

**ACFAS 2023**  
**Meet the Fellow Questionnaire**



**American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®**

Fellow Name: Vincent Vacketta

Fellowship Program: Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Center

City/State: Columbus, Ohio

Program Director: Christopher Hyer and Mark Prissel

How many Attendings do you work with regularly? 6

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. The fellowship focuses primarily on elective reconstruction. This includes all aspects of elective reconstruction at all anatomic levels of the lower extremity. This includes a large amount of sports medicine and deformity correction as well. We also have good exposure to trauma. TAR exposure is more than adequate and instruction is given by those with tremendous knowledge and experience.

How many days per week do you typically spend in the OR? In clinic? Do you have your own "fellow" clinic? Over the course of 2 weeks (10 work days) which would consist of 1 week on call and one week off call I am in the OR 9 days and in my fellow's clinic 1 day.

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month? 60



What conferences have you attended/are you encouraged to attend? ACFAS, AOFAS, SOA; We may attend any conference we would like, particularly when presenting. Encouraged to attend any industry fellows' course we are interested in.

How would you describe your director's teaching style? Pragmatic, direct feedback. Highly autonomous teaching style. Always available and open to case discussion and giving feedback. Objective reviews performed quarterly.

How is research incorporated into your experience? What resources are provided/available? Research is an important aspect of our fellowship. We have monthly research meetings and a research team is available to assist with projects. Research is expected but projects are typically self-driven.

Do you take any "call"? If so, how often? What type of call? (general vs. trauma, hospital vs. private practice?) Call is every other week depending on the number of fellows selected for the year. It has been every other week this year and has been quite manageable. We cover a single hospital for call and typically we are on-call at that hospital 2-3 times per week including weekends. The remaining 4-5 days while on call for the week consist of general PP call, and answering any emergency patient questions or concerns, typically post-op questions.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at? 4

What is your didactic schedule like? What academic opportunities are available to you during fellowship? (Cadaver labs, journal club, radiology conference, etc.) We have regularly scheduled radiology conferences, journal clubs, business/practice meetings throughout the weeks and months. Attendings are very involved in our academics and enjoy teaching.

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? Yes

When should interested applicants visit? What does a visit look like? Visits should be coordinated through Robin Bish, our fellowship coordinator. Of late visits have not been performed but this may be subject to change.

What is the interview process like at your program? Social interview focused on understanding the applicant personality/mindset, and ultimately their fit for the program.

Do you have a co-fellow? What percentage of your cases are scrubbed with them? Yes. 0-5%

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment? There is a vast network amongst the OFAC family which allows for a steady stream of employment opportunities.

What qualities make an applicant a good fit for your program? Intelligent, hard-working, team player, coachable, humble, motivated/ambitious, good social skills.

Why did you apply for fellowship? And why did you choose your fellowship program? It has always been my aim to pursue the highest level of training that I could. This is a goal I had as a student and I quickly realized through my research that OFAC was the best fit for my long-term practice goals and as I became more knowledgeable through rotations and residency I became further assured of this. I chose this program due to its reputation, its leaders, the surgical volume, the case complexity and diversity, the family environment, and the mentorship. There are so many aspects that make this fellowship uniquely the best and so many intangible factors which set it apart from other programs.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants? Be yourself. Pick a fellowship that will allow you to more efficiently practice the broad or specific area of our profession that you are interested in. Be realistic with the practicality of the skills you are learning. Work hard and you will have tremendous opportunities from this experience if you select a worthy fellowship.

