

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



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Rona W. Law

Fellowship Program:

Mon Valley Foot and Ankle Surgical Reconstruction Fellowship

City/State:

Monongahela, PA

Program Director:

Mark H. Hofbauer

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

1

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.

25% Foot and Ankle Trauma (Pilons, Calcaneal fractures, Lisfranc, Ankle fractures
50-60% Deformity correction and complex reconstructions (Ankle deformity corrections, Bridle Procedure, Charcot deformity)
70% Rearfoot/Ankle (Ankle arthroscopy, Lateral ankle stabilization, Rearfoot arthrodeses)
30% Forefoot/Midfoot (1st MPJ fusion including revisions, Plantar plate repairs, midfoot arthrodeses)

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

typically 3 days in the clinic and 2 days in the OR, depending on the week, it could be up to 3.5 days in the OR and 1.5 in office. No fellow clinic, we have 3 offices.

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

~25

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

ACFAS ASC, Arthrex Fellows Surgical course, Wright fellows Surgical Course
Dr. Hofbauer hosts the annual fellows conference through the Greater Pennsylvania Educational Foundation.



How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Low stress, non-threatening whatsoever, experience based. No "pimping"

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

Typically retrospective reviews/case reports, and literature reviews.

Open electronic medical library through one of our hospitals.

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

Yes, hospital call with practice call at the same time. Dr. Hofbauer and the fellow split call every month.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

3 hospitals (St. Clair, Mon Valley, and Uniontown)

1 Surgery Center

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

Invitation to all didactics with West Penn Hospital residency program including journal club, grand rounds.

Cadaver lab open upon request to one company in Pittsburgh. (Good for Arthroscopy practice, dissection practice, etc.

Annual ACFAS ASC, industry fellows' courses paid by Greater Pennsylvania Education Foundation.

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

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

Yes, we work with the West Penn Hospital residency. About 5% of my cases have involved working with residents.

Fellow's responsibility is to partake in teaching of resident learning.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No



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

May to August. This will depend on an invitation due to COVID-19 Visitor restrictions
A visit typically involves spending time with Dr. Hofbauer during a full clinic day.

What is the interview process like at your program?

1. Initial Zoom video Interview (Informal) after the candidate submits completed application
2. Direct office visitation

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

No

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Dr. Hofbauer is very well connected in the profession and may help reach out to practices that will require his recommendation.

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

Confidence in the OR, Excellent interpersonal skills/bedside manner, ability to be independent with clinical and intraoperative decision making from day 1.

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

I applied to fellowship because I believe there is never “enough” training.
Mon Valley Fellowship afforded a diversity of pathology from complex traumas, ankle and rearfoot reconstruction and clinical experience.
Dr. Hofbauer has years of experience in teaching, writing surgical board questions, and operating in the surgical arena. Incredible opportunity to fine tune my clinical acumen and surgical finesse as a new graduate.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Apply early, obtain letters of recommendation early, and contact the fellow directly for questions/experience.

