

## ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Muhammed Sharoz Shamim

Fellowship Program:

Northwest Illinois Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Sycamore, IL

Program Director:

Douglas Pacaccio and Patrick McEneaney

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

Six

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.

I have had a wide variety of reconstructive foot and ankle cases including total ankle replacements, pediatric trauma, sports medicine, deformity correction, complex forefoot and rearfoot reconstructive cases, charcot reconstructions, revision forefoot and rear foot cases.

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

Three days in the OR

Two days in private clinic

There is no fellows clinic but you do have supervised clinic where the fellow is allowed to be very independent



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

45-50

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

I have attended ACFAS, Stryker Fellows Course, Paragon Fellows Course, Midwest Podiatry Conference and Local labs. Planning on attending The National and SAWC as well

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

My director's teaching style is very accommodative. I have a lot of supervised guidance in the operating room.

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

I have been given ample amount of project options which I may be interested in.

I have access to patient charts and academic journals.

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

General Call for the practice.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

7

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

We have radiology rounds every two months

I am invited to multiple cadaver labs through the year

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 associated with a residency program. I interact with the residents for 20% of my cases.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No

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

A visit usually consists of a day in clinic with both the fellowship directors. They are exposed to the wide variety of preoperative and post operative patients that are scheduled. There is usually some time to discuss surgical cases during this visit

What is the interview process like at your program?

At our program, there is usually one academic and one social interview.

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

I am the only fellow.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Both the directors are national speakers and well connected. They make an active effort to help the fellow find a job. They also provide feedback regarding contract negotiations

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

Hard working, positive attitude, academically sound, able to take constructive criticism, honest and have a thirst to learn.

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

I applied for fellowship as my residency lacked sheer number of reconstructive cases.

I needed more experience with complex surgical cases.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Fellowship is a massive commitment. Before applying, I would advise the applicant to ask themselves where they would like to see themselves in ten years and then find a fellowship which helps you attain those goals. Also, there is no substitute for hard work!

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