

ABSTRACT

All professions, as part of being given the status of being a "profession" by society, are accountable to society for the scientific basis of that profession. The topic of research in and by the podiatric profession is one of the more important issues currently facing the profession. Research is important for the future credibility of the podiatric profession to validate current clinical practice and the changes that occur in clinical practice. Evidence based practice is directly linked to the quality of patient care, but for many podiatrists in clinical practice the words 'evidence based practice' are a fashionable slogan, without an understanding of how important the concept is going to be to the future of the profession. It is no longer acceptable to base clinical practice on 'time honoured ritual', but it must be related to research findings. A podiatric clinician cannot engage in evidence based practice without the problem solving skills associated with competence in research.

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