

ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Krista Kotzeva, DPM

Fellowship Program:

Pennsylvania Intensive Lower Extremity Fellowship

City/State:

Malvern, PA

Program Director:

Jason R. Miller, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

Mainly Dr. Miller, however, have opportunity to scrub with 7 others if time permits.

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.

Lots of diversity. Cases range from forefoot reconstruction and elective procedures, midfoot procedures, rearfoot reconstruction, adult and pediatric sports medicine and lots of exposure to total ankle arthroplasty and arthrodesis with different systems, as well as sports med pathology.

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

Typically spend Mondays and Fridays in the OR and clinic TWTh.

Clinic days are shared with Dr. Miller and residents, which allows for a good learning and teaching environment for the fellow. Fellow typically sees patients on their own and will assist Dr. Miller to oversee residents.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

On average per month the fellow will scrub anywhere from 40- 60 cases a month.

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

Fellow is always encouraged to attend as many conferences and teaching courses as possible when time permits. ACFAS, AMPA, Goldfarb local conference.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Dr. Miller allows fellows to have a lot of autonomy in clinic and OR. Typically the teaching style is "See one. Do one. Teach one."

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

Research responsibilities include, monthly podiatric blogs, conference posters/ manuscripts, and paper publication. Resources include hospital library, EMR & cases.

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

Call is taken at one of the hospital locations one week out of the month.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

Fellow is credentialed at one surgery center and three hospital locations.

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

Fellow is encouraged to attend monthly resident journal clubs, weekly academics where he/she may be overseeing or leading a discussion. ACFAS virtual journal clubs.

Is your fellowship affiliated with a residency program? If yes, what are your responsibilities?

How often are you interacting with residents (What % of cases?)

Yes, Dr. Miller is a residency director. Fellow interacts 100% of time with residents.

Attend academics, keep residents involved in research and teach during OR cases.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes, some cases can count towards board cases.

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

Applicants encouraged to visit in the early spring of their PGY2 year. Visits consist of two days. One clinic day and one OR day, where interested candidates get to interact with Dr. Miller and current fellow and ask questions.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Interview process is typically conducted during the candidates visit, if visitation is not possible candidates may be offered virtual interview following submission of their ACFAS application.

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

No co-fellow.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Dr. Miller is very helpful in aiding with job search and passing along opportunities, as well as reviewing contracts for fellow.

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

A suitable candidate is someone who likes to work with residents and teach, well organized, self-motivated and likes a fast paced clinic and OR environment.

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

I wanted to be able to specialize in TAR technique, make myself a competitive employment candidate and learn the business aspect of practice management.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

My advice for anyone looking to apply for fellowship is to find a program where you are able to be yourself, allowed to grow and specialize in an area that you are passionate about.

