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Message from Erin D. King

It is my pleasure to present this textbook with the intention to further educate nurses in this interesting and complex field of advanced foot and lower limb care.

As one of the very first nurses to open a foot and lower limb care clinic in Ontario, Canada two decades ago, I learned what risk and perseverance was all about. It was exciting, however, many challenges also surfaced along the way, both from a patient/client care perspective and business standpoint. I understand well the dilemmas many nurses face entering this field, whether their focus is community-based practice or self-employment. Either way, creating your own opportunities is to be commended, and I congratulate you for taking the steps to enter this field of care and broaden your skills and expertise. I strongly believe opportunities will continue to grow for nurses in this profession, especially with our aging population and the overall desire people have to be healthy, active, and mobile.

My initial education in this field was a short postgraduate course geared to nurses. I was continuously searching for more learning opportunities to increase my knowledge base and expand my scope of practice to effectively care for my patients/clients. At that time, there was a lack of formal education and resources geared specifically to advanced foot and lower limb care for nurses. I initially felt lost and alone, and many nurses in this field have communicated the same to me over my many years of practice and mentoring. This further ignited my passion to search for supplementary learning opportunities, conduct research, acquire more skills, take complementary courses, apply all this to my practice, and produce this textbook.

My belief is that nurses have the ability and, now, more opportunities in this field to further their careers through acquiring additional education and advanced skills to support their practice.

Throughout my lengthy career in nursing foot and lower limb care, I have acquired many complementary skills. Technology has progressed significantly in this area, as it has in many fields of healthcare study, allowing nurses to safely and effectively treat within their scope of practice. Many foot and lower limb conditions that, at one time were believed to be untreatable or beyond the nurse's scope of practice, can now be treated conservatively by a nurse with advanced technologies and postgraduate education.

I hope this textbook assists my nurse colleagues and students to excel in this area of care and supports them in their quest to provide quality, comprehensive care for their patients/clients.

Here's to keeping our patients/clients mobile with healthy, happy feet for life.

In health and kindness,

Erin D. King

Registered Practical Nurse, Podortho® Nurse