

ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®

Fellow Name:

Alissa Mayer

Fellowship Program:

CHI Franciscan Advanced Foot & Ankle Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

City/State:

Burien, Washington

Program Director:

Byron Hutchinson, DPM

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

The first 6 months you are primarily with Stacey Kessinger, MD a foot and ankle surgeon in Silverdale, Washington. The second half of the year you are with Byron Hutchinson, DPM in Burien, Washington.

There is a one month “fellow swap” with Dr. Dujela in Olympia, Washington

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.

A little bit of everything between Dr. Hutchinson and Dr. Kessinger

Complex reconstruction, deformity correction, sports medicine, revision and trauma

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

Tuesday and Thursday you have your own clinic.

First 6 months - Dr. Kessinger operates every Monday and Friday

Second 6 months - Dr. Hutchinson operates every other Wednesday and every Friday.

You take your own cases on call, as well and your own elective cases.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

Depends, around 20-30

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

You can attend any conferences you would like

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Hutch thrives on the interest, dedication and hard work of his residents/fellows

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

Dr. Hutchinson has a million research ideas, you can take on as much as you would like

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

You share call with the CHI Franciscan attendings - this includes general podiatry and trauma call - this is with the residents at St. Francis

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

St. Francis- where you take call and your clinic; St. Anne- Dr. Hutchinson and your clinic; St. Michaels is where Dr. Kessinger operates

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

Weekly academics with the residents - this includes journal club, radiology rounds, grand rounds etc

You have access to the cadaver lab



Is your fellowship affiliated with a residency program? If yes, what are your responsibilities?

How often are you interacting with residents (What % of cases?)

You are a part of Hutch's team with a PGY3 at all times.

The PGY3 has priority in his cases the first 6 months (while you are with Kessinger) and you take priority the second half of the year

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

yes

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

February - May. We recommend a 2 day visit so you are able to see clinic and the OR

What is the interview process like at your program?

The visit

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?

Large network

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

Someone who wants to work hard and enjoys working with a team

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

This program was exactly what I was looking for. The mentorship. The types of cases. The autonomy. I could go on...

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Find your perfect fit. Talk to as many people as you can to learn about the programs and ask good questions

