

APMAPAC Champion: Bako Diagnostics

It is an honor, privilege, and pleasure for the APMAPAC Board to recognize BakoDx as its first APMAPAC Champion of 2019. BakoDx has served the podiatric medical community for the past 10 years and has shown a deep dedication and passion for the profession. BakoDx has remained steadfast in its support for podiatric medicine at the local, state, and national levels, and the company serves as a role model for industry partners.

For APMAPAC, and more specifically APMA Protecting Our Profession (APMA POP, formerly the APMA Government Education Fund), BakoDx has been a valuable partner for more than a decade as a platinum sponsor of the Kaplan-Clarke-Foster Practice Management Seminar. The proceeds raised through this event afford APMA the necessary resources to bring member and student leaders to Washington, DC, each year for the Legislative Conference. These funds also provide APMA's department of Legislative Advocacy resources to augment its lobbying and congressional education efforts.

With deep appreciation and sincere gratitude, the APMAPAC Board particularly recognizes BakoDx's Vice President of Corporate and Professional Relations, Shawna Shapero. Her relationship with the podiatric medical profession was shaped early in her career as an employee of Monsignor Clement Kern Hospital for Special Surgery, under the late Earl G. Kaplan, DPM.

"There is a kindred spirit among those of us who have a history with Kern Hospital, and a big part of that is the concept of giving back," Shapero said. "Giving back to this profession was instilled in me early in my career. Working for podiatric legends like Earl Kaplan, DPM; Irv Kanat, DPM; and Steve Berlin, DPM, had a major influence on my career, and was where I learned the lesson of paying it forward."

As a result of her education, training, and experience at four national podiatric pathology labs, Shapero has helped to shape BakoDx's influence within the profession. BakoDx is dedicated to the advancement of podiatry, as demonstrated through the company's sponsorship and support of many efforts at the state and national levels.

"It has truly been our honor and privilege to partner with the APMA POP these past 10 years, and we look forward to continued affiliation," Shapero said. "This past year, APMA Immediate-Past President Dennis Frisch, DPM, used the hashtag



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#TogetherWeAreStronger, and we couldn't have said it any better.

"BakoDx is proud to partner with APMA each year at the Kaplan-Clarke-Foster Practice Management Seminar. Proceeds from this important event support APMA legislative advocacy activities and outreach to members of the US Congress. I strongly encourage all vendors within the podiatric medical community to support this annual event to demonstrate their support for this great profession that we serve. Commercial support is of the utmost importance, and working together, we make a difference to preserve and protect this profession, as the recent CMS and VA victories show."

"Shawna has her eye on all of podiatry," said Dr. Frisch. "She understands the importance of the intersecting spheres of the profession, the insurance industry, the political arena, education, and vendor involvement. She actively seeks, and then acts upon, information important to the profession."

William Dabdoub, DPM, co-chair of the Kaplan-Clarke-Foster event, said, "BakoDx has been essential to the success of the APMA POP and Kaplan-Clarke-Foster as our longest, most dedicated sponsor."

"Shawna is a superstar," said Gary Kaplan, DPM, co-chair of the Kaplan-Clarke-Foster event. "I've known Shawna since she came to work for my father in 1976. In every position she's held, Shawna's passion for podiatry has always been front and center. Since beginning her career at BakoDx, she has used her influence to further the podiatric profession in immeasurable ways. BakoDx becoming a corporate sponsor at the Kaplan-Clarke-Foster meeting shows that the company truly knows the importance of legislative advocacy for podiatry."

APMAPAC thanks BakoDx for its exemplary leadership and for making a difference for the profession. ■