

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

Fellow Name: Gan Golshteyn, DPM, AACFAS

Fellowship Program: The Pediatric Orthopedic Center

City/State: East Hanover, NJ

Program Director: Dr. Mark Solomon, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

9

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.

The fellowship program is extremely diverse and structured very well. The diversity in the cases range from forefoot cases in adults to pediatric complex deformity correction utilizing acute internal fixation and/or external fixation with computer programming. The fellowship is structured within an Orthopedic group, and as a fellow, you are able to scrub with all the physicians within the group and act as the fellow/colleague. There is a strong emphasis on Pediatrics, ranging from acute injury, severs disease, ankle sprains to lower extremity deformities and everything in between. We do not see diabetic patients or manage Charcot patients. Acute trauma is fairly rare; however, our trauma patients come from outside hospitals and urgent care centers.

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

5 days are spent in the office, which has been a great learning opportunity and extremely valuable. 2-3 days are spent in the OR and clinic is mixed with those days as well.

You do not have your own "fellow" clinic; however, as you progress within the fellowship, Dr. Solomon and other physicians within the group provide you with autonomy in seeing your own patients and are there for any questions you may have. It is truly a team approach.

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

20-30

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

The fellow is encouraged to attend all conferences; however, with the onset of COVID it has been difficult. I have attended the Master's Lapiplasty Course and Orthofix Fellows Course. In

the future months, I will be attending ACFAS, Baltimore Limb Deformity Course, Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society Annual Conference, Advanced OrthoFix Course, and any other courses that present itself.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Advanced and progressive. Dr. Solomon's style of teaching is geared towards making you the best foot and ankle surgeon and physician. He understands the complexity of the cases that presents themselves and shares his knowledge throughout the year and takes the fellows opinion to consideration. He wants you to graduate and feel comfortable seeing everything and anything in office, and wants to build a mentorship and friendship throughout the year.

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

Research is through articles and publications. Currently, the group and fellow are working on writing for the The Clinics, with an emphasis on Pediatric Orthopedics.

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

Call is through the hospital via the group. You take call for Dr. Solomon, as well as the other doctors with lower extremity.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

I am credentialed at 3 hospitals; the incoming fellow will be credentialed at 4.

I am credentialed at 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.)

Journal club; however, this past year has been surgically heavy. And resident cadaver labs and conferences.

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

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

Yes, 2 residency programs, next year will be 3. The fellow has priority in all surgical cases; however, teaching residents is very important as well. You are an attending physician in the hospital system; therefore, the residents look at the fellow for guidance and are willing to learn from each other. There is no "competition" for cases. Although the fellow can go to any case and take primary in any case, this past year, I have taken due diligence in teaching the residents when it comes to cases I have done multiple times. A truly "see one, do one, teach one" mentality.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No

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

As soon as possible. Interested applicants will spend a day in office and possibly observe surgeries at the surgery center, depending on the time and whether COVID restrictions permit.

What is the interview process like at your program?

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

No

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Heavy support from Dr. Solomon, the Orthopedic physicians, Dr. Brucato, and all the reps working with us. They all want you to get the best possible job that suites you.

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

Is willing to learn and be teachable, and knows when to listen rather than to speak.

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

During my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of residency, I began researching fellowships under the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and narrowed down the programs based on what I truly wanted in the long run. Since I started my fellowship at The Pediatric Orthopedic Center in August, I cannot believe how much I have grown as a clinician, educator, and surgeon.

During residency, I was not fully exposed to Pediatric trauma and deformity, and I knew I wanted to treat such patients appropriately and systematically.

Working closely and learning from a well-renowned group of Pediatric Orthopedists and Foot and Ankle Surgeons, under the directorship of Dr. Solomon, is beyond, in my opinion, what any residency can teach. I feel that as a growing profession, such specialized fellowships are essential and I feel beyond fortunate to have been chosen for this fellowship.

I immediately saw the relationship that the past fellow had with Dr. Solomon and how well the group was structured and treated the previous fellow. Going over cases and the personality of the group and Dr. Solomon, I felt it be the best fit. And I would do it 100 times over again.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Apply early and focus on fellowships that you feel will help you become a better physician in the future and that are of high interest for yourself. Do NOT apply for fellowship just to apply for a fellowship.