

Application for Officer Position with the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dustin Hubbard, and I practice in Fairbanks, Alaska. I am submitting my application for an officer position in the Pacific Region to represent our profession and strive to improve our communities while supporting our surgeons.

My practice and my journey are unique. To my knowledge, Alaska has never had representation in this officer role, but that can change. Let me share with you why an Alaskan can deserve a seat at the table.

Practicing in Interior Alaska is unlike practicing almost anywhere else in the United States. We care for patients across an immense geographic region with limited infrastructure, fewer specialists, and far fewer resources than most surgeons in the continental U.S. We are eight hours by treacherous road from the state's largest medical infrastructure in Anchorage. Many patients live in dry cabins with outhouses, some come in by bush plane, and yes, I have patients that use the rivers by summer and dog sled teams by winter.

As a medical community we often practice what feels like old-school medicine, relying on sound clinical judgment, quick to adapt abilities, with few resources and subspecialties available. I often find myself filling the role of multiple specialists, from a rheumatologist to infectious disease. This environment has shaped me into a resilient surgeon and leader who understands how to solve problems, advocate for patients, and build systems where few existed before.

I chose to practice in rural Alaska nearly 10 years ago. That decision proved to be monumental, as our profession was not well regarded in the community or throughout the state, and I was met with significant resistance. I worked tirelessly with local providers and the local hospital to promote our profession, our skill set, and our advanced training and knowledge.

I came out of this battle having blazed a trail for our profession in the community and throughout the state. I fought for surgical privileges, along with the privilege of performing my own History and Physical examinations, and to be recognized by the MEC and hospital as a physician rather than being categorized with dentists. I fought for the opportunity to take volunteer call at the local hospital. I regularly met with hospital executives and other surgeons, advocating for our profession. I volunteered to present at the community hospital's Annual General Staff Meeting. I visited and presented at every facility I could, including our local hospital and clinics, private practices, military facilities, and sponsored local events. I also taught seminars for senior citizens at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I worked continuously, in every way possible, advocating for, promoting, and educating others about our profession, training, and credentials.

All the while, I was also building my private practice, learning billing and coding, negotiating with insurance companies, and obtaining board certification in Foot Surgery and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery through ABFAS.

Looking back over these past 10 years, I have become a well-known surgeon in both my community and throughout Alaska. I have patients who travel from all over the state for surgical correction, including from Anchorage, where there are many podiatrists and orthopedic surgeons. I obtained full surgical privileges and built one of, if not the busiest, foot and ankle practices in Alaska. Today, I also have a board-certified foot and

ankle surgeon practicing alongside me. My reputation has been built on genuine relationships, hard work, and consistently strong surgical outcomes. I believe I have helped elevate the recognition of our profession in the Last Frontier.

I know I would be a strong leader within ACFAS because I have been in the trenches. I have fought for our profession, found my way through adversity, and helped build confidence and respect for foot and ankle surgeons throughout Alaska. My experiences have given me a perspective that is different from many who practice in larger metropolitan areas—not better, but forged by unique challenges that require perseverance, innovation, and unwavering commitment. I believe Alaska deserves a voice within ACFAS leadership, and I would be honored to represent not only the surgeons of the Pacific Region but also those who practice in underserved and geographically isolated communities across our profession, like Alaska. I would bring that same Alaskan grit, dedication, and advocacy to serving the members of ACFAS. I am not just another surgeon—I represent the “Last Frontier”—a frontier of medicine that ACFAS has historically not had represented in its leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dustin Hubbard, DPM, FACFAS

Dustin R. Hubbard, DPM

FACFAS, DABFAS, DABPM

www.fairbanksfootandankle.com

Experience

Private practice Fairbanks Foot and Ankle
Owner, Operator, Physician/Surgeon

Founder/Owner: Docthotics Foot Insoles
www.docthotics.com

Employment

Fairbanks Foot and Ankle Inc. Fairbanks, AK
(2017 - Present)

InMotion Foot and Ankle- Santa Fe, NM
(2016 - 2017)

Board Certification(s)

American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®
Certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery (2021 - Present)
Fellow American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
American Board of Podiatric Medicine Diplomate
Certified (2016 - Present)

Training

Surgical Residency (PMSR-36)
New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System
Albuquerque, NM (2013 - 2015)

Kaiser Permanente Foundation Orthopedic/Podiatry
Sacramento, CA (2015 - 2016)

Professional Affiliation

Shriners Hospital Spokane
Professional Affiliation (2017 - Current)
Provide clubfoot casting and treatment of other pediatric foot and ankle deformities

Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic
Medicine
Adjunct Clinical Faculty (2018 - Present)
DO medical student elective clinical rotation instructor

Education

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
Kent State University (May 2013)

B.S. Business Management
Minor Chemistry
Brigham Young University – Idaho (April 2009)

Appointments

Co-Chair: Orthopedic Department Fairbanks
Memorial Hospital (2017 - 2023)

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Quality Improvement
Committee Member (2019 - 2023)

Privileges

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
(2017 - Present)

The Surgery Center of Fairbanks
(2017 - Present)

Honors

Best Physician in Fairbanks (2023) -Daily News Miner
Best Sports Medicine in Fairbanks (2024)- Daily News
Miner
(Local Newspaper Public Poll Results Non-solicited)
Chief Resident Sacramento, California 2016

Active Medical License (DPM)

Alaska State Medical Board (2017 - Present)
Idaho State Medical Board (2022- Present)

Other

Treace Medical Surgical Consultant Alaska Region

Fluent in Spanish