

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



BRUCE E. COHEN, MD

Dear Colleagues,

"Maybe next year." This was the phrase that Bill McGarvey used in his 2020 presidential message. Now that it is "next year," let us reflect on where we are and where we've been.

In the US, we are emerging from the social isolation and loss of personal freedoms from COVID-19, but this is not the case for all of our members. Our international members still have talk of outbreaks, lockdowns, and travel restrictions. AOFAS international humanitarian efforts are still on hold. Exchange programs we are designing with other countries and societies have been moved back to the conceptual stage as we await further progress.

In-person meetings in the US have begun and we are excited about AOFAS Annual Meeting 2021 in Charlotte, North Carolina, this September. While the move to host the meeting within the borders of the US was a difficult decision, it has turned out to be the right move. We are hoping many of our international colleagues will be able to attend in person. For those who can't, virtual options are available. I would like to thank Carroll Jones, MD, our program

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Annual Meeting 2021 ■ September 22-25, 2021

Annual Meeting offers flexible options for exceptional education

After a turbulent year of uncertainty, changes, and more uncertainty, AOFAS is thrilled to host the Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, on September 22-25, 2021. This year's program combines a live streaming option, for those unable to make it to the meeting in person, with live face-to-face sessions for attendees on site in Charlotte. The hybrid format will allow AOFAS to bring the orthopaedic foot and ankle community together, regardless of where they are during the meeting.

"The meeting will be action-packed with over 20 hours of symposia to choose from, the flexibility of a three- or four-day experience, and lower registration rates from previous years," said AOFAS President Bruce E. Cohen, MD.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE, CONTINUED

chair, and Kent Ellington, MD, MS, and John Kwon, MD, our pre-meeting chairs, for designing what is sure to be a fantastic educational offering. We are excited to share some Southern hospitality with those who can attend.

This year has been a year of emergence and preparation. We are very excited about our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiative that launched this year. We have created a DEI Committee, led by Gary Stewart, MD, as chair and Tonya Dixon, MD, MPH, as vice chair, which will allow AOFAS to focus efforts on these critical social and professional issues. Reporting to the Board of Directors, this committee will assess the current environment in the AOFAS and work to increase representation of under-represented groups in leadership roles and in the specialty overall. We have had overwhelming response and interest in serving on this committee and members will be selected soon.

Other initiatives that have been on the forefront of the Society this year include developing a fellowship accreditation process, finalizing a conflict-of-interest policy for AOFAS leadership, enhancing our international relationships, and increasing orthopaedic residents' interest in foot and ankle as a career. Our staff at the AOFAS is critical in enabling us to pursue these projects while simultaneously running the day-to-day operations of the organization. Elaine and her team are truly the best in class.

I would like to personally thank our Board of Directors members for their dedication and engagement in our Society. This is a collective effort, and the collegiality and dedication of these Board members set us up for success as an organization.

The next group to thank is the committee chairs and vice chairs. These members work tirelessly researching and implementing initiatives that the Board directs. We are a volunteer Society, and I am constantly amazed at the commitment and talent of our members.

Once again, I am excited for the upcoming in-person Annual Meeting in Charlotte and hope to see you there. We can deliver educational offerings in a virtual manner, but the social interactions that occur at these gatherings cannot be replicated or replaced. Hopefully, this is just the beginning of many gatherings where we can foster these relationships and grow as an organization. We will be adapting our educational delivery to include some of the platforms we utilized during these past two years, but it has become clear to us that there never will be a replacement for in-person interaction.

I think a good motto to reflect upon is to try to "leave a place better than you found it." I do believe that our efforts this year, while difficult and filled with changes, have strengthened us as an organization and forced us to focus on how we communicate, educate, and treat people. I think that has made us better.

I know that our next president Chris DiGiovanni will continue these efforts and lead us in new initiatives that will continue to advance this Society. I encourage everyone to be involved, participate, and communicate to your leadership.

Respectfully,
Bruce E. Cohen, MD

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ANNUAL MEETING 2021, CONTINUED

Pre-Meeting Course

Recognizing that many AOFAS members are still feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society is offering the Pre-Meeting Course as an optional add-on to the in-person meeting. Attendees can select a three-day or four-day meeting based on their personal circumstances.

The Pre-Meeting Course starts on Wednesday, September 22, with a full day of Instructional Course Lecture (ICL) programs, organized by Pre-Meeting Chairs John Y. Kwon, MD, and J. Kent Ellington, MD, MS. Nine ICL sessions held over three timeslots give attendees a wide variety of educational programs to choose from. Each session is two hours long, allowing ample time for audience participation and discussion.

ICL topics include:

- Trauma: Sticks and Stones...
- Charcot Reconstruction: The Best Solutions for the Worst Problems
- Advanced Forefoot: The Final Frontier?
- Sports: Getting Back in the Game!
- Cavovarus Foot: The Highs and Lows
- Minimally Invasive Surgery: Savoring the Small Things
- Complex Total Ankle Replacement: Not Your Average Joint Replacement
- Practice Management: It's Not Surgery but It's Still Work
- Flatfoot: Too Much Is Never Enough



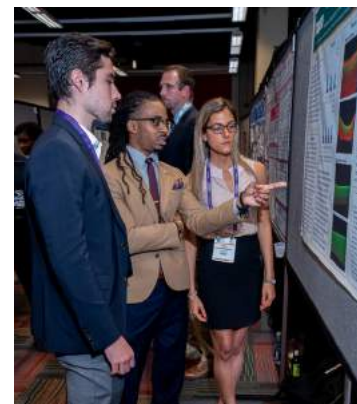
SUMMER 2021

Resident and Allied Health programs

In addition to the Pre-Meeting Course, AOFAS will host half-day programs on Wednesday for orthopaedic residents and allied health practitioners.

The Resident Course begins with presentations offering advice on entering practice and building a career in orthopaedics. Attendees will also engage in roundtable case-based discussions in groups based on their PGY level. Experienced AOFAS members will be at each table to present the cases and facilitate the discussion.

Residents will then attend a Fellowship Fair, where they can meet with directors from various orthopaedic foot and ankle fellowship programs and learn about the programs in an informal setting. Following the Fellowship Fair, residents may join the afternoon ICL session of their choice.



The Allied Health Practitioner Course includes specialized education for physical therapists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other advanced health practitioners on the orthopaedic team. Sessions will cover lateral ankle instability, progressive collapsing flatfoot, and ankle arthritis. Allied Health Course attendees will also have the opportunity to join the ICL program in the afternoon.

Wednesday programming ends with the evening Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall. Open to attendees and registered guests over age 16, the Welcome Reception is the place to catch up with colleagues, browse industry products, and meet with exhibitors. Beverages and light appetizers will be served.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Register by August 26 to save!
aofas.org/annualmeeting

ANNUAL MEETING 2021, CONTINUED



Scientific Program

Chaired by Carroll P. Jones III, MD, the Scientific Program kicks off on Thursday morning with a symposium on Innovations in Orthopaedics. It is followed by this year's Kenneth A. Johnson Symposium on Controversies in Foot and Ankle Surgery, which will focus on controversies in total ankle replacement. Kenneth Johnson International Speaker Victor Valderrabano, MD, headlines the symposium with his talk on Ankle Osteoarthritis and Mobile Total Ankle Arthroplasty.

