Before medical school: what are MDs, DOs, DPMs, ODs, DCMs, etc.?
- Don’t learn much about them in medical school. Anatomy class stops at the ankle because we ran out of time for the foot (that’s for podiatrists, anyway, right?)
- Heard of podiatrists, not sure what they do or how they’re trained (or for that matter, what to do about foot problems)
- My experience: trimalleolar fracture, MD/PhD orthopod fixes, does great. Ankle sprain, for a year, can’t run more than 1.5 miles due to lateral midfoot pain. Orthopod has nothing to offer. See podiatrist, get gait study, get orthotics, go back to running.
- So, did a little research: learned from the web and from the library. Here’s a non-podiatrist’s history of podiatry:
- Podiatry, Chiropody, Orthopaedics
  - Corn-cutters (? physicians specializing in foot care) found depicted on ancient Egyptian tombs
1600’s, Britain, “corn-cutters” also pulled teeth, regarded as beneath physicians and barber-surgeons

1700’s, corn-cutters became respectable (and prosperous) in the UK, especially London and Edinburgh

1743: “Orthopedics” first used as a term.

1781: Nicholas Laurent La Forest, Chirurgien-Pedicure (corn cutter) to Louis XVI published "L’Art de Soigner les Pieds".

Chiropody coined by plagiarist foot physician David Low in London in 1781; “care of the foot by the hand”, also other derivations suggested (centaur Chiron, chirurg = surg) but in 1950’s, US foot physicians changed to “podiatrists.” Podiatry is now becoming an “in” term in UK and Australia, but Continental foot physicians are “podologs”

1800: Respected corn operator Hyman Lion passing with distinction his medical studies at Edinburgh and Aberdeen University but was refused membership in the College (not “respectable”)

Bunion operations first in 1881

1895: first society of chiropody in New York
- 1907: first podiatric medical journal
- 1911: first podiatric medical school in New York
- 1918: Council On Podiatric Medical Education formed to accredit schools
- 1950's: podiatrists in NJ forbidden to use scalpels. So, started office-based minimally invasive surgery, using dental tools through a puncture wound, sometimes with fluoro. Opposed by “standard” surgery that was done by orthopedists and more and more podiatrists.
- 1964: podiatric residencies started
- 1975: American Board of Podiatric Surgery
- The American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine (ABPOPPM)
- Accredited DPM schools nearby in Cleveland and Philly at Temple (only seven accredited schools); residencies here at West Penn, Southside, Mercy. Students have to do 3-4 years of college, take MCATs, have to take four years of DPM school, including the first two years of basic sciences.
- Common Foot problems
  - Frostbite, Trench Foot, Tinea, Ischemic Feet, Cellulitis: already covered in other EM training; however,
many other common foot problems not covered: Intro to Dr. Pittle of Mercy Podiatry Residency