

... And Bid Farewell to Dr. Robert A. Eckles



Robert A. Eckles, DPM, MPH wants to be clear that he's not retiring – he's leaving NYCPM and moving to another country! A BIG difference!

After 18 years at the College (he started on March 3, 2003), Dr. Eckles is returning in April to New Zealand, where he taught and practiced from 1989 – 1997. He expects to work part-time: perhaps to practice, and do other work. His family is already in New Zealand.

After earning his MPH at the University of Pittsburgh in 1977 and his DPM at the California College of Podiatric Medicine in 1983, practicing in Northern California and then as Senior Lecturer at New Zealand's School of Podiatry, Dr. Eckles joined the NYCPM faculty in 2003 as an assistant professor in the orthopedics/pediatric department. He became Dean for Graduate Medical Education in 2004 and Dean for Clinical Education in 2006. Since July 2019, he has been Dean for GME only, working two days per week. He has, throughout, enjoyed related work in the profession as a board member of the NBPME and the NYS Department of Education Podiatrists Board.

Going forward, Dr. Eckles' many responsibilities will be shared by several members of the NYCPM faculty. **Anthony Iorio, DPM ('81), MPH**, now Assistant Dean for CME, will be responsible for all CME as Dean; **Loretta Logan, DPM ('89)** will assume his responsibilities for the Capstone exam; **Reem Sheikh, DPM** will take over as chair of the Dean's Letter Committee (the Dean's Letter becomes part of a student's residency application); and **Thomas Vitale, DPM ('85)**, will direct the residency program.

"The College has provided an extraordinary, formative opportunity for me," said Dr. Eckles, who hopes he's given back. He added that the "close association with students, residents and talented faculty makes you smarter and better every day. It's an exceptional privilege to work in education, and I'm especially pleased to see so many past residents stay on as clinical faculty after they've graduated."

With a plan to tour NZ for a few months before settling in Hawke's Bay, Dr Eckles hopes - post COVID - that there will be more than a few NYCPM colleagues who will visit.

Kia Ora!