

## ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

John Constantino

Fellowship Program:

St. Petersburg Innovative Foot and Ankle Surgery Fellowship

City/State:

St. Petersburg, FL

Program Director:

Adam Perler, DPM

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

Drs. Adam Perler DPM, Ronald Troxell DPM, Thomas Odmark MD are the main attendings but the fellow has the opportunity to work with more attendings in the community.

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.

High diversity in our program Dr. Perler focuses on reconstructive surgery (deformity correction, TAR) and has been heavily involved in 3D printing and patient specific instrumentation. Dr. Troxell has a high volume of limb salvage (Ex Fix, infection, amputation etc.) cases but also covers sports medicine and total ankle replacements. Dr. Odmark exposes the fellow to a large amount of trauma (ankle fx, calc fx, pilon) and elective reconstructive surgery.

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

I have spent every day in the OR some weeks. Typically, we have clinic on Monday, surgery on Tuesday every other week, surgery from Wednesday-Friday. I have my own clinic which started in 3/2023 on Monday and Wednesday mornings.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

Around 40-50

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

Any fellows courses through industry are available. ACFAS 2023. FPMA SAM

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Laid-back, collaborative, out of the box thinker. One of the best teachers in our profession.

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

No required research but previous fellows have presented posters and submitted manuscripts.

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

No required call

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

4 hospitals and 4 surgery centers

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

Monthly lectures through fellowship society.

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

Not officially. Occasionally combined didactics (journal club) with Oak Hill Residency



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes. Independent consults at the hospitals can translate to surgical cases submitted for boards.

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

Applicants typically visit late spring or summer. We have been limiting visits to highly considered applicants.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Zoom interview, followed by in person visit/interview. Mostly social.

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

No

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Alumni support. Dr. Perler has numerous connections through industry which has been beneficial for job placement.

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

Considerate, compassionate, easy going, hardworking, passionate, trustworthy, independent.

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

Exposure to different methods, fine tuning surgical techniques/developing preferences, exposure to orthopedic practice. My fellowship program has unique cases that utilize 3D printing. It is fellowship drive and the fellow can tailor their learning to their own interests.



Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Get to know everyone. Connections are vital as most fellowship directors have a good relationship with their future fellows prior to selection. Keep following up with programs. Fellows and fellowship directors are very busy, don't get offended if they don't reply right away but at the same time, stay aggressive.

