



**NYCPM**

New York College of Podiatric Medicine

AFFILIATED WITH:  
Foot Center of New York  
New York- Presbyterian Network  
Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons

**ADMISSIONS E-NEWSLETTER**

**December 2009**

Prospective podiatry students have many resources for gathering information about each podiatry school. You can gain primary knowledge by visiting the school in person. You can ask students and alumni for their opinions of the school. You can even visit websites specifically designed to guide you on your pre-med paths. The Admissions Office at New York College of Podiatric Medicine wants to be one of your resources for learning about the admissions process for podiatry school. Each month, our newsletter will feature new topics and questions posed by pre-podiatry students from across the country. Find out the answers to your questions directly from an Admissions staff member.

**Can't travel to NYC? NYCPM Reps may be Visiting your College**

If you want to visit with an NYCPM Admissions representative, but you are unable to travel to New York City, you may have the opportunity to meet with someone at a college fair or presentation. We will be traveling throughout the country this fall, and we may be coming to a college near you. Below is a list of colleges we will be visiting in this month. If you would like to find out more details about the event taking place at each location, please email [enrollment@nycpm.edu](mailto:enrollment@nycpm.edu). You are welcome to stop by the NYCPM table or attend a presentation by an NYCPM representative where you can have your questions answered.

School	Date
Einstein College of Medicine/Enrichment Program- Bronx, NY	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>
College of St. Elizabeth- Morristown, NJ	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Rutgers University- New Brunswick, NJ	December 4 <sup>th</sup>
Mercy College- Dobbs Ferry, NY	December 5 <sup>th</sup>
Gannon University- Erie, PA	December 8 <sup>th</sup>
Mercyhurst College- Erie, PA	December 9 <sup>th</sup>

**Admissions Test and Letters of Evaluation**

All applicants (except foreign medical graduates) are required to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The Dental Admission Test (DAT) is also accepted on a case-by-case basis. In addition, all applicants are required to submit either (1) a Pre-Medical Committee Evaluation or (3) three letters of recommendation. It is recommended that one of the letters of recommendation be written by a practicing

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. Official MCAT scores must be released to AACPM. The DAT score report and evaluations must be submitted to the Office of Admissions at NYCPM.

Applicants who have trained in international medical schools and have taken USMLE Step 1 and/or 2 should submit their official score reports with their application. All international medical trainees admitted to our September entering class are required to successfully complete our 6-week pre-matriculation program as a condition for admission. The requirement for successful completion of the pre-matriculation program for international medical trainees may be waived for applicants who obtain a satisfactory score on a committee-approved standardized test or a passing score on the USMLE Step 1.

## Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are awarded to selected incoming Freshmen. The Admissions Committee reviews each applicant's file and awards scholarships based on criteria set by the Admissions Committee. Scholarships for incoming students are disbursed as credit on the student's account toward tuition and fees and are distributed over the four years of the DPM program.

In addition, there are a number of scholarships awarded to continuing students based on academic performance in the second, third and fourth years of study. Other scholarships and awards are offered by alumni, podiatric medical organizations, manufacturers of podiatric medical supplies, foundations and corporations. Some of these require application with specific submissions in the form of essays, written material, etc. A list of recently awarded scholarships and awards can be found in the College Catalog on page 52

(<http://www.nycpm.edu/prospectiveStudents/Catalog0910.pdf>), or on our website ([www.nycpm.edu](http://www.nycpm.edu)).

## Meet an NYCPM Student:



**Student Name:** Pratibha Bawa

**Graduation Year:** 2012

**Hometown:** Queens, NY

**Undergraduate College:** Macaulay Honors College at Queens College

**Email:** Pbawa@nycpm.edu

### What made you decide to pursue a career in podiatric medicine?

I was always very passionate about school but I was also just as passionate about being a good daughter, sister and friend. As the oldest of four, I was and still am a very integral member of my family. My mother is a full-

