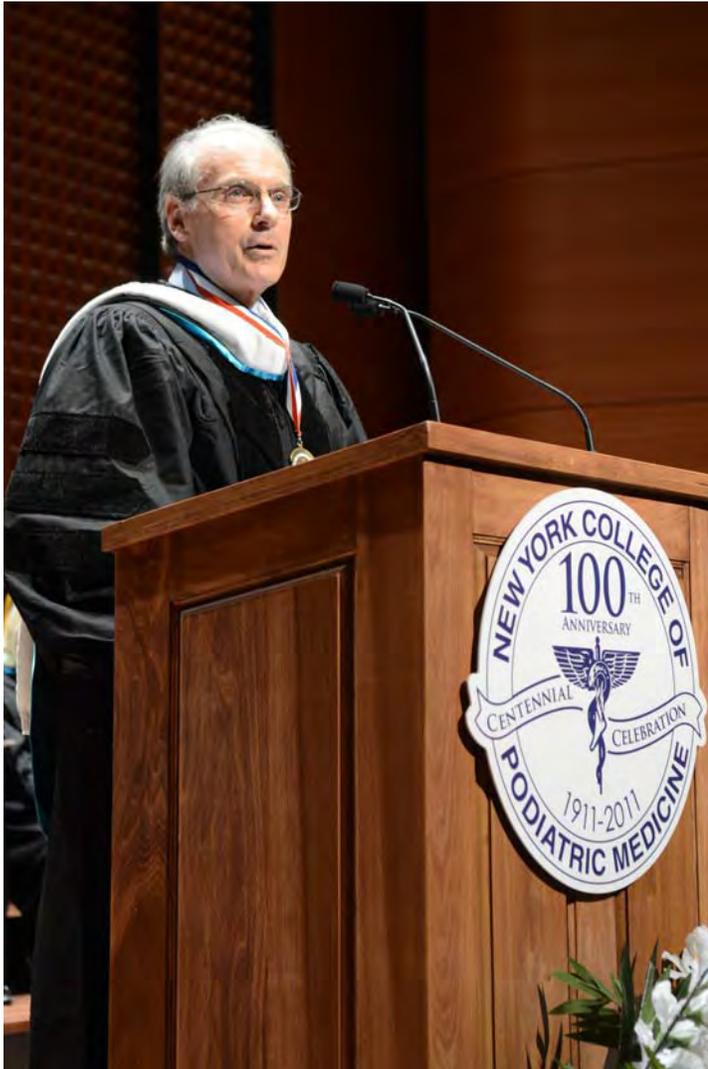




# NYCPM

New York College of Podiatric Medicine



## **JEREMY A. LAZARUS, MD, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT NYCPM 2012 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**Rock G. Positano, DPM, MSc, MPH, Deputy  
Board Chair of NYCPM, Also Honored**

**Vito J. Rizzo, DPM, President, New York  
State Podiatric Medical Association,  
Delivers Remarks**

**Special Recognition Given to Professor  
Jolanta Jaworek, MD, PhD, Dean, Faculty  
of Health Sciences, Jagiellonian  
University Medical College, Krakow,  
Poland**

*Jeremy A. Lazarus, MD, President-Elect of the American  
Medical Association, delivering the keynote address to the  
2012 graduating class of the New York College of Podiatric  
Medicine*

Jeremy A. Lazarus, MD, President-Elect of the American Medical Association, delivered the keynote address to the graduating class of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM) and received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters-Honoris Causa, during the College's 2012 Commencement Ceremony at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City on Tuesday, May 22nd.

Louis L. Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of the College, presided at the commencement ceremony. Dr. Lazarus addressed the 80 graduating seniors—who received their Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degrees—and an audience of nearly 1,000 faculty members, parents, family and friends. In addition, Rock G. Positano, DPM, MSc, MPH, Deputy Board Chairman of NYCPM, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree. Vito J. Rizzo, DPM, President of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association, delivered brief remarks. Special recognition was given to Professor Jolanta Jaworek, MD, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Jagiellonian University Medical College, in Krakow, Poland. Dr. Jaworek was visiting the College to discuss several areas of cooperation between her institution and NYCPM.

NYCPM President and CEO Louis L. Levine said, "The leaders whom we are honoring today are exceptional individuals who are dedicated to improving the human condition. We are honoring them to applaud their service and their dedication, and for exemplifying the ideals that the New York College of Podiatric Medicine encourages in each of its students."

**Jeremy A. Lazarus, M.D.**, a board-certified psychiatrist in private practice in Denver, was elected president-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA) in June 2011, after having served as speaker of the AMA House of Delegates from 2007 to 2011 and vice speaker from 2003 to 2007. He is a past president of the Colorado Medical Society, the Colorado Psychiatric Society and the Arapahoe County Medical Society.

