

Harvard Medical School &
Massachusetts General Hospital
Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Fellowship

Introduction & Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Fellowship program.

Our commitment is to help you develop into an accomplished orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeon – clinically insightful, technically capable across a wide range of surgical procedures, and a critical analyst of the latest research. We pride ourselves on the interdisciplinary care of each patient, working as a team with other surgical and medical specialties, as well as podiatrists, physical therapists, cast techs, medical assistants, research assistants and support staff.

Fellowship Structure

The program offers three fellowship positions of one-year duration. Eligible fellows must have successfully graduated from an orthopaedic residency program. Fellows are credentialed at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), the flagship teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, as well as Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH), a 300-bed community hospital in a nearby suburb.

The current fellowship is divided into three separate four-month blocks based on a mentorship model designed to foster lifelong friendships. You will spend four full months with **Drs. John Kwon** and **Daniel Guss**, **Drs. Christopher DiGiovanni** and **Amgad Haleem**, and **Drs. Greg Waryasz** and **Lorena Bejarano-Pineda**. This structure allows exposure to all staff while preserving a one-on-one relationship. Flexibility exists and these are not isolated silos. Cross-pollination frequently occurs and fellows are enabled to adapt their schedule to attend unique cases or learning opportunities, even if outside their “block”. Furthermore, exposure to all faculty year round is achieved through various didactic sessions, conferences, journal clubs, labs and other academic teaching sessions. Our overarching goal is that this be a learning-based fellowship rather than anything remotely service-based – you have worked hard as a resident and now is the time for you to immerse yourself in the pure learning of foot and ankle!

Our fellowship is always looking for ways to maximize our fellows’ education. As part of forming the Mass General Brigham network, the Massachusetts General Hospital is merging with its academic counterpart, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, and the Department of Orthopaedics is uniting under a single chair in 2025. We are actively exploring ways to combine the Harvard-MGH and Harvard-BWH F&A Surgery Fellowships as part of this initiative – the **Harvard Foot & Ankle Surgery Fellowship**. This would afford you the opportunity to expand your exposure across the entire Harvard F&A ecosystem. Rest assured that we will always be a mentorship-based fellowship.

Fellows with full licenses are credentialed at all hospitals and clinical sites as full attending physicians, with the goal of progressively nurturing a high degree of independence in both the operating room and clinic settings. Through an apprenticeship model with graduated autonomy, fellows are comfortable running their own foot and ankle clinic and are technically capable of independently operating on a spectrum of complex foot and ankle pathology by the end of their fellowship year. The opportunity to operate independently with immediate attending backup readily available, as a supplement to the expansive amount of time spent operating alongside an attending, is something past fellows have relished.

Fellows also run a longitudinal clinic that parallels clinics run by the attending staff. Fellows see their own patients 1 clinic day a week in order to foster independent decision-making, management strategies, and ownership of care. These are not “fellows’ clinics” that differentially triage patients and pathologies – we all see everybody, irrespective of background or ability to pay, and this philosophy about caring for patients is part of our DNA. As always, attending staff are readily available to answer questions and facilitate the care of patients.

Faculty

During the year you will work closely with team members across the service, including orthopaedic foot & ankle surgeons, physician assistants and podiatrists. These include:

Foot & Ankle Service

John Y. Kwon, MD

Chief, Division of Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Surgery

Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School

Attending Surgeon

Massachusetts General Hospital | Mass General/North Shore Outpatient Center

Christopher DiGiovanni, MD, FAOA

Professor, Harvard Medical School

Vice Chairman (Academic Affairs)

Chief Emeritus, Division of Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Surgery

Massachusetts General Hospital | Newton-Wellesley Hospital

Past President, Board of Directors, American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society

Daniel Guss, MD, MBA

Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Director, Harvard-MGH Foot & Ankle Fellowship

Attending Surgeon

Massachusetts General Hospital | Newton-Wellesley Hospital

Lorena Bejarano-Pineda, MD

Director, Minimally Invasive Foot & Ankle Surgery
Assistant Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery, Harvard Medical School
Attending Surgeon
Massachusetts General Hospital | Newton-Wellesley Hospital

Gregory Waryasz, MD

Director of Foot & Ankle Sports Medicine
Instructor in Orthopaedic Surgery, Harvard Medical School
Attending Surgeon
Massachusetts General Hospital | Mass General/North Shore Outpatient Center

Amgad Haleem, MD, PHD

Director, MGH Lower Limb Lengthening and Complex Deformity Correction Program
Assistant Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery, Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital

