

ACFAS2023  
**Meet the Fellow Questionnaire**



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Dominick Casciato

Fellowship Program:

University of Maryland Limb Preservation and Deformity Correction Fellowship

City/State:

Baltimore/Maryland

Program Director:

Dr. Jacob Wynes DPM MS FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

Dr. Wynes for the majority of the week with the opportunity to cover

Dr. Perez and Dr. Linzer. Also, the opportunity exists to scrub with other

orthopedic specialists within the university.

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.

Major emphasis on deformity correction with most cases being rearfoot/ankle.

Large volume of Charcot reconstruction and rearfoot/ankle revision cases.

Specifically, the fellow will have plenty of hands-on experience with external fixation, intramedullary beaming, and hindfoot nailing. Pediatrics and clubfoot also encountered

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

2.5-3.5 days of surgery per week. Clinic is 1-2 days per week. The fellow does run the wound care clinic once a week, and is able to see pos-operative patients with Dr. Wynes throughout the week.



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

No less than 25 cases per month. With the addition of new attendings, the volume will be increasing

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

Baltimore Limb Deformity Course, ACFAS ASC, APMA the National, MPMA Annual Scientific Meeting

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Dr. Wynes is very "see one do one teach one." He emphasizes the "why" each procedure is performed in conjunction with "how" to perfect the technique.

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

Dr. Wynes and previous fellows have a running list of projects and are always open to new ideas. University resources including journal access are available. I had the chance to participate in an AO North American Research training program made available through the University of Maryland's orthopedic department.

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

While you remain on "call" for Dr. Wynes's patients, general call is scheduled once every three weeks or so.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

3 hospitals (UMMC Midtown & Downtown & Rehabilitation and Orthopedic Institute)

Majority of cases are performed at Midtown.

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

Monthly journal clubs, case discussions, and several cadaver labs with the residents are scheduled.



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. Responsibilities include education and clinic/case discussion when appropriate.

Assistance with inpatient work/consultations is also a responsibility if needed. Residents cover all cases.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No.

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

Visit whenever available. I recommend emailing the fellowship coordinator to find a time that works for Dr. Wynes or myself to schedule a visit.

What is the interview process like at your program?

The interviews are mainly social with questions inquiring about career goals/experience, why interested in deformity correction and limb preservation.

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?

Dr. Wynes is a great resource for searching/finding potential employers. He is well-connected across the country and works hard to find the situation that fits best.

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

Well-read, motivated, critical thinker, comfortable working on your own, able to multitask

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

I want to continue conducting research, and be part of an academic setting, once in practice.

Along with the high volume of rearfoot/ankle procedures and deformity correction, I learned a lot about being a part of an academic medical center.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Reach out early to show interest and stay in touch with attendings/ fellow.

Visit when available, especially during surgically heavy days to get an idea of what types of procedures we routinely perform.

