Nirav R. Shah, MD, MPH, the New York State Commissioner of Health, delivered the keynote address to the Centennial 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 Centennial Commencement Ceremony at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City on Thursday, May 26th.

Louis L. Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of the College, presided at the commencement ceremony. Dr. Shah addressed the 75 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, Glenn B. Gastwirth, DPM, Executive Director & CEO of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), and a magna cum laude graduate and Valedictorian of the NYCPM Class of 1974, was also awarded the College's honorary doctorate. Michael J. King, DPM, President of the APMA, also delivered brief remarks.

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.”

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H., is the 15th New York State Commissioner of Health. His nomination by Governor Andrew Cuomo was confirmed by the State Senate on January 24, 2011, making him the first Indian-American to serve as State Commissioner of Health, as well as the youngest person named to the post.
1,400 WEST POINT NEW CADETS “START OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT” THANKS TO STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE OF PODIATIC MEDICINE

In both photos, the military man is Col. Michael Neary, DPM, MBA, of the Podiatry Service at West Point’s Keller Army Community Hospital. In the faculty photo, pausing for a quick lunch, are (left to right) Robert Stabile, DPM, Adjunct Clinical Instructor of Surgical Sciences; Russell G. Volpe, DPM, Professor of Orthopedics and Pediatrics; Susan M. Rice, DPM, Associate Professor of Surgical Sciences; and Michael J. Trepal, DPM, NYCPM’s Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean. In the other photo, the NYCPM student volunteers are posing with Col. Neary.

Five faculty members from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM), along with twenty of the school’s students, worked feverishly recently to fit the more than 1,400 new cadet candidates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with properly-fitting boots. The NYCPM volunteers found cadet candidates with a variety of pre-existing problems, ranging from blisters to bunions, hammertoes and other conditions, and referred them to their company medic. New cadets begin rigorous physical training almost from the moment they arrive at West Point, and later this summer, they do a 15-mile road march. Badly-fitting boots could result in blood blisters, ulcerations and stress fractures, hobbling even those cadets with the strongest constitutions. Properly-fitting boots go a long way toward maintaining the cadets’ foot health and, as a result, their overall health and their ability to meet the Academy’s demanding expectations.

This year’s participation by NYCPM in the Boot Fit marked the seventh year that the College has provided faculty and students to West Point to help out. Leading the effort were Col. Michael Neary, DPM, MBA, of the Podiatry Service at Keller Army Community Hospital, and Michael J. Trepal, DPM, NYCPM’s Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean. Other NYCPM faculty members taking part were Russell G. Volpe, DPM, Professor of Orthopedics and Pediatrics, Susan M. Rice, DPM, Associate Professor of Surgical Sciences, Robert Stabile, DPM, Adjunct Clinical Instructor of Surgical Sciences, and Jose Loor, DPM. The NYCPM student volunteers were Amarjit Chhatwal; Ilona Ocher; Irina Pivaryuk; John Ellie; Jay Bhuta; Avanti Redkar; Jarna Rathod; Rahul Bhatt; Anthony Ferraro; Jennifer Seifert; John Kannengieser; Shawn Braunagel; Spencer Monaco; Erin Roberson; Dunja Delevska; Michael Collins; Sara El Bashir; Kevin Warner; Lee Greenberg; and Keleigh Muxlow.

NUI GALWAY SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NYCPM

The Discipline of Podiatry at NUI Galway in the Republic of Ireland has formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding with New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM), one of the leading colleges of podiatric medical education in the U.S.

Speaking at the signing, Dr. Caroline McIntosh, Head of Discipline of Podiatry at NUI Galway, said: “This agreement facilitates the establishment of student and staff exchanges, research collaborations, and the co-development of innovative developments in podiatric education which may have academic, clinical, and commercial implications.”
Five Members of NYCPM Class of 2012 Inducted into Pi Delta National Podiatry Honor Society

At a pinning ceremony held recently at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, five members of the Class of 2012 – Amarjit Chhatwal, Sari Goldman, Oendrila Kamal, Lonny Nodelman, and Devin Poonai – were inducted into the Pi Delta National Podiatry Honor Society, Gamma Chapter. Khurram Khan, DPM, Assistant Professor of Podiatric Medicine, and Faculty Advisor to the Gamma Chapter, served as Master of Ceremonies, introducing Louis L. Levine, President and CEO of NYCPM, who spoke about how the future of the profession of podiatry depends upon people like the inductees. Michael J. Trepal, DPM, Assistant Secretary of Academic Affairs and Dean, led the inductees in reciting the Oath. Lonny Nodelman, Pi Delta National Podiatry Honor Society President, offered closing remarks, thanking Dr. Khan for having put together an outstanding series of lectures during the year.

