The Foot and Ankle Fellowship Program at Hospital for Special Surgery
Institutional and Program History

Founded in 1863 by Dr. James Knight, Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) is an academic medical center specializing in musculoskeletal medicine – including orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, and rehabilitation – and is affiliated with NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System and Weill Cornell Medical College. For more than a century, Hospital for Special Surgery has trained the minds, hearts, and hands of some of the finest orthopedic surgeons in the nation. A steadfast commitment to excellence in education dates back to the Hospital’s earliest traditions and continues to influence our present-day mission: To improve the mobility and enhance the quality of life of patients, while advancing the science of orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, and their related disciplines through research and education.

The Foot and Ankle Fellowship Program at Hospital for Special Surgery was established in 1990, with over 40 fellows having completed the program since that time. The Foot and Ankle Fellowship at HSS provides fellows with a broad-based, active clinical program that is primarily focused on adult reconstructive surgery, and also includes sports-related injuries, pediatric foot and ankle surgery, and trauma.

The Foot and Ankle Service

Comprised of nine full-time orthopedic surgeons, the Foot and Ankle Service at HSS is the largest of its kind in the United States. The Service follows a multidisciplinary approach to expertly treat the broad range of foot and ankle conditions that can occur at any stage of life, from non-operative conditions to the most complex trauma and deformities. The Foot and Ankle Service performs over 2,000 surgeries each year, and is committed to an active basic and clinical research program that seeks to improve techniques for treating the often challenging disorders of the foot and ankle.
Our Faculty

Jonathan T. Deland, MD
Dr. Deland is the Co-Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service at Hospital for Special Surgery and specializes in the treatment of sport injuries, bunions, and tendon dysfunction.

Dr. Deland completed his medical degree at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and his orthopedic surgery residency at the Harvard Combined Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program. He completed a Foot and Ankle Fellowship at St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center and a Sports Medicine Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Deland’s research interests are concentrated on deformities of the foot, ankle arthritis, osteochondral lesions, and tendon disorders.

For more information, please visit Dr. Deland’s online bio.

Matthew M. Roberts, MD
Dr. Roberts is the Co-Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service at Hospital for Special Surgery and specializes in the treatment of arthritis, sports injuries, trauma, and reconstruction of foot and ankle deformities.

Dr. Roberts completed his medical degree from the University of Texas in Houston. He then went on to complete his orthopedic residency at Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Roberts completed his fellowship training in Foot & Ankle Trauma and Reconstruction Surgery at Harborview Medical Center / University of Washington Medical Center.

For more information, please visit Dr. Roberts's online bio.

Constantine A. Demetracopoulos, MD
Dr. Demetracopoulos specializes in ankle arthritis, total ankle replacement, foot arthritis, reconstruction of foot deformities, sports injuries and fractures of the foot and ankle.

Dr. Demetracopoulos completed his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, followed by his orthopaedic residency at Hospital for Special Surgery. Following residency, he completed a fellowship in foot and ankle surgery at the Duke University Medical Center.

For more information, please visit Dr. Demetracopoulos’s online bio.

Mark C. Drakos, MD
Dr. Drakos specializes in disorders of the foot and ankle, including Achilles tendon repair, ankle arthroscopy, bunions, and sports-related injuries. Dr. Drakos has provided care for a number of high school, collegiate, professional, and Olympic athletes.

Dr. Drakos received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine, followed by his orthopedic surgery residency and Sports Medicine Fellowship at Hospital for Special Surgery. He then completed a second fellowship in Foot and Ankle Surgery at Brown University.

For more information, please visit Dr. Drakos’s online bio.
**Andrew J. Elliott, MD**  
Dr. Elliott specializes in minimally invasive Achilles tendon repair, tendon reconstructions, sport injuries, arthroscopy, bunions, and arthritis of the foot and ankle. He serves as the Education Director for the Foot and Ankle Service, overseeing the Foot and Ankle rotations for the HSS Orthopedic Residency Program.

After graduating from Harvard Medical School, Dr. Elliott completed his orthopedic residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital and fellowship at Hospital for Special Surgery. He then served a four-year tour at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, as Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service, before returning to HSS.

