



ACFAS Update

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1

NEWS from the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FOOT AND ANKLE SURGEONS

ACFAS 2021 Registration Opens Early February

We're ready to get back to normal and what better way than to head to Las Vegas to safely celebrate ACFAS 2021! Registration opens early February, so mark your calendars to secure your spot to join us in Las Vegas May 18-21 for more cutting-edge clinical sessions, new HUB topics, more award-winning research, scientific posters, the annual job fair, hands-on surgical workshops and more!

Watch your email, [acfas.org/LasVegas](https://www.acfas.org/LasVegas) and ACFAS publications for more information on ACFAS 2021 so you don't miss any of the action.



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TURN THE PAGE



I hope you didn't take the title too seriously and literally turned the page. If not, thanks and as Clark W. Griswold would say, "Happy Hanukkah. Merry Christmas. Hallelujah. Where's the Tylenol?"

It probably makes sense to start this off with a prayer and why not make it an Apache one that seems to be relevant.

"Looking behind, I am filled with gratitude, looking forward, I am filled with vision, looking upwards I am filled with strength, looking within, I discover peace."

As we symbolically turn the page on 2020 and move on to 2021, looking back we can be grateful for what we have and carry hope for a better future this year. We can all take solace in the fact we are now stronger and smarter for what we have endured. I would hope we all have learned to look within ourselves and find peace. At some point, we can get back to being humans with genuine human interactions—one where the touch of human kindness can be returned and one where we don't see each other as contaminated sources of infection. That is the hope, but I know the future as well as your local weather expert. The bright and shining star is the Christmas miracle of a vaccine for COVID-19 being delivered akin to cousin

Eddie showing up in his recreational vehicle—"that's an RV, Clark."

Recollection of the history of vaccines should make you feel good about the outlook in the near future. Most of the vaccines used today represent a list of 'forgotten diseases' and it is a good thing to not have to worry about measles, mumps and tetanus. A great quote made by one of the pioneers in vaccination for polio, Dr. Jonas Salk states "There is hope in dreams, imagination, and in the courage of those who wish to make those dreams a reality."

As we all dream, we need to have the courage and imagination to make it a reality and from the College's standpoint, I believe we have that in place. Over the past year, I have updated you on current and future projects including our COVID-19 responses, political issues, research registry and our current plans for our Annual Scientific Conference. The ACFAS staff, committees, new education director, new executive director and Board members have all been fantastic and deserve so much credit for great ideas. They truly have your best interests in mind.

"The need for imagination, as a sense of truth, and as a feeling of responsibility — these are the three forces, which are the very

nerve of education." — Rudolf Steiner. Imagination is required at this point for all of us, including the College. We have explored different options for our flagship program, our Annual Scientific Conference, and have developed a great game plan including virtual options as well as options for a face-to-face meeting. We may have the option of combining the two and that might be an exciting option to get in front of more of our members. We feel we have been upfront and honest in keeping our members' health in mind as we make our decisions for our educational offerings. It seems we are trying to hit a moving target at this point, but developing three different options was the play call and intended to accomplish our goal.

So as we begin to 'turn the page' on the previous year, I'd like to bring it back to where this started. "The most enduring traditions of the season are best enjoyed in the warm embrace of kith and kin," and I'd bet Clark's Christmas bonus we will all get together soon! Because THAT will truly be "the gift that keeps on giving the whole year." If we do, just don't forget to save the neck for me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott C. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott C. Nelson, DPM, FACFAS
ACFAS President

Questions for Dr. Nelson? Write him at president@acfas.org.

The Arthroscopy Surgical Skills Course is Back!



Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

The popular, highly interactive Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course is back with new dates for the new year! Join us for one of these 2021 dates to get the latest techniques, didactic lectures and surgical demonstrations at the Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC) in Rosemont, Illinois.

March 20- 21, 2021
April 17-18, 2021
August 14- 15, 2021
October 2-3, 2021
December 11-12, 2021

Visit acfas.org/skills for more information on the upcoming courses.

