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# Total Foot and Ankle of Tampa Bay

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NEWSLETTER

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## Please Meet Our New Doctor Joining Our Practice in July!!! Endri Afesllari, D.P.M.

Dr. Endri Afesllari grew up in the suburbs of Detroit and is ecstatic about the opportunity to practice the profession he loves in the Tampa Bay Area. Dr. Afesllari graduated from Wayne State University with a biology degree with both departmental and university honors. He went on to pursue his medical degree in New York on a scholarship at the College of Podiatric Medicine and the prestigious Mt. Sinai School of Medicine graduating in 2015.

Dr. Afesllari's practice philosophy is evidence based medicine using an empathetic approach while respecting patient values. He encourages patient involvement and believes that a shared decisionmaking approach yields the best medical and surgical outcomes. He completed a rigorous residency in foot and ankle surgery at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital. Although he enjoys every aspect of it, Dr. Afesllari considers surgery a last resort for foot and ankle ailments.

Dr. Afesllari is a member of American Podiatric Medical Association and the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. He has published multiple articles related to foot and ankle pathology. Being actively involved in research has allowed him to stay up to date with the most recent medical and surgical advances.

Dr. Afesllari has received specialized training in arthroscopic reconstruction and total ankle replacement. His area of interest is MIS (Minimally Invasive Surgery) for bunions, hammertoes, as well as foot and ankle fractures.

In his free time, Dr. Afesllari enjoys playing soccer, volleyball and spending time with his family and friends. He is excited to move to the Tampa Bay Area and enjoy the warm weather and the beautiful beaches it offers. Dr. Afesllari recently got engaged to his long-term sweetheart and looks forward to tying the knot with her in 2019.



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### Our Offices

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## Men – Don't Neglect Your Feet!

Americans recognize Father's Day every June by gathering and celebrating the father figures in our lives.

Fathers do all they can to take care of us – but do they take care of themselves? Men often ignore subtle, nagging pain and physical problems and “tough it out.” But these types of problems can often become chronic issues that require more serious treatment to heal.



Here are some common foot problems that men often have – and too often ignore:

**Fungus** - Athlete's foot isn't just an annoying itch – it's an infection that won't go away by itself. Worse, this fungus can be spread to your hands and other body areas. Over-the-counter products may just give temporary relief. Come see us to have the proper oral or topical medication prescribed.

**Fungal nail** - Yellow, chalky or brittle toenails aren't normal! For a permanent solution to this problem, we'll prescribe oral or topical medication. In severe cases, debridement or removal of the infected part of the nail may be recommended.

**Bunions** - Because of bad shoe choices or even genetics, the base of your big toe may have shifted sideways, crowding out the other toes and creating a painful bump at the base of the big toe. Painful bunions don't get better by themselves – come in for help.

**Hammertoe** - Over the years, your toe may get permanently bent in the middle joint from small, tight shoes or muscle imbalances. Switch to shoes with roomy toe boxes and keep those toes stretched and flexible.

**Arthritis** - Yes, arthritis can hit your feet too. Switch to a workout that's easier on your lower limbs such as swimming. Invest in new, supportive shoes for walking and running.

**Plantar warts** - These nasty skin problems can really be painful. The virus is contagious and easily picked up at public pools and locker rooms. A podiatrist has the right methods to get rid of that wart permanently.

**Flat feet** - If you suffer from hip or back pain, the real culprit may be flat feet. Let us fit you with arch inserts if your flat feet are painful and make recommendations for the best shoe for your unique foot type.

**Heel pain** - Inflammation of the plantar fascia, a thick band of tissue running along the bottom of your foot, can cause stabbing pain with each step. Come in and let us treat your plantar fasciitis with physical therapy, custom-made orthotics or injection therapy.

