

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



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Dr. Joshua Epstein DPM, AACFAS, FACPM

Fellowship Program:

Westside Regional Medical Center Reconstructive Foot & Ankle Surgical Fellowship

City/State:

Plantation, FL

Program Director:

Dr. Warren Windram, DPM, FACFAS

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.

There is a wide variety here both of patient type and surgical/clinical locations. As a fellow you are exposed to large reconstructive cases as well as elective surgery. Large cases may include total ankle replacements, charcot reconstruction, flat foot and cavus foot reconstruction as well as supra-malleolar corrective osteotomies. The program director is involved in a large multispecialty group focusing on sports medicine, pediatrics and reconstructive surgery. Call is taken monthly at the hospital and traumatic ankle fractures, calcaneal fractures and other forefoot and rearfoot trauma is available with a large emphasis placed on working hand in hand with the present residency program. Fellows are expected to teach and support the residents through their growth as physicians.

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

OR days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. While Clinic is completed Monday and Thursday. The Fellow has ample time to complete research and self study objectives as they choose and are required to do. Fellow clinic is not currently a separate section in the clinical rotations but ample clinical time is given for patient follow-up and treatment algorithm creation.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

40

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

Advanced scopes course, ACFAS national conference, SAM regional conference

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Hands on

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

All resources are furnished by HCA to the fellow along with access to all journals and an extensive research and statistical team to provide any information for your project.

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

Call is taken at Westside Monthly and is a mixture of Traumatic and general Wound Care

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

2 hospitals, 3 surgery centers

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

Academic didactic scheduling can mimic that of the residency program once or twice a week and will include labs, case review and group teaching activities.

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, Westside Regional Medical Center. All call is taken at this hospital with direct interaction with the residents. roughly 25% of all case interactions are with the residents



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No

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

The program is always open for a visit and this would consist of surgical and clinical time to observe

What is the interview process like at your program?

Multi panel interview consisting of both academic and social questions

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?

Program director and program attendings are always willing to utilize contacts to provide the fellow with ample opportunity

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

Hard working and self sufficient. Eager to learn from multiple attendings

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

Fellowship is becoming more and more the standard for individuals looking to remain at the top of the educational ladder. I chose to apply in an effort to sharpen my surgical and clinical skills while helping to maintain my educational edge.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Work hard and apply early. Ask alot of questions and think carefully about where you want to complete fellowship. One year will go by quickly and you want to get the most out of that experience.

