

Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine
2026 North Coast Foot & Ankle Symposium
August 20-22, 2026
Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine
Independence, Ohio

Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine is approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education as a provider of continuing education in podiatric medicine. Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine has approved this activity for a maximum of **(25)** continuing education contact hours.

DRAFT PROGRAM — Speaker assignments and times are tentative and subject to change pending final confirmations.

Thursday, August 20, 2026

AM Sign in: 7:00 a.m. 4.5 Category 1 CECH

PM Sign in: 1:15 p.m. 4.25 Category 1 CECH

Total Day: 8.75

6:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

Session 1 — Trauma of the Foot & Ankle

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Moderator: Dr. Samantha Figas

This session opens the symposium with a broad look at acute trauma management of the foot and ankle, including fracture classification, fixation strategy, and complication avoidance.

Panelists: Dr. Joseph Saxon, Dr. Lauren Kishman, Dr. Frank Luckino, Dr. James Connors

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Break with Exhibitors

Session 2 — MIS Surgery, Part I

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Alex Bischoff

A panel discussion on minimally invasive surgical techniques across the forefoot and rearfoot, including bunion correction, TMTJ arthrodesis, and how MIS approaches can be incorporated into everyday practice.

Panelists: Dr. Lawrence DiDomenico, Dr. Frank Luckino, Dr. Nicholas Campitelli

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch & Learn (Non-CECH Activity – Registration Required) or Lunch on Your Own

Session 3 — Wound Care Principles, Part I

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Windy Cole

Dr. Cole and panelists cover core principles of wound care, an interdisciplinary approach to limb salvage, and how AI is beginning to shape wound management decisions.

Panelists: Dr. David Hehemann, Dr. Dock Dockery, Dr. Megan Oltmann, Dr. Samantha Figas

Cutaneous Procedures of the Foot: Building the Foundation

Dr. David Hehemann

Skinplasty Flaps for Wound Closure: Reconstructive Strategies That Work

Dr. Dock Dockery

Pearls in Limb Salvage: An Interdisciplinary Playbook

Dr. Megan Oltmann

Effects of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists on Wound Healing: The New Variable

Dr. Samantha Figas

Artificial Intelligence & Wound Care: What's Here and What's Next

Dr. Windy Cole

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Break with Exhibitors

Session 4 — Forefoot Surgery

3:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Frank Luckino

A closing session for the day focused on forefoot pathology and surgical decision-making, including biopsy technique, lesion identification, and current approaches to forefoot reconstruction.

Panelists: Dr. Joseph Saxon, Dr. Nicholas Campitelli, Dr. Lauren Kishman, Dr. James Connors

Friday, August 21, 2026

AM Sign in: 7:00 a.m. 4.5 Category 1 CECH

PM Sign in: 1:15 p.m. 2.75 Category 1 CECH

Total Day: 7.25

6:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

Session 1 — Arthroscopy

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Moderator: Dr. Joseph Saxon

An overview of current arthroscopic technique in the foot and ankle, with panelists weighing in on indications, pearls, and pitfalls drawn from their own case experience.

Panelists: Dr. Nicholas Butler, Dr. Alex Bischoff, Dr. Gary Most, Dr. Stephen Mariash

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Break with Exhibitors

Session 2 — MIS Surgery, Part II and Charcot

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Lawrence DiDomenico

Dr. DiDomenico continues the MIS discussion with an emphasis on Charcot reconstruction and complex revision cases, alongside panelists' own MIS experience.

Panelists: Dr. Alex Bischoff, Dr. Samantha Figas, Dr. Richard Park

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch & Learn (Non-CECH Activity – Registration Required) or Lunch on Your Own

Session 3 — Wound Care Principles II

Wound Care & Limb Salvage: Managing Hard-to-Heal Wounds and Advancing Healing Outcomes

1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Megan Oltmann

This session continues the wound care conversation from Thursday, with a focus on hard-to-heal wounds and factors — including GLP-1 use and other emerging variables — that affect bone and soft-tissue healing.

Panelists: Dr. Dock Dockery, Dr. Nicholas Butler, Dr. Samantha Figas, David Hehemann

When the Wound Isn't What It Appears: The Importance of Biopsy

Dr. Dock Dockery

Osteomyelitis: Diagnosing and Treating Deep Infection

Dr. Nicholas Butler

The Ischemic Wound: Perfusion as the Foundation for Healing

Dr. Samantha Figas

Biomechanics, Offloading, and Preventing Recurrence

Dr. David Hehemann

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Break with Exhibitors

Session 4 — Flatfoot Protocols

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Jordan Grossman

A discussion of flatfoot reconstruction protocols, including double-plating Charcot midfoot reconstruction and early weight-bearing considerations.

Panelists: Dr. Joseph Saxon, Dr. Gary Most, Dr. Lawrence DiDomenico

Saturday, August 22, 2026

AM Sign in: 7:00 a.m. 4.5 Category 1 CECH

PM Sign in: 12:30 p.m. 4.5 Category 1 CECH

Total Day: 9

6:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

Session 1 — Clinical Radiology & Surgical Biomechanics

7:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Moderator: Dr. Gary Most

A session grounded in radiology, biomechanics, and surgery — from heel pain and gait mechanics to how radiological and biomechanical principles inform surgical decision-making.

Panelists: Dr. Nicholas Butler, Dr. Lawrence Osher, Dr. Danielle Butto, Dr. Scott Spencer

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Break

Session 2 — Hallux Valgus: Podium & Debate — What Procedure Do I Pick?

9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Moderator: Dr. James Connors

A podium-and-debate format session in which panelists make the case for their preferred bunion correction technique — from MIS to fusion — and field challenges from the moderator and audience.

Panelists: Dr. Jordan Grossman, Dr. Stephen Mariash, Dr. Danielle Butto, Dr. Lauren Kishman

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

Session 3 — Biologics and Medical Optimization

12:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Alex Bischoff

A look at the growing role of biologics in foot and ankle surgery and wound management, including practical guidance on patient selection and product choice.

Panelists: Dr. Stephen Mariash, Dr. Windy Cole, Dr. Mark Hardy, Dr. Molly Judge

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break

Session 4 — Resident Case Presentations

3:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Molly Judge

Local residents will present interesting and thought-provoking cases, moderated by Dr. Molly Judge. This closing session of the symposium will be interactive and create dialogue between the attendees and residents.