

APMAPAC Champion: Odin de los Reyes, DPM

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that the APMAPAC Board recognizes Odin de los Reyes, DPM, as its APMAPAC Champion. Dr. de los Reyes is an energetic, motivated, and driven APMAPAC coordinator for Connecticut. “If we don’t do for ourselves, government can take away our piece of the pie. This is why contributing to APMAPAC and being involved with political advocacy are so important—they can change the status quo for the future,” said Dr. de los Reyes. His passion and dedication to APMAPAC and the profession are contagious for all who know him.

Dr. de los Reyes was born in Chicago. He attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA, and graduated with a BA in Chemistry.

His path to podiatric medicine was through his father, who required diabetic foot care. In addition, Dr. de los Reyes had a sports-related injury while in college and received successful treatment from a podiatrist. At that point, he was sold on the profession, as he saw how it could help people just like him.

Dr. de los Reyes attended the Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery. He has been in practice for 17 years and is on staff at New Britain General and St. Mary’s Hospitals.

Although he was not politically involved while in school, Dr. de los Reyes became restless soon after settling into practice, and so began his involvement in the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association (CPMA). “I was asked to get involved by Drs. Marc Lederman, Eric Kosofsky, and Robert Rutstein. I am now an officer and sit on the board of directors of CPMA. Being involved has shown me what really goes on, how you must be informed, be involved, and work to advance the profession. If you don’t do it, who will?” said Dr. de los Reyes. Once he became involved with CPMA, he quickly rose through the offices to his current position as president-elect. He also serves as a delegate to the APMA House of Delegates.

As an APMAPAC coordinator, Dr. de los Reyes attended his first annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, just last year. An important part of this role is educating Connecticut’s US representatives and senators about the importance of podiatric medicine. Dr. de los Reyes spent the day on Capitol Hill with APMA Vice President Dan Davis, DPM, who also served as an important mentor for Dr. de los Reyes. “Dr. de los Reyes has the drive and passion to raise the bar of the APMAPAC to a new level! His enthusiasm is contagious, and he leads by example. Odin is respected by his peers and persuasive with legislators. Simply put, he gets it, and he does it!” said Dr.



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Davis. With each legislator visited, they discussed issues such as SGR, the importance of physician parity in Medicaid and the VA system, the cost-effectiveness of podiatrists in diabetic foot care, amputation prevention through care provided by podiatrists, the Thomson Reuters and Duke University studies, and the student debt crisis. As a result of the work Drs. de los Reyes and Davis did that day, they were able to get four of their six members of Congress signed onto the Medicaid legislation, which recognizes podiatrists as physicians in Medicaid—quite an accomplishment.

“I learned firsthand the importance of grassroots legislative advocacy. We are on

the verge of physician parity. Politicians know what we can do when we educate them, contribute to the APMAPAC, and attend local fundraisers, as I do at home. I can’t stress enough just how important [these activities are] for every member. Please get involved, and contact your legislators at both the state and national level. Get involved and be involved. Give to APMAPAC—it is a must-do!” said Dr. de los Reyes.

Dr. Bill McCann, APMAPAC board liaison to the New England states, said, “Dr. de los Reyes brings tremendous enthusiasm to his work as the new APMAPAC coordinator for Connecticut. It is rare indeed that a coordinator is calling me for advice, to report a victory, or to simply check in. He is calling his members and asking for their meaningful contributions as well.” Dr. McCann believes Dr. de los Reyes is a model coordinator and stated, “Odin leads by example in the field. During coordinator training at last year’s Legislative Conference, we needed someone to make their annual contribution using the new Square card reader technology. Dr. de los Reyes gladly volunteered and proceeded to contribute \$1,000. That certainly got everyone’s attention.”

Dr. de los Reyes has been married for 17 years to his wife, Carol. She is also his office manager. “She is my right hand, and it is great to have her right next to me. I could not do what I do without her!” he said.

He enjoys reading, and they love to travel. He is immensely proud of his two stepdaughters, who have followed his path to a great medical career. His oldest daughter is thriving in nursing school with academic honors. His youngest daughter is a second-year dental student.

APMAPAC proudly recognizes and salutes Dr. de los Reyes as its APMAPAC champion! Congratulations, and keep up the good work! ■