For more information, please visit Dr. Elliott’s [online bio](#).

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**Scott J. Ellis, MD**  
Dr. Ellis specializes in foot and ankle fusion, deformity correction, arthritis, Achilles tendon pathology, total ankle replacement, bunion, hammertoe, and adult flatfoot reconstruction. He also surgically treats foot and ankle fractures and their long-term sequelae. In addition, Dr. Ellis treats athletes with both acute and chronic injuries associated with sport. As the Research Director for the Foot and Ankle Service, Dr. Ellis mentors fellows on how to design and develop research protocols, and is also an active member on the HSS Clinical Review Panel.

Dr. Ellis began his medical training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, followed by his orthopedic residency and fellowship at Hospital for Special Surgery. Following his fellowship, he traveled to Duke University (with Dr. James DeOrio); Lyon, France (with Dr. Michel Bonnin); and Basel, Switzerland (with Dr. Beat Hintermann) in order to expand his knowledge in foot and ankle surgery. In addition, Dr. Ellis was selected to participate in the AOFAS Traveling Fellowship Program prior to joining the staff at HSS.

Dr. Ellis’s research interests include outcome scores, flatfoot, novel radiologic imaging, plantar pressure mapping, and clinical outcomes after a variety of surgical procedures. He collaborates frequently with colleagues both at the AOFAS and the HSS Motion Analysis Laboratory. Dr. Ellis also teaches not only residents and fellows at HSS, but also medical students at the Weill Cornell Medical College and sits on the Medical Student Advisory Committee.

For more information, please visit Dr. Ellis’s [online bio](#).

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**John G. Kennedy, MD**  
Dr. Kennedy specializes in sports-related injuries, including osteochondral injuries, Achilles tendon, ankle instability, and ligament reconstruction. Dr. Kennedy is involved in the treatment of both recreational athletes, as well as elite athletes from the New York Giants, New York Metro Stars, Manhattan Rugby, the National Basketball Players Association, the National Basketball Referees Association, and the National Hockey League Players Association.

Dr. Kennedy completed his medical degree, general surgical and orthopedic residency at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland. He then went on to complete several fellowships, including a Foot and Ankle Fellowship at Hospital for Special Surgery.

For more information, please visit Dr. Kennedy’s [online bio](#).
Clinical Training Components

The fellowship is divided into six two-month rotations. During each rotation, fellows are assigned to two to three primary Attendings, with whom they spend dedicated time in the operating room and the outpatient clinic. This provides a valuable mentoring experience over the course of the rotation, since Fellows have the opportunity to follow patients from their outpatient clinic visits all the way through to surgery.

The Foot and Ankle Service is extremely active, with multiple opportunities for surgical experience. Fellows will participate in operative and non-operative aspects of all adult foot and ankle care. Fellows will be in the operating room full-time at least two days per week, with one day per week devoted to research.

In addition, regularly scheduled sessions in the Bioskills Education Laboratory will give fellows additional opportunities for hands-on training.

Techniques
Research Components

The Foot and Ankle Fellowship Program at Hospital for Special Surgery offers an exciting, state-of-the-art research experience involving both traditional and cutting-edge innovations. Fellows are given the opportunity to enhance existing research skills with extensive exposure to research, critical data review, methodology, and study design, as well as access to the Motion Analysis and Bioskills Education Laboratories (see Facilities section).

During the course of the year, each Fellow is expected to complete a primary research project which may be presented as a podium presentation at the institutional level and/or at national conferences. Fellows are also required to complete a research manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. After completion of the primary research project, Fellows may go on to begin a secondary research project, which begins with a submission to the HSS Clinical Review Panel (CRP) and Institutional Review Board (IRB).

The fellowship program sets aside one day per week dedicated to research. Fellows will gain experience and knowledge in evaluating and assimilating scientific evidence and systematically analyzing practice with the intent of improving quality of care and implementing change to future practice. Fellows participating in our program work directly with our research team and statisticians on a number of ongoing clinical and biomedical science studies.