On Friday, AOFAS will welcome a panel of Society past presidents for a special symposium, Leadership and Mentorship: Lessons Learned and Challenges for the Next Generation. Other symposia topics include talus OCD, Achilles ruptures, midfoot DJD, the opioid epidemic, women of orthopaedics, and the power of social media.

In addition to these outstanding educational sessions, AOFAS Annual Meeting will feature the latest, cutting-edge orthopaedic research. Seventy research papers were selected for presentation during the Paper Sessions, along with another 80 physical posters to be shared on site in the Exhibit Hall. In-person attendees can explore these posters at their leisure during Exhibit Hall hours. Electronic audio posters will be available for in-person and virtual attendees to view via the mobile app.

Celebrate Charlotte Pub Crawl

In-person attendees should be sure to join the Celebrate Charlotte Pub Crawl on Friday night! Explore the local beer scene and connect with your peers at three of Charlotte's best brewpubs: Brewers at 4001 Yancey, Queen Park Social, and Sugar Creek Brewery. This event is free with in-person registration but tickets must be reserved in advance. Attendees are responsible for purchasing their own drinks and food.

Invited speakers

The Scientific Program includes special presentations from three compelling guest speakers.



Fireside Chat with Jeff Gordon

Jeff Gordon is a four-time NASCAR Cup Series champion, analyst for Fox Sports, and one of the most iconic names in racing. He ranks third on NASCAR's all-time win list with 93 victories. Off the track, he established Jeff Gordon Children's Foundation, which supports pediatric cancer research,

treatment, and patient support programs. In a special Fireside Chat, Jeff Gordon will talk with AOFAS President Bruce E. Cohen, MD, and Program Chair Carroll P. Jones, MD, about his career, accomplishments, and challenges.



Research Speaker Rachel M. Frank, MD

Not All Cells Are Created Equal

Dr. Frank is an Associate Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery and Director of the Joint Preservation Program at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She has strong research interests in

surgical and non-surgical joint preservation techniques for the knee and shoulder, including novel and minimally invasive biologic therapies.

Support for Dr. Frank's presentation is provided by an educational grant from Paragon 28.



Kenneth A. Johnson International Speaker Victor Valderrabano, MD

Ankle Osteoarthritis and Mobile Total Ankle Arthroplasty

Dr. Valderrabano is a Swiss orthopaedic surgeon and scientist specializing in sports traumatology, osteoarthritis surgery, and

reconstructive surgery of the lower extremity. Since 2015, he has served as Chairman of the Swiss Ortho Center in Basel, Switzerland, and Head of the Orthopaedic Traumatology Department of the Basel Pain Clinic.



Exhibit Hall and Industry Symposia

Open Wednesday evening through Friday morning, the Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall provides opportunities to interact with corporate colleagues and explore new products and technologies.

Industry Symposia offer another way to discover new techniques. Make time in your schedule for non-CME programs from the following companies (current as of June 30, 2021):

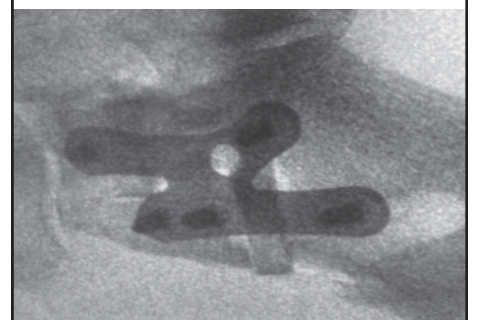
- 3M+KCI**
- Arthrex, Inc.**
- Bioventus LLC**
- Conventus-Flower Orthopedics**
- CrossRoads Extremity Systems**
- DePuy Synthes**
- Medartis, Inc.**
- Paragon 28**
- Stryker**
- Treace Medical Concepts, Inc.**
- Zimmer Biomet**

The full schedule of Industry Symposia is available at aofas.org/annualmeeting.

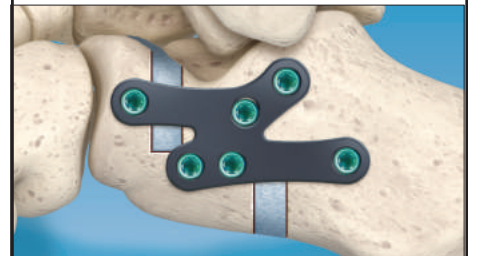
For information on the program, registration, exhibitors, and more, visit aofas.org/annualmeeting

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ANNUAL MEETING 2021 PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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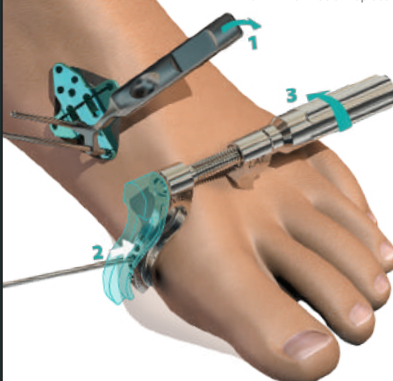
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- Robert Grunfeld, M.D., Gillette, Wyoming
- Lew Schon, M.D., Baltimore, Maryland

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Visit the AOFAS Exhibit Hall at Annual Meeting 2021 to explore cutting-edge surgical products and technology from AOFAS industry partners, including the ones listed here.

Exhibit Hall Hours:

Wednesday, September 22

4:00 — 6:00 pm
(Welcome Reception)

Thursday, September 23

10:00 am — 2:15 pm

Friday, September 24

8:15 am — 1:00 pm

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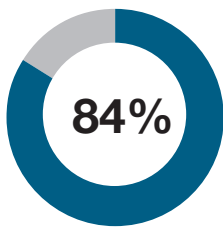
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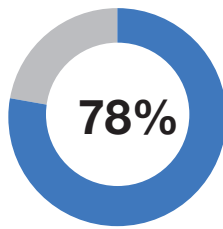
EDUCATION SURVEY RESULTS

Findings from the 2021 Education Survey

As part of our commitment to be a world leader in foot and ankle education, AOFAS conducted a research study in April 2021 to better understand the learning needs of foot and ankle orthopaedic surgeons and advanced healthcare practitioners. The survey was distributed to AOFAS members and past participants in AOFAS educational activities.



84% of respondents rate AOFAS continuing education as excellent or very good



78% of orthopaedic resident/fellow respondents reported AOFAS supports their foot & ankle training extremely well or very well

Preferred Methods of Learning

- 1 Instructor-Led In-Person Training
- 2 Self-Study Courses Available 24/7 (OnDemand)
- 3 Live, Online Events (e.g., webinars)

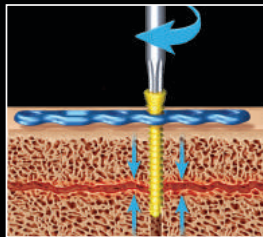
Most Important Topics for Continuing Education

- Deformity
- Trauma
- Degenerative Conditions
- Arthroscopy/Sports

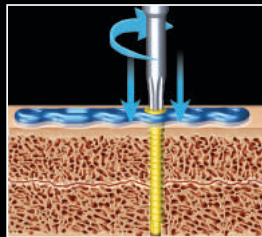
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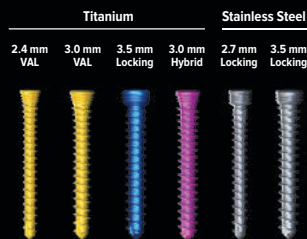
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FELLOWSHIP MATCH

2021 Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Match

The 2021 AOFAS-sponsored Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Fellowship Match for 2022-23 positions has concluded, and the results were posted April 19 on the San Francisco Matching Services (SF Match) website.

