

ACFAS 2023

Meet the Fellow Questionnaire

Fellow Name: HyunJi Boo, DPM

Fellowship Program: North Jersey Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship

City/State: Lyndhurst, NJ

Program Director: Michael Subik, DPM

How many Attendings do you work with regularly? Four

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 has an emphasis on deformity correction, complex reconstruction, and limb salvage. Cases by percentage – 75% are rearfoot reconstruction, 20% trauma cases and 5% other types of foot, ankle and rearfoot cases. We also do a large number of external fixators (~50 per year).

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

On average I am in the OR 2-3 days per week, with the rest of my time split between being in the office or at podiatry clinic. I have my own fellows clinic that the residents assist with covering, where I spend 4 half days per week.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

20-30 cases per month

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

ACFAS National Conference, Orthofix Women's conference, Stryker Fellows course, Orthofix Fellows course

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Dr. Subik's teaching style is very thorough. We have specific plans and goals before entering the OR that we discuss. We have multiple built-in backups to everything we do. Time is always taken to teach and explain. He really wants the Fellow to understand all aspects of the cases and clinical decision making.

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

There are multiple research projects on-going with the attendings, fellow, and residents (research meetings are biweekly)

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

Foot and ankle trauma / general call for multiple hospitals one week a month each. The Fellow takes call for the private practice one week per month as well.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

4 hospitals and 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.)

Multiple days of didactic lectures available via web meeting and online zoom lectures.

Cadavers available daily

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

Yes, St. Mary's General Hospital Residency Program as well as University Hospital. The Fellow runs a clinic with the residents. The Fellow also holds academics / labs with the residents and has the opportunity to teach them. There are residents in about 85% of all cases the Fellow is in.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes

When should interested applicants visit? What does a visit look like? What is the interview process like at your program?

Yes, I highly encourage candidates to reach out to the Fellowship Administrator and ask about a visit! Applications are due in April, followed by a scheduled visitation day and then a set interview date. Candidates are also encouraged to ask if there are additional visitation opportunities available.

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?

The Fellowship Director and other attendings are all very involved in discussing employment from day one. All will offer their advice, make introductions, encourage networking and discuss all opportunities possible with the Fellow.

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

The Fellow must be very well-organized, showcase a strong willingness to learn and develop their skills, must be someone interested in also teaching others, showcase a desire to be challenged, and have interest in limb salvage / external fixators. This Fellowship requires someone who is willing to put in the hours to learn all facets of a rearfoot reconstructive/limb salvage practice & career path.

Why did you apply for fellowship? And why did you choose your fellowship program? Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

I applied to fellowship to deep dive into the limb salvage and reconstructive aspect of our field of medicine. My advice is to really think about why you want to pursue fellowship and what your goals/expectations are during the year and afterward.

