

ACFAS 2021 Virtual Fellowship Fair: Get to Know the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Gina Nalbandian

Fellowship Program:

University Foot & Ankle Institute

City/State:

Santa Monica, CA

Program Director:

Babak Baravarian

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

four

Describe the diversity of your cases so far in fellowship. (For example, has your experience included TAR? Is there an emphasis on: Pediatrics? Sports Medicine? Deformity correction? Complex reconstruction? What percentage of your cases are trauma? Rearfoot/ankle? Forefoot? Please be as descriptive as you'd like.

One of the greatest draws of this program is the diversity. Cases mostly centered around
Cases include TAR, flatfoot and cavus foot reconstruction, various sports medicine cases
Limited wound care cases.

How many days per week do you typically spend in the OR? In clinic? Do you have your own "fellow" clinic?

Yes, I do have my own fellow clinic where I see my own patients. Week is evenly divided
Clinic is a great setting where you see your own patients and thus learn the billing/coding



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

Average about 30-40, COVID has had an impact, but we are ramping up quickly.

What conferences have you attended/are you encouraged to attend?

Any and all fellows courses are encouraged and I have attended as many as possible

ACFAS Scientific Conference is highly recommended and encouraged, and I plan to attend

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Encouraging and efficient.

How is research incorporated into your experience? What resources are provided/available?

Research papers are encouraged and two papers are required. Resources through UC

Do you take any "call"? If so, how often? What type of call? (general vs. trauma, hospital vs. private practice?)

No call

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

four

What is your didactic schedule like? What academic opportunities are available to you during fellowship? (Cadaver labs, journal club, radiology conference, etc.)

Cadaver labs are available on a monthly basis, however reps are willing to accommodate

Fellows lecture series with distinguished faculty are abundantly available as well through

Is your fellowship affiliated with a residency program? If yes, what are your responsibilities?

How often are you interacting with residents (What % of cases?)

No



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No

When should interested applicants visit? What does a visit look like?

May-August is the best time to visit. Usually a visit will consist of seeing the flow of the c

What is the interview process like at your program?

Site visit followed by an interview with the director.

Do you have a co-fellow? What percentage of your cases are scrubbed with them?

No, but taking two fellows is year-dependent.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Attendings are very well connected and aid in finding employment

What qualities make an applicant a good fit for your program?

Hard working, attentive, teachable, eager, able to take constructive criticism.

Why did you apply for fellowship? And why did you choose your fellowship program?

I applied for fellowship to supplement what I learned in residency and to aid in transition

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Highly highly recommend pursuing a fellowship. The amount of expedited learning in a

Contact me with any questions - Gina Nalbandian (818) 231-2776 nalbandian.gina@gm

