

ACFAS 2023 Meet the Fellow Questionnaire



Fellow Name: Clare Cormier, DPM, AACFAS and David Sved, DPM

Fellowship Program: AHN/INDY Foot and Ankle Reconstruction Surgical Fellowship

City/State: Avon, IN

Program Director: J. Michael Miller, DPM, FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly? 8

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.

- This fellowship's focus is reconstructive surgery. You'll be exposed to everything from forefoot reconstructive surgery to rearfoot and ankle reconstructive surgery. A majority of cases that you're exposed to are rearfoot and ankle reconstruction including but not limited to double and triple arthrodesis, ankle arthrodesis, and ankle replacements. This fellowship is extremely well rounded surgically - you are also exposed to foot and ankle trauma, nerve decompressions, and revisional surgery.

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

- This is a fellow first/fellow driven fellowship. A majority of your time is spent in the OR. There is no "fellow clinic" at this time, however you are able to spend as much or as little time in the clinic as you desire. This fellowship's focus is to help you become the best foot and ankle surgeon you can be and this is driven by the fellow themselves.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

- 50 to 60 cases a month

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

- You are able to attend basically any conference you would like to. ACFAS national conference is required

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

- All the attendings at this fellowship strike a nice balance between always pushing you to be better while also encouraging you along the way.

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

- Research is fellow driven. Copious amounts of resources are available through the fellowship including but not limited to a large number of patients, IRB help, as well as research ideas.

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

- Fellows are not responsible for taking any call during their fellowship year.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

- Approximately 8

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

- There are monthly academic meetings for the fellows. Throughout the year there are additional academic experiences such as cadaver labs, fellows courses, and conferences that you are able to take advantage of and attend as well.

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

- The fellowship is not affiliated with a residency.

Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

- You are not able to collect cases for board certification.



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

- If you are interested in the fellowship, we encourage you to reach out to the current fellows to learn more about the fellowship. From there, we encourage you to apply. From the applicants we receive, the fellowship extends invitations to interview. There is a visit portion of the interview.

What is the interview process like at your program?

- The interview process includes a two day visit to the program where interviewees experience an academic session, meet the attending physicians associated with the fellowship, and shadow the director during surgery.

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

- There are 2 fellows accepted to the program annually. We rarely scrub together - maybe 3 cases all year. There are plenty of cases to go around so there is rarely a need to double scrub a case.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

- There is as much support as you need in finding post-fellowship employment. A true benefit of this program is the vast alumni network that exists.

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

- Self-driven, hardworking, friendly, and kind applicants

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

- I applied to this program because of the numerous number of surgical cases that I would be exposed to. This is a fellowship that gives you the opportunity to become the best foot and ankle surgeon you are able to become. The fellow-first mentality is something that set this program apart for me. Also, the family-like atmosphere of the attending physicians and the fellowship as a whole is unparalleled and makes for a lifelong learning environment.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

- Be yourself during the process - you'll be spending a year with your fellowship. You want to make sure that it's a good fit.

