

Podiatry deals with medical and surgical diagnosis, treatment and prevention of foot disorders and related conditions of the lower extremity. Currently, five accredited colleges across the country ofter podiatric degrees. The DPM degree stands for Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. The majority of podiatry students have baccalaureate degrees on higher from undergraduate institutions. The podiatric education itself con-sists of a four-year training period which parallels the curriculum studies of most medical schools. Obviously, the emphasis and clinical training pertain more to lower-extremity and fool-related problems. The student serves ro-tation periods in clinics, hospitals and out-patient units. Upon graduation, the student, depending upon state licensing re-quirements, serves a post-graduate internship, preceptorship pro-



gram or some medical and/or surgical-training period. The programs vary in length from one to three years, depending upon the state and facility. After graduation, the student is required by state law to pass an extensive licensing-hoard examination. As in most medical specialties, podiatry offers further sub-speci-alties for investigation and practice. FOR THE ATHLETIC patient, several options are available. First, word-of-mouth referral from a satisfied fellow athlete can

informative. Secondly, inquiries concerning the practitioner's membership in nationally, inquiries curching the practitioner's are helpful — such as the American College of Sports Medicine or the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine. American Academy of Podiatric Sports instanting. Shirdly, you as a prospective patient can inquire as to the doctor's

experience in certain sports-related injuries or cases. The doctor's reputation in the community is a good basis for judg-ment

ment. Today's podiatric practitioner is well-trained and a capable member of the total health-care team in providing optimal care for the foot needs of athletes.

Dr. Charles Young, a Livonia podiatrist, writes a jogging column for the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.







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