

# Adam D. Perler

DPM, FACFAS



## ST. PETERSBURG INNOVATIVE FOOT & ANKLE SURGERY FELLOWSHIP FELLOWSHIP MANUAL

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### Program Philosophy

Welcome to the St. Pete Innovative Foot & Ankle Surgery (SP-IFAS) Fellowship program. This is a “Fellow first” program where the Fellow’s education is our primary objective. Our Fellow has the ability to create his or her own unique learning experience as long as they are willing to work hard, pay attention, and follow the guidelines in this manual.

### Mission

The St. Petersburg Innovative Foot & Ankle Surgery Fellowship at Alexander Orthopaedic Associates was established to enhance the education of graduates from advanced podiatric surgical residencies who seek additional training in reconstructive foot and ankle surgery, gain an increased understanding of product design and intellectual property development, and strive for advancement and leadership in their profession. This new 2019 fellowship was founded by Dr. Adam D. Perler who was one of the founding members of the American Health Network Foot and Ankle Fellowship program in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Perler is currently a member of Alexander Orthopaedic Associates in St. Petersburg, Florida and has teamed up with several local community surgeons to host this fellowship which is designed to give back to the profession and create a bridge between residency training, professional employment, and leadership within our profession. The curriculum is fellow-first and fellow-motivated, with a myriad of available learning opportunities through surgery, clinic, product development, research, and private practice management.

### Program Overview

- One-year training program: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020
- First SP-IFASF Fellow is Dr. Anthony Rusher, DPM (Graduating Community Hospital Residency Program, Indianapolis, IN – June 2019)
- Fellow has privileges at 7 St. Petersburg and surrounding community hospitals and surgery centers

- Fellow typically commutes to a different hospital, office, or surgery center each day of the week
- Weekly schedule is generally 5 days of surgery/clinic with some half days included for research, reading, and other professional interests
- Will also participate in educational activities with **Largo Medical Center's Nova Southeastern Orthopedic Residency** training program
- Fellow is on-call for staff assist only
- Hospital rounding based on Fellow's interest (typically involves covering a clinic of post-ops)
- Evenings and weekends free (unless voluntarily covering for physician)
- Will include training opportunities/workshops for Total Ankle Replacement
- Fellow to gain an understanding/appreciation for thinking "outside the box"
- Fellow will gain unique insight into the innovative process, including the formation of intellectual property, concept validation, and new product development
- Treated like a colleague by attending staff
- Includes a medical mission trip to Chulucanas, Peru

St. Petersburg and its surrounding beaches are the most visited destination on the U.S. Gulf Coast, drawing more than 15 million annual visitors. As one of the most popular destinations in Florida, tourists enjoy 35 miles of some of the best beaches in America. St. Petersburg's is rich in arts and culture, is in close proximity to the world's best theme parks, and has a warm year-round outdoor climate with 361 days a year of sunshine and countless outdoor festivals and activities.



## Guiding Principles

- One of the guiding principles in the fellowship program is the teaching and incorporation of high ethical standards within patient care. SP-IFASF attendings emphasize the importance of upholding “best care standard practices”, and “doing the right thing” for the patient’s best interest.
- Research is an important component of the fellowship program. IFASF faculty is dedicated to supporting the fellow’s interest in research projects and the Fellow has access to Nova Southeastern Orthopedic Residency’s Largo Medical Center and St. Anthony’s Hospital libraries. The idea is to help the Fellow develop a strong research interest as well as to hone their research skill set. Two published manuscripts or research activities (such as participation in an active research project) are required for each Fellow to graduate from the program.
- The SP-IFASF attendings focus on the Fellow’s academic interests. The attendings have a high priority to produce a well-balanced and academically sound Fellow. Hence, the Fellow is expected to stay updated on the most recent literature and will lead monthly grand round discussion with the attendings and local residents and participate in journal club activities with the orthopedic residency.
- The Fellow is not expected to dictate, write notes, provide prescriptions, or take call unless asked upon specifically by the attending. The SP-IFASF program is not designed to work a Fellow excessively in order to maintain clinical/surgical volume, but rather to focus on providing the Fellow with all the tools and experiences he/she expects to take away from a fellowship. The Fellow will train primarily with 9 surgical podiatrists and 3 orthopaedic surgeons each with diverse training and different areas of expertise in orthopedic and foot and ankle pathology.
- This fellowship is focused on teaching the importance of “giving back”. Giving back to our profession, our patients and our communities. Fellow will participate in numerous philanthropic activities such as missions to serve to homeless and participation in a surgical mission to Chulucanas, Peru through Global Health Volunteers. See attached presentation of the 2018 mission trip done in partnership with the American Health Network Foot & Ankle Surgical Fellow, Dr. Mark Wavrunek.