Applicant pool

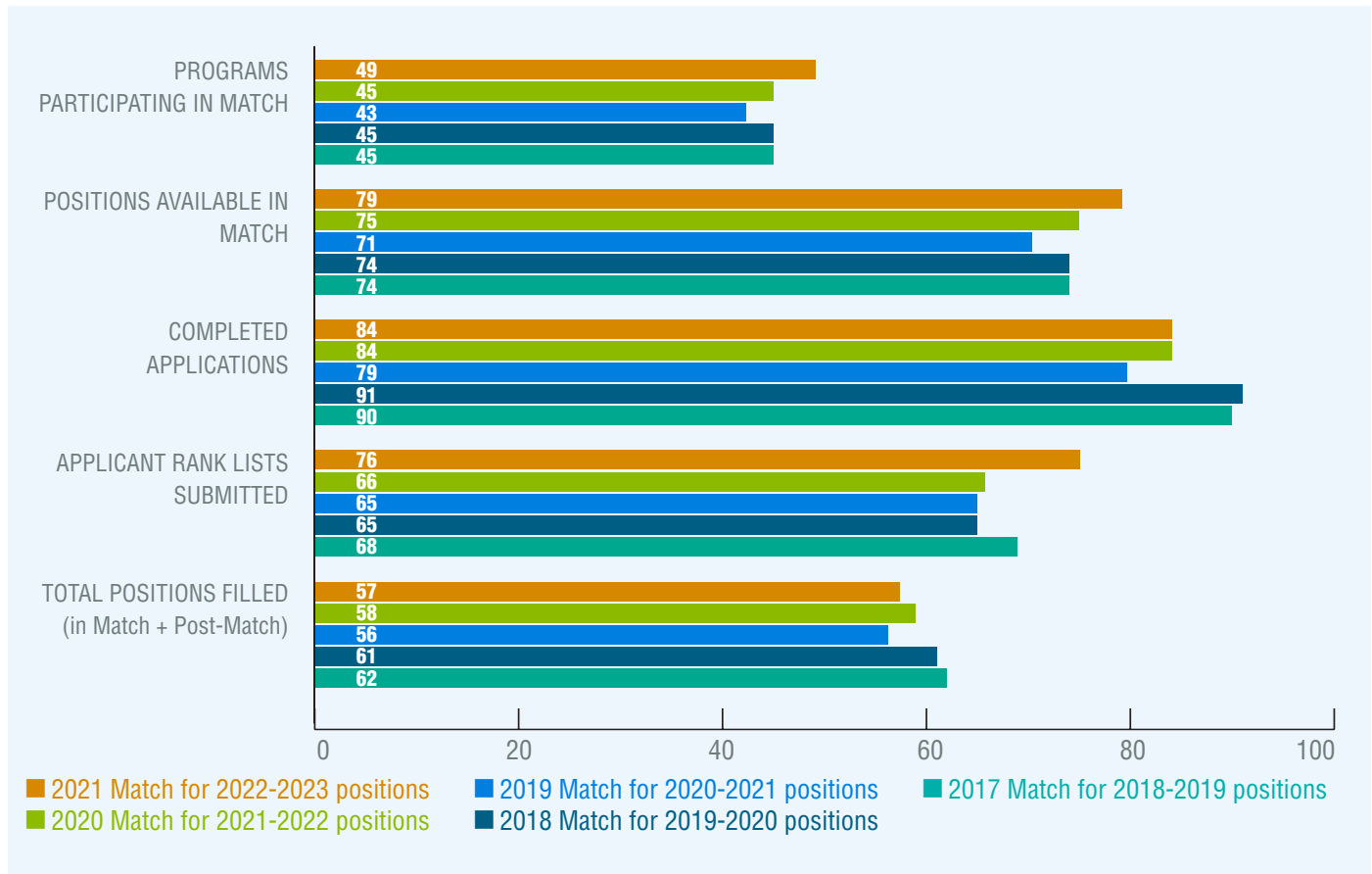
The total number of applicants this year was consistent with last year. The number of international applicants, however, increased. Of the 84 total applicants registered, 51 were US medical graduates and 33 were graduates of international medical schools. Approximately 10% of the applicants were women.

Match results

Of the 51 programs registered at the beginning of this year's cycle, 49 participated in the final matching process. Seventy-six out of the 84 applicants to foot and ankle programs submitted rank lists. This year, applicants could rank programs in more than one subspecialty. As a result, nine applicants applied to at least one foot and ankle program but ended up matching in a different subspecialty.

In the end, 53 positions out of 79 offered (67%) filled in the match and four more filled immediately following the match, bringing the total filled positions to 57 (72%). The chart below shows a five-year comparison of match statistics.

At press time, 14 positions remained open. Interested candidates can visit sfmatch.org/vacancies.aspx for information on available programs and can contact the fellowship programs directly to apply.



AOFAS COURSES

Education from a distance: AOFAS virtual courses

In spite of COVID-19 derailing plans for in-person gatherings this past spring, AOFAS delivered a strong lineup of virtual courses.

Specialty Spotlight: Ankle Instability

Nearly 900 people registered for the **AOFAS Specialty Spotlight**, held virtually on March 24, 2021. The event was part of Virtual Specialty Day, a joint effort by several orthopaedic subspecialty organizations to offer educational programming in place of the in-person Specialty Day events typically held in March.

Featuring Course Chair Robert B. Anderson, MD, and all-star faculty, the two-hour event provided an in-depth look at the syndesmotic/high ankle sprain injury, covering anatomy, diagnosis, surgical management, and return to play.

Getting Athletes Back on Their Feet

On April 23, 2021, AOFAS offered **Getting Athletes Back on Their Feet**, a half-day virtual course focused on managing sports injuries. Presented in collaboration with the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Foot and Ankle Special Interest Group (FASIG), the course was specially designed for physical therapists, physician assistants, athletic trainers, nurse practitioners, and other allied health practitioners on the orthopaedic team.

The interactive course covered a range of topics, from Achilles injuries to stress fractures to forefoot pain. Virtual breakout sessions throughout the program allowed participants to explore topics in-depth with their peers.

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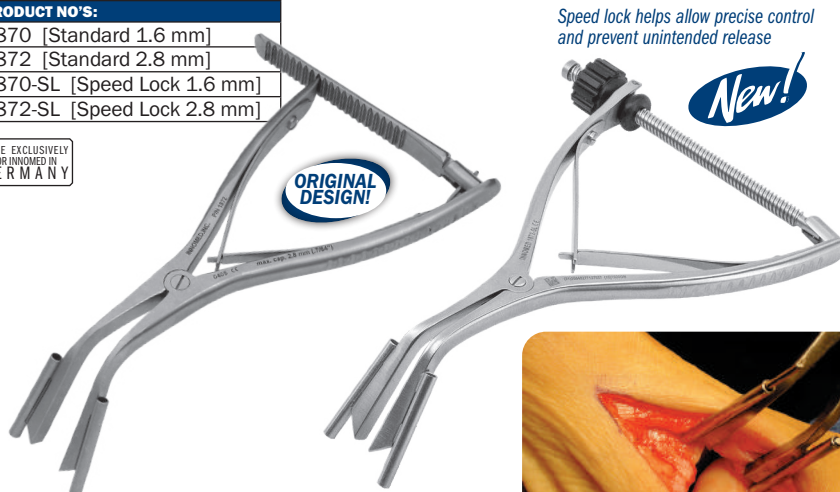
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**Advanced Foot and Ankle Course:
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The **Advanced Foot and Ankle Course**, chaired by Christopher P. Chiodo, MD, and co-chaired by Peter G. Mangone, MD, was an impressive virtual course held over three days, April 15-17, 2021.

