

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



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Nilin Rao, DPM, PhD, AACFAS & Ryan Sherick, DPM, AACFAS

Fellowship Program:

Silicon Valley Reconstructive Foot & Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Mountain View, CA

Program Director:

Meagan M. Jennings, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

We work with 8-10 Attendings on a regular basis.

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.

We have a huge diversity of cases encompassing foot and ankle reconstruction, trauma, sports medicine, peds, arthroscopy and elective procedures.

60-70% of our cases are rearfoot/ankle

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

4 days/week in the OR

1 day/week in clinic

Fellow clinic on Wednesdays. Full autonomy. Primary surgeon on all cases generated from fellow clinic / call



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

About 50-60 cases each per month

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

ACFAS ASC, Local courses/conferences/meetings, Opportunity to present at local and national meetings, Industry Fellows Courses

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Very involved in our personal and professional development. Caring, considerate, great teacher/mentor. Focuses on strengthening our weaknesses & Building our strengths.

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

Research is encouraged and supported by 2-4 Attendings actively doing research at all times. Ability to cultivate and perform independent research with faculty support.

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

1 week on/ 1 week off-split amongst 2 fellows. All foot and ankle related pathology-general, trauma, peds at 2 ED's and 1 urgent care center.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

4- 2 hospitals and 2 surgery centers

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

Monthly fellows clinical case conference, cadaver labs, individual didactics based upon the actual cases we are doing. Also opportunity to teach at CSPM.

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, we are not affiliated with any residency programs, but we do have the opportunity to get involved with St. Mary's Residency Academics if we would like.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes, All cases generated from ED call and fellows clinic are our primary cases.

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

Visits can be anytime during 2nd year residency.

Visits include shadowing during the day in clinic, touring the facilities, meeting and getting to know the Attendings and Fellows as well as explore the Bay Area.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Program is highly competitive and day visit highly encouraged for interview consideration.

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

Yes, Our program takes 2 fellows. We double scrub less than 5% of cases and only do this when we want to for larger more interesting cases.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Networking via attendings and amongst the large network of program alumni

Director and attendings actively forward job openings and postings that they hear about.

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

Motivated, humble, team player, teachable, positive attitude

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

To become a leader in the profession, improve efficiency, skills and thought process.

Large supportive "brotherhood" alumni network. Great mentors/teachers/facilities.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Program visits highly encouraged, Reach out to Attendings/ Fellows with questions

