

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



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Joseph Rundell

Fellowship Program:

Northwest Illinois Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Sycamore, IL

Program Director:

Douglas Pacaccio/ Patrick McEneaney

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

10

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.

Emphasis on complex reconstruction: Charcot, frames, peripheral nerve microsurgery, 3d printed bone replacement, IM nail cases. Additionally, a lot of elective rearfoot (TAR, flatfoot, cavus, fusions)

60% of cases rearfoot, 20% forefoot, 5% trauma, 15% diabetic limb salvage and misc.

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

1.5-2 days a week. There is no "fellow" clinic, but you have a big input on evaluation and treatment plans of these patients as well as managing the post-operative recovery. Additionally, they do go over billing and practice management in clinic.

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

30-40

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

Midwest Podiatry Conference and ACFAS

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Very hands on and direct, you learn things well and quick

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

There is research and will likely have 6 published papers by the end of the year with 2 posters at conferences. Attendings will guide and help with research ideas

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

There is a call component. Hospital call as well as the private practice after hours call line

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

6 hospitals 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.)

There are radiology rounds as well as occasional academics with the local residencies. Industry sponsored cadaver labs are typically every 2-3 months.

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 are affiliated with 2 programs. We scrub cases with them; however, there are a lot of hospitals we go to where they do not so about 1/3 of the cases a resident will be there. We do have academics with them.

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Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

There will be some infection cases you can get for boards but in general it is not much.

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

Applications are due August 1<sup>st</sup>, so Spring and early Summer recommended. They really prefer a visit, especially if you are local. To arrange a visit contact Joe Rundell [rundelljoe@gmail.com](mailto:rundelljoe@gmail.com) 630-319-6848 or Dr. Nordquist [tnordquistdpm@gmail.com](mailto:tnordquistdpm@gmail.com)

What is the interview process like at your program?

There is an academic component as well as social component. The academic component isn't as much reciting facts more of how you would approach cases and your reasoning behind it.

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

Only 1 fellow

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Large group of attendings allows for larger networking options

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

Desire to learn and be on the top of your game. You will see and do a lot in this program, but they expect you to put in the effort to learn the cases and challenge yourself.

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

I wanted to further my knowledge in the field. I chose this program as the cases we do here are done few other places.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Make sure you want to know why you want to do a fellowship and what you are looking to get out of it. Do not just go into doing one because its something to do or something an attending is pushing you into.

