

DEPARTMENT BEGINS ASES-APPROVED SHOULDER AND ELBOW FELLOWSHIP



Christopher C. Schmidt, MD, Director

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery is happy to announce that it began its first American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES)-approved fellowship in August 2019. Furthermore, the fellowship was awarded a \$24,625 grant from ASES to fulfill the mission of training high-quality shoulder and elbow surgeons.

The fellowship is a collaborative effort between CMI Orthopaedic Specialists and University of Pittsburgh Physicians. Its official name is the Shoulder and Elbow Fellowship, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Chairman Freddie Fu, MD, was instrumental in advancing the goal to develop an outstanding training program. The fellowship is designed to provide a thorough understanding of shoulder and elbow anatomy and pathologic conditions, as well as teach the latest techniques in open, arthroscopic, and endoscopic surgery.

Thomas R. Zink, DO, from Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, is the first ASES Shoulder and Elbow Fellow trained at UPMC. We were lucky enough to match this bright, talented, energetic young man. It is estimated that Dr. Zink will be co-surgeon in more than 450 shoulder and elbow cases ranging from tendon and ligament injuries to complex joint revisions.

Luis E. Carrazana-Suarez, MD, from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine matched for the 2020–2021 academic year.

The faculty includes Dr. Schmidt, director; Dean Sotereanos, MD, co-director; Albert Lin, MD; and Patrick McMahon, MD. They offer a variety of individual experiences and an extensive knowledge base, which are often on display during the weekly case presentations. The differing opinions and shared knowledge clearly demonstrate that there are many ways to diagnose and treat complicated shoulder and elbow pathology.

The educational curriculum consists of weekly shoulder and elbow conferences, biweekly cadaveric wet laboratories, biweekly research conferences, monthly journal clubs, and bimonthly mortality and morbidity conferences. The curriculum is designed to provide the fellow with opportunities to develop a solid knowledge base and skill set on which to start his or her career.

Weekly topics include rotator cuff tears, shoulder instability, total shoulder arthroplasty, reverse shoulder arthroplasty, suprascapular nerve palsy, scapular winging, SLAP (superior labrum anterior posterior) tears, shoulder tendon ruptures, axillary nerve injuries, shoulder tendon transfers, massive rotator cuff tears, shoulder stiffness, acromioclavicular arthritis and injuries, shoulder and elbow fractures, total elbow arthroplasty, medial and lateral elbow reconstructions, ulnar nerve injuries, nerve transfers, arthroscopic elbows, biceps and triceps repairs, osteochondritis dissecans of the elbow, calcific tendonitis, shoulder and elbow dislocations, and more.

The wet lab is designed to teach anatomy and solidify hands-on surgical skills, including arthroscopic elbows, arthroscopic tendon transfers, and detailed nerve anatomy.

Fellowship Personnel

Beth Bruening and Anthony Davidson are the fellowship coordinator and laboratory manager/fellowship librarian, respectively. Angie Connelly oversees the fellowship personnel. Together, the team spends countless hours fostering an environment conducive to fellowship learning. They deserve great thanks.

Additional thanks to the foreign shoulder and elbow fellow for 2019–2020, Dimitrios Papadopoulos, MD, and contributing attending members Loukia Papatheodorou, MD, and Trenton Gause, MD.



A welcome dinner for Dr. Zink at the Grandview Saloon; from left to right: Christopher Schmidt, MD, Dean Sotereanos, MD, Beth Bruening, Angela Connelly, Loukia Papatheodorou, MD, Thomas Zink, DO, Albert Lin, MD, Anthony Davidson, and Dimitrios Papadopoulos, MD