

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Foot & Ankle Fellowship  
Faculty Biographies

## John Kwon, MD

*Chief, Division of Foot & Ankle Surgery*



Dr. Kwon is a fellowship-trained foot & ankle orthopaedic surgeon who prides himself on delivering world-class compassionate care to his patients. Furthermore, he enjoys his work advancing the field of foot & ankle surgery as a clinician-scientist and teaching the next generation of physician-trainees.

Dr. Kwon has been an active participant in AOFAS endeavors such as participating as faculty in advanced courses, committees and webinars. He co-chaired the AOFAS 2021 Pre-meeting Course alongside Kent Ellington, MD.

Dr. Kwon earned his BA in biology from Wesleyan University and obtained his medical degree at New York Medical College. After performing a surgical internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, he completed the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program, training at Harvard-affiliated hospitals including Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Kwon then completed a foot & ankle fellowship in Baltimore, Maryland at Mercy Medical Center as well as receiving additional training in Ilizarov external fixation techniques in Portland, Oregon. After fellowship, he returned to Massachusetts General Hospital and was on-staff for several years before assuming the position of Division Chief at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He is thrilled to return to Mass General and currently serves as the chief of the service.

Dr. Kwon has varied clinical interests including trauma, sports-related injuries, arthritis, deformity correction, total ankle replacement, cartilage, ligament and tendon disorders. He is an internationally-recognized expert on the treatment of foot & ankle fractures and other traumatic injuries to the lower extremity.

## Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD

Chief Emeritus, Division of Foot & Ankle Surgery



Dr. DiGiovanni is an internationally recognized foot and ankle surgeon who has been invited to teach his subspecialty around the world. He earned his BA from Dartmouth College and his MD from the Brown University-Dartmouth Medical School Combined Program. He completed his orthopaedic residency at Brown University before pursuing fellowships in orthopedic trauma at Brown Medical School, in adult joint reconstruction/replacement at the Hospital for Special Surgery, in foot and ankle sports medicine and arthroscopy at Harbor-UCLA and USC Affiliated Hospitals, and in foot and ankle surgery at U. Washington Harborview Medical Center. He also completed the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle

Society (AOFAS) Traveling Fellowship at Instituto Rizzoli and Instituto Ortopedico Galeazzi in Italy.

Before joining Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in 2014, Dr. DiGiovanni served as Professor and Program Director of the Orthopaedic Residency at the Brown University School of Medicine for almost a decade and a half, where he was also Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service, Foot and Ankle Fellowship Program Director, and Founder of the Joe DiMaggio Sports Foot and Ankle Center. Since then, Dr. DiGiovanni has served as Chief of the Foot & Ankle Services of both Mass General and Newton-Wellesley Hospitals, as well as Vice Chair of Academic Affairs in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Mass General. He also co-founded the Foot and Ankle Research & Innovation Lab (FARIL) and is a Past President of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society.

Dr. DiGiovanni has been honored numerous times by his peers as one of America's Top Surgeons and Best Doctors and has been perennially recognized as one of Boston's Top Doctors. He has also been acknowledged many times by his patients with Patient Choice, Compassionate Doctor, and On-Time Doctor Awards. He has received the Excellence in Teaching Award by his residents and has received the Order of Merit from the Orthopedic Research and Education Foundation for his philanthropic support over the years.

Dr. DiGiovanni has served on the surgical advisory board of numerous global companies, published over 200 articles, edited five medical textbooks, and helped gain patents and FDA approval for many foot and ankle technologies designed to improve patient care. He has served on the editorial boards of various journals and been a consulting physician for athletes from many sports programs, including the US Ski Team, US Olympic Teams, NFL, NBA, MLB, PGA, the Boston Ballet, Boston Cannons Men's Lacrosse, Boston Breakers Women's Soccer, Boston, Northeastern, BU, and Harvard College Athletics, Formula 1 Racing, and the Premier League. He continues to teach surgery and lecture across the world, and this past year was President of North America's Orthopaedic Foot Club—although Dr. DiGiovanni's greatest professional commitment has always been to the patients he cares for and the residents and fellows he teaches every day.

Currently, Dr. DiGiovanni is a Professor at Harvard Medical School and Vice Chair (Academic Affairs) of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at MGH. As Chief Emeritus of the Foot and Ankle Service,

he helps oversee the foot and ankle programs at both Mass General and Newton-Wellesley Hospitals in Boston. He enjoys serving on AOFAS Committees, participating in AAOS ICLs, and especially supporting the AOFAS Resident Scholar Mentor Program each year. Dr. DiGiovanni has enjoyed caring for patients for almost 30 years, teaching residents for almost 27 years, and mentoring fellows for over 15 years.

