



NYCPM
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

November is American Diabetes Month; Foot Center of NY Supports Several Education Efforts

November is American Diabetes Month, and the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM) and Foot Center of New York (FCNY) are focusing on education, in particular, on raising public awareness of the need to be especially attentive to foot care if one is diabetic, and on the expertise of the FCNY in the care of the diabetic foot.

The College and Foot Center are located in East Harlem; 13 percent of adult residents of East Harlem and Central Harlem suffer from diabetes, compared to seven percent of adults in Manhattan overall. Almost half of those with diabetes were unaware they had it in 2004, according to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and East Harlem ranked fifth in avoidable adult diabetes hospitalizations, more than twice the Manhattan and citywide rates according to the New York State Department of Health.

The month received an apt kick-off with the 8th Annual Wound Care and the Diabetic Foot Conference here, on October 17 and 18. Over 100 attendees, 90 percent of whom were NYCPM alumni, heard presentations from DPMs, MDs and DOs (both of the latter with strong alliances with NYCPM) that dealt with a range of topics from the biochemistry of diabetes to amputations and diabetes complications. On Sunday afternoon, three vendors presented workshops on related topics. Bako displayed biopsy techniques and demonstrated biopsies of lesions; Smith & Nephew, & Alliqua displayed wound care products, including FDA-approved enzymatic debriding agents, as well as surgical equipment to cleanse wounds. Telos conducted a workshop in HIPAA compliance and the future of EMR. Alumni attended the weekend conference at a reduced rate and all attendees received 14.5 hours CME.

For November, the focus is public education about diabetes. The FCNY revised and updated its Diabetes Foot Care and You brochure, which will be distributed in the Foot Center in English and Spanish, along with other diabetes-focused materials from the American Diabetes Association; distribution will occur as well on the 125th Street Plaza by student volunteers. The FCNY's advertising also reflects the emphasis on diabetes. The complimentary radio ad for FCNY that airs weekends on AM 970 and 570 has been shifted to a message about diabetic foot care. In addition, Clinic Administrator Dr. Eunice Ramsey-Parker's November column in the Harlem Community News focuses on foot care for the diabetic.