



AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY®

RECONSTRUCTION • SPORTS MEDICINE • TRAUMA • TECHNOLOGY

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The AOFAS Profile

Founded in 1969, the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS) is a medical specialty society comprised of more than 2,200 orthopaedic surgeons in the US and abroad who specialize in the surgical and medical care of the foot and ankle.

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

The focus is on **Reconstruction**, **Sports Medicine**, **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 healthcare 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 healthcare 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 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
- 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



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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 sponsors a number of educational meetings and courses.

The **AOFAS Annual Meeting** draws surgeons from around the world for a three-day event featuring renowned guest speakers, scientific papers selected on a competitive basis, and provocative symposia on timely subjects.

The **AOFAS Advanced Foot and Ankle Course** and the **AOFAS Surgical Complications of the Foot and Ankle Course** address the complex topics that foot and ankle orthopaedic specialists encounter.

The **AOFAS Sports Injuries of the Foot and Ankle Course** provides sports medicine physicians and general orthopaedists with an overview of common problems of the foot and ankle associated with sports, as well as diagnostic dilemmas and foot and ankle reconstructive procedures.

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 pedorthists.

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

Each year the AOFAS presents a **Specialty Day** program during the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting. The program, consisting of foot and ankle symposia presentations and panel discussions by renowned experts, is targeted toward foot and ankle orthopaedic surgeons as well as general orthopaedists.

Physician Resource Center (PRC) – Open to AOFAS members, the PRC is a user-friendly online library of educational meeting recordings and documents, webinars, and clinical content. The PRC launched in early 2016, and additional content and new features are in development.

Publications – The AOFAS offers two journals and a quarterly member newsletter.

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, and SAGE Publications is the publisher.

Foot & Ankle Orthopaedics, the Society's new open access online journal, launched in July 2016 with L. Daniel Latt, MD, PhD, as its Editor-in-Chief. SAGE Publications is the publisher.

The Society's quarterly newsletter, ***In~Stride***, provides members with organizational and membership updates, meeting announcements, and information on coding and other regulatory issues.



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Websites – The AOFAS website, 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, includes a "find a doctor" feature for the public, resource materials on foot and ankle conditions and treatments, videos, 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.

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

Research: Discovering new treatments to improve patient care

Since 1997, the **AOFAS Research Grants Program** has provided vital start-up funding for promising foot and ankle research projects. Research grants are awarded on a competitive basis based on a blinded NIH-style review of grant applications. Since its inception, more than \$1 million in grants has been awarded, resulting in 200+ presentations at meetings, 125+ journal articles, and nearly \$5 million in grants to investigators from additional funding sources.

In an expanded commitment to research, the **Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Outcomes Research (OFAR) Network** has been established to improve understanding of outcomes for foot and ankle treatments across populations and gender, and to improve patient care. The infrastructure for the OFAR registry is being built to enable member-driven prospective studies of foot and ankle disorders, procedures, and implants.

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

AOFAS programs funded by The Foundation enrich resident education and encourage early interest in the orthopaedic foot and ankle specialty. Programs include: **Resident Scholarships** to the Annual Meeting, a **Visiting Professor Program**, and **Resident Review Course** recordings. Annually, the AOFAS awards **Traveling Fellowships** to selected young members to attend the Annual Meeting and travel to leading institutions of foot and ankle care and research.

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



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Humanitarian Service: Opening doors for volunteer service and professional growth

The Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam provides life-changing surgery and challenging professional experiences. Since its inception in 2002, volunteer surgeons have performed surgery on more than 1,300 disabled children and adults and evaluated more than 3,000 patients in clinics. AOFAS member volunteers work side-by-side with Vietnamese orthopaedic surgeons in cities and villages in northern Vietnam.

Governance – The AOFAS is governed by an elected 11-member Board of Directors. The 2017-18 Board members are:

Thomas H. Lee, MD, President
J. Chris Coetzee, MD, MBChB, President-Elect
William C. McGarvey, MD, Vice President
Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD, Secretary
Bruce E. Cohen, MD, Treasurer
Jeffrey E. Johnson, MD, Immediate Past President
Mark E. Easley, MD, Past President
Samuel B. Adams Jr., MD, Member-at-Large
John G. Anderson, MD, Member-at-Large
Gregory P. Guyton, MD, Member-at-Large
Sandra E. Klein, MD, Member-at-Large

Elaine M. Leighton, MPH, CAE, is the executive director.

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