

Student Advocacy Week Stirs Action



Ayushi Deshwal (left) and Nayab Khan (right), both 2023

July 23 – 25 was Student Advocacy Week at NYCPM. Led by the College’s APMSA National Delegates Ayushi Deshwal and Nayab Khan (both 2023), the Advocacy focused on two actions and three issues in need of the students’ support. Ms. Deshwal urged students to write letters to their Congressional representatives, and to donate, no matter how little, to the APMA PAC (APMA’s Political Action Committee) and to APMA POP (Protecting Our Profession).

The three issues the E-Advocacy concentrated on were: 1) the HELLPP Act (HR 2235), which would bring Medicaid in line with Medicare and recognize doctors of podiatric medicine as physicians, thus ensuring that Medicaid patients have access to the care of trained providers of foot/ankle medical and surgical care; 2) provide debt relief for students of podiatric medicine, as well as others pursuing graduate medical degrees, COVID-19 caregivers and researchers; 3) encourage Congress to include podiatrists in hazard pay.

Ms. Deshwal made it easy for the students to send letters to their Congressional representatives about these issues, sending step-by-step instructions and pre-written letters that took minutes to complete. She posted on social media and was active in the school’s GroupMe.

The weeklong event “exceeded her expectations;” NYCPM came in second among participating schools with 57 participants (Scholl led with 126). APMA reported that in total, 586 individuals took part in Student Advocacy Week, including podiatric medical students, podiatrists, family and friends.

Ms. Deshwal says that a similar event is coming in October.