## Daniel Guss, MD, MBA

Director, Harvard-MGH Foot & Ankle Fellowship



Dr. Daniel Guss grew up in Kansas City (and remains a loyal Kansas City Chiefs fan despite his two decades in Boston) before earning his BS in molecular biophysics & biochemistry at Yale University. He then moved to Boston where he attained his MD at Harvard Medical School. After a year-long general surgery internship at Mass General, he completed the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program, training at Harvard-affiliated hospitals including Mass General, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Guss's interest in health delivery restructuring and entrepreneurship led him to spend two years at Harvard Business School pursuing an MBA, after which he completed a year-long fellowship focused on orthopedic foot and ankle disorders at both Mass General and Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Daniel has a clinical interest in sports-related injuries, including Achilles and syndesmotic injuries, trauma, arthroscopy and minimally-invasive foot and ankle surgery, foot and ankle reconstruction, cartilage, ligament and tendon disorders. By virtue of treating patients at both an academic (Mass General) and community (Newton-Wellesley) hospital, his practice spans a range of foot and ankle conditions that includes not only local collegiate athletic injuries, fractures, and reconstruction/deformity, but also a sizable amount of "hot" trauma such as Lisfranc, pilon, complex ankle, calcaneus, and talus injuries that fellowship graduates are likely to face in practice. He remains stalwartly committed to the AOFAS community and has served on multiple committees, co-chaired the 2022 Annual Meeting in Quebec City, and served on the Board of Directors as Member-at-Large from 2022-2024. He also completed the AOFAS Traveling Fellowship in 2019, cementing a network of lifelong friends and colleagues that represents the foundation of the AOFAS.

He is also actively involved in national academic research and teaching. In this capacity, he has moderated numerous AOFAS panels, chaired AOFAS webinars, and has served as faculty for Instructional Course Lectures at the AAOS. He has also published and edited numerous online educational resources for the AOFAS, AAOS, JBJS, and NEJM. With his team, he has won grants and awards for research from the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, Arthroscopy Association of North America, as well as the European Society of Sports Traumatology, Knee Surgery, and Arthroscopy.

He remains actively committed to the translational work pursued in the Foot & Ankle Research and Innovation Lab. He is also heavily involved in the business community at Harvard, including the Venture Incubation Program at the Harvard Business School, where Daniel and a co-founder were finalists in the Harvard President's Innovation Challenge.

In his free time, Daniel is an avid downhill skier and has participated in big-mountain ski camps out West and completed his Advanced Open Water certification in scuba diving. He also survives the chaos of two working parents raising a young family of three boys (Reuben, Samuel, and Aaron) who are followed/led by the youngest - a fierce and strong-willed girl named Eliana.

## Gregory Waryasz, MD

Director, Foot & Ankle Sports Medicine



Dr. Gregory R. Waryasz, MD, CSCS is a triple fellowship trained Orthopaedic surgeon in sports medicine/arthroscopy, Orthopaedic trauma surgery and foot and ankle reconstructive surgery. He specializes in injuries and conditions of the foot and ankle. Dr. Waryasz received his BS in Biology at Boston College, where he apprenticed as a strength and conditioning coach for all the athletic teams.

He attended medical school at Tufts University and completed residency in Orthopaedic surgery at the Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital program. After his residency, Dr. Waryasz completed three fellowships. The first in Orthopaedic Trauma at Brown where he cared for adult and pediatric fractures. While at Brown,

Dr. Waryasz was a team physician providing sideline coverage with Brown Athletics, the Providence Bruins of the AHL and USA Gymnastics. After leaving Brown, Dr. Waryasz completed two more fellowships, both at MGH - one in Sports Medicine and one in Foot and Ankle. While at MGH, Dr. Waryasz has been part of the medical staff for the Patriots, Red Sox, Bruins and New England Revolution. He currently is an Orthopaedic surgical consultant for the Boston Ballet, Boston Renegades Beep Baseball team and is currently lead orthopaedic consultant for Northeastern University and lead foot and ankle consultant for Boston public schools. He provides sideline coverage for Northeastern University and Boston Public Schools. He is also consultant for Boston College, Merrimack College, and the Boston Renegades Woman's Professional Football team.

