

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
by Raymond Morales, DPM, AACFAS, DABPM
Class of 2018



I graduated from NYCPM in 2018 and completed my residency at New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, New York in 2021. I am Board-Qualified in foot and ankle surgery and Board-Certified in the American Board of Podiatric Medicine. I currently work at Advantage Care Physicians in Forest Hills, Queens.

My experience as a surgical resident in New York was educational as well as challenging. The pandemic hit during my second year of residency and it led to tribulations that were unexpected yet necessary. My colleagues and I were deployed to medicine for several months. Podiatry cases were practically non-existent for about 3-4 months. We worked alongside I-MED residents and general surgery residents. The hospitalist attendings respected our medical decisions and trusted us with their patients. The thorough clinical training I received at NYCPM made me extremely comfortable working with patients, which translated into success in my externships and residency program. I have no one but NYCPM to thank for this; my experience at NYCPM was very positive.

My involvement with medicine reinforces the fact that podiatrists are needed and most importantly, valued. This unique moment in time taught me that off-service rotations in residency are integral for growth in the profession.

As the pandemic trudged on, so did the concern that many residents would not reach the case numbers required of all surgical students. Through the resources my program provided, my colleagues

Continued on next page

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and I were able to reach at least 80-90% of caseloads required for graduation prior to COVID restrictions. Luckily, these concerns have subsided for all graduating classes since 2021. However, the unprecedented circumstances that led to this training has left us more than competent and confident in our surgical skills. It also provided young residents with exposure to the idea that podiatrists are not only important but needed in all aspects of medicine.

Upon my graduation from residency, I began work in a niche pediatric practice that provides a myriad of treatments for congenital issues. About 80% of my patient population consisted of children younger than 12 for two and a half years. This broadened my understanding of podiatry and forced me to think of different paths of treatment that will not only aid the issues but improve quality of life. Currently, I work for a multi-specialty group in which the patient populations demonstrate every pathology imaginable.

My career so far is a constant reminder that there will always be a place for our discipline. I am fortunate to care for and guide patients to their best health and I value the encounters that underscore the need for podiatry.