

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



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Curt Martini

Fellowship Program:

Hinsdale Orthopaedics (IBJI) Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Joliet, Illinois

Program Director:

Brian Burgess, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

Four, Dr. Brian Burgess, Dr. Edward Ratkovich, Dr. Jonathan Hook, Dr. David Garras

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.

Emphasis on sports medicine, trauma, deformity correction, and complex reconstruction. There has been TAR cases. Approximately 34% of my cases are trauma. A majority of the trauma is ankle fractures. The rest is a relatively even split between forefoot and rearfoot/ankle cases. The rearfoot and ankle cases are a mix of fusion and reconstructive, arthroscopy and realignment surgery.

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

There is no fellow clinic at the moment, there is discussion to attempt to establish one.

There is a preference to be in the OR, so if there is surgery and clinic at the same time, then the fellow goes to surgery. There is clinic available 4 days a week so be in, however with cases, the fellow probably spends 60% of time in surgery, and 40% in clinic.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

On average I am scrubbing 35-40 cases per month.

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

I have attended 2 conferences, COVID has severely impacted number of conferences available.

Fellowship director strongly encourages fellow course and conference attendance.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Hands on and discussion based. Allows the fellow to participate in surgery.

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

Fellowship director allows access to his patient records/surveys to help conduct research.

Research also performed via systematic reviews.

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

Hospital call is taken approximately 3 days a month. Director's group takes trauma call as well, so fellow needs to be available when the group consults director for any trauma.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

Credentialed at 3 hospitals and 3 surgery centers.

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

A few cadaver labs throughout the year. Journal club monthly with weekly article review on articles pertinent to weekly cases. Radiology reviewed when in clinic.

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?

Yes, any cases received while on call or from fellow-run clinic.

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

Applicants can visit any month, sooner is better as there tends to be an influx of visits in October near the application deadline, and visiting is difficult. A typical visit is at the clinic to give a prospective fellow an idea of what variety of cases we see as well as how an average day goes.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Interview process is an approximately 15-20 minutes discussing with the interviewee what their long-term goals and aspirations are as well as why they are seeking a fellowship.

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

There is no co-fellow.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

All attendings involved in the program give assistance to help find employment.

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

Willingness to learn, work hard, be academically motivated, be attentive.

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

I wanted to improve my surgical skills with complex cases as well as arthroscopy and increase my comfort level with trauma. I felt my fellowship program provided all of those opportunities.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Research all of the fellowship programs well, reach out, call to discuss the program, and visit.

There is no way that a program can know how interested you really are in their fellowship unless you talk with them. Research thoroughly to make sure the fellowship is the right fit for you.