Dr Waryasz has been a personal trainer for more than 20 years and enjoys consulting with recreational, collegiate and professional athletes and is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

He is an active researcher with more than 70 peer reviewed publications. He is a current reviewer for the American Journal of Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning Journal, and the Journal of Physical Activity and Health. His clinical interests are foot and ankle sports medicine conditions, fracture care, and reconstruction surgery. He has a clinical interest in injuries related to bodybuilding, Olympic weightlifting, and high intensity training (HIIT, HIPT, CrossFit, etc). He serves as the liaison to the Paralysis Center at Mass General/Spaulding seeing patients with neurologic impairments. He is an active member of the AOFAS, AOSSM and AAOS. He serves on the Awards and Scholarship committee of the AOFAS.

## Lorena Bejarano-Pineda, MD

Director, Minimally Invasive Foot & Ankle Surgery



Dr. Lorena Bejarano-Pineda is originally from Colombia where she earned her medical degree from University of Antioquia at Medellin Colombia. During her surgical internship at the University of Antioquia, she was accepted to do special clerkships at University of Miami and University of Chicago at Illinois. There she discovered her desire to pursue a career in the United States. She completed residency in orthopaedic surgery at Pontifical Bolivarian University in Medellin, Colombia. Before continuing residency, Dr. Bejarano-Pineda completed a research fellowship in transplant surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago, which strengthened her passion for research. Through this experience, she learned the best way to deliver outstanding care to patients was to have a solid foundation based on scientific evidence supporting the clinical care of her patients.

Upon completion of residency, Dr. Bejarano-Pineda moved to Durham, North Carolina to continue her training at Duke University where she spent 2 years in the divisions of foot and ankle surgery and sports medicine. While at Duke, she was selected as a scholar for the Feagin Leadership program. This gave her the opportunity to expand her skills in assertive communication and serve in a lead role in patient care improvement projects. During the fellowship in sports medicine, her training focused on complex multi-ligament injuries of the knee, cartilage restoration techniques for osteochondral lesions in the lower extremity, and foot and ankle sports-related injuries. Dr. Bejarano-Pineda also contributed as a member of the medical staff for multiple NCAA teams including Duke men's and women's basketball, football, and soccer teams. She also completed a second fellowship in sports medicine at University of Illinois at Chicago before transitioning to the world of foot and ankle surgery.

Dr. Bejarano-Pineda is a double fellowship trained orthopaedic surgeon in sports medicine, and foot and ankle reconstruction surgery. She completed the foot and ankle surgery fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital - Harvard University program, further strengthening her expertise in complex foot and ankle reconstruction techniques, ankle replacement and, foot and ankle trauma-related injuries. Dr. Bejarano-Pineda is actively involved in research with more than 30 peer reviewed publications. During her fellowship year she was involved in multiple projects in the foot and Ankle Research and Innovation Lab.

Before joining our faculty team in early 2022, Dr. Bejarano-Pineda completed a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery in foot and ankle at the Institut Catholique de Paris – Clinique Blomet (Paris, France) under the guidance of world-renowned mentors Dr. Joel Vernois and Dr. Olivier Laffenêtre.

Upon her return to Massachusetts General Hospital and as an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Bejarano-Pineda continues to build her clinical practice founded by continuous academic research. Her clinical interests include the treatment of osteochondral lesions of the foot and ankle to incorporate the evolving percutaneous surgery techniques in the treatment and reconstruction of foot deformities. Part of her interest to join Massachusetts General Hospital is using her passion for mentorship to contribute and help guide the teaching of leadership fundamentals of future residents and fellows for years to come.

## Amgad M Haleem, MD, PhD

Director, Limb Deformity & Lengthening Program



Amgad M Haleem A Amin, MD, PhD is a fellowship-trained Orthopedic Surgeon in Oklahoma City, OK specializing in Lower Extremity Complex Reconstruction, Joint Preservation and Foot and Ankle Surgery. Dr. Haleem takes special interest in adult foot and ankle deformity, complex lower extremity deformity correction, and joint preservation. His current research is focused on cartilage-preserving procedures of major weight-bearing joints of the lower extremities (ankles, knees, and hips), with particular emphasis on the use of biologics such as stem cells and platelet-rich plasma (PRP).

Dr. Haleem earned his Medical Degree (with Honors) from Cairo University School of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt, the same institution through which he completed his Orthopedic Surgery Residency. In 2008, Dr. Haleem was awarded a grant for Excellence in Scientific Achievement, allowing him to complete his PhD in stem cell-based cartilage regeneration at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, through the USA/Egyptian Joint Channel System.