Soheil Ashkani Esfahani, MD

Director, Foot & Ankle Research and Innovation Laboratory (FARIL)
Massachusetts General Hospital
Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Harvard Medical School

Patrick Maguire, PA

Massachusetts General Hospital | Mass General/North Shore Outpatient Center
Physician Assistant to Dr. John Kwon

Brian Abbott, PA

Massachusetts General Hospital | Newton-Wellesley Hospital
Physician Assistant to Dr. Christopher DiGiovanni

Yiming Yu, PA

Massachusetts General Hospital | Newton-Wellesley Hospital
Physician Assistant to Dr. Daniel Guss

Michael (Drew) Vrolyk, PA

Massachusetts General Hospital | Mass General/North Shore Outpatient Center
Physician Assistant to Dr. Gregory Waryasz

Robert (Rob) Mckenna, PA

Massachusetts General Hospital
Physician Assistant to Dr. Lorena Bejarano-Pineda

Podiatry Service

Adam Landsman, DPM, PhD

Lead Podiatrist

Massachusetts General Hospital

Sarah Rose-Sauld, DPM

Massachusetts General Hospital

Jennifer Skolnik, DPM

Massachusetts General Hospital

Educational Program - Basic Curriculum

General requirements: In accordance with the general teachings defined by the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society, our Fellowship program emphasizes professionalism, clinical competence and system-based practice.

Professionalism: The fellows are expected to demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity to their patients, colleagues, and staff. They are expected to be responsive to the needs of their patients and demonstrate commitment to excellence and on-going professional development.

Clinical competence: The fellowship has been designed to develop advanced technical competence in the field of foot and ankle. Focus will be on advanced skills in the operating room, diagnostic competence in the clinic, and will foster analytic research excellence through our robust research program.

Surgical experience: The fellow is scheduled in the operating room 3-4 days/week with an attending faculty member. The fellow will operate in the Main OR at both MGH and NWH, as well as our Ambulatory Care Centers at MGH Waltham, NWH and Northshore Danvers.

Outpatient experience: The fellows are scheduled in clinic 1-2 days/week, either independently or with a faculty member. The outpatient clinics allow the fellows the chance to follow patients they have operated on, to see new patients and devise management plans. The fellows have their “own patients” and are expected to manage all patient needs with input from faculty as necessary and with assistance from our administrative staff and physician extenders.

Inpatient responsibilities: There are three fellows and one PGY-3 Harvard orthopaedic resident on service. The inpatient care is typically divided up by the service member who is on site at MGH for the day. Rounding responsibilities are shared so that “many hands make light work” and fellows infrequently have to round at one site and then travel to another. There is a physician extender for floor coverage at both MGH and NWH

hospitals who assist with daily management and serve as responding clinician while you are clinically engaged.

Call responsibilities: Fellows may assist faculty who participate in call at various institutions based on clinical necessity and educational opportunity. There are no primary call responsibilities, but should unexpected needs arise (e.g., another service asks for help), we have an assigned attending every single day who is responsible for helping you navigate patient care. Fellows will round on inpatient consults and bill when appropriate.

Educational Conferences & Meetings

Multidisciplinary topic conference: Each Tuesday morning there is a multidisciplinary conference at the Foot & Ankle Center in Waltham. The fellow is expected to attend and be an active participant. The current structure is as follows: 1st week – Faculty talks and presentations; 2nd week – Harvard-wide topic presentation by the fellows and Faculty; 3rd week – Talks/presentations by the fellows as well as journal club lead by fellows and other disciplines; 4th week – research; 5th week – talks by other disciplines. There are also several presentations by invited speakers throughout the year as well as periodic resident presentations. We also hold a combined Monday indications conference across the Harvard-system as part of maximizing fellow education.

Indications conference: This weekly conference is held on Tuesdays. It is designed to review the indications for, and treatment options pertaining to, the surgical cases for the next 2 weeks. It is designed to be a very interactive discussion and is consistently highlighted by the Fellows as one of their best learning opportunities.

Departmental conference: Each Thursday morning there is morbidity/mortality conference or grand rounds at MGH. Fellow attendance is expected. Fellows often present service cases at M&M conference and engage in multidisciplinary discussions with other orthopaedic surgery specialties.

Research conference: There are weekly research meetings attended by members of the Foot & Ankle Research and Innovation Lab (FARIL), clinical faculty, national and international research fellows, residents, medical students, and other participating members of the FARIL community. These conferences occur Tuesday mornings at MGH – Waltham.

Conferences: We believe strongly that training outside of the hospital is an important part of the fellowship experience. Each fellow is allotted a \$2,000 stipend to spend on educational conferences and/or other educational related expenses. Participation in local and national conferences is strongly encouraged.