In this comprehensive course, expert faculty presented advanced solutions to surgical challenges, including complex reconstructions and minimally invasive techniques. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with faculty in virtual breakout rooms, where they could ask questions about the presentations and get advice on personal cases. More than 200 people, representing 31 different countries, attended the course.

Save the Date!

An in-person AOFAS Winter Meeting will be held February 17-20, 2022, at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. Watch your email for updates!

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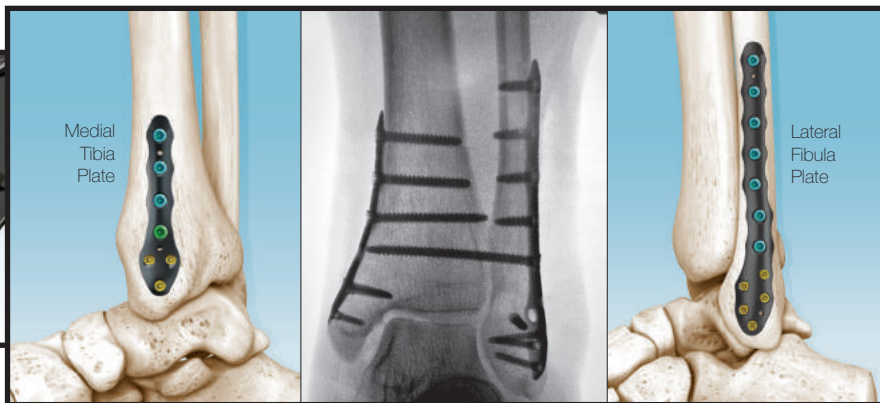
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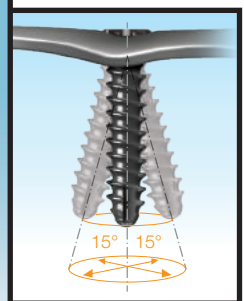
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EDUCATION CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming education events!



September 22-25, 2021
AOFAS Annual Meeting 2021
Charlotte, North Carolina

AOFAS President: Bruce E. Cohen, MD
 Program Chair: Carroll P. Jones III, MD
aofas.org/annualmeeting



February 17-20, 2022
AOFAS Winter Meeting
Phoenix, Arizona

Program Chairs: Daniel Guss, MD, MBA, and
 Casey J. Humbyrd, MD
aofas.org/wintermeeting



October 27, 2021
Foot and Ankle Focus: Total Ankle
Arthroplasty

Moderator: Timothy R. Daniels, MD
aofas.org/focus




April 28-30, 2022
International Federation of Foot & Ankle Societies
(IFFAS) 7th Triennial Scientific Meeting
Viña del Mar, Chile

iffas2022.com

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RESEARCH NEWS

CHORD seeks AOFAS members to join new collaborative group: The CHORD Consortium

By The AOFAS Committee on Health Outcomes, Registries, and Data

The AOFAS Committee on Health Outcomes, Registries, and Data (CHORD) aims to empower the AOFAS membership to thrive in a world that has become increasingly dependent on big data. Doing so in modern healthcare requires that AOFAS members be able to track patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs), demonstrate the value of clinical care, and contribute to high-quality research studies that answer difficult questions.

To achieve these goals, the committee has developed the **CHORD Consortium**, which will help AOFAS members start measuring PROMs in their own clinical practice. In turn, interested members can harness the power of the AOFAS membership to address pressing, large-scale research questions.

What is the CHORD Consortium?

The Consortium is a network of AOFAS members who commit to only one thing — collecting a standardized set of PROMs from their patients. This can include patients undergoing operative or non-operative treatment, or those with a specific diagnosis of interest.

Who can participate?

AOFAS Active, Candidate, and Active/Candidate-Military Members in the US and Canada are invited to join the CHORD Consortium. If you are not already collecting PROMs, the CHORD Consortium has resources to help you begin.

What is expected of CHORD Consortium members?

Consortium members will be asked to collect specific PROMs that were originally vetted by PROM experts in the AOFAS:

- PROMIS Global Health Short Form (10 items)
- PROMIS Physical Function CAT
- PROMIS Pain Intensity Short Form (3 items)
- PROMIS Pain Interference CAT
- PROMIS Depression CAT

Members of the CHORD Consortium can collect these PROMs using any software method, store it at their own practice site, and have no commitments beyond this initial collection.

Funding for any PROMs collection initiative will be entirely assumed by the participating clinical site. Sites may not request funds from AOFAS, but some discounts are available on third-party software.

What is the time commitment?

Consortium members will spend time setting up data collection, collecting data, and attending CHORD Consortium meetings as required (approximately one per quarter). Through these meetings, we will support each other as we embark on this initiative and help those new to collecting PROMs establish best practices.

Why join the CHORD Consortium?

When AOFAS members are collecting the same PROMs, they are empowered to understand how their patients are doing as well as connect and work together with like-minded surgeons to answer the challenging clinical questions facing the foot and ankle specialty. In this collaborative setting, each participant contributes a unique aspect of their practice environment — best practices, clinical volume, statistical know-how, etc. If interested, CHORD Consortium members can then work together on retrospective studies, team up to launch prospective studies, and, most importantly, improve patient care.

At the heart of the CHORD Consortium is the belief that the AOFAS membership, working collaboratively, can achieve more than any individual working alone and produce results that more broadly reflect the current state of foot and ankle practice.

For more information or to join the CHORD Consortium, visit aofas.org/CHORD or email research@aofas.org.

JOURNALS UPDATE

News from *FAI* and *FAO*

Foot & Ankle International[®] (*FAI*) and *Foot & Ankle Orthopaedics*[®] (*FAO*) are thriving under the direction of new Editor-in-Chief Charles L. Saltzman, MD. The journals carry on the tradition with the same scientific rigor and clinically important content that keep AOFAS at the forefront of orthopaedic research.

It was recently announced that *FAI* has achieved an Impact Factor of **2.827** for 2020, ranking 32 among 82 orthopaedic journals. This is the journal's highest Impact Factor to date and the highest Impact Factor of all foot and ankle journals worldwide.

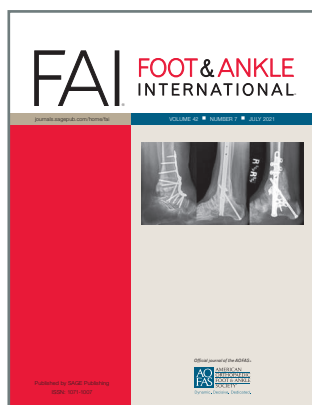
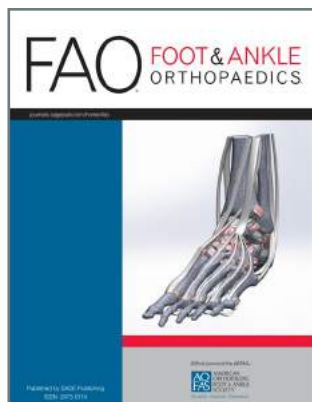
Short Reports

In June, the journals launched a new article type called Short Reports. This new article type allows authors to communicate key observations and clinically relevant findings in a shorter format than a full-length scientific manuscript. The format is ideal for the presentation of research that extends previously published research, including the reporting of additional controls and confirmatory results in other settings, as well as negative results or even patients from the same cohort.