2021 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

March 20-21, 2021 (Saturday/Sunday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Rosemont, IL

April 15-17, 2021 (Thursday-Saturday)
AAFAO Advanced Internal Fixation Course

Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport
Dallas, Texas

April 17-18, 2021 (Saturday/Sunday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Rosemont, IL

May 17, 2021 (Monday)
ACFAS 2021 Pre-conference Programs

- Forefoot Revisions
- Essential Rearfoot Procedures
- Coding & Billing for the Foot and Ankle Surgeon
- Residents Day

Mandalay Bay Resort & Convention Center
Las Vegas

May 18-21, 2021 (Tuesday-Friday)
79th Annual Scientific Conference

Mandalay Bay Resort & Convention Center
Las Vegas

August 14-15, 2021 (Saturday/Sunday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Rosemont, IL

October 2-3, 2021 (Saturday/Sunday)
Arthroscopy of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Skills Course

Orthopaedic Learning Center (OLC)
Rosemont, IL

*To be waitlisted, please contact Michelle Majewski at michelle.majewski@acfas.org

Acute Achilles Tendon Pathology Clinical Consensus Statement (CCS)

In recent years, research has led to a relative change in the way many surgeons view acute Achilles tendon rupture. To fully evaluate these trends and care for an acute Achilles tendon rupture, ACFAS released a Clinical Consensus Statement (CCS) on Acute Achilles Tendon Pathology, which appears in the January/February issue of *The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery* and is also available online at acfas.org/CCS.

The statement is the latest addition to the College's library of CCSs, which provide physicians with a recommended approach to the treatment of specific conditions and pathologies. This statement can be used by practitioners to discuss treatment options with their patients to is also helpful to understand current trends in care for acute Achilles tendon rupture.

Special thanks to the Acute Achilles Tendon Pathology Clinical Consensus Statement panelists for their efforts to put the statement together:

Jason Naldo, DPM, FACFAS

Patrick Agnew, DPM, FACFAS, FACFAP

Maryellen Brucato, DPM, FACFAS

Paul Dayton, DPM, MS, FACFAS

Amber Shane, DPM, FACFAS

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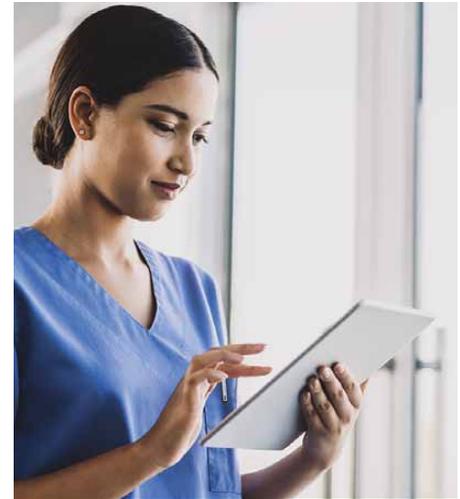
ACFAS Journal Club Sets Line Up for 2021

The monthly ACFAS Virtual Journal Club series continues through 2021! Don't miss another chance to brush up on the A to Zs of research. Topics lined up for 2021 include:

- February: Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle Surgical Fellowship—NOMS Ankle & Foot Care Centers
- March: Pediatric Foot & Ankle Fellowship
- April: Hinsdale Orthopaedic (IBJI) Foot and Ankle Fellowship
- May: Silicon Valley Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship—Palo Alto Medical Foundation
- June: Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery Fellowship
- July: MedStar Georgetown University Hospital Foot and Ankle Research Fellowship
- August: North Jersey Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship, Northwest Illinois Foot & Ankle Fellowship
- September: Foot & Ankle Institute Fellowship
- October: South Central Pennsylvania Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship ACFAS Virtual

The ACFAS Journal Club is open to all students and residents and will review noteworthy articles on pertinent topics of research. Each installment will be the third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise specified.

Visit [acfas.org/JournalClub](https://www.acfas.org/JournalClub) for more information and for registration links.



ACFAS Journal Club

Tune in to one-hour, monthly sessions featuring the A to Zs of research.

Open to all residents and students.

Visit [acfas.org/JournalClub](https://www.acfas.org/JournalClub) for more information and to register.

College's Fellowship Web Content Enhanced



Marie Keplinger,
DPM, FACFAS
Fellowship Committee
Chairperson

In response to the growing demand for fellowships in the profession and the need for higher support of both prospective fellows and potential new fellowship directors, the ACFAS Fellowship Committee recently reorganized and enhanced fellowship web content on acfas.org.