NYCPM Board Member

Rock G. Positano, DPM, MSc, MPH, Appointed Deputy Board Chairman

Rock G. Positano, DPM, MSc, MPH, Director of the Non-Surgical Foot and Ankle Service at New York’s Hospital for Special Surgery, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine since January 2009, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the NYCPM Board. Dr. Positano, a 1988 graduate of NYCPM, is nationally known for his non-surgical approach to the treatment of foot disorders. Dr. Positano is on staff at the Hospital for Special Surgery and currently serves as Director of the Foot Center, Sports Medicine section, at the Orthopedic Trauma Service, New York-Presbyterian/Weill Medical College of Cornell University. He holds professorial appointments in the Departments of Orthopedics and Medicine and is the Chairman of the Academic Department of Orthopedic Science at NYCPM and the Foot Center of New York.

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

The International Podiatry Club (IPC) at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine recently held its third annual medical mission trip to Mexico. In 2009, led by then-students Munjed Salem, DPM and Andrew Goodell, DPM, the IPC established an annual podiatric mission to Mexico by joining forces with the “Welcome Home Outreach Ministries” organization, whose team from Centralia, WA, has been led by Pastor Elmer Goodell, and has included an internist and an orthopedic surgeon. For the past three years, the mission teams, consisting of third- and fourth-year podiatric students and DPMs from NYCPM, including Sharon Barlizo, DPM, Assistant Professor of Podiatric Medicine, as well as other health professionals, have traveled to Vicente, Guerrero, Mexico and surrounding areas to provide services for hundreds of patients who ordinarily could not afford podiatric treatment. Students not only assisted with surgical procedures and treated cases ranging from common plantar fasciitis to syndactyly, but also volunteered at a local non-profit day care center.

IPC President Oendrila Kamal, Class of 2012, declared the experience “…amazing. We definitely worked hard, but in the end, I gained more than it would have been possible to give.” Fellow mission team member Tanler Volkman, Class of 2012, added, “The IPC Mexico medical mission trip provides an opportunity to interact with a variety of clinical specialists, offering medical care to populations that have limited access and means. It is an unforgettable experience that allows personal and professional growth and reminds you why you chose the health care field.”

NYCPM INTERNATIONAL PODIATRY CLUB
HOLDS THIRD ANNUAL MEDICAL MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

Members of the NYCPM International Podiatry Club on their recent Medical Mission Trip to Mexico.
An expert in the use of systems-based methods to improve patient outcomes, Dr. Shah has been a leading researcher in the use of large-scale clinical laboratories and electronic health records to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of care. He is a nationally recognized thought leader in the methods needed to transition to lower-cost, patient-centered health care for the 21st century. His vision for New York is a state where every resident has access to affordable health insurance coverage, high quality care, and early screening and other services to prevent chronic disease and improve overall health.

Before his government service, Dr. Shah was attending physician at Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, associate investigator at the Geisinger Center for Health Research in central Pennsylvania, and assistant professor at the NYU School of Medicine in value and comparative effectiveness. A native of Buffalo, Dr. Shah is an honors graduate of Harvard College and received his medical degree and master's degree in public health from the Yale School of Medicine.

NYCPM has created a beautifully designed and illustrated book New York College of Podiatric Medicine: The First Hundred Years. This lavishly illustrated first edition of New York College of Podiatric Medicine: The First Hundred Years is now available for only $125. All proceeds go to the NYCPM Centennial Scholarship Fund.

Please order at the NYCPM website, www.nycpm.edu.