The June issue of *FAI* featured an editorial from Dr. Saltzman introducing Short Reports as well as the first published Short Report, *Do Coronal or Sagittal Plane Measurements Have the Highest Accuracy to Arthroscopically Diagnose Syndesmotic Instability?* Check out the *FAI* June issue online or view the Submission Guidelines for more information.



CHARLES L. SALTZMAN, MD



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Scientific content from both journals is available online 24/7.

FAI:

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Follow @AOFAS_Journals on Twitter for the latest articles, podcasts, videos, and more from *FAI* and *FAO*.

FAO Essential Reviews: Trauma Edition

In August comes the fourth print volume of the *Foot & Ankle Orthopaedics*® Essential Review Articles. This collection of review articles focuses on trauma, including surgical management of ankle fractures, ankle fractures with posterior malleolar fragment, fractures of the talus, intra-articular calcaneal fractures, and Lisfranc complex injuries.

The full *FAO* Essential Reviews series is available on the *FAO* website (look for the starred collection at the bottom of the *FAO* homepage). These review articles are ideal for medical schools, residency programs, and fellowship training programs, as well as a resource for exam preparation and general review. Visit *FAO* to read these review articles, new research, and more.

Annual Meeting Abstracts Highlights

Shortly after AOFAS Annual Meeting 2021 in Charlotte, *FAI* will highlight a selection of the meeting's abstracts, as selected by Program Chair Carroll P. Jones III, MD. This supplement, currently scheduled to mail with the November issue of *FAI*, will allow practitioners to review the data presented at the conference and learn how it might affect their practices. Abstracts for all meeting paper, poster, and ePoster presentations will also be published and freely available at *FAO* (look for the starred collection at the bottom of the *FAO* homepage).

WATCH

Surgical technique videos are included with select articles with an operative technique.

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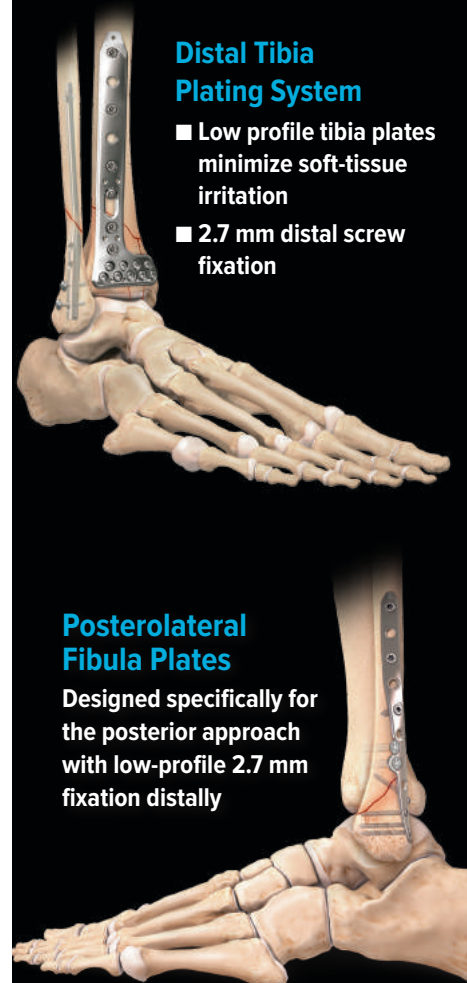
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FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**ERIC M. BLUMAN,
MD, PHD**

Dear Colleagues,

As the fundraising arm of the AOFAS, we have witnessed so many individuals and corporations stepping up during the pandemic to support our programs throughout the year. In many ways, this illustrates how valuable and impactful our educational products and research funds are perceived in our specialty. This year, we have more corporations at the Gold level of the Mission Partner Program than ever before.

We are especially grateful for the unwavering financial commitment of our Mission Partners (as of June 30, 2021): **Diamond**-level partner Stryker, **Gold**-level partners In2Bones, Paragon 28, and Treace Medical Concepts, Inc., and **Silver**-level partner Arthrex, Inc. These companies provide the funding

for many AOFAS education programs such as the Stryker Fellowship Scholarship, Resident Scholarship Program, Foot and Ankle Focus webinars, Women's Leadership Initiative, and Research Grants. When we are able to resume our humanitarian overseas outreach, these programs will also be fully supported by our industry partners.

New projects launched recently and sustained by corporate educational grants include the "Ask the Expert" monthly online events now providing CME credit, and video enhancements to be added later this year to the patient education website *FootCareMD.org*.

The **Young Physician Challenge Match** is off to an incredible start! Our goal is to start early-career surgeons on the path of a lifetime of giving back to the specialty. The more surgeons who participate, the more the Foundation Board will contribute. At the time of this writing, more than 26% of AOFAS Candidate Members and Fellows have donated to the Foundation. The members of the Foundation Board of Directors will make personal donations proportional to the percentage of these early-career AOFAS members who donate before the campaign ends on August 15, 2021.

Individual donations from our AOFAS membership can be directed to a specific fund such as Research; Education; Humanitarian Service; Women's Leadership; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; any of the four Pillars of the Society; the Roger and Joan Mann Family Education Fund; or the area of greatest need.

This fall at the AOFAS Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, we will recognize 2021 Pillar of the Society James W. Brodsky, MD, and the success of the Roger and Joan Mann Family Education Fund, which will endow the Roger A. Mann Award and support future education projects.

Thank you for continuing to support the many initiatives of the AOFAS. To join us with your donation to a specific fund or to the area of greatest need, please visit aofas.org/donate.

With great respect and gratitude,

Eric M. Bluman, MD, PhD
Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation President

We have witnessed
so many individuals
and corporations
stepping up during
the pandemic to
support our programs
throughout the year.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Five projects awarded 2021 AOFAS Research Grants

In March, the AOFAS Research Committee awarded its annual research grants to five promising foot and ankle research projects. With funding from the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation, the Research Grants Program gives AOFAS members and their research teams the resources to discover new foot and ankle treatments and advance patient care. More than \$1.7 million in grants have been awarded since the program began in 1997.

“The AOFAS Research Grants Program improves patient care by helping surgeons determine the underlying basic, translational, and clinical science associated with foot and ankle problems,” said AOFAS Research Committee Member Jason T. Bariteau, MD. “This understanding enhances our ability to diagnose and treat complex conditions.”

This year, the AOFAS awarded three Small Project Grants (up to \$20,000 each), and two Established Project Grants (up to \$50,000). Congratulations to the 2021 Research Grant Recipients!

Established Project Grants

Evaluation of frHMGB1 Treatment for Nonunion Fracture Healing in a Diabetic Rat Model

Jarrett D. Cain, DPM, MSc; Feng Li, MD, PhD; Jianying Zhang, PhD; Alan Y. Yan, MD; MaCalus V. Hogan, MD, MBA, FAAOS, FAOA

Creating Machine Learning Algorithms to Assess the Risk of Developing Venous Thromboembolism and Bleeding Adverse Events in Patients with Ankle Fractures

Daniel Guss, MD, MBA; Bart Lubberts, MD, PhD; Gregory R. Waryasz, MD; Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD; Rohan Bhimani, MD, MBA; Soheil Ashkani-Esfahani, MD; Reza Mojahed-Yazdi, MSc; Takahisa Ogawa, MD, MPH; Haggai Schermann, MD, MPH

Small Project Grants

Identification of Differentially Expressed Genes in Synovial Tissue of the Arthritic Ankle

Kenneth J. Hunt, MD; Michael Zuscik, PhD; Cheryl Ackert-Bicknell, PhD; Mary C. Hamati

Does the Synovial Fluid Fracture Hematoma after Intra-articular Ankle Fracture Cause Cartilage Damage?