## Fellowship Expectations

- The Fellow's primary objective is to learn as much as possible during the year. He/She is to choose their daily schedule based off what they will learn most from, and this is fully understood by all attendings. The attendings enjoy teaching, and prefer to have the fellow present, but can function on their own without requiring the Fellow's presence when unavailable.
- Rounds and taking call on patients is by attending request only. Occasionally, the Fellow may be asked to round on post-TAR patients at the hospital on the weekends. However, most weekends the Fellow is free to enjoy some "down time" or get caught up on academic reading or research.
- The Fellow's status is similar to that of a junior attending and privileged as a full-time physician at all AOA locations. Hence, the Fellow has full access to the AOA EMR as well as the EMR at St. Anthony and Palms of Pasadena Hospital facilities.
- Arrive at the surgery centers/hospitals early and prepare to stay as late as needed.
- Dress clothes are recommended for clinic days, and scrubs are fine for surgery days.
- The Fellow will likely run one or two half-day clinics, assist in clinic or surgeries and are always under the guidance of an attending present. With this, however, a Fellow may occasionally cover post-ops and follow up patients for an attending on vacation.

## Foot and Ankle Surgical Exposure

- Primary and revision foot & ankle reconstruction including total ankle replacement and the integration of 3D printing and additive manufacturing
- Advanced techniques in both internal/external fixation
- Complex deformity correction planning and execution
- Peripheral nerve surgery
- Diabetic foot & ankle reconstruction / limb salvage
- Arthroscopy
- Pediatric patient management and surgical rationale
- Foot and ankle trauma
- Hands-on learning with access to multiple training workshops



- Inside view of practice management, patient flow tips, and unique insight into LOP/Auto/Worker's Comp cases
- May scrub with other area surgeons
- Fellow will manage their own clinic and focus on post-op follow-ups, initial workups, and critical decision making
- Able to work with podiatric and orthopedic residents from the two local programs
- Surgical case load estimates:
  - ✓ 450-650 cases (~ 1400 procedures) per year
  - ✓ 35-55 cases (~ 120 procedures) per month
  - ✓ 50% hindfoot / ankle
  - ✓ Well-rounded in quality & diversity; primary and revision surgery

## OR Duties

- Surgery Start time will usually be 0700 or 0730 for all 14 different facilities.
- The Fellow should be at the facility 30 minutes prior to the case.
- Majority of prescriptions are given to the patient at their pre-op visit, but you may need to write prescriptions from time to time.
- Prior to cases, the Fellow will hang xrays in the OR or review them with the attending. If advanced imaging is provided on discs, this should be pulled up for the Fellow to review.
- The Fellow is responsible for learning as much as possible during each case, as well as helping with the education of the residents. The Fellow should also help the OR staff with anything they may need, such as patient positioning, tourniquet application, or shaving hair from surgical site. Most importantly, the Fellow should help with the flow and efficiency of the day.
- The Fellow will know what cases are upcoming a week or two prior to the case via the AOA EMR or through contact with SP-IFASF attendings surgical schedulers. The Fellow may have to choose which attending to work with on any given day if more than one attending is operating at the same time. Therefore, the fellowship is designated as "Fellow first" as the he/she decides what cases to scrub based on their interest and what they feel will be of the most benefit to them.

## Office Duties

- Clinic duty for the Fellow, again, is to learn as much as possible. Each attending's clinic is different in how much you will participate or observe.
- While the primary focus of this fellowship is to learn surgical competency, going to clinic is the Fellows prerogative. The Fellow may attend any of the attendings' clinics whenever the he/she chooses.
- The Fellow must let the attending know in advance if the he/she plans on attending any of their clinics. Clinic attendance outside of the AOA Fellow's clinic is appreciated; however, it is not required.

