

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

Fellow Name: Katerina Grigoropoulos, DPM

Fellowship Program: Diabetic Limb Salvage, Department of Plastic Surgery, UT Southwestern Medical Center

City / State: Dallas, TX

Program Director: Lawrence A. Lavery, DPM, MPH

How many Attendings do you work with regularly:

Lawrence A. Lavery, DPM, MPH

Javier La Fontaine, DPM, MS

Paul J. Kim, DPM

Describe the diversity of your cases so far in the 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.

The program's focus is complex diabetic foot complications and limb threatening conditions. The vast majority of the experience is spent evaluating patients in the ED, managing complex foot infections in the inpatient setting, outpatient clinic and performing related surgeries. Fellows spend one month on the Orthopedic Service doing Charcot Reconstruction and foot/ankle trauma. Our average hospital census is 35 people at Parkland Hospital and 15 at Clements University Hospital. We do approximately 2,000 cases in the OR annually.

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

There are 3 clinical fellows. During the year they spend 4 months managing the hospital in-service, 4 months covering the OR at Parkland Hospital, 3 months covering Clements Hospital floor and OR, and 1 month rotating on Orthopedics. Fellows are on call every 3rd weekend to cover the hospital and ED consults as well as any scheduled or add on cases.

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

The fellows average approximately 50 OR cases a month. Our diabetic limb salvage team performs approximately 2,000 OR cases a year.

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

The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS), the Symposium on Advanced Wound Care (SAWC), as well as the Texas Podiatric Medical Association.

How would you describe your faculty's teaching style?

Our faculty is very passionate about limb salvage; their degree of dedication is truly inspirational. The fellows are pushed to perform to the best of their abilities. The accepting and light hearted nature of our attending-fellow dynamic creates a suitable learning environment for fellows to thrive. Our academics consist of weekly faculty lectures and journal club. All clinics and OR experiences are supervised by an attending.

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

Our program has one of the most productive research programs in podiatry. In 2020, our team published 36 peer reviewed papers. Fellows learn critical appraisal skills in journal club, and they participate in a research project that is mentored by faculty. Over the last 3 years fellows have presented their research at the American Diabetes Association Annual Scientific Meeting, the Symposium on Advanced Wound Care (SAWC) Spring and Fall Conferences, as well as the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) Annual Scientific Conference.

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

Fellows are on call every 3rd weekend and cover the hospital and ED (at both hospitals) for diabetic limb salvage consults and cases.

How many hospitals / surgery centers are you credentialed at?

2 hospitals - Parkland Memorial Hospital, and Clements University Hospital. Both are located within the same medical campus.

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

Lectures are provided by fellows and faculty once a week. Journal articles are discussed every week. There is a Foot and Ankle Conference every Friday directed by the Chairman of Orthopedics.

Is your fellowship affiliated with a residency program? If yes, what are your responsibilities? How often are you interacting with residents (What % of cases?)

We do not have a residency affiliated with our fellowship program. However, we do have residents from Plastic Surgery, Vascular Surgery and Podiatry (from Hunt Regional Medical Center) rotate on our service.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No

When should interested applicants apply?

We encourage 2nd and 3rd year residents to apply. We accept applicants on an on-going basis. We will accept residents during their 2nd year, a year prior to the start of their fellowship.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Applicants will be interviewed by faculty in Plastic Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, and Vascular Surgery and a tour of the campus will be provided.

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

The program has 3 clinical fellows and 1-2 research fellows. Usually only one fellow scrubs on a case.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

There is no formal process in finding employment after fellowship. However, our faculty provides excellent networking opportunities to connect with other professionals in the field.

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

Excellent work ethic, strong character, team player, desire to be challenged and constantly improve.

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

This fellowship provides a tremendous volume of pathology and didactic education. Our faculty are international leaders in diabetic limb salvage. UTSW was the best program for me to truly become an expert in this niche of podiatry. There are many clinical and research opportunities for fellows to engage with. I wanted to train under the guidance of high caliber practitioners and I knew UTSW would provide the best experience for me.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

This is a busy, university-based program with a high volume of patients. I highly recommend this program to any resident who is eager to become an expert in diabetic limb salvage. The workload can be demanding at times, but the harder you push yourself, the faster you will develop your skills. By the end of this fellowship not only will you master the art of clinical diagnosis and treatment, you will master team managing, clinical efficiency and inter-professional communication.