Salary and Benefits: Salary is commensurate with that of a PGY-6 in our system. The base salary for the 2024-2025 academic year is \$99,000, with additional monies as below. Salaries are adjusted by 2-3% each year. Benefits include many competitive health, dental, and vision coverage options. Each fellow is allotted 3 weeks of vacation time to use for conferences, interviews, family time and other independent endeavors.

The following adjustments will become effective beginning July 1, 2023 (Financial compensation for matched fellows for 2024-25 will be determined winter/spring 2024):

- Increased annual stipends for all residents and clinical fellows to \$10,000 that can be used for any purpose at the discretion of the individual.
- Mass General Brigham contributes 2% of annual base pay into a Mass General Brigham 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan for each resident and clinical fellow immediately upon hire.
- Employer-provided 60% long-term disability insurance, provided at no cost for both residents and clinical fellows.

Research

General

The Foot & Ankle Research and Innovation Lab (FARIL) opened on January 1, 2019. FARIL is a groundbreaking initiative by the Mass General Foot & Ankle service focused on pioneering breakthroughs in foot and ankle research and innovation that will directly impact the care of the foot and ankle patients. Perhaps the most important quality of FARIL is its ability to integrate all aspects of Foot & Ankle care by incorporating every facet of research. From top institutions in the US to internationally recognized academia, FARIL researchers bring their diverse training and experience to create new tests and treatments. FARIL also brings together various organizations (MGB research institute, AOFAS, Harvard) and industry leaders to implement new technology used to treat foot and ankle injuries. With patient care at its guiding focus, FARIL brings every component of foot and ankle research to one cutting-edge location.

Fellows are expected to complete **two research projects** throughout the academic year. By the end of the fellowship, you are expected to have two manuscripts prepared for presentation at the AOFAS meeting with the ultimate goal of publication. Multiple support staff are available to assist with the initiation and completion of projects, including several international research fellows, research students, residents, engineers, and statisticians. We know that our fellows are clinically busy, so we pair fellows with motivated researchers who can help with much of the daily work to ensure the successful completion of any project.

Facility and Equipment at FARIL

Clinical Research Database: The Research Patient Data Registry (RPDR) gathers clinical data from several hospital systems at Mass General Brigham (MGB). Researchers can obtain various clinical data using entries such as ICD or CPT codes, diagnoses or clinical terms to search for specific patient populations for their research. RPDR will provide a database that should be screened by the researchers to ensure the accuracy of the data; however, it facilitates the process of retrospective clinical research to a great extent. With the proper IRB approval, researchers may access the patient's detailed medical records for their specified cohorts of patients. Detailed medical records may include the following types of data: Contact Information, Demographics, Diagnoses, Discharge Notes, Laboratory Tests, Medications, Microbiology, Operative Notes, Pathology Reports, Procedures, Providers, Radiology Reports, and Patient-reported outcomes. Furthermore, images from hospital image repositories can be returned and viewed online.

Operation Rooms and Experiment Equipment: FARIL has two operation rooms equipped with C-arms, weight-bearing CT scans, ultrasound, arthroscopy towers, biomechanical testing devices, and OR tools that enable researchers to conduct various experiments on cadaver specimens. Fellows may ask for lab session to practice their skillsets on cadaver specimens using various methods, devices, and implants.

Novel Technologies in Orthopaedic F&A Surgery: FARIL possesses an AI facility, 3D modeling, 3D printing, device development tools, virtual reality, and a unique bioengineering engine that enables the fellows to design, develop, and test their innovative ideas and devices.

For more information, visit FARIL Website at <https://faril.mgh.harvard.edu/>

Hospital & Service Information

For more information about our hospitals and service in general, please visit our websites:

www.massgeneral.org/orthopaedics

www.massgeneral.org/orthopaedics/foot-ankle

www.nwh.org/orthopaedics/orthopaedic-surgery

<https://faril.mgh.harvard.edu/>

Alumni (Clinical)

We maintain great relationships with all our former clinical fellows. Please feel free to contact any of them. Some of our more recent graduates are listed below:

Current Fellows:

Dr. Melissa Gross – mmgross@mgb.org

Dr. Jaeyoung Kim – jkim264@mgb.org

Dr. Adel Mahjoub – amahjoub@mgb.org

Past Fellows:

** = Academic position * = Private practice or private academic position

Nicole Arcand, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2008-2009
Norwich Orthopedic Group, CT
Phone: 860-889-7345