Didactic Components

The Foot and Ankle Fellowship at Hospital for Special Surgery has a formal curriculum that runs throughout the year. Fellows are expected to lead and participate in weekly academic conferences with subject matters that include case presentations, patient presentations, journal club, and grand rounds.

Facilities

Hospital for Special Surgery is currently undergoing an exciting period of growth and physical expansion. In order to enhance Fellows’ clinical, educational, and research experience, Fellows will have access to the Hospital’s state-of-the-art facilities, including the following:

- **Leon Root, MD Motion Analysis Laboratory:** This laboratory incorporates force sensors for gait evaluation, as well as multiple high-speed video cameras, to conduct formal video analysis of human motion. In addition, the laboratory also allows telemetered electromyographic evaluation of muscle function.

- **Bioskills Education Laboratory (BSEL):** Established in 2000, the BSEL simulates surgical procedures with equipment that is, in many instances, identical to that in the HSS operating rooms, allowing Fellows to become more familiar with the myriad devices currently used in surgery. The procedures in the lab can be performed on cadaver specimens or sawbones – plastic models of bones and joints.

- **Computer Assisted Surgery (CAS) Center:** The CAS Center was created to investigate innovative methods of utilizing computer technology to assist orthopedic surgery. HSS is uniquely positioned to pioneer CAS technologies with the integration of important assets which are exclusive to the hospital.

- **Biomechanics Laboratory:** The mission of the Department of Biomechanics at HSS is to apply the principles of engineering and material science to solve orthopedic problems by conducting basic and applied research that translates to the development of orthopedic devices and instrumentation aimed at improved patient care. The Biomechanics Laboratory houses a robotics system that allows sophisticated testing of joint mechanics.

- **Core Research Facilities:** The HSS Core Research Facilities include Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Flow Cytometry, Musculoskeletal Repair and Regeneration, Analytical Microscopy, Imaging, and Mechanical and Material assessment.
Living in NYC
Our program is situated in New York City’s Upper East Side, which consists of both commercial and residential areas, many of which are populated by families with school-aged children. The New York City setting is among one of the most economically and culturally diverse metropolitan areas in the world. Fellows will not only have the opportunity to work with patients from a variety of religious, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds, but will also be able to take advantage of all of the recreational and cultural activities that New York City has to offer.

Academic Training Department at HSS
The vision of HSS Academic Training is to educate innovative and outstanding physicians through graduate medical education training programs to be the academic leaders in musculoskeletal clinical care, research, and teaching. Overall support for the administrative and educational conduct of all of the clinical training programs is provided by the Academic Training Department, which is a part of the Education Division of Hospital for Special Surgery. The Academic Training Department works closely with the Fellowship Program Director to ensure that each program meets its mission, as well as maintains a periodic evaluation process that includes all of the program stakeholders. The Academic Training Department is also responsible for ensuring that each fellowship program is held to the universal policies and procedures established by the multidisciplinary Fellowship and Graduate Medical Education (GME) committees.

Compensation (Stipend, Housing, etc.)
Fellows are provided a stipend and benefits based on the cost of living in New York City, competitive with those of other institutions. In addition, Fellows will be put in touch with a Housing and Parking Coordinator, who is available to assist Fellows who are interested in obtaining housing through the Hospital. HSS does not guarantee housing for Fellows; however, to date, all interested Fellows have been accommodated.

Evaluations
Fellows will receive regular and timely feedback on performance throughout and at the conclusion of each rotation that will include evaluation by faculty, peers, self, and other professional staff. The Program Director will meet with each fellow no fewer than two times per academic year, with a final evaluation by Program Director at conclusion of the program. In addition, both fellows and faculty members will evaluate the program at the end of the year.

How to Apply
To apply for the Foot and Ankle Fellowship Program at Hospital for Special Surgery, please visit the HSS Academic Training webpage at www.hss.edu/academic-training.asp and follow the application instructions. For more information, please contact the Department of Academic Training by phone at 212.606.1466, by fax at 212.606.1477, or via email at academictraining@hss.edu.