

ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Joslin L Seidel

Fellowship Program:

Pediatric Foot & Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Cedar Knolls, NJ

Program Director:

Mark E Solomon, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

Aside from my director there are 8 orthopedic surgeons within the practice that I operate with whenever they have a pertinent case. There are also 3 outside podiatrists I work with in surgery.

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 fellowship is focused on pediatrics however approximately 20% of our patients are adults. We see a great of sports medicine related issues/injuries. We have a couple of complex reconstruction cases each month which usually consist of a combination of acute and gradual correction (multiplanar external fixation). Pediatrics ~80%. Trauma ~20%. Rearfoot/Ankle ~75%. Forefoot ~25%.

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

Roughly 2 days a week in the OR but each week is different.

Remaining 3 days a week in clinic. I do not have a set time for my own clinic but I do see my own patients in my directors clinic and there are days that he is gone in which I hold my own clinic hours.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

Roughly 20 though there is definitely an opportunity to scrub more cases. I have been selective with the cases I scrub as I was comfortable with my surgical skills and surgical ability coming out of residency and chose to do fellowship for other reasons.

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

Controversies in Pediatric Limb Reconstruction, NJ Reconstruction Foot and Ankle Fellowship Workshop, Stryker Cutting Edge Techniques and Technologies, Flexband Advanced Course, Paragon 28 Fellows Course, Paragon 28 Fellows Course, Baltimore Limb Deformity Course, Orthofix TL-Hex Focused Surgeon Training, Orthofix Fellows Course, Trimed Fellows Course, Internal and External Fixation for Trauma, Limb Deformity, Recon Surgery

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Dr. Solomon is extremely patient and has an impeccable ability to remain calm in any situation. He has incredible interpersonal skills. He allows the fellow to have a significant amount of autonomy. Additionally, he is open-minded, selfless, supportive, optimistic, and consistent.

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

All ACFAS accredited fellowships are required to submit a manuscript each year. The amount of research done above and beyond that requirement is up to each individual fellow. There are definitely opportunities for research in this program and Dr. Solomon would support/assist any fellow who had an interest in research.

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

I take hospital call at 1 hospital which consists of 1 week roughly every 18 weeks. If there is an issue with one of our private practice patients the nurses at our practice will reach out to me with questions or to contact the patient however this is rare.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

Hospitals: 4

Surgery Center: 1

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

There are multiple opportunities for cadaver labs and advanced training. The fellow runs a didactic fellowship meeting every other week (case presentation, journal club, radiology conference, ect). The fellow also has the opportunity to join in on the residency program didactics.



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

This program is associated with 3 residency programs. I have lectured to each of the programs but this was not required. The residents assist us with almost 100% of our cases. The fellow takes precedence and can decide how much to allow the resident to assist. I have found the association with the residency programs very beneficial and enjoyable.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

The fellow can collect cases for board certification as they are fully licensed in NJ and will take call at a local hospital.

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

As early as possible. Visit will be different depending on the day the applicant visits as it could be an OR day or a clinic day or a day where it is half and half. The visit is important so the applicant can determine if this program is right for them and vice versa.

What is the interview process like at your program?

We encourage all applicants to visit the program. The interview will be a through a virtual video chat platform. The interview consist of primarily social questions with some academic questions.

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

I do not have a co-fellow.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Dr. Solomon and his partners are all willing to help in the job search process including finding a position and reviewing/negotiating the contract.

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

I think personality and attitude are the most important. We want someone with an insatiable appetite to learn. The fellow must be able to get along in a multi-specialty group.

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

Originally, I was interested in fellowship as I thought it would allow me to fill the educational gaps in residency such as practice management, billing and coding, global



timeframes, etc. which I felt would enhance my efficiency and allow me to focus more on patient care. It was not until I actually visit the pediatric foot and ankle program that I realized I had a strong desire to specialize in pediatrics as I felt that would be the most fulfilling path. Visiting this program changes my entire view on pediatrics. I was excited by the opportunity to treat the youth and potentially change their lives forever.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Talk to as many people as possible. Visit each program you are interested in as this is the best way to determine if it is the right program for you and vice versa. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Talk to the current fellow and previous fellow about the program.