Lorena Bejarano-Pineda*

Fellowship Year: 2020-2021
Massachusetts General Hospital
Phone: 617-724-9338

Dr. Rohan Bhimani

Fellowship Year: 2023-2024
Pursuing 3rd Fellowship year (F&A)

Dr. Bernard Burgesson**

Fellowship Year: 2023-2024
Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Center
Phone: 613-449-4990

Adam Brodsky, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2005-2006
Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine, CT
Phone: 203-323-7331

Tonya Dixon, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2016-2017
University of Cincinnati Medical Center, OH
Chief, Division of Foot & Ankle Surgery
Phone: 513-584-1000

Austin Davidson, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2019-2020
Knoxville Orthopaedic Clinic
Phone: 865-558-4400

Mark Drakos, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2009-2010
Hospital of Special Surgery, NY
Team physician: New York Knicks & UFC
Phone: 212-606-1112

Todd Fellars, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2012-2013
Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA
Chief, Division of Foot & Ankle Surgery, Department of Orthopaedics
Phone: 619-532-5507

Nasser Heyrani, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2019-2020
Corona-Temecula Orthopaedic Associates
Phone: (951)735-6060

Julie Johnson, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2011-2012
Desert Orthopedic Center, NV
Phone: 760-568-2684

Paul Kerner, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2007-2008
Triangle Ortho, NC
Team physician for USA Men's Lacrosse
Phone: 919-846-3938

Lauren Lewis, MD, MPH**

Fellowship Year: 2022-2023
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Phone: 340-332-6030

Tony Mechrefe, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2006-2007
Kent Hospital, RI
Phone: 401-738-3777

Timothy Miller, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2013-2014
KSF Orthopedic Center, OH
Phone: 281-440-6960

Daniel Moon, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2015-2016
University of Colorado Sports Medicine
and Performance Center, CO
Foot & Ankle Service
Phone: 720-670-7506

Brandon Morris, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2018-2019
University of Kansas Medical Center, KS
Phone: 970-420-5855

Damien Richardson, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2018-2019
Newport Orthopaedic Institute, CA
Phone: 415-730-8121

Bryan Vopat, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2015-2016
University of Kansas Medical Center
Foot & Ankle Service, Department of
Orthopaedics
Team physician: Kansas City Chiefs
Phone: 785-658-5355

Scott Van Valkenburg, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2013-2014
SUNY Upstate Medical University, NY
Foot & Ankle Service, Department of
Orthopaedics
Phone: 315-464-4472

Philip Walton, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2014-2015
Resurgens Orthopedics, GA
Phone: 770-962-4300

Gregory Waryasz, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2017-2018
Massachusetts General Hospital, MA
Phone: 781-487-4338

Jonathon Wolf, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2014-2015
West Idaho Orthopedics and Sports
Medicine, ID
Phone: 208-869-3666

Katherine Xie, MD*

Fellowship Year: 2022-2023
Phoenix, AZ
Phone: 901-428-7194

Dr. Ayesha Yahya*

Fellowship Year: 2023-2024
OrthoCincy Orthopaedics & Sports, OH
613-608-1153

Mark Yakavonis, MD**

Fellowship Year: 2017-2018
Yale New Haven Health, CT
Phone: 203-869-1145

Research Team

We have a growing number of past and present Harvard Research Fellows and research students (unlisted) from across our country and beyond, who have worked in our Foot & Ankle Research and Innovation Lab. Below is the list of current Research Fellows:

Nour Nassour, MD (Lebanon)
Bedri Karaismailoglu, MD (Turkey)
Alireza Ebrahimi, MD (Iran)
Ehab Eltouney (Egypt)

Hye Chang Rhim, MD (USA)
Jiyong Ahn (Korea)
Samir Ghandour (Lebanon)
Atta Taseh (Iran)

For More Information

You are welcome and encouraged to contact Marta Hyatt or Daniel Guss with any questions. Their contact information can be found below. Please note, in compliance with the SF match code of conduct, all answers to questions need to be done in a public format. Therefore, the answers to any questions will be sent to all fellows who interviewed.

Contact Information

Fellowship Director:

Daniel Guss, M.D., M.B.A.
Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Division of Foot & Ankle Surgery
Massachusetts General Hospital & Newton Wellesley Hospital
Email: dg910@mgch.harvard.edu
Phone: 1-617-643-5701

Fellowship Coordinators:

Mrs. Marta Hyatt
Massachusetts General Waltham
52 Second Avenue
Blue Building, Suite 1150
Waltham, MA 02451
Email: mnhyatt@partners.org
Phone: 617-643-5701