

Senior Experiences Gratifying Surgical Rotation at NUMC; Podiatric Chief Podiatric Chief, Dr. Robert Stabile, Would Welcome More NYCPM Students



Michael Rutkowski, Class of 2021



Dr. Robert Stabile, NUMC

On July 31, fourth-year student **Michael Rutkowski** wrote a glowing review to **Kevin Jules, DPM ('84)**, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgical Sciences, about an alternative rotation, that was still able to meet all educational outcomes and learning objectives. According to Michael Rutkowski, who is also Student Association Vice President, a large number of externships had been cancelled in July due to COVID-19 and NYCPM put more students who were unable to find replacement programs in time into the senior surgery rotation.

Dr. Jules had asked for three volunteers to complete a one-month rotation at Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC), not a usual choice for that rotation. Michael, Farah Naz and Jenna Friedman all volunteered, and Mr. Rutkowski raved not just about the opportunities the program offered*, but about **Robert Stabile, DPM ('05)**, chief of the podiatric service at NUMC and on-site director for the Northwell Long Island Jewish Forest Hills residency at NUMC. Dr. Stabile, he said, "really trusted the students to do a lot more right from the get-go than what students usually get to do," and credited Dr. Stabile's second- and third-year residents who played a large part as well in his positive experience.

Dr. Stabile, a 2005 graduate of NYCPM, said that "the goal at NUMC for any student or resident rotation is to provide the most current, evidence-based approach to patient care." New this year, he said, "has been the podiatric senior surgery rotation in which I had the pleasure of having three NYCPM senior students, who did a phenomenal job and I believe had a very educational and 'hands-on' experience. Their rotation was in alignment with the residents' schedule, including OR time, clinic sessions, and in-patient rounding. Additionally, the students were required to attend and participate in a podiatric weekly grand-rounds meeting. "We had piloted this rotation with a student last academic year, and based on positive feedback, it was made a viable option. ... As with any clinical rotation, a student will get the most out of it of what they put into it."

Dr. Stabile noted that his freshman year at NYCPM began with 9/11, and that his 2005 class was a "tremendous, hard-working class." He completed a three-year residency at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center under the direction of the late Dr. Renato Giorgini, at the end of which he jumped at a job opening at NUMC and 12 years later, is happy about his decision!

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Senior Experiences Gratifying Surgical Rotation at NUMC; Podiatric Chief Podiatric Chief, Dr. Robert Stabile, Would Welcome More NYCPM Students, *cont'd*

Michael is happy about his decision, too, and felt that Dr. Stabile and his residents would welcome more NYCPM senior surgical rotations through NUMC. And that is true! Dr. Stabile states that NUMC is now more of an option for podiatric student rotations, and offers a “top-tier clinical education environment.”

****Michael Rutkowski's Great Month at NUMC, In His Own Words:***

“... I was not only able to scrub into many cases, but was really trusted by Dr. Stabile and the residents to do a lot from: injections, to post op dressings, wound debridements, both a shave and punch biopsy, wound vac applications, 5 separate suture removals, intra op suturing in almost every case I scrubbed, and even using a bone saw to resect a patient's 2nd metatarsal head intra op. We basically were in the OR every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and had morning clinic every day of the week with hospitalist rounds (something I also missed out on doing due to Covid) every afternoon. The variety of cases was also great from a PT tendon transfer, to a few ankle fusions each using different fixation systems, to graft applications, 5th met ORIF, a digit amputation, to the more common forefoot correctional procedures. In total if I counted correctly, I was able to observe 15ish cases, 7 of which I was scrubbed in for. Only thing I was a little bummed out on missing were two cool trauma crush cases that came in on a Saturday in which it was truly amazing to see the post op results after seeing the extent of damage in the pre-op photos.”