The Fellowship Center on acfas.org is now divided into four sections:

Considering a Fellowship, with information for students and residents looking for more information about what fellowship is and if they should consider taking that path post-graduation;

Fellowship Processes, with information for current and prospective program directors regarding the process to receive status with the College, important deadlines, fees involved, and recommended calendar of major fellowship processes such as interviews and fellow selection;

“Since the beginning of the Fellowship Initiative within ACFAS in 2010, there has been continued high-level interest from the foot and ankle surgical community. Every year the committee reviews new program applications, and the fellowship initiative has grown from the initial 10 programs to now 51 programs”, said Marie Keplinger, DPM, FACFAS, Fellowship Committee Chair. “The newly updated area of the ACFAS website has new content to assist prospective fellows to more easily negotiate the process to research and apply to fellowships. There are also

Fellowship Documents and Templates, providing various samples including a manual, case log, fellow evaluation and the College’s Minimal Criteria document, which lists the requirements for a fellowship to gain ACFAS Recognition;

and the College’s **Fellowship Listing**, which is a list of all fellowships that currently have Recognized or Conditional Status with ACFAS.

several templates available to provide programs with guidance. While these documents are not mandated, the committee encourages their use and wants to continue to provide tools for programs and prospective fellows to be successful,” she added.

Dr. Keplinger continued, “The College’s Fellowship Committee meets several times per year to review the ACFAS Recognized programs and discuss issues relevant to fellowship training. As the demand for fellowships grows, so does the number of

The committee hopes the work they do allows residents seeking fellowships to fully understand the process and navigate it successfully. They also hope to assist both new and existing fellowship programs in providing high quality training for their fellows.

— Marie Keplinger, DPM, FACFAS

programs and the required oversight. The committee hopes the work they do allows residents seeking fellowships to fully understand the process and navigate it successfully. They also hope to assist both new and existing fellowship programs in providing high quality training for their fellows.”

To access these new web pages, please go to acfas.org and visit the Fellowship Center within the **Member, Student and Resident Centers** on the pull-down menu.

Congrats to Our 40-Year Members!

ACFAS congratulates and thanks those loyal and dedicated members who have been a part of the College since 1980. In appreciation, the following 40-year members have received automatic Life Membership status with ACFAS:

- Philip F. Adler, DPM, FACFAS
Jacksonville, FL
- Walter A. Alm, DPM, FACFAS
Elgin, IL
- Steven A. Burns, DPM, FACFAS
Scottsdale, AZ
- Barry L. Efron, DPM, FACFAS
Orange Park, FL
- Edward A. Fazekas, DPM, FACFAS
Lakeland, FL
- William H. Fitzpatrick, DPM, FACFAS
Albuquerque, NM
- Peter Marshall Harvey, DPM, AACFAS
Wichita Falls, TX
- Richard S. Jaffe, DPM, FACFAS
Jerusalem, Israel
- Howard D. Kane, DPM, FACFAS
Westland, MI
- Paul Kinberg, DPM, FACFAS
Dallas, TX
- David A. Laver, DPM, FACFAS
Fremont, CA
- Ronald S. Lepow, DPM, FACFAS
Houston, TX
- William S. Lynde, DPM, FACFAS
Newtown, PA
- Stephen N. Marshall, DPM, AACFAS
Camillus, NY
- Martin M. Pressman, DPM, FACFAS
Milford, CT
- Guy R. Pupp, DPM, FACFAS
Dearborn, MI
- Robert J. Snyder, DPM, FACFAS
Tamarac, FL
- Edward S. Stein, DPM, FACFAS
St Peters, MO
- Allan G. Weiss, DPM, FACFAS
Orange, CA
- Michael K. Wilson, DPM, FACFAS
Oklahoma City, OK

Two New Ways to Educate Patients



Head over to the ACFAS Marketing Toolbox where you'll find two new PowerPoint presentations ready for you to educate patients and promote your practice—*Charcot Foot and Ankle* and *Broken Bones in the Foot and Ankle—Treat or Not?*

Charcot Foot and Ankle gives background on this degenerative condition, symptoms and risks for developing the condition and

and how it's diagnosed. *Broken Bones in the Foot and Ankle* covers different types of fractures and their treatments, common fractures and the importance of early treatment.

