



UCD/ROC

Foot & Ankle Fellowship

UCD/ROC Foot & Ankle Fellowship Overview

Director: Eric Giza, MD & Gregory Lundeen, MD, MPH, MBA

Fellowship Coordinator: Nicole Lewis

Email: nicolel@renoortho.com

Length of Fellowship: One year: Six months in Sacramento, Six months in Reno

Available Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Fellowship Positions: 2

Begin Date: 08/01/28 **End Date:** 07/31/29

Stipend: \$102,000

Housing: Fellowship housing available in Reno and Sacramento

Full-time Foot & Ankle Faculty: Eric Giza, MD; Gregory Lundeen, MD; Chris Kreulen, MD; Scott Whitlow, MD; Spenser Cassinelli, MD; Chris Diefenbach, MD

Average Cumulative Cases:

Trauma	100
Hind foot	341
Forefoot	220
Midfoot	743
Foot Infection Debridement	52
Amputations	36
Other	20



Qualifications of Applicant: MD/DO who has completed approved North American Orthopedic Surgical Residency, letters of recommendation from Residency Director & Foot & Ankle Director.

Research Opportunities: Fellows and faculty are actively involved in both clinical and mechanistic research projects. One paper is required for completion of fellowship.

UC DAVIS

The focus of the UC Davis Foot and Ankle Service is to provide patients in Sacramento and Northern California with the highest quality of care for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of foot and ankle injuries. The program is also dedicated to the education of UC Davis fellows, orthopedic residents, medical students and staff members through organized teaching and research. The Foot and Ankle Service specializes in the care of patients with both common and complex disorders of the foot and ankle. In order to provide comprehensive care for all patients, the Foot and Ankle Service coordinates its efforts with other services including: sports medicine, vascular surgery, orthopedic trauma, wound care, and orthotics and prosthetics. The team members of the Foot & Ankle Service include a fellowship trained, board certified orthopedic surgeon, orthopedic surgery resident, podiatrist, wound care nurse and support staff.



The Foot and Ankle Service areas of interest include (not limited to) the following:

- Lower extremity (knee, ankle and foot) sports medicine injuries
- Achilles tears and disorders
- Bunions and toe deformities
- Ankle and knee articular cartilage injuries
- Post-traumatic foot and ankle deformities
- Foot and ankle arthritis
- Diabetic foot disorders
- Foot orthotic evaluation and management



The goal of the Reno Orthopedic Center Foot and Ankle Fellowship (ROCFAF) is to provide an environment that will foster a comprehensive understanding of conservative and surgical treatments for foot and ankle conditions, but also becoming well versed in the "behind the scenes" aspects of practicing medicine in an ever changing medical climate.

Through the busy clinical setting, the fellow will be exposed to many different foot and ankle pathologies and the associated conservative and surgical treatment options. Through the Reno Orthopedic Center, the fellow will encounter routine and complex problems of the foot and ankle associated with trauma, congenital malformations, sports injuries, degenerative diseases, forefoot deformities, and diabetes. Dr. Lundeen performs approximately 700 surgeries per year, which will provide an ample clinical and surgical experience. Other unique and valuable experiences include exposure to our amputee specialists and a Certified pedorthist that works closely with our clinicians.

The ROCFAF is also dedicated to the fellow developing the skills to become successful in the important non-clinical aspects of practicing medicine. The fellow will spend time with the Reno Orthopedic Center (ROC) business staff learning strategies related to ancillary income, hospital co-operations, malpractice, staffing, and coding/billing/collecting. There will also be time spent learning hospital alignment strategies with hospital CEOs.



The ROC is a member of the prestigious Western Orthopedic Forum, an invitation only practice management group, and our business staff have presented our models at national meetings. In addition, the fellow can participate in the Nevada Orthopedic Society through board meetings and email to gain exposure to the process and impact state and local legislation has on the orthopedic surgeons' ability to care for patients. There will also be some cross over with national actions by AAOS.

The Collaboration

The UCD/ROC Foot & Ankle Fellowship is a one year fellowship split between University of California, Davis and the Reno Orthopedic Center which combines a traditional university, tertiary referral experience with a large, independent, private practice clinic. Fellows encounter routine and complex problems of the foot and ankle associated with trauma, congenital malformations, sports injuries, degenerative diseases, forefoot deformities, and diabetes.

For more information, please visit AOFAS.org or <https://health.ucdavis.edu/orthopaedics/academic-programs/fellowship>



Fellowship Faculty

Eric Giza, MD - Director

Dr. Giza is chief of the UC Davis orthopedics department's foot and ankle service, where he specializes in reconstruction and minimally invasive arthroscopy of the foot and ankle complex. He also has expertise in knee and shoulder surgery.

Dr. Giza is a former collegiate soccer player and has served as an assistant team physician for the United States Soccer Federation, which runs the U.S. women's and men's World Cup-level national teams. He has also served as a medical information consultant and research committee chair for America's highest-level professional soccer league.

Dr. Giza currently serves as an official team physician for the Sacramento Republic FC professional men's soccer team. For more information, please visit Dr. Giza's online bio.



