

Hurricane Dorian Victims in the Bahamas Show High Rate of Podiatric Pathology



Healthcare team that saw patients affected by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. Dr. Joseph Fox is fifth from right.

Hurricane Dorian caused utter devastation, affecting the outer islands of the Bahamas in early September, leaving many residents homeless and in need of medical intervention. A team of podiatrists and other medical professionals diagnosed and treated large groups of victims of the hurricane in Nassau in October.

Podiatric pathology is quite high due to contaminated and infected wounds in diabetics. A large number of traumatic injuries to the feet and legs from sprains, falls, and fractures, as well as foreign bodies embedded on the bottom of the feet. Lacerations and skin infections were also seen.

The Bahamas is still in need of podiatric physicians who are willing to contribute their time to help the hundreds of patients still in need of follow-up treatment for foot and leg pathology sustained during Hurricane Dorian.

There is also a shortage of medical supplies. Please feel free to contact Dr. Joseph S. Fox, DPM, MPH, consultant for community affairs and public health for NYCPM, who spearheads this effort at the College.

Dr. Fox attended the Bahamas Podiatry Medical Association's Second Annual Conference in October, emphasizing new hope for the diabetic foot.

Danny Johnson, DPM, consultant podiatric surgeon and president of the association that hosted the well-attended conference, has spearheaded a national program on reducing risk factors contributing to diabetic complications and reducing the rate of amputation in the Bahamas and the Caribbean.

Local health professionals, including physicians, nurses and allied health-care workers, attended along with podiatrists and physicians from Canada, Argentina, and other countries from around the world.

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Dr. Duane Sands, Minister of Health, Bahamas Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon; Danny Johnson, DPM, President of the Bahamas Podiatric Medical Association; Burton Rodgers, Chairman of the National Sports Authority Bahamas, presenting a plaque honoring the late Stephen Dorsett, DPM, a pioneer in podiatric medicine in the Bahamas. He helped to establish podiatry as an integral part of the healthcare delivery system in the Bahamas. He had been ill and incapacitated by a stroke for several months before passing away.