Both presentations were created for you to use as you wish—whether it's in your office or in the community for patient education, as slideshows in your practice waiting room, shared on your social media accounts or pre-

senting at a community health event. They're freely available for you to use whenever you need them more resources.

Get the newest additions to the library today by visiting the Marketing Toolbox at [acfas.org/marketing](https://www.acfas.org/marketing). Here you can also access the full PowerPoint library and countless other resources available to promote your practice and educate patients throughout the year.

Renewing your Membership is Easier — and More Important — than Ever

RENEW NOW!

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2021 yet, don't worry. There's still time. And, as an added bonus, late fees have been waived this year. 2020 has been tough for everyone and this is one way that the College is helping members manage some of the challenges that resulted from the pandemic.

The College took several other steps to make renewing your membership easier,

including working with the Regions to waive their dues and reworking the early career dues structure to give a break to those just starting their careers. Plus, when the pandemic hit, we created practice management tools for telehealth resources and financial aid updates, moved our learning opportunities online and revamped in-person events to be in compliance with strict PPE guidelines. We're also continuing

to revamp our education program by creating more virtual content.

One thing we've learned this year is: we're stronger together. And that makes your membership even more important. Renew today at [acfas.org/PayMyDues](https://www.acfas.org/PayMyDues) or via mail or fax. If you need additional assistance, please reach out at membership@acfas.org — we're here to help.

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In Memory

M. Doug Harris, DPM, FACFAS
Whitney, TX

Leo S. Krawetz, DPM, FACFAS
Tampa, FL

Thomas H. Lee, DPM, FACFAS
Vacaville, CA

Frazier B. Todd, Sr., DPM, FACFAS
Atlanta, GA



In Memory Past President Dr. Sokoloff

With great sadness the College would like to report the passing of Howard Sokoloff, DPM, FACFAS. Dr. Sokoloff served as ACFS President from 1990-1991. He was a great friend, teacher and surgeon and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family during this time.

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Get Involved! Be an ACFAS Speaker



We're seeking the best and brightest in foot and ankle surgery to be a part of the ACFAS educational programs by applying to become an instructor/faculty member. ACFAS always seeks to diversify its faculty with new instructors who possess the expertise and experience needed to maintain the College's high standards and attendee expectations.

We're looking for speakers who are:

- Licensed, in active practice
- A Fellow Member of the College
- Been in practice five years
- And have attended an ACFAS educational program within the past three years

If you meet these requirements, apply to be an ACFAS speaker faculty today! Applications can be found at [acfas.org/FacultyApplication](https://www.acfas.org/FacultyApplication) and submitted to the ACFAS Education Department via fax (800) 382-8270 or emailed to dan.mcneill@acfas.org.

Monumental Physician Fee Schedule Updates

On December 1, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes updates on policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), and other Medicare Part B issues, on or after January 1, 2021.

The final rule increases payments to physicians and other practitioners for the additional time they spend with patients, especially those with chronic conditions by resetting relative value units (RVUs) and the

PFS conversion factor. In addition to the increase in payment for Evaluation and Management (E/M) (or office/outpatient visits), simplified coding and documentation changes for Medicare billing for these visits, which went into effect January 1, 2021.

The final rule also improves rural health and access telemedicine by adding more than 60 services to the Medicare telehealth list that will continue to be covered beyond the end of the Public Health Emergency. These additions allow beneficiaries in rural areas who

are in a medical facility to continue to have access to telehealth services such as certain types of emergency department visits, therapy services, and critical care services.

In October, the College, as part of the Alliance for Wound Care Stakeholders, provided comments to CMS on these policies. Many thanks to the ACFAS Health Policy Committee for their participation in this process.

research

Cozy Up this Winter with *FootNotes*

It's officially winter and we're back with another issue of *FootNotes*, our patient education newsletter!

This edition covers ingrown toenails in children and how best to attempt treatment before calling a foot and ankle surgeon, how to get enough vitamin D throughout the winter months to lessen the risk of broken bones and for those living with diabetes we have tips for how to care for your feet and keep them safe during the colder weather.

Use the newest issue to maximize your reach with patient education and marketing

your practice. Add your practice information to the customizable second page and keep copies in your office, post it to your practice website and share it on your social media accounts. Access more free tools to help ramp up your practice marketing efforts by visiting the Toolbox at acfas.org/Marketing.



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