

## ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of  
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Amar Chandra

Fellowship Program:

Washington Orthopaedic Center Advanced Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery Fellowship

City/State:

Centralia, WA

Program Director:

Michael Dujela, DPM, FACFAS

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.

High diversity of surgical cases with a focus on elective forefoot, rearfoot, and ankle surgery, complex reconstruction, and trauma. There is good exposure to TAR and minimally invasive surgery as well. Roughly 25% of cases are trauma. 40-50% rearfoot/ankle. Emphasis is also placed on teaching the fellow how to operate efficiently and how to operate alone.

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

Typically, at least 2 OR days per week with the rest of the week spent in clinic. Currently, there is no official fellows clinic.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

30

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

ACFAS and Seattle Lower Extremity Surgical Symposium (SLESS). We are also encouraged to attend any fellows courses provided throughout the year.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Fellow-focused learning. While the fellow performs >95% of the cases skin-to-skin, Dr. Dujela takes on an active role during each and every case. He is very receptive to collaboration and wants to know how you would approach a case whether it is in the clinical or surgical setting.

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

The fellow is expected to participate and generate original research for publication and presentation at the ACFAS conference. This means at least 1 original manuscript suitable for publication and 1 poster presentation.

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

General hospital call is taken 1 week every 8 weeks.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

5

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

Weekly topic lectures as well as monthly to bi-monthly journal clubs held with other fellowship programs.



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

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Yes

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

We are open to visits throughout the year. We typically recommend visiting on a Monday and Tuesday which allows the prospective fellow to observe in both the clinical and surgical settings.

What is the interview process like at your program?

Subject to change. Previous years included a program visit or virtual interview if unable to visit. In the near future, interviews will involve a centralized location

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?

Dr. Dujela is active in helping the fellow to find potential employment opportunities. He is also very open to reviewing contracts and providing professional feedback/advice.

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

The applicant should self-motivated and have a strong clinical and surgical foundation. The applicant should be adept in research and creating research ideas.



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

I chose the Washington Orthopaedic Center to do my foot and ankle surgical fellowship for a multitude of reasons. Fellowship Director, Dr. Michael Dujela, is a internationally-renowned, orthopaedic fellowship trained foot and ankle surgeon who teaches globally and is passionate about education. His leadership and accolades speak for themselves as he has chaired and held multiple organizational leadership positions and participated in numerous national and international foot and ankle surgery conferences.

Moreover, his surgical and clinical expertise, along with the surgical volume, diversity, and complexity at WOC, allows for the opportunity to produce one of the best and well-rounded fellowship programs in the country. From a surgical standpoint, I can think of no better place to obtain my fellowship training.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Be humble, open-minded, willing to learn, and enjoy the process.

