

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



Fellow Name: Raul Aviles, DPM

Fellowship Program:  
American Foundation of Lower Extremity Surgery & Research

City/State:  
Alamogordo, NM

Program Director:  
John Anderson, DPM

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

2

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.

Wide surgical scope of practice treating everything below the knee. Large military population with many sports medicine cases. Rural setting provides access to wide range of weekly trauma cases. Plenty of TAR cases, pediatrics, rearfoot reconstruction, forefoot, revision. >50% of cases are rearfoot/ankle.

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

3 days in OR → Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

2 days of clinic seeing own patients → new, established, post-op



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

20-30 cases per week

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

Attended ACFAS. Encouraged to attend any conference.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Each case is a learning opportunity. Gives pearls and emphasizes efficiency. Gives a lot of autonomy and fellow is very hands-on.

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

Plenty of opportunities available. Research is fellow driven, limitless.

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

Hospital & private practice.  
- Hospital → ED & inpatient consults  
- Private practice → Answer after-hours answering service calls. } 15 days per month

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

4 hospitals

2 surgery centers

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

Weekly radiology conference on Mondays.  
Labs throughout the year.

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

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

Residents rotate 4 months throughout the year, 1 resident/month.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes

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

Yes, your visit is your interview. 3 day visit → Mon-Wed.

What is the interview process like at your program?

3 day visit. One day shadowing Dr. Anderson, one day shadowing Dr. Spencer, one day in surgery.

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

Yes. 25-30%

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Dr. Anderson will make phone calls for you if needed.

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

Confident, team player, humble, responsible.

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

Increase exposure to wide variety of pathology & surgical cases. I chose this program for the large case volume, diverse pathology, and autonomy.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Have a goal and pursue it with purpose.

