

# ACFAS Update

student resident

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FOOT AND ANKLE SURGEONS



## Save the Date: ACFAS 2018



Like the song says, Nashville wouldn't be Nashville without you. Mark your calendar now for the **2018 ACFAS Annual Scientific Conference**, March 22–25, 2018 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel for:

- Nonstop clinical sessions and workshops to elevate your surgical skills
- Exhibits and scientific posters highlighting the newest breakthroughs in foot and ankle surgery
- Special events
- Unlimited opportunities to network and connect with your peers
- And more!

Come to Nashville a day early for special preconference workshops on Wednesday, March 21 and take some time to enjoy the free live music, celebrated food scene and friendly, laidback atmosphere that Nashville is known for. Then stay through the last night of the conference so you don't miss the Wrap Party on Saturday, March 24 at the iconic Country Music Hall of Fame.

Visit [acfas.org/nashville](http://acfas.org/nashville) for ACFAS 2018 details and to book your hotel room.

## 2018 Call for Posters

Do you have any burning questions about submitting a poster to the 2018 Annual Scientific Conference in Nashville? Here is what you need to know:

### DEADLINES

Accepted Poster PDF Submission: Friday, December 15, 2017  
 Student Club Poster Abstract: Friday, December 1, 2017  
 Student Club Poster PDF: Monday, February 2, 2018

### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I submit my abstract/poster?

- Poster submissions are made through a portal on the ACFAS website under [Submit a Poster](#).
- The page includes a separate link for student club submissions.
- Information will be sent regarding submission of poster PDFs with your student club abstract notification of acceptance.

Can more than one poster be submitted per school?

- Only one submission will be accepted per school.

How should I format my poster?

- Poster format examples are provided in the [2018 ACFAS Poster Exhibit Guidelines](#) as well as in policies regarding submission and helpful hints.

Can residents or faculty be listed as coauthors on student club posters?

- Only students can be listed as coauthors.

Is there a complimentary registration fee for poster authors?

- There is no complimentary or discount registration fee for poster authors/presenters; however, each student club is entitled to one complimentary main conference registration per school.

Do all poster authors need to attend the conference?

- One poster author must register for and attend the conference.

How do I get my poster to and from the conference?

- Shipping for your poster is not included. Be sure to make plans for transportation to and from the conference (keep your shipping tube).
- Printing and delivery to the conference can be arranged for a fee through [Call4Posters™](#).

For more information on poster submission, visit [acfas.org](http://acfas.org) or contact [Sheila Alegria](#).

## Is Fellowship Right for You?



**Priya Samant, DPM, AACFAS**

Most foot and ankle surgeons will say a fellowship is well worth the time and effort and a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hone your skills and get hands-on experience. But sometimes the best way to find out if a fellowship is right for you is to speak with an active fellow currently enrolled in a program.

**Priya Samant, DPM, AACFAS**, a fellow with the Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle Surgical Fellowship at Ankle & Foot Care Centers in Youngstown, Ohio, says a fellowship is right for you if you enjoy innovative research and want to gain more insight into surgical techniques and procedures. "What you learn in a fellowship helps expand the profession for all DPMs," says Dr. Samant.

To determine if a particular fellowship program is a good fit for you, Dr. Samant recommends first evaluating your goals and what you like most about the profession. Then speak with current and previous fellows to learn more about the program's focus. She says to visit the fellowship programs that most interest you to get a feel for how each program is structured and what to expect.

Once you have decided which fellowship(s) you would like to pursue, Dr. Samant urges that you begin contacting the fellowship director and working on your application during the spring of your second year in residency. "Most application deadlines vary from August to December," she notes, "so it's best to contact the program to find out if you need to submit your application prior to visiting."

To help set yourself apart from other candidates during the fellowship application process, Dr. Samant suggests reading articles published by fellows of the program as well as the director. "Ask questions, be eager to learn and teachable, but most importantly, be yourself during the application and interview process," she advises.

Some may consider fellowship to be nothing more than a glorified residency, but Dr. Samant asserts the quality of the learning process in a fellowship differs drastically from residency. "You build a foundation in residency, but in a fellowship, you take those principles you learned and expand on them," she explains. Fellowship also offers more one-on-one time with the director, which means you can ask questions as they arise and discuss your thought processes for different treatment plans.

Fellows usually begin to realize the benefits of a fellowship early in the program, and in Dr. Samant's case, she has already noticed a difference after just one month. She has gained more confidence in perioperative care, postoperative complications, office management and billing procedures. "I've become a more efficient surgeon, and I better understand how to troubleshoot while operating," shares Dr. Samant. Her fellowship is also linked to a residency, which gives fellows and residents a chance to learn from one another, collaborate in both clinic and surgery and participate in radiology rounds together.

"Fellowship gives you five years of experience in one year," says Dr. Samant, "so you can become not just a great surgeon, but a great physician overall."

For more on fellowships, view the webinar, "Foot and Ankle Fellowships: Taking the Next Step," at [acfas.org](http://acfas.org).



### Get Your Free Copy of *The Evolution of a Profession*

ACFAS' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will soon come to a close. If you have not already requested your free copy of *The Evolution of a Profession: The First 75 Years of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons*, send an email to [Jolinda Cappello](mailto:Jolinda.Cappello@acfas.org).

The ACFAS story is a classic American tale worthy of both **print** and **film**. Learn how 10,000 Fellows and Associates transformed chiropody into foot and ankle surgery over the course of 75 years and in turn changed the history of American medicine.

### *The Evolution of a Profession: The First 75 Years of ACFAS*

(online version and downloadable PDF)

[History of ACFAS \(video\)](#)

[ACFAS by the Decade](#)

[ACFAS Past Presidents](#)

[Lessons from a Legend](#)