

## ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Joshua Stewart

Fellowship Program:

Orthopedic Center of Florida (OCF) Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Fort Myers, FL

Program Director:

Andrew Belis

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

I work with four Attendings regularly

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 diversity was one of the biggest draws to the program for me. Each attending with whom I work does do Total Ankle Replacements. There is an emphasis on MIS and sports medicine. Specifically, many procedures are performed via arthroscopy.

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

I spend about 70% of my time in the operating room and the rest is spent in my own clinic. On afternoons that I am in clinic, it runs concomitantly with Dr. Belis'. I am afforded as much autonomy as I'd like, with the guidance of Dr. Belis available when desired. The majority of clinic patients are either peri-operative or new patients.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

It varies, but I average about 35-40 cases monthly. Winter months are slightly busier.

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

This year I attended the Florida SAM conference, ACFAS Scientific Conference, Arthrex MIS course. There are opportunities for other courses throughout the year.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Dr. Belis is a wealth of knowledge and experience. He is inquisitive and always interested in your opinion. He is as hands-on as you'd like, allowing for autonomy when desired.

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

There are many opportunities for posters/papers. There are a fair amount of research ideas that are generated through discussion and during surgery.

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

The fellow takes general foot and ankle call twice per month in one hospital system. Calls can be anything from fractures to wounds. This is not the focus of the fellowship.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

I am credentialed at four hospitals and two surgery centers.

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

The didactic schedule is dynamic. Monthly journal clubs, informal radiology conferences

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 not affiliated with a residency program.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

The fellow is able to collect cases for board certification. Any patient that comes through hospital call can count, as well as new patients who may come to the fellow.

This is not the focus of the fellowship, most cases are with another surgeon.

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

Interested applications should apply/express interest whenever they feel as though they are ready. Beginning/middle of 2nd year is a good time to reach out to schedule.

The day is spent clinic, allowing applicants to see the type of pathology we treat.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Reach out to express interest. You will likely chat with the fellow to gain information about the fellowship. If you are interested and apply, we will schedule an informal Zoom call to get to know you. Last, we will get to know you better during a visit.

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?

There is plenty of support finding post-fellowship employment. The doctors with whom the fellow works are well-connected and will often come forward with job prospects.

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

Be kind, be open to learning. Be willing to put in the time and effort to succeed in a busy practice. A self-motivated learner will succeed in this environment.

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

I applied for fellowship to "fill in the blanks" after residency. OCF provides the ratio of clinic:surgery I was looking for as well as the types of cases (ie TAR, arthroscopy).

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Be honest with yourself about why you are doing a fellowship and what you are looking for. Find a fellowship that fits those goals, as each fellow is different.