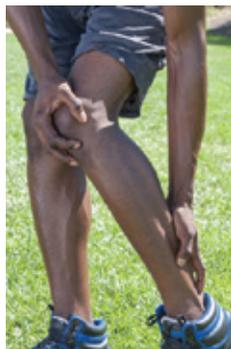
Do a favor for yourself or for that favorite man in your life – get help from a qualified podiatrist. Remember, the sooner you address a foot problem, the sooner it will be treated and the quicker you will be free of pain!

## Achilles Tendonitis Can Hit Professional Athletes and Weekend Warriors

Ouch! Achilles tendonitis can really hurt.

The Achilles tendon is the largest tendon in the body and runs down the back of your lower leg, connecting the heel to the calf muscle. This tendon helps us with all motions including walking, jumping and running.

The Achilles tendon is thick and strong enough to withstand forces of 1,000 pounds or greater! But it is also the most commonly injured tendon because of athletic injuries.



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### Follow us...



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### History FootNote

The father of our country, President George Washington, stood tall at 6 foot 2 inches and had feet that would be today's size 13.

## ....continued from page 2 **Achilles Tendonitis Can Hit....**

Because of overuse, an injury or stress, or degeneration, this tendon can become inflamed. You will know when you have damaged your Achilles tendon – here are some common symptoms:

- Pain or aching at the back of the lower calf, especially after exercising or running
- Pain that worsens over time
- Swelling in the back lower calf area – even without exercising
- Tenderness or stiffness in the lower calf, especially when stepping onto the floor when you first get up in the morning

### Diagnosing and Treating Achilles Tendonitis

To diagnose Achilles tendonitis, we will assess your level of pain and swelling in the back of your heel and lower calf. We'll ask you to stand on your toes, as this can be extremely painful and almost impossible with this type of injury.

Treatment for Achilles tendonitis can include:

- Switching to non-impact exercises
- Limiting the tendon's motion with a walking boot or support bandage
- Using custom-fitted orthotics to alleviate stress and strain on the tendon
- Stretching of the tendon and surrounding area with physical therapy or proper at-home exercises
- Using over-the-counter anti-inflammatory medications – with our doctor's advice – to reduce pain and swelling

In severe cases that don't respond to conservative treatments, surgery may be necessary.

## Recipe of the Month

### Rigatoni with Swiss Chard and Turkey Sausage

Now in season at your local farm, swiss chard has stems that look a little like celery and can be green, red or rainbow-colored - a mixture of red, orange, pink and yellow. Cutting off the colorful stems and using just the leafy greens gives this savory pasta a healthy dose of magnesium and vitamins A and C.



### Ingredients

- Kosher salt
- 12 ounces rigatoni
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 12 ounces spicy turkey sausage, casings removed, crumbled
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 bunch Swiss chard, stems removed, leaves chopped
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
- 1 3/4 cups milk (not skim)
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese (about 1 ounce)
- Grated zest of 2 lemons
- Freshly ground pepper

### Directions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook as the label directs. Reserve 1/2 cup cooking water, then drain the pasta.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large Dutch oven or wide skillet over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and cook until browned, about 5 minutes. Transfer to a plate using a slotted spoon; set aside.

....continued on page 4

## Celebrity Foot Focus

Movie star Brad Pitt suffered an Achilles tendon injury while playing, appropriately, the part of Achilles in the film *Troy*.

## Foot Funnies



Why isn't your nose 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.