Gregory A. Lundeen, MD - Director

Dr. Lundeen joined Reno Orthopedic Center in 2006. He uses a team approach to provide the highest quality medical and orthopedic care, focused on working together with each patient toward the best possible outcome.

Dr. Lundeen received his medical degree from the University of Utah and completed his orthopedic residency at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. His subspecialty training in foot and ankle surgery included fellowships in Sydney, Australia and Oakland, California. He has advanced training in total ankle joint replacement and has specialty training in limb and joint preservation for patients facing possible amputation. He is certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery.



Christopher D. Kreulen, MD, MS

Dr. Kreulen aims to restore his patients to their desired level of activity by integrating rehabilitative and operative interventions. He encourages his patients to keep their muscles strong, watch what they eat, and stay active. Dr. Kreulen's clinical interests include: treating sports related injuries, arthroscopies and reconstruction of the foot and ankle. His research has been in the field of cartilage transplantation and treatment of osteochondral defects.



Scott Whitlow, MD

Dr. Whitlow joined Reno Orthopedic Center in 2015. His lifelong emphasis on cultivating positive, interactive relationships has embodied and enlivened his orthopedic and medical practice throughout his career. He proactively works with all of his patients to determine and reach their best possible outcome.

Dr. Whitlow received his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. He completed his orthopedic residency at UC Davis in Sacramento, California, with an emphasis on sports, trauma, and foot and ankle surgery. His sub-specialty training in foot and ankle surgery included a one-year fellowship with Dr. Thomas Clanton, M.D. at the Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colorado.



Spenser Cassinelli, MD

Dr. Cassinelli attended the University of Nevada, Reno for both his undergraduate and medical school. Dr. Cassinelli completed his residency at the Harbor - UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, CA, and his Foot and Ankle Orthopaedic Fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Beverly Hills, CA. He specializes in foot and ankle reconstruction, total ankle replacement, trauma, deformity correction, bunion surgery, Achilles tendon ruptures, arthritis, and sports related injuries. He joined the Reno Orthopedic Center in 2019, and enjoys outdoor activities such as running, golfing, and snowboarding.



Christopher Diefenbach, MD

Chris Diefenbach, MD is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in complex reconstructive foot and ankle care. He completed his medical degree at New York University before returning to Pennsylvania to complete his orthopedic surgery residency at University of Pittsburgh Hamot. He then subspecialized in foot and ankle surgery with the University of California Davis/Reno Orthopedic Center fellowship program.

Dr. Diefenbach practiced in Flagstaff, Arizona prior to returning to Reno/Tahoe to care for its community and participate in the fellowship training program. Dr. Diefenbach's interests include mountain biking, home improvement, traveling, pets, and recreational sports.



Research Component

The UCD/ROC Foot and Ankle Fellowship offers an exciting, state-of-the-art research experience involving both traditional and cutting-edge innovations. Fellows are given the opportunity to enhance existing research skills with extensive exposure to research, critical data review, methodology, and study design. During the course of the year, each Fellow is expected to complete a primary research project which may be presented at the annual UCD/ROC Educational Symposium in July, and at a podium presentation at the institutional level and/or at national conferences. Fellows are also required to complete a research manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Fellows will gain experience and knowledge in evaluating and assimilating scientific evidence and systematically analyzing practice with the intent of improving quality of care and implementing change to future practice.

Business Curriculum (Optional)

At the Reno Orthopedic Center, the fellowship combines clinical instruction and surgical training with basic business education that provides the fellow with an understanding of the constantly changing health care environment, the value of hospital/physician alignment, and the physician's role in effectively impacting healthcare delivery.

Renown Health, Saint Mary's Hospital, and the Reno Orthopedic Center support development of the fellow's leadership skills through a well-rounded rotation with hospital executives and senior administrative staff. The objective is to provide insights and knowledge about the scope of strategic, financial, regulatory, and quality issues that must be continually managed by the hospital and health system. Faculty interacts with the fellow in individual teaching sessions during which the unique aspects of each role and business function are discussed and analyzed.

Meetings & Conferences

- Annual Baltimore Limb Deformity Course
- Annual AOFAS Meeting
- Annual UCD/ROC Educational Symposium
- Quarterly Radiology Conference (Reno)
- Bimonthly Renown Limb Prevention Service (Reno)
- Monthly Journal Clubs

Living in Sacramento

The City of Sacramento is rich with diverse neighborhoods with a variety of lifestyle choices. Sacramento is quickly becoming a hot spot for urban nightlife and an arts scene that rivals other cities and has exceptional cultural, artistic, and leisure opportunities that enrich the quality of life, contributing to a vibrant metropolitan region.



Living in Reno

With a population of over 225,000, Reno is the largest city in Northern Nevada. It is located in the southern part of Washoe County, nestled on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Reno and the surrounding area provide unlimited indoor and outdoor recreational activities. We have excellent weather, Lake Tahoe is only 30 minutes away, and have the largest concentration of ski facilities in the world all within a fifty-mile radius. Biking, camping, hunting, fishing and mountain climbing are all activities Reno residents and visitors enjoy.



How to Apply

To apply for the UCD/ROC Foot and Ankle Fellowship, please visit SFMatch.org and follow the application instructions.