time care taker of my 19-year-old physically and mentally disabled brother. Thus while growing up, when the need arose, which was quite often, I was required to step into her shoes and fulfill her duties at home. Seeing my mother devote her whole being to raising a nonverbal son with cerebral palsy for the past nineteen years and three other children gave me the will power to take the initiative. In college, making the well-being of my family my priority became essential, as my brother was seen in the ER countless times. Balancing this priority with my role as a student resulted in learning to study for exams while sitting in waiting rooms and spending nights at the hospital. It seemed natural to take care of my brother, and I soon came to recognize that extending my care for others outside my home also came naturally, and I could achieve this sense of fulfillment every day by becoming a physician. My work in hospitals and my role as a caregiver at home provided me with a degree of patience, maturity and humility when dealing with illness. As illness and treatments increased in complexity with my brother's growing age, my discussions with his doctors taught me about the cause of infection due to a weak immune system and thus the importance of movement, physical activity and nutrition for a bedridden person like my brother. His worsening health due to lack of any physical activity made me question how different my family's life may have been had he been able to stand on his own two feet. I grew to appreciate the impact of the much neglected parts of the body, the feet, on one's overall well-being. The magnitude of this impact increased upon seeing my grandparents and my father suffer from various foot conditions due to diabetes and obesity. Additionally, my shadowing experiences showed me that foot conditions are not inevitable conditions of age and fast-paced life. My rising spirits at seeing a patient, once distressed at the prospect of losing daily functioning due to foot pathology, leave the medical office with restored strength, is what I envision feeling every day by becoming a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.

### **What activities are you involved in at NYCPM?**

As an NYCPM student for the past year-and-a-half, I have mainly been able to concentrate on my studies. However, I have had many opportunities to represent the school as a Student Ambassador during prospective student visits and open houses. As a member of the diabetes club and the wound care club, I try to participate in journal club meetings and any club-related events held outside of the school.

### **What was the transition from undergrad to medical school like?**

My transition into medical school was a bit difficult at first, only because I did not start right after college. It took a few weeks for me to make adjustments in my sleeping, eating and studying habits to accommodate the rigorous academic curriculum. However, the time I took off before starting school equipped me with the right emotional and spiritual tools to successfully go through it.

### **What made you decide to attend NYCPM?**

No other school treated me with as much respect and care. The small and close-knit NYCPM family of students, faculty and staff personally took the initiative to send me emails and answer my calls to clear up any doubts, hesitations and answer even the simplest of questions. The warm welcome I received from everyone made this school stand out when compared to any other.

Additionally, the Foot Center of New York attracted me. The key to becoming a good physician is in how much experience one can gain prior to, as well as after, graduation from medical school. I felt that taking care of patients from all different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, as seen in the Foot Center of NY, presenting with a variety of pathological conditions, would help to enable me to become that kind of physician.

### **What is your favorite part about being a student at NYCPM or in NYC in general?**

I have grown up in the NYC area. Therefore I consider myself fortunate to attend a school in my home town, where I have family and childhood friends close by. Also, I enjoy being part of a small student body where if need be, everyone, starting from the faculty down to one's own peers, become aware of an individual's needs as well as insecurities. If I expressed a concern over my academic performance for example, I was presented with a collection of options, including tutoring sessions from some of the brightest upperclassmen. What I respect about NYCPM is that it will go to the limits to ensure each student comes out successful and satisfied with the education received.

### **What advice do you have for incoming students?**

You should be proud and honored to be part of the NYCPM family. As a family member, you will be well nourished and cared for from our end. It is now time for you to fulfill your role by carrying yourself with dignity, and working to your full potential while also helping your fellow classmates attain theirs. Good physicians make differences in the lives of people while doing as little harm as possible. Keeping that in mind may make studying even the most difficult material more meaningful, and perhaps even a bit easier. Welcome and best wishes.

### **Meet an NYCPM Professor:**



**Name:** Daria Dykyj

**Hometown:** New York

**Education:** PhD in Physical Anthropology, '83

**Specialty:** Human musculoskeletal biology and gait

**Email:** dykyjd@nycpm.edu

### **What are your responsibilities at NYCPM?**

I am a course director for Lower Extremity Anatomy.

### **What made you decide to pursue a career in anatomy?**

I was fascinated by the way the human body is structured both uniquely and similarly to that of other animals, and how these anatomical factors related to the evolution of bipedalism. In order to fully understand the human structure, I studied gross anatomy at the Mt. Sinai Medical School as a part of my doctoral training, and have taught gross anatomy for many years at other medical schools, primarily the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

### **What is your area of expertise?**

During my many years of teaching at NYCPM, my research and scholarly writing have been more oriented toward function and anatomy of the human foot. My last research, conducted with a top scientist on joint structure and function at Columbia University's Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, involved the digital analysis of a joint in the foot and its shape as a possible precondition leading to the bunion deformity.

### **What advice do you have for incoming students?**

Be interested. We all have interesting and important things to teach you, help us transmit our own enthusiasm for our subjects by thinking about each of your courses not as a bunch of exams to get through, but as a perspective, a comprehension of one of the many aspects of the total body and its role in health and disease. Keep focused, adjust your study habits (you will have to), and you'll see the four years fly by to graduation.

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