MEMORANDUM

October 26, 2016

TO: Chief Executive Officers and Chief Academic Officers,
Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
APMA Board of Trustees
APMA House of Delegates
American Podiatric Medical Students’ Association
Council of Teaching Hospitals
State Boards of Podiatric Medicine

FROM: Alan Tinkleman, Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Policy and Document Revisions

DEADLINE FOR COMMENT: January 20, 2017

Proposal

At each of its semiannual meetings, the Council on Podiatric Medical Educations and its Accreditation Committee review statistical information in determining whether applications for new colleges of podiatric medicine or requests for authorizations to increase enrollment in accredited colleges will be accepted during the next six-month period. During its October 19, 2016 meeting, the Accreditation Committee reviewed statistics related to college admissions and approved residency positions, noting the following:

- Colleges of podiatric medicine reported a total of 607 matriculating students in the fall 2016 entering class.
- Colleges of podiatric medicine have a long-term attrition rate of 16.4%, which reduces the 607 matriculating students to 507 by the time the class graduates in 2020.
- The applicant pool is experiencing a further decline for the fall 2017 entering class.
- As of October 1, 2016, the Council has approved 608 year-one residency positions.
- Based on the average number of new positions over the last few years, the Council conservatively estimates at least 620 approved positions by the 2020-2021 training year.
The Accreditation Committee expressed its belief that the basis for the moratorium, to ensure to the extent possible a residency position for each graduate, no longer exists. Consequently, the Accreditation Committee recommended and the Council agreed to propose the following actions:

- That the Accreditation Committee and the Council on Podiatric Medical Education accept applications from potential new colleges of podiatric medicine

- That the Accreditation Committee and the Council on Podiatric Medical Education accept applications to increase the maximum number of first-year students at existing colleges of podiatric medicine

- Revise pages 30 and 31 in CPME 130 to eliminate the "buffer" or annual fluctuations in the number of students matriculating above the maximum enrollments authorized

The community of interest is asked to note that the eligibility requirements for new colleges of podiatric medicine and authorization to increase enrollment of existing colleges of podiatric medicine (both documents attached) have been revised and strengthened since the advent of the moratorium. For example, the eligibility requirements now include documentation of the need for a college of podiatric medicine, including the size and quality of the applicant pool in relation to the total number of matriculants currently authorized nationwide by the Council.

Comments about the proposal may be submitted in writing by January 20, 2017 for consideration by the Accreditation Committee either by conference call or during its April 2017 meeting depending on the nature of the comments received.

History of the Moratorium

On a regularly scheduled basis, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education reviews the standards, requirements, and procedures associated with its evaluation activities. In order to facilitate these reviews, ad hoc educational policies, standards, requirements, and procedures Committees are appointed.
In October 2005, the Council appointed an ad hoc advisory Committee to review CPME publication 120, *Standards and Requirements for Accrediting Colleges of Podiatric Medicine*. The Committee met in February and August 2006 and conducted several conference calls through 2006 and early 2007.

In an official notice to the community of interest in June 2007, the Council sought comments on proposed revisions to CPME 120. At its October 2007 meeting, the Council reviewed comments received from the community of interest. The concern identified most clearly in those comments was the need to ensure to the extent possible a residency position for each graduate.

The Council believed that the issues identified in the comments and within its own membership were a significant concern to the health of the podiatric medical profession; Consequently, the Council elected to not accept either applications for new colleges of podiatric medicine or requests for authorizations to increase enrollment until both CPME 120 and CPME publication 130, *Procedures for Accrediting Colleges of Podiatric Medicine* were fully adopted.

The revised CPME 130 document included a new policy requiring that at each of its semiannual meetings, the Accreditation Committee and the Council will review the number of entry level residency positions available to graduates of colleges of podiatric medicine. Based on this review, the Committee and the Council will determine whether applications for new colleges of podiatric medicine or requests for authorizations to increase enrollment in accredited colleges will be accepted during the following six-month period. At each of its October 2007–May 2016 meetings, the Committee reviewed the statistical information related to class sizes and available residency positions and recommended that the Council not accept applications for new colleges of podiatric medicine or requests for authorizations to increase enrollment in accredited colleges during the next six-month period. The Council elected in each case to extend the moratorium for six months.

At its October 2010 meeting, the Committee also recommended establishing a moratorium on the 10 percent enrollment buffer provided each college of podiatric medicine, effective with the class of 2012-2013. Consequently, each college’s maximum enrollment would be the number identified in CPME 100, *Accredited Colleges of Podiatric Medicine*. Temporary elimination of the buffer was revisited at the Council’s October 2011 meeting, at which time the Council confirmed its decision.