

# FOOT & ANKLE CENTER OF ILLINOIS FORGES AHEAD IN 2021!



Christopher J. Collazo, DPM, AACFAS and Founder and President John Sigle, DPM, FACFAS

### Submitted by Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois

In response to COVID-19, the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois launched several safety measures for the benefit of patients and staff. Many improvements were also made to enhance its medical facilities, services, and diagnostic imaging systems. Here are some noteworthy accomplishments that will benefit the communities they serve for years to come.

### MAKING A HEALTHY COMMITMENT IN SOLAR

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, healthcare facilities are one of the top five commercial building energy consumers. This is attributed to being open on a 24/7 basis, specialized equipment (such as CT scanners and MRIs) that are in use on a constant basis, and heating, ventilating, and cooling systems that contribute to high utility expense."



Above: Esaote O-scan MRI

The Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois (FACI) recently installed a new roof and solar system at its primary clinic in Springfield, IL this fall.

According to its founder and President Dr. John Sigle, "Our clinic in Springfield, IL consumes a great deal of energy because we have an open extremity MRI and weight bearing CT scanner. We thought solar would be smart way to reduce energy consumption and protect the environment. It is also an added cost-saving solution."

According to Dr. Sigle, "This year we made two major safety upgrades to our mechanical and HVAC systems. As an added safety measure from COVID-19, the heating ventilating and cooling system was retrofitted to include special UV lighting mechanisms that kill viruses and bacteria. Backup generators were also installed to serve as an auxiliary energy power source in the event of unforeseen power loss."

### EXPANDING SERVICE IN DECATUR

Founded nine years ago in Springfield IL, FACI built an exemplary network of clinics in central Illinois that have become the preferred destination for patients with difficult foot and ankle problems. Thousands of patients seek medical assistance from FACI each year in clinics located in Springfield, Decatur, Taylorville, Shelbyville, Sullivan, and Carlinville.

"This past month we made a major commitment to expand our presence in Decatur, IL. We moved into a newly remodeled clinic at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital 1770 East Lake Shore Drive, Decatur, IL. The clinic is open five days a week, 8 am-5pm. The space is absolutely beautiful and patients and staff are thrilled! We have three exam rooms and a procedures room, a casting room, a laser and digital x-ray room, product display area, and a comfortable reception area. The clinic is located on the 1st floor next to the back entryway of the building and is extremely accessible with ample parking," said Dr. Sigle.

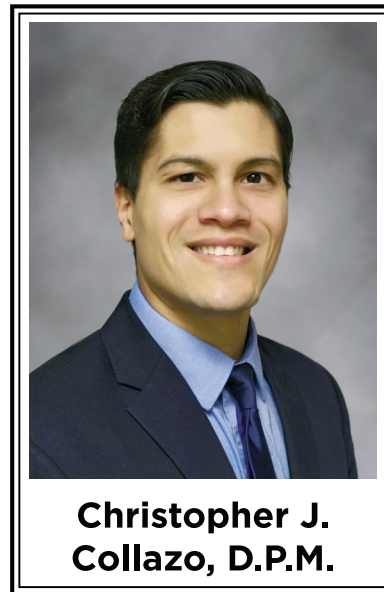
"We also hired additional medical support staff with years of specialized medical training who reside in the area and a top notch fellow-trained surgeon, Christopher Collazo, DPM,

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Christopher J. Collazo, D.P.M.

### Christopher J. Collazo, D.P.M.

is an advanced foot and ankle surgeon/podiatrist serving Decatur and surrounding areas.

Dr. Collazo completed an advanced surgical fellowship at the Weil Foot, Ankle, and Orthopedic Institute in Des Plaines, Illinois,

which is recognized as the premier Podiatric Surgical Fellowship in the United States.

He was a three-year Resident Physician at Sanford Medical Center, Fargo, North Dakota and served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Collazo earned his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree from Des Moines University, Des Moines, Iowa, College of Podiatry Medicine and Surgery.

He received his Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology from Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas. He graduated with Cum Laude honors. He was also an NCAA Division II Scholarship Baseball Player.

Dr. Collazo is Board Qualified in Foot and Reconstructive Rear Foot/Ankle Surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery National Board of Podiatric Medicine Education.

217.787.2700

www.myfootandanklecenter.com



## FACI Forges Head in 2021!

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AACFAS. Dr. Collazo will be on-site five days a week and also available for trauma and emergency needs. He will be an asset to our practice and to the community," said Dr. Sigle.

According to Dr. Collazo, "I know I am going to enjoy working with Dr. Sigle and Dr. Gonzalez who are highly trained and well regarded physicians in the central Illinois region. I am looking forward to building my practice and establishing roots

in the Decatur area. This is an excellent opportunity to provide advanced foot care to Macon County. I know we can really make a difference!"

### EXPANDING SERVICE IN MONTICELLO

The Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois is also expanding its reach to nearby Piatt County this year. According to Dr. Sigle, "We are working closely with Kirby Hospital to join their medical staff. Kirby has a beautiful facility and is an extraordinary independent hospital. The National Rural Health Association recognized Kirby as a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital in 2019."

### BRINGING WORLD CLASS IMAGING TO CENTRAL ILLINOIS

This year FACI acquired a world-class extremity MRI to expand its diagnostic capabilities. According to Dr. Sigle, "We want to change the field of podiatry and offer advanced foot and ankle care to our patients. We have gradually incorporated state of the art technology into our practice. The Esaote O-scan MRI is a wonderful complement to our weight bearing Curve Beam CT Scanner and digital X-ray equipment."

The Esaote O-scan MRI is the world's most advanced extremity MRI. This technology is a vast departure from the whole-body scanners that can be frightening and uncomfortable. The MRI permits the patient to lie in a comfortable position outside of the machine with only part of the body in the tube. It is able to scan the lower extremity from the knee down to the foot and arms from below the elbow to the hand.

The experience is totally different from conventional MRIs. The patient is positioned on a reclining table while the foot is positioned into the MRI opening. The other leg rests on support padding next to the MRI opening. The room ambience is more like a spa than a hospital with pleasant indirect dimmer lighting

in the ceiling and a flat screen TV to view favorite programs or listen to music. A technologist is always within a few feet during the course of a scan. Unlike conventional MRIs, the sound transmission from the MRI is minimal and allows for close contact between the patient and the technician.

"Having this technology at our disposal allows us to provide immediate diagnosis during patient consultations; and to pre-plan and customize surgeries that will minimize surgical time and help us avoid possible complications," said Dr. Sigle.

According to Dr. Gonzalez, "The extremity MRI is fantastic for patients who are claustrophobic and fearful of getting into an enclosed MRI chamber. Image quality is also best in class." The Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois was designated as an Accredited MRI and CT Imaging Center by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission.

"This past year certainly presented the greatest challenges of my lifetime and professional career," said Dr. Sigle. "I am so proud of our staff for their high level of professionalism and commitment to stay open during the pandemic, and still implement major accomplishment. We look forward to expanding services in Decatur and Monticello and adding new patients. As we head into our tenth year of practice, we are confident that Dr. Collazo will bring added value to our practice and to the region."

If you are looking for advanced foot and ankle care contact the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois 217-787-2700 to make an appointment. You can also book on-line at [myfootandanklecenter.com](http://myfootandanklecenter.com). Clinics are conveniently located in Springfield, Decatur, Taylorville, Shelbyville, Sullivan, and Carlinville. Visit [myfootandanklecenter.com](http://myfootandanklecenter.com) to view videos on advanced imaging.

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