

**ACFAS 2023
Meet the Fellow Questionnaire**



**American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®**

Fellow Name:

Samantha Williams; Chandler Ligas

Fellowship Program:

Silicon Valley Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship – Palo Alto Medical Foundation

City/State:

Mountain View California

Program Director:

Meagan Jennings

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

11

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.

Our fellowships has a wide variety of cases. The focus would be reconstructive surgery with a focus on sports medicine. Our cases encompass TAR, arthroscopy trauma (including pilon's), rearfoot and ankle elective fusions, flatfoot correction, revisional forefoot surgery and pediatric trauma.

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

We are in the operating room daily. Our dedicated "fellow" clinic is on Wednesday However we will have cases throughout this day as well.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

50-60 cases per month

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

Fellows Courses for Styrker, Arthrex

ACFAS

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Exposure and experience. Available and willing to teach pearls and tricks.

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

Our fellowship has a database of ongoing research. There is a Research institute that is available through the multi-specialty group that we are a part of.

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

Yes we take call for the practice and hospital. Each fellow takes a week on at a time.

Call included trauma, post operative follow up questions, general hospital services including diabetics.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

We are credentialed at 2-3 surgery centers and 2 hospitals.

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

We have monthly case conferences. Each month we rotate different cadaver labs, radiology rounds and journal club.

Is your fellowship affiliated with a residency program? If yes, what are your responsibilities? How often are you interacting with residents (What % of cases?)

We do interact with Saint Mary's Residents twice monthly when they are with one



specific attending.

< 5% of cases are spent with residents.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes, we do through our call services that we provide. Any patient we see on call is our primary patient for boards.

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

Applicants should visit from Feb to June of their application year.

Social environment while on the visit. Just want to get to know the potential candidates.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Via Zoom, usually case specific type of questions. Not specific academic session but more social questions/questions on how to handle certain situations.

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

Yes. We scrub < 5% of the cases together.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Attendings will constantly help with the job search throughout your time in fellowship.

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

Willingness to work hard, be a team player and surgically sound.

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

I applied to fellowship to have an adjunct to my surgical training in residency. I chose this fellowship for the diversity of cases in arthroscopy, TAR, Trauma and within a large multi-specialty group.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Visit fellowship programs that would be a good fit for an adjunct to your surgical training in residency. Reach out to current fellows to have an idea of the general fellowship set up. Continue to do what made you successful in residency!

