

## ACFAS 2026 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Angela M. Garcia, DPM, AACFAS – 2026-2027

Fellowship Program:

Texas Gulf Coast Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State:

Houston, Texas

Program Director:

Mark H. Moss, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

I regularly work with three attendings.

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.)

My fellowship experience has provided me with a very broad range of surgical and clinical exposure. Approximately 60% of my surgical experience has involved rearfoot and ankle procedures, with approximately 60% involving deformity correction. I have also had exposure to 3D Cages and total ankle replacements, with 6 TARs performed so far (Aug-October 2026), as well as approximately 10% trauma, 30% forefoot, 50% sports medicine, 10% pediatric, and 10% Charcot cases. The variety of pathology and procedures has allowed me to develop efficiency and comprehensive “hands-on” experience in both complex reconstruction and more routine surgical and conservative management. Dr. Moss and the attendings develop your thought processes in breaking down the pathology/deformity of each reconstructive case, helping you develop a surgical plan, and then implementing that plan for a successful outcome. The best part about these cases is that I get to work these patients up in clinic, perform the surgery, and follow up and manage the post op course and, if necessary, the complications.



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

I typically spend four days per week in the OR and four days per week in clinic. I also have my own fellow clinic, which allows me to independently evaluate and manage patients while continuing to have attending support and guidance when needed. The fellow clinic is scheduled in parallel with Dr. Moss's clinic.

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

I typically participate in approximately 10-12 surgical cases per week.

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

I attended the Incompass Stryker Conference and participated in the San Miguel Mission Trip. I will also be attending the TPMA Conference and ACFAS annual scientific conference. The fellowship encourages participation in educational opportunities outside of the operating room as well. We will be attending the Treace corporate trip and others as they arise. You will have access to all fellows courses though out the year with industry.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Dr. Moss is one of the best teachers I have had the opportunity to learn from. He was my attending during residency and is now my fellowship director, so I have had the unique opportunity to continue learning from him throughout my training.

His teaching style is very hands-on while still allowing me to operate independently. He shows me and explains what he wants me to accomplish, but he does not take over the case. He is patient and provides valuable pearls on surgical technique, efficiency, and excellent patient care. He also frequently asks questions during cases, which keeps me engaged and encourages me to think critically and understand the reasoning behind each step of a procedure. His goal is not simply to teach me how to perform a procedure, but to teach me how to become an efficient, thoughtful, and well-rounded surgeon. He ensures that I know why we are performing a specific procedure so that I can apply that knowledge in the future any pathology that presents to clinic.

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

Research is incorporated into the fellowship experience through opportunities to participate in academic projects and case-based learning. There are also opportunities to interact with the academic community through conferences, lectures, and journal club. More specifically, we log in weekly with the UT Southwestern case conference with Drs. Vanpelt, George Liu, Marque Allen and their fellows. This conference is very thought provoking and academically stimulating.



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

I have not taken call thus far during fellowship.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

I am currently credentialed at Memorial Hermann Southeast, Memorial Hermann First Colony, Memorial Hermann Richmond Surgery Center, Houston Physicians' Hospital, and Doctors United.

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

I attend multiple conferences throughout the year and participate in a Friday lecture series with UT Southwestern. We also have a monthly journal club. These opportunities complement the clinical and surgical experience and provide additional exposure to current literature and evidence-based treatment.

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, Although the fellowship is not directly affiliated with GTEF HCA West, I have the opportunity to help teach residents in the operating room and interact with them during surgical cases.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes, on a limited basis.

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

I would recommend visiting on a Thursday. During the visit, applicants have the opportunity to meet all of the attendings and observe cases in the morning. This provides a good opportunity to experience the clinical and surgical environment and get a feel for the fellowship.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Applicants must complete an ACFAS application and a limited TGCRFAF-specific questionnaire. The initial application should be submitted to Dr. Moss directly. If you are chosen to interview, a zoom interview will be requested and a follow up in-person visit will be required. The visit allows applicants to meet the attendings, observe cases, and get a better understanding of the fellowship experience.



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

No, I do not have a co-fellow. The fellow is always 1st assist on the case.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Dr. Moss is extremely helpful and involved in helping me find post-fellowship employment. He has extensive connections throughout the field and industry and is very supportive in helping identify opportunities and make connections for life after fellowship.

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

Someone who is determined to learn, focused on reconstructive surgery of the foot and ankle and willing to go the extra mile is a great fit for this program. The attendings expect the fellow to be, independent, doesn't need to be micro-managed, and shows initiative. Dr. Moss, Ivey and McKinney have a tremendous amount to teach, and a fellow who stays engaged, asks questions, works hard, and takes advantage of every opportunity will get an incredible amount out of the year. The goal is to graduate a fellow who is prepared to hit the ground running from day one after fellowship.

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

I chose this fellowship because Dr. Moss is an excellent mentor and educator. He has surgical skills and an approach to surgery that I had not seen before, and I wanted the opportunity to learn from him. Having already worked with him during residency, I knew his teaching style and knew that he would challenge me while also being patient and supportive as I developed my surgical skills. I have been able to learn not only how to perform complex surgical procedures, but also how to improve my efficiency, surgical decision-making, and patient care. The fellowship has also provided me with a very versatile clinical experience, allowing me to see a wide variety of pathology and learn both surgical and conservative treatment options. I wanted a fellowship that would challenge me and prepare me to be confident and independent after graduation, and this program has provided exactly that.

What I have found most advantageous is that Dr. Moss, the week of surgery, will dissect the rationale and thought process required to develop a proper and successful surgical plan for the complicated cases, go through the process of scheduling these type of cases (recon, trauma, charcot, TARS, 3D cages etc.), and then allows me to help implement that plan for a successful surgical outcome. I will be able to take this knowledge and apply it to any complicated deformity that present to my practice in the future.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Work hard. You only get one year of this type of specialized training, so make the most of every opportunity. Go the extra mile, stay engaged, ask questions, and be willing to learn. Dr. Moss wants to teach people who genuinely want to learn, so your level of engagement will directly impact how much you get out of the fellowship. Take advantage of every case, every clinic, and every teaching opportunity. This is your opportunity to become the surgeon you want to be, so make the most of the year.

