



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Stavropoulos, DPM  
Podiatrist

“Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind.” ~ Bertrand Russell

Renowned 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher Bertrand Russell uttered these words to express his view on what gave purpose to his life. Keeping the sentiments expressed by him those many centuries ago in mind, I would like to devote this President's message to welcoming the newest Registrants to our College.

Most of you, I expect, are for the first time entering the privileged family of regulated health professionals. Some of you may be turning a page in your career path from that of another health profession to that of ours. Whichever of these applies to you, these first steps you embark upon at this important crossroad in your life will be transformative. Watching you embark on your odyssey rekindles fond memories of the excitement and the passion of the pursuit of a life journey in the service of others that we, as your colleagues, also experienced in our early days.

Each of you has a unique story to tell as to how you travelled and endured the myriad challenges you undoubtedly faced as students to attain this monumental achievement. The stress of navigating through your program of study, your tests, your examinations, your first clinic experience, to name but a few of your experiences on this journey. Add to that the financial hardships you may have undergone while pursuing your studies, while also likely juggling family commitments and responsibilities – this is a significant milestone. Through it all, in the distance, you dreamed of and envisioned the day when these concerns would be behind you, and you could begin to apply your skills and training. That future now lays before you.

As you turn your mind and efforts to the practical realities of clinical practice and the financial realities of a professional career in the real world, I would ask that you reflect on the privilege and responsibility you carry in the well-being of those who entrust their health and care in your hands. This is a sobering, solemn trust - one you should well appreciate. Like Bertrand Russell eloquently stated, your prime motivation at the heart of every decision you make as a health care professional attending to the needs of others, should be how you can best ease their suffering. That speaks to the calling of all health care professionals in their service to humanity. No one expects perfection from you; even experienced practitioners make mistakes. This is



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what it means to be human and to learn; acquiring the knowledge and experience needed towards the life-long pursuit of becoming a better practitioner and better person. If your motivation is pure, you will do your profession proud and you will bring honour and respect to your chosen vocation. This, I would venture to say, is the secret to success and personal fulfilment.

Allow me to express on behalf of the Council, the Registrar, and the College Staff a heartfelt welcome to you, our new Registrants. Take comfort – you are not alone. Now as members of this College, we are here to assist you as best we can in these tentative first steps that you take in your new profession.

We wish you much success and happiness!

Collegially,

Peter Stavropoulos, DPM  
President