

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



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Rishika Lagixetti

Fellowship Program:

Palo Alto Medical Foundation - Santa Cruz Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Santa Cruz, CA

Program Director:

Brandon Lindberg

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

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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.

Large diversity of cases including acute and complex trauma, TAR, reconstruction and sports medicine. Average of 450 cases/year; 750 procedures/year 36 percent ankle, 64 percent foot, 25 percent acute trauma. Significant amount of trauma that is seen on a regular basis.

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

A typical week includes 2 days in the clinic and 3 elective surgery days. Add on cases and acute trauma cases continue on a daily basis. I have my own fellow clinic which includes post-operative management, acute trauma from the on call service, and routine pathology/ referrals.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

About 20-30 cases per month.

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

This year has been difficult to attend conferences due to covid. But there is freedom to attend any and all conferences of your choosing.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Teaching style of the attendings is very collaborative with you. They offer guidance without encroaching your independent learning and enhancing your skills.

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

Attendings promote research with ideas and access to their patient population/ data as needed. There is also larger support via statisticians and research within PAMF

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

Yes, I cover call on the weekdays and alternating weekends. Call includes cases and consults within the hospital and scrubbing any add on cases.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

One community hospital and a Sutter affiliated surgery center where most elective cases are performed.

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

Journal club once a month, case presentations monthly to review complex or interesting cases.

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

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

It is not affiliated with a residency program.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes you are able to collect cases.

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

Visits usually are schedule late July, August, September.

What is the interview process like at your program?

The interview process usually entails a day visit to the program. Due to covid restrictions, recent interviews have been via zoom interviews.

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

You are the only fellow therefore there is not double scrubbing of cases.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Each attending has a wide spread network of contact and resources that they use and offer to assist in finding post-fellowship employment.

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

Self motivated, hard working, diligent, flexible and able to work easily with other.

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

Applied to fellowship to continue to broaden my training and add my to surgical and clinic tool box. Chose my fellowship due to the variety and volume of cases.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Approach fellowship with the mindset of really learning as much as you can from each case. Understand that this is a great opportunity to really expand your skill and learn from those who have worked many years to perfect theirs.