After successfully defending his PhD thesis, Dr. Haleem continued his specialized education and training with a Fellowship in Foot and Ankle Surgery and Fellowship in Lower Limb Complex Reconstruction at the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) in New York, NY; Fellowship in Orthopedic Adult Reconstructive Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX; and Fellowship in Orthopedic Sports Medicine at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL.

Throughout his fellowship training, Dr. Haleem earned the privilege of caring for foot/ankle and lower extremity sports injuries in elite professional dancers and athletes. Notably, that list includes dancers of the New York City Ballet, NBA players of the New York Knicks and the Brooklyn Nets, NFL players of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and University of South Florida collegiate athletes.

**Professional Organizations:** American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society, Limb Lengthening Reconstruction Society, Arthroscopy Association of North America, Orthopedic Society of Oklahoma

**Areas of Professional Interests:** Foot and Ankle Surgery, Lower Extremity Complex Reconstruction and Limb Lengthening (Ilizarov Technique), Joint Reconstruction and Arthroplasty, Orthopaedic Basic Science Research: Cartilage Repair and Tissue Engineering, Orthopaedic Stem Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine / Tissue Culture & Engineering

## Soheil Ashkani-Esfahani, MD

Director of Foot & Ankle Research and Innovation Lab (FARIL)



Dr. Soheil Ashkani-Esfahani was born and grew up in Shiraz city, Iran. A city that is famous for its four-season weather, red wines, and world-renown Persian poets, Hafez and Saadi. Being a child of two clinicians who were more at the hospital than at home, he was raised by his teacher grandparents who played the main role in encouraging him to step into the shoes of his parents. He attained his M.D. degree from his hometown university which was one of the top three medical schools in the country. Soheil has shown interest in medical research ever since he was a sophomore. Being trained by a number of international mentors and research experts he became the director of medical research while he was spending his clinical internship at his university. During the last two years of his medical school and from then on, Soheil has focused more on musculoskeletal and orthopaedic research, innovation, and education, as he was following the dream of becoming an orthopaedic surgeon and researcher. One international bronze medal for invention and innovation, three silver and gold medals in national medical olympiads, best national medical researcher, three times best researcher of the university, the best medical student of the university, best physician-investigator, presenting on various international podiums, visiting and teaching at different institutions globally, being a part of several startup companies in orthopaedic field, numerous patents, and numerous publications were some of his achievements during this time.

Soheil started a research fellowship at FARIL in October 2019 while he was also a Ph.D. candidate in Orthopaedics, benefiting from world-class mentorship by Prof. Christopher DiGiovanni at Mass General and Prof. Gino Kerkhoffs and Dr Mario Maas at Amsterdam University, the Netherlands. Several awards and grants including multiple AOFAS grants, AOFAS Leonard Goldner Award and Roger A. Mann Award finalist, Harvard President's Innovation Challenge finalist, over 200 publications and presentations, mentoring a great number of trainees and fellows, are among his numerous achievements during that time. He has been the clinical executive director of Mass General Orthopaedic Registries from 2021 to 2023. He served as deputy editor in chief, associate editor, board member, and reviewer of high-impact orthopaedic journals including FAI, FAO, FAS, JOR, TSJ and JOSR.

In 2022, Soheil accepted the offer to take the lead of FARIL as the Director of research and innovation arm of the Foot and Ankle division and an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School. During this time, together with the team, he has expanded the lab to a point that now, FARIL is not only able to conduct clinical, experimental, and cadaveric studies, but also possesses state of the art technologies such as novel AI facility, virtual reality, biomechanical testing devices, novel imaging technologies such as weightbearing CT, minimally invasive arthroscopy, portable handheld ultrasonography, 3D modeling and printing, and novel radiography systems. Moreover, FARIL has expanded globally and has branches in over 5 different countries led by FARIL-trained orthopaedic surgeons. FARIL hosts trainees and surgeons from around the world

joining numerous workshops ran by our expert faculty throughout the year focusing on novel diagnostic and surgical techniques.

Soheil is a fan of action and historic movies, he is a soccer and swimming enthusiast. He doesn't like having fun alone, hence, he spends his leisure time with his wife, family, and friends even if it is as short as drinking a cup of coffee together. The only hobby that he likes to do alone is reading books, listening to podcasts, and writing papers. Live like this is your last day, and work like you are always alive, he iterates.