

## ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Fellowship Program:

City/State:

Program Director:

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

One

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 fellowship focuses on deformity correction with additional training in orthoplastic surgery. Cases range from forefoot surgery to pes planus and pes cavus correction, residual adult clubfoot correction, tendon transfers for foot drop, ankle fractures, ankle fusions, Charcot reconstructions, and orthoplastic surgery including adipofascial flaps and peripheral nerve surgery such as regenerative peripheral nerve interface. External fixators are routinely used for Charcot reconstructions. Currently March 2023 I have over 300 procedures.

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

There are two surgery days and three clinic days. There is one "fellow" clinic day.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

40 - 50

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

ACFAS, Chicago Lower Extremity Surgical Symposium, and Puerto Rico Podiatry Conference.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Calm. Allows one to do entire case. Loves to teach and explains his reasoning.

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

Research and publications are encouraged. Hospital San Lucas has a dedicated office and employees to help residents and fellows with research. It is required to publish a paper on JFAS/FASTRAC or present a poster at ACFAS.

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

No overnight ER call. Patients that present overnight are initially managed by ER residents / physicians. We see the patient the next day. Anything that comes during the day is seen after clinic. We are usually called in for infections requiring surgery. Trauma is typically discharged by the ER and referred to our clinic.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

Hospital San Lucas (Ponce, PR)  
Hospital Pavia Santurce (San Juan, PR)  
Instituto de Podiatria (Dr. Arroyo's private surgical center | San Juan, PR)

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

There is one academic session per month. Alternate each month.

- Cadaver Labs
- Journal Clubs
- Radiology Rounds
- Student / Fellow / Attending Presentations

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

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

No podiatric residency and no orthopedic residency. Sometimes do foot and ankle trauma cases with orthopedic surgeon in Hospital San Lucas.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No

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

Any month, but try to give one month notice. Visit should be a least two days. Will include one clinic day and one OR day.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Done during visit or done afterwards virtually; depends how busy the week is. Interview itself is informal. Mostly social. Academic knowledge and surgical skills are evaluated during visit.

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?

Director has many connections within the ACFAS network.

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

Hard working. Humble. Friendly. Willing to learn.

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

I wanted an additional year to refine my skills, particularly in Charcot reconstructions and external fixators as this was not something that was common in my residency, and to learn orthoplastic techniques. The program is also in my home island of Puerto Rico.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Be open minded and humble You will learn quite a lot. It's been a great experience.