Samuel B. Adams, MD

Effect of Preoperative Mobility Device Training on Postoperative Fall Incidence in Foot and Ankle Surgery

Ashish Shah, MD; Nicholas Andrews, BS

The AOFAS Research Grants Program is funded by the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation, supported in part by a grant from Arthrex, Inc. Visit aofas.org/researchgrants for more information.

AOFAS RESEARCH GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS (SINCE 1997)

124
grants
awarded

\$1.7
million
total funding

203
presentations
of funded
research

139
published
journal articles

\$5.4
million in
additional
grants

New grant to fund clinical research

Established with a generous donation from AOFAS Past President Ronald W. Smith, MD, and his wife Wendy, the **Ronald and Wendy Smith Clinical Research Grant** provides funding for promising prospective research studies in areas of high clinical importance.

The first recipient of this grant will be announced this fall and will receive up to \$25,000 to support their research study.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Foundation presents Women's Leadership Awards

The AOFAS Women's Leadership Initiative supports and encourages women in foot and ankle orthopaedic surgery. As part of the initiative, the Foundation honors two female leaders in foot and ankle orthopaedics annually with the **Women's Leadership Awards**. The award recipients will be podium speakers at AOFAS Annual Meeting 2021 and participate in the Women's Leadership Reception.

Two awards are being presented in 2021:

- **Career Impact Award**, recognizing women who have made exceptional contributions to the field of orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery
- **Career Development Award**, supporting the professional aspirations of early- and mid-career female orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeons



**BARBARA
PICLET-LEGRÉ, MD**

Career Impact Award

Barbara Piclet-Legré, MD, of Marseilles, France, is a pioneer and innovator in orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery and minimally invasive techniques. Dr. Piclet-Legré specialized in foot and ankle orthopaedic surgery in 1986, traveled extensively throughout the 1990s to acquire new technologies, and opened her own foot and ankle practice, Centre Du Pied, in 2000.

In 2014 she opened a second practice, while continuing to mentor numerous orthopaedic surgeons from around the world. Additionally, Dr. Piclet-Legré is the first female vice president and future president of a French orthopaedic society.

"Dr. Piclet-Legré strove to differentiate herself, understanding that not only becoming an orthopaedic surgeon as a woman was rare, but becoming one specializing in foot and ankle was in fact extremely unique."

— Rebecca A. Cerrato, MD



**ANDREA N. VELJKOVIC,
MD, MPH, FRCSC**

Career Development Award

Andrea N. Veljkovic, MD, MPH, FRCSC, of Vancouver, Canada, is an Associate Clinical Professor and Director of the Adult Foot and Ankle Reconstruction Fellowship at the University of British Columbia. After residency at the University of Alberta, Dr. Veljkovic completed an arthroscopy and athletic injuries fellowship at the University of British Columbia, followed by a foot and ankle fellowship

at the University of Iowa. An accomplished researcher, she has published more than 80 scientific papers and has been a finalist for the J. Leonard Goldner and Roger A. Mann Awards.

"Dr. Veljkovic accomplished much in the early stages of her career, evidenced by peer-review journal articles, book chapters, and invited lectures. She contributes a substantial portion of her time to educating fellows, residents, and medical students."

— Harold B. Kitaoka, MD

Pierce E. Scranton Humanitarian Service Award

The Pierce E. Scranton Humanitarian Service Award was established by the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation to recognize individuals who demonstrate a passion for foot and ankle humanitarian work in areas with limited access to care. The award is named after Pierce E. Scranton Jr., MD, founder of the Foundation, who started the Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam and was integral in the early years of the project.

The inaugural Pierce E. Scranton Humanitarian Service Award will be presented at AOFAS Annual Meeting 2021 in Charlotte, North Carolina, during the Foundation Update on Thursday, September 23.



FOUNDATION DONORS

Thank You to Our Donors!

The Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation acknowledges the following individuals for their charitable contributions in 2021. The list below reflects individual gifts received January 1 to June 30, 2021.

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HEALTH POLICY UPDATE

Report from the AMA Special Meeting

By Christopher P. Chiodo, MD, AOFAS Health Policy Committee Chair

The American Medical Association (AMA) recently held a virtual Special Meeting of the House of Delegates in place of its annual, in-person June meeting. Discussion and debate were limited to those issues deemed to be “priority business” by the AMA’s Resolution Committee.

AOFAS representation at the meeting included AMA Delegate Michael S. Aronow, MD; Alternate Delegate Christopher P. Chiodo, MD; Young Physicians Section Representatives Eric I. Ferkel, MD, and Brandon A. Taylor, MD; and Resident and Fellow Section Representative Bonnie Y. Chien, MD. Casey J. Humbyrd, MD, serving as a delegate for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), was also in attendance.

Regarding COVID-19, the AMA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting patients and physicians as they continue to navigate and emerge from the pandemic. The AMA will continue to advocate for research, funding, and education for the millions of Americans estimated to be living with “long COVID.” The House of Delegates also took several actions aimed at addressing health inequity, medical licensure requirements, regulation, and compensation for telehealth.

The House of Delegates also endorsed a strategic plan for advancing racial justice and health equity in medicine. This plan was developed by the Health Equity Task Force, which had been appointed by the chair of the AMA Board of Trustees. It includes a three-year roadmap with five strategic approaches with the goal of planting “the initial seeds for action and accountability to embed racial justice and advance health equity for years to come.”

On the advocacy front, the AMA continues to oppose the initiative of the American Academy of Physician Assistants to rename physician assistants as “physician associates.” Outgoing AMA President Susan Bailey, MD, spoke on the AMA’s commitment to physician-led healthcare teams as well as avoiding confusion regarding who is, and who is not, a physician.

The Interim Meeting, to be held in Orlando, Florida, in November 2021, is scheduled to be an in-person event. This will allow the House of Delegates to address a broader range of issues. The AOFAS and AAOS delegations look forward to actively participating in this meeting.

Update on AOFAS/AAOS Joint Resolution

In collaboration with the Task Force of Orthopaedic and Podiatric Surgeons — a joint effort of the AOFAS, AAOS, American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS), and American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) — AOFAS and AAOS submitted Resolution 303, **Improving the Standardization Process for Assessment of Podiatric Medical Students and Residents by Initiation of a Process Enabling Them to Take the USMLE**. As reported to the AOFAS membership in May, this resolution proposed initiating a process by which podiatrists would be considered physicians if they met MD/DO standards for education, training, and certification and passed all three parts of the USMLE, as opposed to obtaining the title via legislation.

The AMA Resolutions Committee determined that Resolution 303 did not meet the priority threshold for consideration at the Special Meeting. AOFAS and AAOS currently plan to resubmit this resolution at the AMA House of Delegates Interim Meeting in November 2021.

Thank you!

AOFAS is proud to announce that we met the membership requirement to retain our seat in the AMA House of Delegates for the next five years!

Thank you to the AOFAS members who answered the call and joined the AMA. Our continued partnership with the AMA gives foot and ankle orthopaedics a voice in local, state, and national advocacy efforts.

