



NYCPM
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Foot Screenings for Research That May Help the West Point Cadets' Boots Fit Better, Avoid Injuries

On Thursday evening, February 26, five podiatrists from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (Loretta Logan, DPM ('89), Susan Rice, DPM ('88), and Russell Volpe, DPM ('83)) and from the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine (James Furmato, DPM, Jinsup Song, DPM, PhD, with Kersti Choe, research coordinator for Dr. Song) worked together at the College to screen the feet of 30 staff and student volunteers (twice each by each podiatrist) for the "Inter- and Intra-Rater Reliability Study," a study that will add data to the "Foot Structure and Function: Effects on Training and Pathology in West Point Cadets" study. The overall point, according to Eileen Chusid, PhD, Associate Professor and Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences, and Director of Institutional Research at NYCPM, is to determine the presence or absence of abnormalities. Certain foot types and pathologies may predict susceptibility to injuries in military training. Dr. Howard Hillstrom, PhD, the Principal Investigator of the study, is from the Hospital for Special Surgery and is the director of the gait lab there. The other PI is Col. Michael Neary, DPM who is the chief of the podiatric service at the hospital at West Point. The point of the study done here was to validate the findings amongst the screening podiatrists. Hopefully, they all agreed on the data points that they were asked to collect. The overall point of the large study, according to Dr. Chusid, is to perform these same studies on incoming West Point cadets and to follow them over four years to determine presence/absence of injuries, types of injuries, effect(s) of strenuous training on foot structure and function (does it change). The study that was done here was to collect supporting data for submission of an NIH grant application.



Foot screenings underway for a study to predict susceptibility to injuries in military training. Seen here are Temple's Jinsup Song, DPM, PhD, NYCPM's Loretta Logan, DPM ('89), and Susan Rice, DPM ('88).



Temple's Jinsup Song, DPM, PhD, examines a volunteer's feet for the screening with his NYCPM student scribe noting his findings.



Temple's James Furmato, DPM, and his NYCPM student scribe, during the screening.