

Fellow Name:

Derrick Roland, DPM, AACFAS

Fellowship Program:

Kentucky Indiana Foot and Ankle Specialists Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery Fellowship KYINFAS

City/State:

Louisville, Kentucky

Program Director:

Paul Klutts, DPM, FACFAS

How many attendings do you work with regularly?

12

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

This fellowship program focuses on preparing you to operate self-sufficiently and be successful in private practice. This program focuses on treating a wide array of pathology from common foot disorders to rare deformities. The program offers a good blend of elective forefoot, rearfoot, and pediatric cases. Many of the practitioners in the group do advanced reconstructive and salvage type procedures related to flat foot, charcot arthropathy, adult club foot, and cavus foot deformities. In addition, there is a healthy blend of trauma such as metatarsal fractures, lis franc fracture/dislocation, ankle fractures, OCD repair, tendon rupture repair, ankle arthroscopy, and ankle ligament repair. Fellows typically perform inpatient management and surgery independently.

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

Typically, 2-4 days per week

Fellow clinic 2-3 days per week

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

35-50 cases per month, practice averages 100-150 cases monthly among all attendings

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

Fellows are expected to attend the annual ACFAS and Kentucky Pediatric Medical Association (KPMA) conferences. Fellows typically present at the KPMA conference.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

A vast majority of the attendings allow uninhibited skin to skin operating for all procedures, including the director and assistant director. Dr. Klutts is direct in his approach to training and makes himself readily available before, during, and after cases for discussion. Dr. Klutts is laid back, easily approachable, and is a wealth of knowledge.

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

Research is encouraged, but not required. Typically, fellows complete case studies or poster abstracts annually. Ancillary staff is available to assist with any research projects or requests.

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

Private practice call and hospital ER call every other week, alternating with the other fellow. Very minimal emergency calls after hours.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

4 hospitals (Baptist Health Hardin, Baptist Health Floyd, Physicians Medical Center, UofL Jewish)

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

Monthly journal club with fellows and attendings, monthly production meetings to review billing and coding, monthly case presentations performed by one of the fellows, cadaver labs once every quarter, occasional academic presentations with local companies and hospitals.

Is your fellowship affiliated with a residency program?

No

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes, inpatient cases.

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

August - October. Visit consists of 2 days interacting with multiple attendings in clinic, meeting with fellowship directors and staff, and shadowing the fellows and attendings in the operating room.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Interview is your visit, first impressions are important. Selection committee will review your application, GPA, CV, and your visit impression to make final decisions. Additional visits are encouraged, but not required for selection.

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

Yes, 10% of the time, usually on slower surgical days or for larger cases as additional help.

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

I applied for additional experience relating to practice management and becoming more efficient with managing a busy clinic in a private practice setting. The added high volume of surgical cases was an added bonus. An additional huge benefit to the KYINFAS program is that the attendings are all top notch, young, and motivated to teach. Dr. Klutts's style of teaching and outgoing personality sold me on the program. The case volume and variety could not be better. On a final note, the quality of life as a fellow is fantastic and the program has one of the highest salaries for any ACFAS program.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Reach out early to our program, show interest, be yourself, and visit to see if it is the right fit for you. The program has a large focus on being successful in a private practice setting, including advanced training in clinical management, efficient billing and coding, perioperative management, and of course surgery. In order to be a competitive applicant, you must be independently motivated, comfortable with your surgical skills, and looking to expand your knowledge and fine tune your skills in the clinic and operating room.