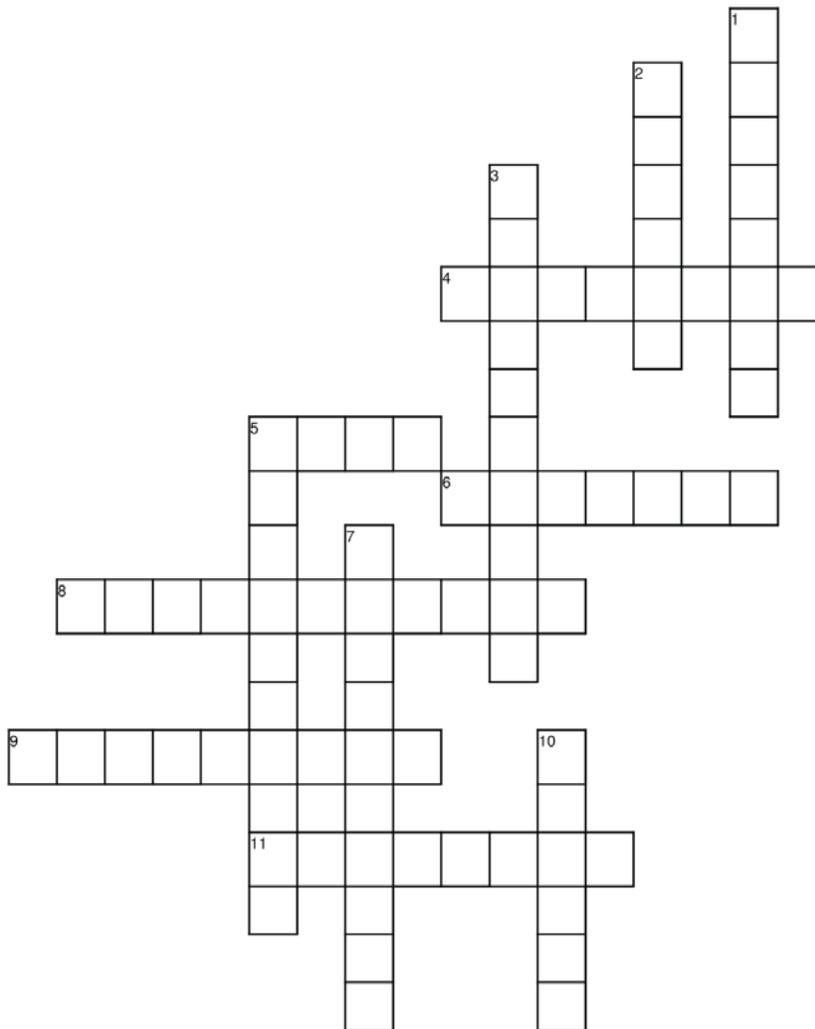
....continued from page 3 **Recipe of the Month**

Wipe the Dutch oven clean; add the butter and melt over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until slightly softened, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the chard and cook, stirring occasionally, until wilted, 3 to 4 minutes. Sprinkle in the flour and cook, stirring, until combined, 1 to 2 minutes.

Add the milk to the chard mixture and bring to a boil; cook 1 minute. Stir in the sausage, parmesan, lemon zest and a few grinds of pepper. Reduce the heat to medium low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until slightly thickened, about 6 minutes. Add the pasta to the pot and toss, adding enough of the reserved pasta water to loosen the sauce and coat the rigatoni.

Recipe courtesy of Food Network Kitchen

## Crossword



### Across

4. custom fitted device to treat many foot problems
5. common symptom of Achilles tendonitis
6. persistent or recurring
8. removal of damaged tissue
9. toe with a painful bump
11. good low impact workout

### Down

1. common symptom of Achilles tendonitis
2. when big toe shifts creating painful bump
3. good exercise to do before and after a workout
5. foot doctor
7. inflamed tendon
10. itchy infection

## Trivia

**Metatarsalgia is a condition describing acute pain in the ball of the foot.**

- A) True  
B) False

Answer: **A.True**

Explanation:

Metatarsalgia is the medical term for acute pain in the ball of the foot. A common overuse injury, metatarsalgia can become chronic as a result of stress and pressure on the ball of the foot. This is often caused by shoes and actions that put an abnormal amount of pressure on the ball of the foot, such as high heels and high-impact sports.

**See Answer at:**

[www.ami-solutions.net/mytamp/nl/2018/jun](http://www.ami-solutions.net/mytamp/nl/2018/jun)



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## Meet our Doctors



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