



Outlook

Response to Commentary by AOFAS President

From Lee Rogers <Lee.Rogers@podiatryboard.org>

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To eleighnton@aofas.org <eleighnton@aofas.org>

Ms. Leighton,

I am compelled to respond to the recent commentary by [Dr. David B. Thordarson, "Protecting musculoskeletal care: Perspective of the president of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society," published in AAOS Now](#). This article contains gross misstatements about the podiatric profession, statements that are not only misleading, but demonstrably false and defamatory.

To claim that podiatric scope expansions occur "without oversight" and "expanded privileges are being granted through state-level legislation and hospital credential decisions" ignores the reality of state regulatory mechanisms where public comment is sought and the AMA, AAOS, and AOFAS actively lobby for their issues. Furthermore, his statements about "podiatrists can now legally perform hand surgery in five states" is misleading in that these are archaic laws, not new scope expansion, and hand surgery is not included in any podiatric curriculum and no podiatrist we are aware of performs hand surgery.

What makes this commentary especially troubling is that Dr. Thordarson is a member of the faculty at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center,¹ which hosts a Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME)-accredited podiatric residency program.² Clearly, he knows firsthand that his statements about podiatric residency training are false.

In the commentary, Dr. Thordarson pleads with his "orthopaedic colleagues to help perpetuate accurate information to our medical colleagues and patients." However, the information he perpetuates is demonstrable inaccurate. More concerning, they appear to be written not from a place of ignorance, but with full knowledge to the contrary. This commentary should be retracted from the *AAOS Now* as these false statements and mischaracterizations undermine professional collegiality, misinform the profession and the public, and do a disservice to the patients we both serve.

Professionally yours,

Lee C. Rogers, DPM

1. Dr. David Thordarson Faculty Profile at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. <https://researchers.cedars-sinai.edu/David.Thordarson>

2. Cedar Sinai Medical Center Podiatric Residency Page. <https://www.cedars-sinai.edu/education/graduate-medical/residency/podiatry.html>

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