Dr. Lazarus recently served as chair of the AMA Board of Trustees (BOT) Compensation Committee and as a member of the AMA-BOT Executive and Finance Committees. Representing the AMA on the Health Coverage Coalition for the Uninsured and the Ride for World Health, he has been one of the AMA's chief spokespersons on the uninsured. Previously, Dr. Lazarus served as speaker of the assembly and is a distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (APA). He is the author of numerous publications on ethics, economics and managed care issues. His newest book is *Entering Private Practice: A Handbook for Psychiatrists*.

Born in Chicago, Dr. Lazarus attended Northwestern University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He received a medical degree with honors in psychiatry from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Following a mixed medical internship at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, he became chief resident and teaching fellow at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) in Denver. He is a clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine and a voluntary professor of professor of psychiatry at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine.

Personal accomplishments include being a 13-time Ironman Triathlon finisher, 13-timemarathon finisher, and a professional musician and singer.

Dr. Lazarus received the Colorado Psychiatric Society Outstanding Achievement Award in 2008, was awarded a Special Presidential Commendation by the APA in 2003 and received the 2004 APA Assembly Warren Williams award. In 2005, he received a teaching award from the UCHSC Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Lazarus and his wife, Debbie, are the proud parents of three sons and have seven very special grandchildren.

**Rock G. Positano, DPM, MSc, MPH**, Deputy Board Chairman, and a 1988 graduate of NYCPM, has been on staff at New York's Hospital for Special Surgery since 1991. Dr. Positano is nationally known for his non-surgical approach for the treatment of foot disorders. He serves in the capacity of Director of the Non-surgical Foot and Ankle Service at the Hospital for Special Surgery.

In addition to his appointment at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Dr. Positano serves as Director of the Foot Center, Sports Medicine section, at the Orthopedic Trauma Service, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Medical College of Cornell University. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Weill Medical College of Cornell University; an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Applied Biomechanics, Albert Nerken School of Engineering, at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art; and he is an Adjunct Professor of External Programs at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Dr. Positano was featured on the front page of the New York Times in December, 2003, in an article concerning the dangers of cosmetic foot surgery. He recently authored and edited an orthopedic/medical textbook with Dr. Chitranjan Ranawat entitled "Disorders of the Heel, Rearfoot and Ankle" which was cited in the prestigious Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery as a recommended book of interest for clinicians. His thesis on Foot Health was approved with "Honors" and "With Distinction" by the faculty of Yale University School of Medicine.

In addition to his DPM degree from NYCPM, Dr. Positano has a Master of Public Health degree from the Yale University School of Medicine, and a Master of Science degree from the NYU School of Medicine.

Vito J. Rizzo, DPM received his degree from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine in 1982. He has been an active member of the profession of podiatric medicine ever since, founding his private practice, 21st Century Foot Care, located in Bay Shore, New York, soon after completing his residency.

Dr. Rizzo has been a supportive alumnus of the College, and has also been active with the New York State Podiatric Medical Association. He has held positions in the Association's Suffolk Division, and has been on the State Board of Trustees for the past 11 years. He currently serves as the President of the NYSPMA.

Dr. Rizzo holds certification in foot and ankle surgery, and has been involved in podiatric education throughout his career.

**Professor Jolanta JAWOREK, MD, PhD**, is Professor of Medicine at Jagiellonian University Medical College, Cracow, Poland, specializing in internal medicine and rheumatology. She is the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and head of the Department of Medical Physiology at Jagiellonian University. She is one of the leading research experts in the physiology and pathophysiology of the pancreas. She has been working on the neural and hormonal regulation of pancreatic secretion, on the pathogenesis of acute pancreatitis, and mechanisms involved in pancreatic defense and protection of pancreatic tissue. She has reported the results of pioneering studies on the role of melatonin and L-tryptophan in the modulation of pancreatic secretion and pancreatic inflammation. Her research also includes studies on appetite control, and the effects of endotoxin, leptin, growth factors, and nitric oxide on pancreatic function. She has published 150 original papers in many prestigious scientific journals, and has written 16 book chapters in the areas of gastrointestinal physiology, neurophysiology, and rheumatology. Professor Jaworek has been a Visiting Scientist and Postdoctoral Fellow at Tulane University, Columbia University, and INSERM, in Toulouse, France. She serves as the reviewer for papers submitted to international journals, and on various grant committees as reviewer for projects in the field of gastroenterology and pathophysiology.

### **About NYCPM**

The New York College of Podiatric Medicine, established in 1911, is the first and largest of the nine U.S. colleges of podiatric medicine. Its clinical affiliate—Foot Center of New York—is the world's largest foot health center, recording nearly 20,000 patient visits each year. NYCPM has graduated more than twenty-five percent of all practicing podiatrists in the nation, and is at the forefront of podiatric care in terms of education, public awareness, government legislation and professional advancement.

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