CODING CORNER

Update on Evaluation and Management Guidelines for 2021: Part 1

By John A. DiPreta, MD, AOFAS Practice Management Committee Chair



To lower the burden of documentation requirements for office visits, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as well the American Medical Association (AMA) restructured the rubric for patient documentation and Evaluation and Management (E/M) visit levels. This article will summarize these changes.

History and physical exam elements are no longer components of E/M level code selection. Physicians and other Qualified Health Practitioners (QHP) should still document the history and physical exam as medically appropriate. These elements may still be necessary for clinical practice, professional liability reasons, and quality measurement.

The 1995/1997 documentation guidelines have been replaced by **Medical Decision Making (MDM)** or **total time** for office E/M codes. The definition of total time in the office visit code selection includes all physician or QHP time (both face-to-face and non-face-to-face) spent in the care of the patient on the day of the encounter.

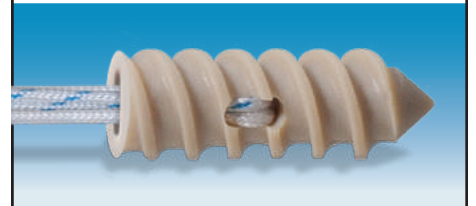
MDM is the reflection of complexity in establishing a diagnosis, assessing the status of a condition, and/or selecting a management option. The MDM criteria focus on the cognitive work related to the diagnosis and assessment of a patient's condition.

Physicians should document the thought processes, including options considered (even if not selected), that contribute to their diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. To qualify for a level of MDM, two of three elements for that level must be met or exceeded. These guidelines apply

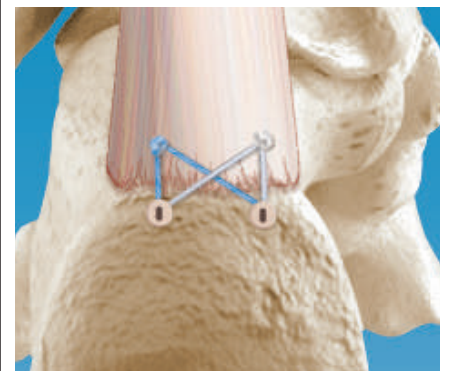
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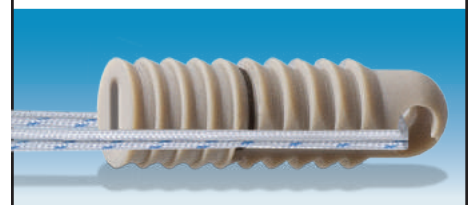
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CODING CORNER, CONTINUED

only to outpatient visits. In-patient consults as well as Emergency Department visits would utilize the 1995/1997 guidelines.

The 1995/1997 MDM elements relied on the number of diagnoses without addressing the complexity of the patient's condition. The revised MDM guidelines reflect the complexity of problems addressed during the encounter, rather than just the number of diagnoses. Diagnoses that are not made or addressed during the encounter and that do not contribute to the physician's MDM process should not be included in selecting levels of MDM.

MDM is defined by three facets: **Problems, Data, and Risk** (including testing and treatment). Level one visits for new patients have been eliminated.

Problems (as defined by the AMA) include:

- self-limited or minor problem
- stable, chronic illness
- acute, uncomplicated illness or injury
- chronic illness with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment
- undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognoses
- acute illness with systemic symptoms
- acute, complicated injury
- chronic illness with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment
- acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or body function

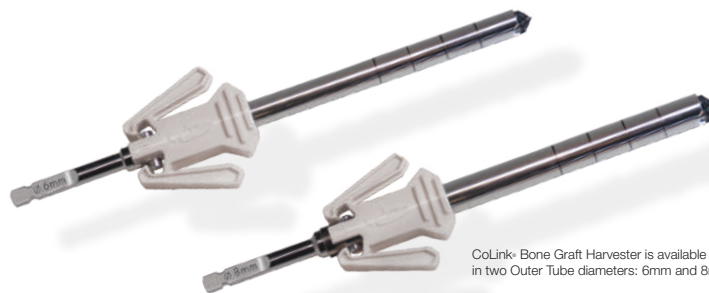
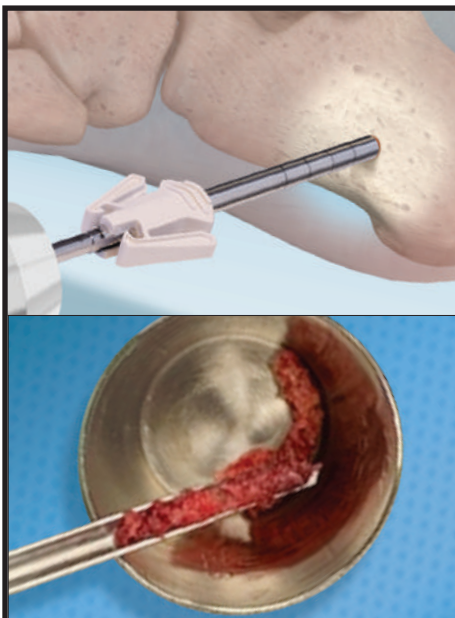
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Data includes each unique test, order, or document analyzed. Imaging that is ordered or considered and reviewed (internal or outside source) is included. Discussion with another provider about a patient as well as office notes from referrals or blood work should all be documented.

Risk pertains to the morbidity and/or complications of patient management. The level of risk is based upon consequences of the problems addressed at the encounter. This includes surgical risk (minor or major, elective or emergency) and patient risk factors.

Key takeaways:

- 99201 (new patient visit) is eliminated.
- “Complexity” will be removed from the MDM descriptor. Descriptors will be same for each level.

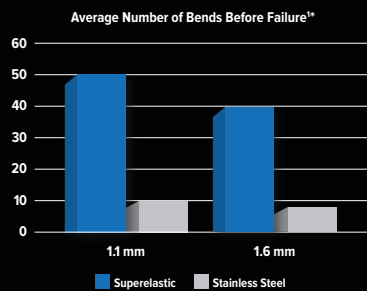
- The work RVUs will increase except for the lowest levels.
- Time is not an element for 99211 and is not used for code selection.
- Payment is higher for new patient visits, but MDM is the same for established visits at the same level.

Part 2 of this article, which provides examples of the implementation of these guidelines, will be available online this fall at aofas.org/codingcorner.

DYNANITE FlexWire with the Superelasticity of Nitinol

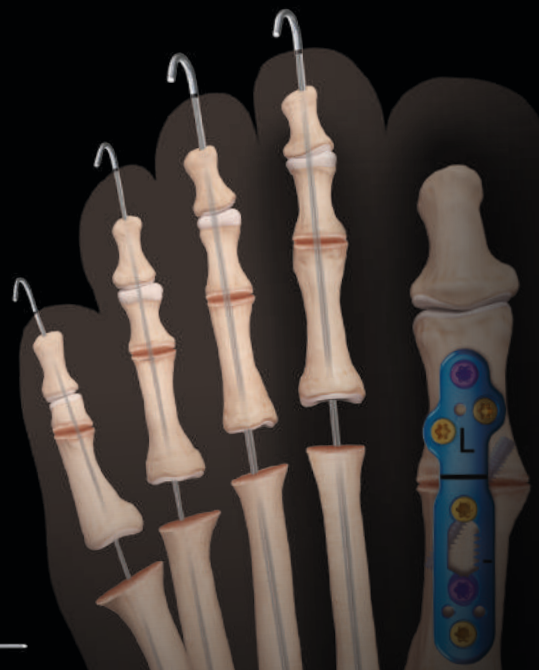
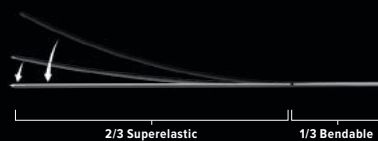
This two-zone, all-nitinol implant wire combines superelasticity on one end with traditional bending properties on the other for a unique approach to temporary fixation procedures performed in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The proximal, superelastic end holds correction and maintains its straight shape during the postoperative period as patients may begin to bear weight. The distal end can be cut, bent, and capped in standard fashion due to its malleable properties.

