Our Mission

- Develop highly skilled physicians who specialize in foot and ankle care
- Provide a sound foundation of academic and clinical education for our podiatric residents
- Promote educational excellence throughout the medical community

The Program

Swedish Foot & Ankle Surgery and Medicine Program with Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery is a three-year program in foot and ankle medicine and surgery, including extensive training in reconstruction of the rearfoot and ankle. It has been developed with special emphasis on a multidisciplinary approach to lower-extremity disorders.

The program is accredited by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education as a Podiatric Medicine & Surgery Residency with added reconstructive rearfoot/ankle surgery credential (PMSR/RRA). Two residents are selected each year.

This residency began in 1969 as the Waldo Residency Program and moved to its present location at Swedish in 1997.
The Curriculum

The Program is highly academic with a strong surgical volume. Each resident logs well over 1,000 procedures. Residents are required to lecture daily to visiting students and are encouraged to present on a local and national level. Weekly Grand Rounds, monthly Journal Club meetings and Fireside Chats are well-attended by physicians on staff. Residents attend courses, including microneurovascular surgery, AO fixation and arthroscopy (for which funding is provided by Swedish, the Waldo Medical Foundation and the International Foot & Ankle Foundation).

Many of the specialty rotations take place at highly regarded local hospitals, including Harborview Medical Center and Virginia Mason Medical Center. In the third year, residents devote much of their education to the refinement of their knowledge and skills in foot and ankle reconstruction and trauma surgery. A large part of the third year is spent with John M. Schuberth, D.P.M., at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco. Residents are involved with the Swedish Wound Healing Center, where they function as an integral part of the multi-disciplinary medical staff.

Rotations

Year I
- Foot and Ankle Surgery (20 weeks)
- Sports Medicine/Biomechanics
- Research Development and Publication
- Anesthesiology/Pain Management
- Vascular Surgery
- Family Medicine
- Microneurovascular Surgery
- Wound Management and Clinic
- Pathology/Pharmacology
- Radiology

Year II
- Foot and Ankle Surgery (30 weeks)
- Podiatric Clinic
- General Surgery and Traumatology
- Emergency Trauma Center: Level 1
- Orthopedic Traumatology
- Plastic Surgery/Wound Management
- Research Development and Publication
- Rheumatology Clinic
- Radiology

Year III
- Behavioral Science
- Sports Medicine Clinic and Surgery
- Advanced Traumatology (12 weeks)
- Podiatric Clinic
- Pediatric Orthopedic Clinic and Surgery
- Advanced Reconstructive Surgery/Research
- Infectious Disease

An Emphasis on Research

The residency holds a strong commitment to research with regard to the biomechanics of foot and ankle surgery. Each resident is required to complete one research project in their first two years and an additional project in their third year.

The renowned Northwest Podiatric Foundation Surgical Biomechanics Research Laboratory, directed by Jeffrey Christensen, D.P.M., focuses primarily on prospective studies of foot and ankle mechanics. The laboratory is located at Swedish Medical Center, and is funded by both the International Foot & Ankle Foundation and the WALDO Foundation. It has received significant acclaim over the years with the publication of numerous award-winning papers. Stryker Endoscopy has donated a full complement of arthroscopy equipment to the research lab, allowing for arthroscopic research and education in surgical technique using cadavers.

Our alumni go on to achieve board certification with the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and continue in the academic realm, as leaders in podiatric medicine, locally, nationally and internationally.

Externship Program

Podiatric medical students are invited for a one-month clinical rotation. In the operating room, they function as surgical scrub technicians with a certified technician present. This allows the student first-hand exposure to instrumentation and close observation of surgeries. Externs participate in cadaver dissections as well as numerous lectures and discussions given by the residents and core faculty. They are required to present a formal scientific lecture to the faculty in addition to the presentation of a case observed during their rotation.