

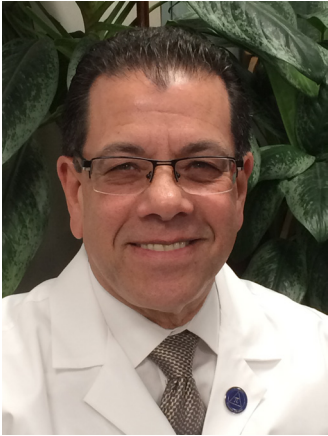


NYCPM
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Get to Know NYCPM's Faculty: Thomas M. DeLauro, DPM

Chair, Department of Medical Sciences

Professor, Department of Medical Sciences and Department of Surgical Sciences



Thomas M. DeLauro, DPM graduated from Brooklyn College cum laude with a BS in 1972, graduated from NYCPM magna cum laude and the valedictorian of his class in 1976, spent one year as a resident at Peninsula Hospital Center in Far Rockaway and then another one-year residency at Atlanta Hospital and Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He started working at the College in 1978 after he completed his residency in Atlanta.

Dr. DeLauro's long experience gives him a long view of the profession. The most significant change he's seen, he says, is that "we [then] clamored to be recognized as an integral part of medicine and surgery. That has been realized today. We're respected and accepted for our knowledge and skills in foot and ankle science. Now that has been recognized as a distinct specialty; we're held to the same standard as any physician or surgeon now."

Whereas podiatry was once limited to the foot, now the scope has expanded to include the ankle; the majority of states have added the ankle to podiatric medical education, with the requirement of the three-year residency training. He also characterized podiatrists as now the "go-to professionals" for care of the lower extremities of patients with diabetes, vascular disease, neurological and other disorders.

"We inherited a profession that our forefathers worked very hard to advance, and now our descendants will inherit all of this progress," he said.

Dr. DeLauro thinks that (podiatric medicine) educators have to "constantly seek to expand [our] existing knowledge and technique," and have to "be the architects of new thought and skills (within the profession)."

He considers the caliber of contemporary students of podiatric medicine greatly improved; many students arrive with advanced degrees that will help them compete. Technology is making a difference for students too. The presentation of material can be much more engaging and dynamic, students can watch recorded lectures before coming to class so they spend time in the classroom asking questions, and instructors can communicate with students remotely.

What his view of the future? Dr. DeLauro thinks the profession is on the brink of sub-specialization; podopediatrics is an example of one of those specialties. He can see podiatrists that specialize in diseases of the nails, skin, or vascular system. Perhaps there could be one-year fellowships after residencies to provide the special training needed. "There are many diseases and disorders that manifest in the foot and leg for which we have no explanation," he said, "so there's a lot of work to do."

In addition to teaching at NYCPM, Dr. DeLauro has private practices in Manhattan and Staten Island, seeing patients in the late afternoons and evenings.