, DPM, is all about the student experience here at NYCPM.

Dean for Student Services and Professor of Pediatrics before stepping down in 2015, Dr. Lowy received a BA in Sociology from New York University, received a Certificate in Pre-medical Studies at Columbia University, attended the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine (now part of Temple University), and served a two-year surgical residence at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn.

While operating a private practice in Connecticut, Dr. Lowy arrived at NYCPM to teach in 1994. He became course director for Podopediatrics 1 in 1995, retaining that title until 2015, and worked in Metropolitan Hospital's pediatrics and orthopedics clinics until 2008. He had left his Connecticut practice in 2006 and became NYCPM's Dean for Student Services in 2007.

From clinician to Dean for Student Services seems like quite a leap, but Dr. Lowy can explain: "I was approached by Dr. Trepal, who conveyed that he and [President] Mr. Levine saw me as a good choice for the position; it was open as my predecessor was moving on. Dr. Trepal said that as I had been Chair of the Committee on Academic Performance and Promotions (CAPP) for many years and had been a respected clinician and lecturer among students, he thought I would be fair but tough when needed in the position."

He continues: "What appealed most to me was the opportunity to try to drive change for the student experience at the administrative level. My goal was to improve events such as the White Coat Ceremony, orientation, and commencement for them, as well as contribute to their education at the curricular level. Beyond that, in the position, I enjoyed providing one-on-one and group support for issues that arose."

Looking back over the last decade, Dr. Lowy feels that in some ways students haven't changed. They continue to be hungry to learn, for example. Their problems and fears remain the same; he praised current

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Advisory Dean for Student Services, cont.

Student Services Dean Lisa Lee for her more interactive, more proactive approach to seeking out students who might be struggling. In addition, he noted that present-day students are more driven by technology. They receive information differently and they are more engaged with clinical studies and are more questioning, in a respectful way.

All in all, he said that Student Services remains a haven for students. It serves a functional purpose, yes, but also has a "human aspect – it's a place to chill or kvetch," safe and supportive.