

ACFAS 2023
Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



Fellow Name: Shilpa Sharma

Fellowship Program: University Foot and Ankle Institute

City/State: Santa Monica, California

Program Director: Dr. Babak Baravarian

How many Attendings do you work with regularly? 4

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 program has an emphasis on sports medicine and private practice management. We do see a variety of cases, including forefoot and rearfoot reconstruction, TAR, arthroscopy, and some trauma and limb salvage. Good exposure to podiatry cases that you would generally see in a private office/outpatient setting. Primarily elective cases.

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

We spend about 2.5 days in the OR, and the rest of the time in clinic. We have designated times in the week for a fellow clinic, where we see our own patients, learn billing/coding.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

~35 cases

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

Encouraged to attend all fellow courses, educational workshops, and conferences. Attended about 5-6 of these courses.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Direct and attentive

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

Encouraged to develop research papers and present posters at conferences, such as ACFAS.

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

No call.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

2 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.)

Discussion of educational topics over virtual sessions

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

Not affiliated with residency program.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

No

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

What is the interview process like at your program?

Applicants may be invited to interview and visit the program at the Santa Monica location. Opportunity to meet the director and attendings, as well as fellow and staff. Generally, exposure to the clinic and/or operating room.

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

Yes, there are two fellows this year. We do not double scub cases with each other. Generally, each fellow follows a separate clinic and operating schedule, consisting of one-on-one time with the attending at their respective office and surgery center.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

There is a wide network of doctors that are connected with the management group with resources to share.

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

An applicant who is efficient, organized, and motivated to further develop clinical and surgical skills.

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

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Wanted to supplement my training with exposure to more sports medicine driven techniques, as well as tools to develop a successful practice.

