NYCPM participates in West Point Boot Fit and Foot Structure Study; Researchers Now Have Data on Over 4,000 Cadets

In one intense day in July, 44 NYCPM students and half a dozen faculty members from the Departments of Surgery, Medicine and Orthopedics conducted research at the 2017 West Point Boot Fit and Foot Structure Study, fitting boots to and analyzing the feet of 1150 new cadets at the historic military academy. Our students joined colleagues from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine and the Hospital for Special Surgery as well as West Point to gather data on the feet of the cadets to see if abnormalities within the study’s parameters predict injury and what type, according to Eileen D. Chusid, PhD, Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences and Director of Institutional Research, who coordinated NYCPM’s participation again this year.

NYCPM students exclusively gathered information for the arch height index and only NYCPM doctors (Eckles, Iorio, Logan, Rice, Volpe, each working with a student scribe) examined the cadets’ feet for foot function, foot type and abnormalities. West Point now has data on over 4,000 cadets. Colonel Michael Neary, DPM, Director of Podiatric Services at the hospital at West Point, will follow the injuries incurred by the cadets. As this was Colonel Neary’s last boot fit (he will retire later this year), he was celebrated with a cake on the boat ride on the Hudson that concluded the day.
NYCPM podiatrists, each with a student scribe, analyze cadets’ feet. From left to right: Dr. Robert Eckles with Sercan Ture (2019); Dr. Loretta Logan with Chung Him Tse (2019); and Dr. Anthony Iorio with William Etts (2020).

(Left Photo) According to Dr. Eileen D. Chusid, this incoming class of cadets has the largest female contingent in West Point history.
(Middle Photo) Russell Volpe, DPM examines a cadet’s feet. history.
(Right Photo) Yussef Fakira (2020, front) and Thomas Ehlers (2019, rear), gather information for the arch height index.
(Left Photo) Caroline Tippett (2019) and Susan Rice, DPM, at the Boot Fit.
(Right Photo) Sandra Zawadka and Janet Jeong (both Class of 2020) enjoy the cruise.

The Hudson River boat ride was a welcome end to the day of hard work at West Point.