



NYCPM
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Get to Know NYCPM's Faculty: Eileen Daly Chusid, PhD



In her 11 years at NYCPM, Eileen Daly Chusid, PhD, has not lost her vital interest in research, in how things work in the body and why; her drive for excellence. Currently Dean for Pre-Clinical Sciences, Associate Professor for Pre-Clinical Sciences and Director of Histology/Cell Biology at NYCPM, she also maintains an academic appointment at Mt. Sinai, where she earned her PhD in Biomedical Sciences.

One of her teachers at Mt. Sinai was Robert S. Bressler, PhD, who is also Professor and Dean Emeritus of Pre-Clinical Sciences at NYCPM; he asked her if she could teach the histology lab at the College. In 2004, NYCPM President and CEO Levine asked Dr. Chusid to teach here full time, and in 2006, she became Dean at the request of President Levine and Michael J. Trepal, DPM ('81), VP of Academic Affairs and Dean.

When she first arrived, she says, Dr. Chusid felt that the College needed more stringent entry criteria to be competitive on the national (APMLE) Board scores. She thought that changes in faculty, exams, course structures and topics were needed. When she became dean, she recruited Kenneth H. Astrin, PhD, Peter Barbosa, PhD, Fortunato Battaglia, MD, PhD, and Anthony V. D'Antoni, DC, MS, PhD, and most recently Joy Reidenberg, PhD, who teaches anatomy.

Dr. Chusid thinks that the changes she's initiated have helped to turn the College's Board scores around; since 2011 NYCPM's graduates have consistently scored about the national average for first time takers and the pass rate is 100% after unsuccessful students take the exam a second time. She also monitors faculty closely, and likes what she sees in terms of teaching, evaluations, and analysis of exams; she thinks the College has also recruited an excellent administrative staff that provides critical support.

As part of the Council of Faculties of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine, which includes clinical and pre-clinical deans from all of the nation's podiatry schools, Dr. Chusid worked on the "Curriculum Project" that was part of Vision 2015. This was an effort to establish learning objectives that would be adopted by all of the schools and provide transparency about podiatric medical education to all medical professionals. The project entailed composing objectives for every course and scoring same based on importance for the practice of podiatric medicine and surgery. The objectives can be found on the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine website. Dr. Chusid thinks that this will help NYCPM recruit and produce students and graduates of higher achievement.

When asked to compare working in a large institution like Mt. Sinai with working at NYCPM, Dr. Chusid didn't hesitate. There are a number of supports and resources at a large institution, she said, but also downsides due to its size. "At NYCPM, however, one has the opportunity to influence the education of students, assist faculty members in conducting research and feel like part of a 'family.' It is another type of support altogether and I for one appreciate it more than I can say."