“I thought I had the perfect job.” That’s how Randy E. Cohen, DPM, Professor of Radiology and Director, Radiology Section, describes the position he’s held at NYCPM for 40 years. Dr. Cohen graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine (now Temple) in 1977, spent a year in a surgical residency at Coney Island Hospital, then spent a year at NYCPM in a radiology fellowship … and never left. “It’s the one job I wanted,” he says. “I got to do what I wanted for 40 years.”

When Dr. Cohen started teaching at NYCPM, he basically dealt with X-rays and nuclear medicine, but now there are CT scans, MRIs and PET scans in addition. PET scans, he says, are especially valuable in evaluating tumor growth and for osteomyelitis. He used to teach one modality, Dr. Cohen says, but now there are a number of them. “Imaging has gotten logarithmically more complex over the last 40 years.” The value of better imaging is incalculable; he has seen manifestations in patients’ feet that have saved their lives.

It’s much harder for students now as a result, as they must study lots of material in a limited time; Dr. Cohen teaches primarily juniors and seniors. Now, for example, they must master reading 3-D imaging, which forces students to gain a more complex understanding of anatomy. Dr. Cohen thinks it’s more correct to call his discipline imaging rather than radiology at this time. MRIs taken onsite would be a welcome addition. He and his students read MRIs of their patients taken elsewhere; he speaks to the head of radiology at Metropolitan all the time, he says.

“We interact more with outside specialties now, there is more interdependence.” He likes the greater interdisciplinary involvement. “It forces you to be a better doctor.”

Dr. Cohen says he will miss the people here and the institution. Stephanie Maurais, DPM (’08), now a Clinical Instructor in Radiology and Medical Sciences, will take Dr. Cohen’s place as Director of the Radiology Section. Adam Falivene, DPM (’15), currently a resident at Downstate Medical Center, will take Dr. Maurais’ place beginning July 16.

A retirement party on June 20 overflowed with warm feelings and well wishes from faculty and staff.

June 28 will be Dr. Cohen’s last day. “We’re parting on the best of terms,” he said.
Randy E. Cohen, DPM Retires After 40 Years at NYCPM

Dean Michael J. Trepal, DPM ('81), who reminisced about studying with Dr. Cohen, posed with Dr. Cohen at his retirement party.

(Left) President/CEO Louis L. Levine, left, spoke warmly at Dr. Cohen’s retirement party about Dr. Cohen’s Faculty Council leadership.

(Right) Joel Sturm, COO, left, presented Dr. Cohen with a book full of the good wishes of the NYCPM/FCNY community.