



## Press Release

For Immediate Release

# **Giving Back by Looking Forward**

## **Dr. Jeffrey and Cecelia Jensen Donate Scholarship Funds for Student-Initiated Research**

**GLENDALE, Arizona (June 17, 2024)** – When Jeffrey Jensen, D.P.M., FACFAS, Dean of the Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine (AZCPM) and Chair of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM), arrived at Midwestern University in the fall of 2017 to assume the leadership of Midwestern's podiatric medicine program, he brought with him an extensive background in research and innovation.

Dr. Jensen holds 14 United States Patents relating to podiatric medicine in the areas of diabetic foot ulcer offloading, post-surgical care, fracture care, and antimicrobials. Before arriving at Midwestern University, while working as the Dean of the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine, he also served as the Senior Director of Research at the Paul & Margaret Brand Research Center.

His research background drives him to inspire his AZCPM students to get an early start on developing proactive research habits, and it is one of the factors that led him and his wife, Cecelia, to donate \$125,000 over five years to support student-initiated research projects. Student-initiated research is one of AZCPM's three main areas of interest in research and publication, along with clinical trials and grant research through entities such as the National Institute of Health and the Department of Defense.

The Jensens' scholarship fund provides \$25,000 per year over five years, divided between five key areas: surgery, diabetic foot care, biomechanics and sports medicine, wound care, and innovation in podiatric research. Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded per focus area per year. Each of the scholarships is named after a specific individual important to the Jensens with a meaningful connection to each area of research.

The **Earl G. Kaplan, D.P.M., Surgical Research Scholarship**'s namesake is considered the father of podiatric surgery. "I trained at the hospital Dr. Kaplan founded," says Dr. Jensen, "and his sons, who are also podiatrists, were instrumental in my surgical training." The surgery scholarship is important because, Dr. Jensen states, AZCPM is training graduates to participate in a three-year surgical residency program.

The **Irvin O. Kanat, D.P.M., Diabetic Foot Research Scholarship** is named for Dr. Jensen's residency director, who was the first podiatrist to become certified by the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery. The Jensens felt that an important name like Dr. Kanat's befitted a scholarship promoting research in a critical area of podiatric medicine. "Every year, \$17 billion is spent in this country on diabetic patients," Dr. Jensen says. "Over 80,000 amputations occur annually, and there is essentially a race to heal before a patient gets infected and possibly loses a limb. Podiatrists help these patients every day, but these areas demand much more research."

Dr. Jensen describes Dr. William Todd, for whom the **William F. Todd, D.P.M., Biomechanics/Sports Medicine Research Scholarship** is named, as "a brilliant mind, both surgically and biomechanically." The scholarship is devoted to increasing knowledge of the function and structure of the feet in order to provide appropriate care, whether surgical or non-surgical.

The final two scholarships – the **Anita J. Moynihan Wound Care Research Scholarship** and the **Carol A. Jensen Innovation in Podiatric Medicine Scholarship** – are named after Cecelia's and Dr. Jensen's mothers respectively. "Those two are very personal," says Dr. Jensen. "Our mothers provided us with the foundation, ambition, confidence, and work ethic that enables us to give back." Each of the scholarships has a special meaning connected with their area of focus – Mrs. Moynihan suffered from chronic wounds, while Mrs. Jensen was a schoolteacher who, as Dr. Jensen describes it, had to be innovative and creative to help struggling students flourish.

As AZCPM Dean, Dr. Jensen is keen to pass his interest in and culture of research to his podiatry students because of the enormous benefits that research skills bestow on their professional lives. "Researching and assessing research is an integral part of our curriculum," he says. "For advancing our students' careers, student-initiated research enables them to understand a specific area or our profession, understand how to do a literature search, and how to critically assess a journal article. It gives them valuable experience in designing research and presenting to an investigational review board."

Students who originate their own research projects, above and beyond what is already required of them by a rigorous curriculum, find many benefits as a result of their initiative. "Student-initiated research programs enable students to work in areas of their interest," explains Dr. Jensen. "Most important, it provides them with an additional platform to pursue the residency

of their choice. Residency directors want future residents to perform at high levels and want them to produce scholarly work for the residency program.”

For the Jensens, giving back to their students and to Midwestern University in this way is more the rule rather than the exception. “I think everybody gives back, or pays it forward, in different ways,” he remarks. “Our faculty give back by mentoring students, helping students perform research, and helping them get into top residency programs around the country. Cecelia and I feel very fortunate to be able to give back through these scholarships to help our students thrive and provide opportunities that will help them in their careers going forward.”

## **2024 Student-Initiated Research Award Recipients**

### **Earl G. Kaplan, D.P.M., Surgical Research Scholarship**

- **Kabir Sidhu (AZCPM '25), Nikki Jacobus (AZCPM '26), Catherine Ly (AZCPM '26), Gianna Ruiz (AZCPM '27)**, *Evaluation of the Educational Quality of Videos for Endoscopic Gastroc Recession on YouTube*
- **Mattie Krause (AZCPM '25), Landry Batis (AZCPM '26), Clayton Winn (AZCPM '26), Rucha Patel (AZCPM '27)**, *Vascular Malformation of the Foot: A Case Report*
- **Andre Moezzi (AZCPM '26)**, *Literature Review of a Novel Hybrid Method Using a Trans-syndesmotic Screw and Suture Button Technique*

### **Irvin O. Kanat, D.P.M., Diabetic Foot Care Research Scholarship**

- **Mattie Krause (AZCPM '25), Elijah Goeglein (AZCPM '25), Kathryn Shaw (AZCPM '26)**, *Gait and Contralateral Limb Effects when Ambulating with a Total Contact Cast*

### **William F. Todd, D.P.M., Biomechanics/Sports Medicine Research Scholarship**

- **Bethany Robinson (AZCPM '26)**, *Prevalence of Lower Extremity Injuries in Rodeo Athletes: A Literature Review and Statistical Analysis*
- **Ali DeCleene (AZCPM '26), Remi Drake (AZCPM '26), Andre Moezzi (AZCPM '26)**, *Awareness of Podiatry Within the Rock-Climbing Community of Phoenix*

### **Carol A. Jensen Innovation in Podiatric Medicine Research Scholarship**

- **Bethany Robinson (AZCPM '26)**, *Prevalence of Breast and All-Cause Cancer in Female Foot and Ankle Surgeons*

- **Alicia Stevons (AZCPM '26)**, *Managing Patients with Intellectual Disability: Overview of an Interdisciplinary Curriculum for Healthcare Students*

### **Anita J. Moynihan Research Scholarships**

- **Nikki Jacobus (AZCPM '26), Catherine Ly (AZCPM '26), Bethany Robinson (AZCPM '26)**, *Diabetes in Persons with Intellectual Disability: Can Special Olympics Be Part of a Solution?*
- **Alicia Stevons (AZCPM '26)**, *Elite Performance in a Down Syndrome Athlete: What Healthcare Providers Can Learn About Persons with Intellectual Disabilities*
- **Grace Thatigiri (AZCPM '27)**, *Exploring the Efficacy and Mechanisms of Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) Therapy in Ankle and Knee Arthritis*

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