

ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Nikul M. Panchal

Fellowship Program:

Foot and Ankle Physicians of Ohio

City/State:

Grove City, OH

Program Director:

Dr. Elizabeth Hewitt

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

2

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.

wound care/amputations, elective forefoot and rearfoot surgery,

deformity correction, orthopedic trauma, Charcot reconstructive surgery, TARs

TTC nails, arthroscopic arthrodeses, MIS surgery (from bunions to rearfoot techniques)

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

2-3 days in the OR, 5 days of clinic. The 5 days of clinic are the fellow clinic

How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

about 25-30



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

ACFAS yearly conference and several industry sponsored cadaveric workshops

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

She will first assess where one's skills are at surgically and build it from that level up. Very direct and to the point of where one needs to improve.

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

Very evidence-based practice. If asked, literature is provided supporting why something is done. We are given access to the Grant Medical Center library for research purposes.

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

General call at Grant Medical center. Call was about once every 5-6 weeks

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.)

Monthly radiology rounds where all the interesting cases are reviewed, Monthly textbook chapter review, monthly cadaver labs, and at least 2 TAR certification labs

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

It was affiliated with the Grant residency program when I was a fellow. That is no longer the case



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes. All the cases in which I was primary were eligible for boards certification. I had about 65 total cases.

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

Interested applicants should visit in the spring of their 2nd year. If the program likes you they will take the applicant and stop interviewing any other prospective applicants. It's a two-day visit, shadowing in clinic for a day and shadowing surgeries for a day.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Two days long interview shadowing the director during clinic and during surgery

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

No co-fellow

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

The attendings utilize their own personal network of providers to help us find employment

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

Willing to work full 5-6 days a week, able to handle constructive criticism, and willing to adopt different techniques than what they were taught

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

Very poor residency training which is why I applied for a fellowship. I chose this specific program as they understood my specific position and were willing to work with me to improve my game.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Apply to as many programs as reasonably possible