The durability and superelasticity of the DynaNite® FlexWire may help reduce postoperative complications from bent or broken wires and allow for easy removal. Available in 0.86 mm, 1.1 mm, and 1.6 mm diameters.



*Test maxed out at 50 bends.

Reference
1. Arthrex, Inc. Data on file (APT-04336). Naples, FL; 2019.



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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New resources to promote your practice

The AOFAS Practice Marketing Toolkit offers resources to help AOFAS members promote their practices and reach new patients in their communities.

Materials include:

- **Brochure geared toward referring providers**, available for members to customize with their practice information and order through the new AOFAS Print Portal.
- **Sample email and letter templates** to introduce themselves to potential referring partners.
- **Patient fact sheets** to provide to referrers or distribute in their communities.
- **Tips and ideas** for building relationships with potential referring partners.

In addition, the toolkit includes two videos with more helpful information for patient outreach and education:



Getting Connected on Social Media

Social media has become an integral part of everyday life, and it's where many patients get their health information. It is more important than ever for foot and ankle practices to have a social media presence. In the **Getting Connected on Social Media** recorded webinar, experienced faculty discuss how to get started on social media, best practices, and lessons learned.

FootCareMD Tutorial

FootCareMD.org, the AOFAS patient education website, features more than 100 articles on foot and ankle conditions and treatments. "Share" tools are on every page so visitors can easily print and email articles or post them to social media. The **FootCareMD Tutorial** video offers tips to help AOFAS members leverage FootCareMD to enhance their practices and educate their patients.

Access the Practice Marketing Toolkit online at aofas.org/toolkit (member login required).

Update your member profile

Make sure your information is correct in the online "Find a Surgeon" search of AOFAS members!* To update your profile and upload a photo, go to aofas.org/myAOFAS (login required) and select "Member Profile."

* AOFAS Active, Candidate, and International Members are included in the "Find a Surgeon" search.

AOFAS recognizes new and elevating members

The Board of Directors approved 79 new members between November 2020 and June 2021. We welcome them to the membership and thank them for their commitment to the Society and the specialty.

Active

Jefferson J. Davis, DO
Jacob Matz, MD, MSc, FRCSC
Mark V. Yakavonis, MD

Erik Huánuco Casas,
MMed(Orth)
Nicholas B. Jorgensen,
FRACS, MBBS, FAOrthA
Togay Koc, MBBS, MRCS,
MSc(Orth)

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Srinivasan Velmurugan, MD
Rodrigo C. Vicente, MD
Gu XiaoHui, MD
Mohammad Saqib Zafar,
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Kivanc Atesok, MD, MSc
Ahmed K. Attia, MD
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Jacob R. Braunstein, MD
Christy M. Christophersen, MD
Mary K. Crowe, DO
Aliasgar H. Dalal, MD
Alexander J. Duke, MD*
John L. Eakin, MD*
Brian M. Fisher, MD
Stephen D. Forro, DO*

Candidate

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Max P. Michalski, MD
Courtney A. Quinn, MD

Ahmad K. Malik,
MD, FRCS(Orth)
Frederick Michels, MD
Sergio R. Muñoz, MD
William J. Nash, MBBS
Bruno Jannotti Padua, MD

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Victor Anciano, MD

International

Mansur M. Halai, MD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Sunny Gupta, MD
Erin K. Haggerty, MD
Derrick A. Henry, MD
Mitchell L. Hunter, DO*
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Sean D. Karr, MD
Patrick M. Kennedy, MD
Kristin Leigh Roensch
Kress, MD
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David Vier, MD
Eric D. Villarreal, MD
Benjamin R. Wagner, MD
Anthony M. Yi, MD

*2020 Resident Scholar

International Surgeon in Training

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FRCS(Tr&Orth)
Luis A. Castillo Sr., MD
Andrew Walls, MD

Allied Health/Associate – Basic Sciences

Sikora E. Cain, PA-C
Tracy K. Harig, RN, FNP-C
J. Cole Lee, PA-C
Bart Lubberts, MD, PhD
Brianna Lui, PA-C
Sandra H. Sublett,
PT, DPT, OCS
Jennifer R. Woody,
MSN, FNP-C

ELEVATING MEMBERS

Congratulations to the
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advanced to the next level of
membership.

Surgeon in Training to Candidate

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Robert C. Palmer, MD

Surgeon in Training to Active

Olivier Gauthier-Kwan,
MD, FRCS

Candidate to Active

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Steven E. Blackwood, MD
Ryan K. Callahan, DO, MS
Matthew W. Christian, MD
Elizabeth Cody, MD
Arjuna J. Cuddeback, DO
Natalie R. Danna, MD
Kenneth W. DeFontes III, MD
Kyle R. Duchman, MD
Amanda J. Fantry, MD
Daniel J. Fuchs, MD
Katherine Gavin, MD
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MD, MS
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Eugene F. Stautberg III, MD
Jason P. Tartaglione, MD
Justin Tsai, MD
Patrick J. Ward III, MD
Gregory R. Waryasz, MD
Stephen D. White, MD

Candidate (Military) to Active (Military)

Cory Janney, MD

International to Active

Irvin Oh, MD

International Surgeon in Training to International

Paolo Ceccarini, MD
Mohamed Abdelaziz Elghazy,
MD, MSc

Thank you to our newest Emeritus Members for their years of dedication and contributions to AOFAS.

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Patrick B. Ebeling, MD
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MBA, FACS
David J. Howe, MD
David S. Huang, MD
Susan N. Ishikawa, MD
M. Angela Mayeux-Hebert, MD
Melanie Sanders, MD
Jai Shanker, MBBS,
MCh(Orth), FRCS
Steven L. Shapiro, MD
Robert A. Vander Griend, MD
Arthur K. Walling, MD
Joseph L. Whalen, MD, PhD

In memoriam: Augusto César Monteiro, MD (1949-2021)

Augusto César Monteiro, MD, past president of the Associação Brasileira de Medicina e Cirurgia do Tornozelo e Pé (Brazilian Association of Medicine and Surgery of the Ankle and Foot), passed away on June 8, 2021. He was 71.

Dr. Monteiro earned his medical degree from the Federal University of Paraíba. He completed his residency in orthopedics and traumatology at Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Santos and specialized in foot and ankle at Santa Casa de São Paulo. For more than 40 years, he worked at the Hospital do Servidor Público Municipal in São Paulo, serving as the head of foot and ankle.

Dr. Monteiro was an extraordinary surgeon and teacher, a loyal member of the AOFAS, and a kind and welcoming presence at AOFAS Annual Meetings. He will be missed greatly by the AOFAS members, staff, and all who crossed his path.

