



To Mr. Przemysław Czarnek

The Polish Minister for Education

28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Sir

My name is Heidi Corcoran and I am the president of the Federation International de Podologue /International Federation of Podiatrists (FIP-IFP). I have heard from our Polish member, Polskie Towarzystwo Podologiczno Podiatryczne, that you are currently in the process of regulating the education of podiatrists in Poland.

FIP-IFP is the international voice of Podiatry. We are a federation of national associations representing the world of foot health care.

We welcome regulation as it is very much part of the criteria of membership of the world community of podiatrists.

Podiatry is internationally is defined as "the profession of health sciences concerned with the research, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of deformities, pathologies and injuries of the foot and associated structures - in relation with the body as well as the manifestations of systemic diseases - by all appropriate systems and technologies using scientific and professional specialised knowledge."

Podiatry is recognised worldwide as a clinical science (the Science Council of the UK) and podiatrists are the independent clinical experts in foot health and the science of the foot. Podiatry is an evidence based and clinically governed independent profession. It is for this reason that part of the criteria for full membership of FIP-IFP is a degree at bachelor level or equivalent. It is the nature of the work podiatrist do in properly caring for their patients that demands this level of knowledge, understanding and reflexion. Podiatrists have full responsibility for their diagnosis and the treatment of their patients and though working in close contact with other healthcare professionals they are fully independent practitioners.

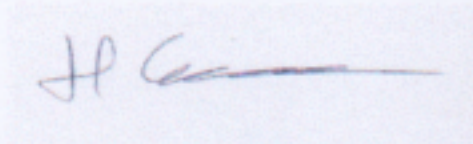
Podiatry is a key part of many countries health systems such as the United Kingdom's National Health Service, the USA, Spain and Malta to name but a few. The role of podiatry is perhaps best illustrated in diabetes where podiatry plays a major role in reducing amputations and mortality. When podiatry is part of a Multidisciplinary Team in diabetes the amputation rates are reduced by as much as 50%, saving money (Kerr 2019) and lives. (Apelqvist, J. and Larsson, J., 2000). Podiatrists also have a documented impact in managing the complications of the Arthritis, poor circulation, musculoskeletal problems, dermatology, and many other medical issues.

We appeal to you most strongly to provide the best education for podiatrist as possible, as the better trained they are the better they serve their patients and the more efficient and cost effective the Polish health care system becomes.



FIP-IFP has a store of resources and people which are there for you so please be assured that we are ready to help you and Polish podiatry in any way we can.

Yours faithfully



Heidi Corcoran  
PODIATRIST  
D. Pod. M., B. Sc. Pod., M.Ch.S., FFPM RCPS (Glasgow)  
MIPAHK.  
UK HPC Registered Podiatrist.

[Heidi.Corcoran@fip-ifp.org](mailto:Heidi.Corcoran@fip-ifp.org)

FIP Secretariat [director@fip-ifp.org](mailto:director@fip-ifp.org)

#### References.

Apelqvist, J. and Larsson, J., 2000. What is the most effective way to reduce incidence of amputation in the diabetic foot?. Diabetes/metabolism research and reviews, 16(S1).

Prof. Marion Kerr "The cost of diabetic foot ulcers and amputations to the National Health Service in England" Diabetic medicine. April 2019

<https://sciencecouncil.org/>

*Se zgodzili z oryginalnym  
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**Polskie Towarzystwo  
Podologiczno-Podiatryczne**  
ul. Michalowicza 12, 98-308 Łódź  
NIP 6412517974, KRS 0000382900  
[biuro@ptp-podologia.pl](mailto:biuro@ptp-podologia.pl)

W I C E P R E Z E S  
ds. finansowych PTP  
*Ilona Vollmer*  
Ilona Vollmer