



# THE AUTONOMY BLUEPRINT

## LEVERAGING TECH, CASH, AND TALENT FOR A FUTURE-PROOF PRACTICE

### Stop Reacting. Start Leading.

For years, we've talked about "elevating" our practices. But in 2026, elevation isn't enough—you need **AUTONOMY**.

We are living through a unique moment in podiatry. AI is promising to change everything, insurance companies are tightening their grip, and the "labor shortage" is forcing us to rethink how we lead. You can either be swept up in the chaos, or you can use it as fuel.

At this year's Top Practices Annual Summit, we are handing you **YOUR AUTONOMY BLUEPRINT**. We've cut through the noise to bring you the three essential strategies for a thriving, independent future:

- 1 AI INTEGRATION:** How to evaluate and adopt the tech that actually buys you back your time.
- 2 CASH MODALITIES:** How to provide elite patient outcomes and massive practice growth on your own terms.
- 3 LEADERSHIP MASTERY:** How to stop "managing" and start coaching your team into a self-sustaining powerhouse.

This isn't just another seminar. It's a strategic retreat designed to help you reclaim your time, your profit, and your passion for podiatry. In other words: **YOUR AUTONOMY BLUEPRINT**.

### The Future—YOUR FUTURE—Is What You Build

Whether you want to lead a solo practice or scale to a 10-doctor group, the outcome depends on one thing: **THE PLAN**. Every elite team has one. At the Top Practices Summit, we are teaching the plan for doctors who refuse to "sell out" and instead choose to "stand out."

**THIS SUMMIT IS FOR THE VETERANS** who love treating patients but are tired of the administrative hassle. **IT IS FOR THE TRAILBLAZERS** who are defying the naysayers by opening new practices and want to skip the "school of hard knocks" by learning from those who are thriving in private practice today.

### Private Practice is Not a Solo Sport

That is the mission of Top Practices. We are building a future where the business of podiatry is as rewarding as the medicine. Join me and several hundred of your colleagues in **CHICAGO, IL, ON OCTOBER 9, 10, AND 11. BRING YOUR KEY STAFF WITH YOU..** Let them see the vision so they can help you build it before you even walk through your clinic doors on Monday morning.

### Experience the Power of the Mastermind

At the Summit, you won't just sit in a dark room and take notes. You will join a community. You will be encouraged to form mastermind groups and accountability circles, connections that have sustained our members for nearly two decades. There is simply no other meeting like this in podiatry.

Stop settling for stress, anxiety, or the fear of "what's next." Your life as a business owner can be enjoyable, sustaining, and deeply rewarding. Since 2007, we have helped over 1,600 podiatrists move from frustration to freedom.

**GIVE US ONE WEEKEND TO SHOW YOU HOW TO LOOK FORWARD TO MONDAY MORNING.** Because when you have the Blueprint, the future isn't something that happens to you—it's something you create.

# THE SUMMIT STARTS FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>



5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**THE AUTONOMY  
MANIFESTO**

**FRIDAY**  
THE FOUNDATION

# THE SUMMIT CONTINUES SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>



9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**THE ARCHITECT  
VS. THE BUILDER**  
PRESENTED BY  
**DR. MELISSA LOCKWOOD**

**SATURDAY**  
INTELLIGENCE  
& INNOVATION

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**AI POWER PANEL & DEMOS**  
THE FILTER IN ACTION

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

**MODERATED ROUNDTABLES**  
DEEP DIVE INTO THE TECH STACK

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**THE BIG REVEAL**  
2026 MARKETER OF THE YEAR MASTERCLASS

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

**KEY TOPICS PANEL**  
SYNTHESIS OF THE BLUEPRINT

*I enjoyed connecting with like-minded office managers, especially the problem/solution exercise. It's nice to know we are not alone and our situations may have different solutions when viewed by fresh eyes.*

**JILL WALTER**

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM

**THE AUTONOMY ESCAPE ROOM**  
A KINETIC STRATEGY SPRINT

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**THE TOP PRACTICES**  
NETWORKING PARTY!

**GO TO [TOPPRACTICES.COM/SUMMIT](https://toppractices.com/summit) FOR FULL DETAILS.**

# THE SUMMIT CONTINUES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

Attendees will break out into three different workshop tracks on Sunday. The workshops are designed so that anyone can attend them based on the topic.

