



# AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY®

RECONSTRUCTION • SPORTS MEDICINE • TRAUMA • TECHNOLOGY



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[www.FootCareMD.org](http://www.FootCareMD.org)

## The AOFAS Profile

Founded in 1969, the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS) is a Medical Specialty Society comprised of more than 2,200 American and International Orthopaedic Surgeons (MD/DO) specializing in the surgical and medical care of the foot and ankle.

The organizational priorities are **Education and Research**.

The focus is on **Reconstruction, Sports Injuries, Trauma and Technology**.

**Mission** - The mission of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society is to:

- Promote quality, ethical and cost-effective patient care through education, research and training of orthopaedic surgeons and other health care providers.
- Create public awareness for the prevention and treatment of foot and ankle disorders.
- Provide leadership and serve as a resource for government, industry and the national and international health care communities.

**Training and Membership** - Members of the AOFAS have completed four years of medical school and five years of accredited graduate education (residency training) in orthopaedic surgery. Most members have completed an additional year of advanced fellowship training in the care of the foot and ankle.

Active Members are certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery, or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Active Members also hold membership in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics, or the Canadian Orthopaedic Association. The AOFAS had more than 2,200 members in all membership categories.

**The Profession** - Orthopaedic surgeons who specialize in foot care employ medical, physical and surgical methods to restore function lost as a result of injury and disease to the foot and ankle. They coordinate their treatment methods with a foot care team that includes other physicians, nurses, physical therapists and pedorthists. The orthopaedist's expertise includes the knowledge and techniques necessary to treat:

- Injuries such as fractures, dislocations, sprains, torn ligaments and amputations.
- Joint destruction requiring joint replacement
- Sports injuries
- Arthritis
- Loss of joint and muscle function caused by disease or injury
- Bunions, hammertoes and flatfeet



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- Nerve disorders such as neuroma and tarsal tunnel syndrome
- Congenital deformities such as clubfoot
- Pediatric problems such as in-toeing and out-toeing and leg length discrepancy
- Infections and tumors of bones, joints, tendons and muscles

**CME Accreditation** – The American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society has been resurveyed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and awarded Accreditation with Commendation for six years (July 2014-July 2020) as a provider of continuing medical education for physicians.

**Educational Opportunities** - The AOFAS and sponsors a number of educational programs throughout the year.

The **AOFAS Annual Meeting** features renowned guest speakers, scientific papers selected on a competitive basis as well as provocative symposia on timely subjects.

The **AOFAS Advanced Foot and Ankle Course** and the **AOFAS Surgical Complications of the Foot & Ankle Course** are offered in alternating years and address the complex topics that orthopaedic foot and ankle specialists encounter.

The **AOFAS Sports Injuries of the Foot and Ankle Course**, offered every three years, provides sports medicine physicians and general orthopaedists with an overview of common sports problems of the foot and ankle, as well as diagnostic dilemmas and common foot and ankle reconstructive procedures. The Society also offers a fall course on rotating topics.

The **AOFAS Complete Foot Course**, offered every two years, focuses on the team approach to the office practice of orthopaedic foot and ankle care, with a target audience of physical therapists, nurses, physician assistants, and podiatrists.

The AOFAS also offers webinars throughout the year on a range of clinical topics of interest to both orthopaedic foot and ankle specialists and general orthopaedists.

Each year the AOFAS presents a **Specialty Day** program during the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' Annual Meeting. The program consists of foot and ankle symposia presentations and panel discussions by renowned experts for a target audience of general orthopaedists as well as orthopaedic foot and ankle specialists.

**Physician Resource Center (PRC)** – The PRC is a user-friendly online library that provides members with access to a large educational resource of documents and recordings of meetings. Phase I of the PRC launched in early 2016, and additional content and new features are in development for Phase II.

**Publications** - The Society's monthly scientific journal, *Foot & Ankle International*, focuses exclusively on subjects pertaining to foot and ankle disorders. The journal contains scientific articles, review articles, book reviews and letters to the editor. David B. Thordarson, MD, is the Editor-in-Chief. *FAI* is published by SAGE Publications.



