

Get to Know NYCPM's Faculty:
Marianne Surasi, BSN, DPM ('90), DABMSP
Clinical Instructor



"My podiatry degree has allowed me a great deal of flexibility over the years," Dr. Surasi states, and her journey as a podiatrist demonstrates a world of possibilities.

First, Dr. Surasi studied nursing, earning an associate's degree in nursing from St. Francis College and then a BSN from the College of Staten Island. She worked as a staff nurse for about six years after graduation, and became interested in podiatry through a podiatrist who worked at the same hospital.

After graduating from NYCPM in 1990, she completed a one-year residency at the (then) Brooklyn-St. Albans VA Hospital. Dr. Surasi then worked as an associate with a podiatrist in private practice in Staten Island, and then worked with another private practice in Brooklyn for several years. Her podiatric degree enabled her to work as a consultant for a medical malpractice law firm, and to work in a dialysis center as a consultant treating patients, most of whom had diabetes and/or PAD.

One of the partners in the Staten Island practice worked at NYCPM and encouraged her to apply to the College. She has worked at NYCPM on and off since 1994, working in both the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics, and has been full time since 2011. Currently at NYCPM, she serves as a clinical instructor, working with third-year students; she instructs them in patient evaluation and treatment. Dr. Surasi also works at the VA Hospital on 23rd Street in Manhattan one day a week. At the VA, where she is also a clinical instructor, she works with residents rather than with students.

Dr. Surasi has observed a number of changes in students and in patients over the years. Regarding students, she recognizes that students have more resources now, thanks to the internet, and with FCNY's connection to Lenox Hill Radiology, but they also have to know a lot more: she mentioned reading MRIs and ultrasounds. It's easier for students to get more information more quickly, and for students and faculty to view arterial and venous reports quickly.

Among patients, Dr. Surasi notes the increase in the incidence of diabetes and obesity among the Foot Center's patients, as well as an increase in older patients. At the same time, there has been a decrease in amputations, a trend she attributes to a number of factors: foot ulcers detected and treated earlier, vascular interventions made earlier, plus early diagnosis and treatment of neuropathy. Dr. Surasi notes that the PADnet machine wasn't available when she was a student – with it, assessment of patients' arterial flow to

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their lower extremities can be observed right on our premises. The test is done here with results sent electronically to Dr. Krishnan (Mt. Sinai cardiologist who works with FCNY), who can interpret the results and return them electronically, to be put into the patient's medical records. Blockages that are detected benefit from early intervention by Dr. Krishnan, saving limbs. An onsite ultrasound machine allows doctors to visualize soft tissue structures.

Dr. Surasi also notices an increased number of patients with heel pain and plantar faciitis, conditions exacerbated by their increasing weight. Our current diabetic patients, she says, are very receptive to information about the consequences of their conditions, and especially ask for dietary information and guidance.

Looking back and forward, Dr. Surasi is happy to have had a career that is flexible and enabled her to have a family and to work at her profession in a variety of positions.