



NYCPM

New York College of Podiatric Medicine

JOHN E. ANDERSON, MD, PRESIDENT, MEDICINE & SCIENCE, AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION, DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT NYCPM 2013 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Abraham Lavi, MBA, PhD, Founder of Vilex, Inc., Also Honored

**Gary F. Stones, DPM, President, New York State Podiatric Medical Association,
Delivers Greetings**



NYCPM President & CEO Louis L. Levine (left) awards the College's medallion to Keynote Speaker John E. Anderson, MD, President, Medicine & Science, American Diabetes Association, as Michael J. Trepal, DPM, NYCPM VP for Academic Affairs & Dean, looks on.

John E. Anderson, MD, President, Medicine and Science, of the American Diabetes 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 2013 Commencement Ceremony at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City on Wednesday, May 29th.

Louis L. Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of the College, presided at the commencement ceremony. Dr. Anderson addressed the 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, Abraham Lavi, MBA, PhD, Founder of Vilex, Inc., was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science – *Honoris Causa*. Gary F. Stones, DPM, President of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association, delivered brief remarks.

In his speech, Dr. Anderson spoke about the increased prevalence of diabetes in the world today, and about the toll that diabetes takes on individuals and on society. He described the ways in which the medical community has responded to the growing threat of diabetes, and he spoke about the role of podiatrists in combating diabetes: "What I have learned over time is that you become incredibly thankful for the colleagues with whom you work because it is impossible to be autonomous in the care of patients these days. In particular, with diabetes, a team approach is an absolutely must. I need input from dietitians, certified diabetes educators, other medical specialists including cardiologists, ophthalmologists, vascular surgeons, and of course podiatrists. We all work closely together, and I am fortunate that a great team of podiatrists is located on the first floor of my building, just three floors below me."

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."



*John E. Anderson, M.D.
Keynote Speaker and
Honorary Degree Recipient*

John E. Anderson, MD, is President, Medicine & Science of the American Diabetes Association, the nation's largest voluntary health organization leading the fight to Stop Diabetes®. He is also a board certified Internist and just completed a term as President of The Frist Clinic, a 31-member internal medicine multi-specialty group in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Anderson has also served as Chair of the Department of Medicine of Centennial Medical Center, a 650-bed tertiary care referral hospital in Nashville. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees and just completed his third year as Chair of the Board of this facility. He has more than 20 years of experience in the practice of internal medicine with a focus on the care of people with diabetes.

He has given lectures and conducted workshops across the country about a variety of topics related to diabetes. He has also traveled the states of Tennessee and Kentucky talking to primary care physicians about patient management.

Dr. Anderson has been an American Diabetes Association volunteer for more than 20 years, including having served a previous term on the Board of Directors, as Chair of the Advocacy Committee, and as a member of the Strategic Marketing work group. He was also Co-Chair of the Association's Health Reform Task Force, served on the Professional Practice Committee, and on the Legal Advocacy and Legislative Subcommittees of the Advocacy Committee. Locally, he is serving as a Community Leadership Board member. Dr. Anderson is a member of the American Diabetes Association's Pinnacle

Society and Summit Circle. These are recognition societies representative of

individuals who are providing significant contributions to the Association through major gifts and their estate plans, respectively.

Dr. Anderson graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia and completed his doctorate in medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville.



*Abraham Lavi, M.B.A., Ph.D.
Honorary Degree Recipient*

Abraham "Abe" Lavi, MBA, PhD, founded Vilex, Inc., a manufacturer of medical devices for the upper and lower extremities, in 1996. He has been instrumental in the development of a broad range of devices, including miniature and Charcot reconstruction cannulated screws, small joint resurfacing in foot and hand, ring and monorail external fixators, ankle fusion intramedullary compression nail, subtalar arthroereisis, small-bone plating systems, and numerous specialized surgical instruments. In 2001, Vilex acquired UAM®, a well-known podiatry supplier of hand-held power equipment and accessories. Since 2008, Dr. Lavi has focused on product development and the training of surgeons in the use of Vilex products.

Abe Lavi holds a B.Sc. degree (Highest Distinction) from Purdue University, and MS and PhD degrees from Carnegie Mellon University, all in Electrical Engineering. He also has an MBA degree in finance and accounting from the University of Pittsburgh. From 1959 through 1997, he was a member of the electrical engineering faculty at Carnegie Mellon. In 2006, the New York College of Podiatric Medicine awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

In his tenure at the University, Dr. Lavi conducted research in electromagnetics, control engineering, system theory and design optimization. He supervised over thirty-five Ph.D. candidates and has written over 100 technical papers. In 1967, he headed an interdisciplinary doctoral program in

System & Communication Sciences. From 1976 to 1978, Dr. Lavi was Program Manager of Power System Development for solar energy at the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Lavi has had numerous interests beyond his academic career. For years, he consulted for IBM, Bell Labs, Westinghouse R&D, and numerous institutions in industry and government. In 1979, he founded ERDI, Inc. an energy company, and in 1983 he founded a point-of-sale TV advertising company (COLTV) for supermarkets.

Dr. Lavi resides in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. He is married and the father of four adult children.