## Attending Staff

The Fellow will train primarily with 13 surgical podiatrists and 4 orthopaedic surgeons each with diverse training and different areas of expertise in orthopedic and foot and ankle pathology:

Adam D. Perler, DPM, FACFAS – Founder and Fellowship Program Director

Robert Abaddy, DPM, FACFAS

Dennis Teneboym, DPM

Heather Zelna, DPM, AACFAS

Mohit Bonsal, MD

Brendon Zelna, DPM, FACFAS

Gary Katz, DPM, FACFAS

Jason M. Levy, DPM, FACFAS

Robin Katz, DPM, FACFAS

Ted P. Couluris, DPM, FACFAS

Ronnie Troxell, DPM

Ugonna Anyaugo, DPM, FACFAS

J. Russell Lowrey, DPM, FACFAS

Kyle E. Johnson, DPM, FACFAS

Daniel Penello, MD

Vladimir Alexander, MD

Thomas Odmark, MD



## Case Logs and Surgical Volume

- Each fellow will be required to keep a log of all documented procedures/surgeries to be reviewed every quarter with the Fellowship director. These numbers are vital to ensure that each fellow is gaining adequate experience in their key areas of interest.

## Academics

- Bi-monthly fellow-driven case conference / grand rounds with local podiatrists and local area orthopedic and podiatric residents
- Alternating bi-monthly orthopedic journal club meeting and other academic sessions/workshops with the local residency programs
- Opportunities to visit the practices of other foot & ankle surgeons throughout the country
- Fellow to attend industry sponsored fellow specific training sessions across the country

## Research

- Required to complete 2 publishable papers during Fellowship year
- Expected to participate in on-going long-term study project(s)
- Able to obtain IRB approval for new research from any of the local hospital systems
- Submit one or more projects to the annual ACFAS National Conference for manuscript or poster presentation
- Access to AOA owned cadaver teaching lab
- Research/data collection for outcomes study for use of placental tissues in foot and ankle surgery

## Candidate Requirements

- Completion of 3-year CPME-approved podiatric surgical residency program Updated CV

- Current photograph
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Fellow-first & Fellow-motivated program: Must be self-managing
- Must be committed to advancing his/her education and Fellowship program at large
- Must be willing to commute - need reliable vehicle
- Must obtain a Florida practice license and provide necessary documentation to obtain hospital privileges a minimum of 4 months prior to starting

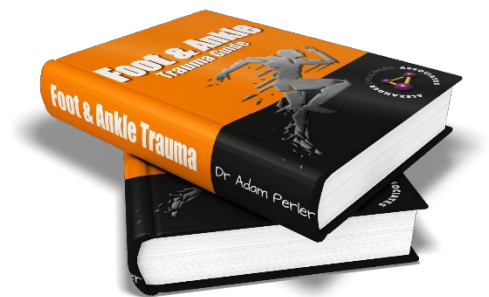


## Stipend

- \$60,000 / year
- All credentials (hospital privileges & insurance) paid for by AOA
- Provided malpractice, health, vision and dental insurance

## Continuing Education

- Required to attend/lecture at FPMA SAM Seminar
- CME stipend provided for the year (\$2,500)
- Opportunities to attend scientific meetings and instructional courses
- You are expected to attend the annual ACFAS National Conference
- Opportunities to attend industry-sponsored fellow/young physician courses



## Fellow Evaluation

- Fellow to be evaluated each month for progress based on academic merit, professionalism, medical knowledge, surgical skills and overall effort in the learning process. See attached Fellow monthly evaluation form.

- Fellowship director to perform a quarterly review based on the monthly evaluation forms, attending and staff feedback, and direct observation with the Fellow to overview their training, progress and provide constructive criticism of their effort, attitude towards the learning process, and patient care. This will also be a time where the Fellow can openly discuss their future goals, refine their areas of interest and make adjustments to their fellowship experience... as again, this is a fellow-driven fellowship where we will do our best to help each fellow tailor their experience based on their own areas of interest and need for professional development.



## Clinic, Hospital, and Surgery Center Locations and Contacts

- [Alexander Orthopaedic Associates – Largo Office](#)
  - Address: 12416 66th St. N., Suite A Largo, FL 33773
  - Office Phone: (727) 547-4700
  - **Fellowship Coordinator/Office Manager:** Sherry Labonte
  - Fax Number:
  - Surgery Schedulers:
    - Name: Natalie Fay, Mandy Franck and Britney Morales
    - Number:
    - Email
- [Alexander Orthopaedic Associates – Northeast Office](#)
  - Address: 2438 Dr M.L.K. Jr St N St. Petersburg, FL 33704
  - Office Phone: (727) 547-4700
  - Fax Number:
- [St. Anthony's Hospital](#)
  - Address: 1200 Seventh Ave. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33705
  - OR Desk Phone:
  - Main Hospital Number: (727) 825-1100
  - ER Phone Number:
- [Mease Countryside Hospital](#)
  - Address: 3231 N. McMullen Booth Road, Safety Harbor, FL 34695
  - OR Desk Phone:
  - Main Hospital Number: (727) 725-6111