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The Society's new open access online journal – *Foot & Ankle Orthopaedics* – launched in July 2016. L. Daniel Latt, MD, PhD is the Editor-in-Chief. SAGE Publications is the publisher for *FAO*.

The Society's quarterly newsletter – *In~Stride* --provides members with updates on organizational activities, meeting announcements, coding and membership updates. E-mail messages and communication via social media channels are distributed on a regular basis.

**Websites** - The AOFAS web site, [www.aofas.org](http://www.aofas.org), is an important resource for members and includes information on clinical educational programs for physicians and industry. The site includes a members-only section.

The Society's companion patient education site, [www.FootCareMD.org](http://www.FootCareMD.org), includes a "find a doctor" feature for the public, resource materials on foot and ankle conditions, news releases and more.

**Awards** – Each year the Society's prestigious awards are presented for the best papers at the Annual Meeting. Based on blind review, the Roger A. Mann Award is given to recognize the outstanding clinical paper, and the Goldner Award recognizes the best research paper. The Award for Excellence, sponsored by the International Federation of Foot & Ankle Societies, is presented for the best paper by an international author. The best posters at the meeting are also recognized.

**Public Education** - The AOFAS Executive Office serves as a media resource with information on foot and ankle problems and the role of the orthopaedic surgeon in treating these problems. The Society also works collaboratively with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons on public education initiatives and media outreach.

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**The following AOFAS Programs are funded by the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation (The Foundation) with generous donations from individuals and industry:**

**Research: Expanding knowledge for tomorrow's practice**

Since 1997 the AOFAS Research Grants Program has been providing vital start-up funding for promising foot and ankle research projects. Grants of up to \$5,000, 20,000, and \$50,000 are awarded on a competitive basis based on a blinded NIH-style review of grant applications. Since its inception, 91 research grants totaling \$1,096,979 have been awarded. Grant recipients have made 199 presentations on their research, authored 113 journal articles, and received \$4,287,680 million in subsequent funding from outside sources.

In an expanded commitment to research, in 2012 the AOFAS Board of Directors established the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Outcomes Research (OFAR) Network to improve understanding of outcomes for foot and ankle treatments across populations and gender. OFAR is a major AOFAS research and qualitative initiative that is poised to expand the breadth and availability of data to improve future patient care.



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## **Educational Outreach to Residents and Young Members: An investment in the future of the profession**

The AOFAS offers special opportunities for residents that expand their knowledge of foot and ankle as a challenging and satisfying career choice. Programs include: Resident Scholarships to the Annual Meeting, a Visiting Professor Program, and Resident Review Course recordings. The AOFAS annually awards Traveling Fellowships to selected young members to attend the Annual Meeting and travel to visit centers of foot and ankle care and research.

Opportunities for dues support are available for residents, fellows and young members who participate in the AOFAS-sponsored match for Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Fellowships.

## **Humanitarian Outreach: Opening doors for volunteer service and professional growth**

The AOFAS Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam provides life-changing surgery and challenging professional experiences. Since its inception in 2002, more than 1,300 disabled children and adults have received life-changing surgery without charge, and more than 3,000 patients have been evaluated in the clinics. The AOFAS member volunteers work side-by-side with Vietnamese orthopaedic surgeons in the clinics and operating rooms of cities and villages in northern Vietnam. Based on the success of this project, a similar project is being explored for the future in Central America.

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**Governance** - The 2016-17 AOFAS is governed by an elected 11-member Board of Directors:

Jeffrey E. Johnson, MD, President  
Thomas H. Lee, MD, President-Elect  
J. Chris Coetzee, MD, MBChB, Vice President  
William C. McGarvey, MD, Secretary  
Bruce E. Cohen, MD, Treasurer  
Mark E. Easley, MD, Immediate Past President  
Bruce J. Sangeorzan, MD, Past President  
John G. Anderson, MD, Member-at-Large  
Scott J. Ellis, MD, Member-at-Large  
Mark A. Glazebrook, MD, MSc, PhD, Member-at-Large  
Gregory P. Guyton, MD, Member-at-Large

Susan M. Oster, CAE is the executive director.

**IRS Status** - The AOFAS is a 501(c)(3) organization.

7/26/2016