

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



Fellow Name: Eric Krznic, DPM, AACFAS

Fellowship Program: South Central Pennsylvania Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State: Lancaster, PA

Program Director: Michael Younes, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

8-10

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.

This program has a heavy emphasis and high volume of elective reconstruction to the rearfoot. There is a diversity of pathology seen including: Charcot, flatfoot, cavus foot, sports injuries including lateral ankle pathology, as well as forefoot pathology and wound care. Trauma is limited at this program. You can expect approximately 5 or so TARs/year.

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

2-3 days in the OR, the other days are in clinic. At this program you have your own schedule of patients that you see and treat, you also see your post ops with the other doctors you work with.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

~30, each case usually has multiple procedures, volume is very good.

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

This was a weird year with COVID, but we will attend ACFAS.

We also have had multiple labs set up through our medical reps, and have also gone to the Arthrex Fellows course, we have labs set up with Stryker and Don Joy to get certified in their TAR systems.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Hands on, readily available to help you in your struggles and offers insights into your treatment plans. It's professional, and he ensures you are treated as a fellow, and not as a "resident".

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

We have worked on multiple projects that we had accepted to ACFAS. We also have an attending who is involved in clinical trials, so there is opportunity there to get involved with as much research as you would like.

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

Yes. You are on call every other weekend, and you take call in rotation with all the other doctors during the week. Our call is mostly for the practice answering our patients concerns, but you do get called in for hospital consults that are most routine. Very little trauma call as the residency programs in the area monopolize it.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

4 hospitals, 4 surgery centers

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

Second Thursday of the month the morning meeting consists of Fellow presentations. The 4th Thursday of the month is the monthly board meeting for which you gain practice management experience, which at our program is great. We also set up labs whenever we want with the reps in our area and they are very accommodating.

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

No.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

You can, I suppose, as you are allowed to book your own cases, however you need follow up for submission for board certification so I don't know that I recommend that.

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

Due to COVID restrictions, please email the director first or reach out to the current fellows, either way you will be instructed on how to proceed

What is the interview process like at your program?

This past year it was a Zoom interview with all of the docs in the practice. My year I came for a visit and just sat down for dinner and drinks with the docs and had a informal discussion.

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

Yes, and she is the best. We are on opposite schedules as we have an East and West side. We switch at 6 months to gain the experience of working with all the docs. We do scrub a few cases together if we decide that one case is worth both of us being there, but it is not often.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment? What

qualities make an applicant a good fit for your program?

Our director is very hands on in ensuring that we have the right opportunities and fit when looking for a job. We also have medical reps who utilize contacts to help us succeed. A good applicant for our program needs to be self motivated, good work ethic, personable, and teachable. This program is centered around private practice and with that comes a certain amount of delicacy when dealing with this demographic of patient.

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

The volume and diversity of cases was what was very attractive for me. I wanted to do a lot of reconstructive surgery and also the revisional reconstruction was very appealing. The numbers at our program are fantastic, but ultimately for me it was the director. He called me personally to have me come out for a visit and answered all of my questions. He really loves teaching and I can tell he takes a lot of pride in

the fellowship, that really meant a lot to me and it translates into my experience here.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Consider fellowship to amplify talents you already have, to expand on topics you are familiar with. If you're choosing a fellowship to learn how to do surgery it will be frustrating, you are expected to be able to function as a doctor, treat your own patients, handle complications and after speaking to my friends at other programs, that's pretty consistent across the board.