- ER Phone Number:
- **Largo Medical Center**
  - Address: 201 14th St SW Largo, FL 33770
  - OR Desk Phone:
  - Main Hospital Number: (727) 588-5200
  - ER Phone Number:
- **Palms of Pasadena Hospital**
  - Address: 1501 Pasadena Ave St. Petersburg, FL 33707
  - OR Desk Phone:
  - Main Hospital Number: (727) 381-1000
  - ER Phone Number:
- **SurgCenter Northeast**
  - Address: 2438 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., St. N. Suite C St. Petersburg, FL 33704
  - OR Desk Phone: (727) 565-0740
  - Fax Number:
- **SurgCenter Pinellas**
  - Address: 12416 66TH ST N, STE D LARGO, FL 33773
  - OR Desk Phone: (727) 408-5310
  - Fax Number:
- **Precision Foot & Ankle (Dr. Tenenboym)**
  - Address: 7800 66th St N #207, Pinellas Park, FL 33781, USA
  - Office Phone: (727) 399-7167
  - Fax Number:
  - Surgery Schedulers:
- **Dr. Robert Abady**
  - Address: 1001 37th St N f, St. Petersburg, FL 33713
  - Office Phone: (727) 384-3338
  - Fax Number:
  - Surgery Schedulers:
- **Dr. Mohit Bonsal**
  - Address: 3131 McMullen Booth Rd, Clearwater, FL 33761
  - Office Phone: (727) 584-7706
  - Fax Number:
  - Surgery Schedulers:
- **Coastal Foot and Ankle Specialists (Drs Brendon and Heather Zelna)**
  - Address: 6450 38th Ave N, Suite 310 in St. Petersburg
  - Office Phone: (727) 347-8872
  - Fax Number:
  - Surgery Schedulers:
- **Foot and Ankle Specialists (Dr. Levy, Dr. Couluris, Dr. Anyaugo, Dr. Johnson)**
  - Address: 2521 Countryside Blvd, Clearwater FL 33763
  - Office Phone: (727) 797-5008

- Fax Number:
  - Surgery Schedulers:
- **Katz Foot and Ankle (Drs Gary and Robin Katz)**
  - Address: 6600 34TH AVENUE NORTH ST. PETERSBURG, FL 3371
  - Office Phone: (727) 343-2244
  - Surgery Schedulers:

## Weekly Schedule (Tentative)

- **Monday:**
  - Morning: Surgery with Drs. Brendon & Heather Zelna
  - Afternoon: Clinic with Dr. Perler
- **Tuesday:**
  - Morning: Surgery with Dr. Perler and/or Dr. Odmark
  - Afternoon: Surgery with Dr. Odmark, research or clinic with attendings
- **Wednesday:**
  - Morning: Surgery with attendings or Clinic with Dr. Perler
  - Afternoon: Clinic with Dr Perler (Largo)
- **Thursday:**
  - Morning: Surgery with Dr. Odmark
  - Afternoon: Surgery with Drs. Anyaugo, Lowrey
- **Friday:**
  - Surgery First and Third Friday with Dr. Perler – all day and/or Dr. Abady
  - Clinic with Dr. Perler, Lecture at Largo Med Center and Surgery with Drs. Levy and Couluris in the afternoon - Alternating Fridays

## Monthly Schedule

- **Complex Case Presentations and Community Roundtable**
  - First Wed Evening Alternating Months(Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, April, June)
  - Attendees: All attendings, local foot and ankle specialists, Nova Southeastern/Largo Ortho Residents, Local Area Podiatry Residents
- **Surgical Workshops/Cadaver Labs**
  - Industry Sponsored Educational Activates (Saw Bones/Cadaver Labs)
  - Monthly: Third Wednesday
  - Attendees: All welcome

- **Journal Club**
  - Monthly – Held in conjunction with Nova Southeastern Ortho Residency at Largo Hospital
- **Medical Mission – Global Health Volunteers, Chulucanas, Peru**
  - Mid-October – 10 days
  - Optional – Fellow can attend with either Dr. Perler or Dr. Tim Runyon
- **ACFAS**
  - Attend Annual Meeting (Early Spring)
  - Poster submission encouraged
- **FPMA SAM Seminar**
  - Attend Annual Meeting (January)
  - Participate in combined education activities with other Florida Podiatric Fellowships
  - Encouraged to present research, submit posters and lecture