**ALL TRACKS: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**SUNDAY  
IMPLEMENTATION**

## **TRACK ONE** THE CEO (FINANCE & CASH)

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM • **THE PATH TO CASH PANEL**

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | LED BY: MIKE MCNEILL • **THE MATH OF AUTONOMY: FINANCE WORKSHOP**

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM | LED BY: JAY HENDERSON • **PEAK CAPACITY: THE STAFFING ROI**

1:15 PM – 3:00 PM • **TOPIC-SPECIFIC ROUNDTABLES: THE SOVEREIGNTY DEEP DIVES**

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM • **CLOSING SESSION: YOUR 90-DAY AUTONOMY ROADMAP**

## **TRACK TWO** THE COACH (CULTURE & TEAMS)

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM • **FRONT-END FREEDOM: HOW TO HAVE YOUR MEDICAL ASSISTANTS MANAGE THEMSELVES**

10:30 AM – 11:15 AM • **WORKSHOP: FROM BOSS TO MENTOR - HOW TO CREATE A “LEADER-LEADER” ENVIRONMENT**

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM • **STAFF ROUNDTABLE: WHAT MOTIVATES THE 2026 WORKFORCE?**

1:15 PM – 3:00 PM • **TINA’S SESSION: THE CONFLICT-TO-COACHING PIPELINE**

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM • **CLOSING SESSION: YOUR 90-DAY AUTONOMY ROADMAP**

## **TRACK THREE** THE VISIONARY (MARKETING)

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM • **THE AI-ENHANCED MARKETER: 3 MONTHS OF CONTENT IN 3 HOURS**

10:30 AM – 11:15 AM • **THE “BLUE-CHIP” CASE STUDIES: WHAT’S MOVING THE NEEDLE NOW?**

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM • **MARKETING ROUNDTABLES: SOLVING THE “HIGH-QUALITY LEAD” PUZZLE**

1:15 PM – 3:00 PM • **THE MARKETING MASTERMIND: ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES**

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM • **CLOSING SESSION: YOUR 90-DAY AUTONOMY ROADMAP**

**REGISTER NOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT.**



# TOP PRACTICES

THE HOME FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE

12237 Lost Treasure Ave. • Las Vegas, NV 89138

717.626.2025 ph • 717.625.0552 fx

answers@TopPractices.com • TopPractices.com



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SEE PAGE 1

### THE ARCHITECT VS. THE BUILDER

Most podiatrists are “Builders”—skilled craftspeople who are excellent at treating patients but find themselves trapped in the daily grind of laying every brick of the business themselves. If the Builder stops working, the building stops growing. In this powerhouse keynote, Dr. Melissa Lockwood—winner of the Top Practices Marketer of the Year, Innovator, and Drive Awards—shares how to make the psychological and operational shift to becoming a **“PRACTICE ARCHITECT.”** This isn’t about working harder; it’s about designing a high-performance system where the CEO (you) provides the vision, and the system (your team and tech) provides the results.

Dr. Lockwood is often described as the “prototypical” Top Practices doctor, not just because of her industry-leading KPIs, but because of her resilience. She has sat in your chair and faced the exact challenges that keep you up at night: associate doctor friction, staff turnover, and the crushing weight of administrative complexity. Dr. Lockwood will pull back the curtain on how she navigated these hurdles to build Heartland Foot and Ankle into a model of efficiency and profitability. She will demonstrate that true autonomy comes from having the courage to stop “owning a job” and start leading an organization.

Attendees will walk away with a clear understanding of the **“ARCHITECT’S MINDSET”** and the specific structural changes required to future-proof their practice. You will learn how to identify the “cracks in the foundation” of your current workflow and how to implement the systems that allow for consistent growth without constant doctor intervention. This session is your masterclass in leadership, showing you that it is possible to achieve elite-level clinical success while reclaiming your personal freedom.



### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

PRESENTED BY

**DR. MELISSA LOCKWOOD**

OWNER OF HEARTLAND  
FOOT AND ANKLE,  
BLOOMINGTON, IL

**GO TO [TOPPRACTICES.COM/SUMMIT](https://toppractices.com/summit) FOR FULL DETAILS.**