



# MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center

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**Franklin Square Primary Care Center**

2/14/20

Honorable Shane Pendergrass,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my podiatric colleagues in MD. As an introduction, I am an infectious disease physician who has practiced at several locations in MD over the past 14 years. Currently, I am employed at MedStar Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore.

I have a long history of working with podiatrists in my institution. I am proud to say that I have learned a great deal from them and consider them an integral part of a multidisciplinary team at our institution. We see a large number of diabetics at our hospital. Given the severe foot infections they often have, we currently have a limb salvage team. This team includes podiatry, vascular surgery, and infectious disease. We physicians all contribute our expertise in attempt to save limbs, if possible, on these very fragile patients.

When I graduated from my fellowship, I had some gaps in my training, as I initially wanted to do Transplant Infection. I initially started my work at Hopkins and then transitioned to private practice. I cannot tell you how invaluable the podiatrist were to me when I first started private practice. My learning curve was a little steep the first year, as I saw many of these diabetic patients. However, the podiatrists at Franklin took me "under their wing" and taught me so much. They explained the surgical technique and always touched base with me regarding their patients and also allowed me to round with them on follow ups. In this way, I became very comfortable managing these patients in no time.

I believe that podiatrists are highly trained and an integral part of the health care team and that the title of podiatric physician is long overdue in MD.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bahrain, D. O.