Swedish Foot & Ankle Surgery and Medicine Program with Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery

A three-year program emphasizing reconstructive foot and ankle surgery and traumatology

Our mission
- Develop highly skilled surgeons who specialize in comprehensive foot and ankle care
- Foster and develop a robust foundation for academic and clinical leadership in the podiatric 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.

Due to our strong emphasis on reconstructive rearfoot and ankle surgery, our residents achieve well over the CPME required numbers to graduate.

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The curriculum
The program emphasizes a rigorous academic curriculum with unparalleled surgical volume and training. Each resident logs well over 1,400 procedures upon completion of their training. Residents lecture daily to visiting students and are required to present at state and national meetings. Weekly Grand Rounds, monthly Journal Clubs, and Chapter Reviews are well-attended by physicians on staff.

Residents attend courses, including micro-neurovascular surgery, AAFAO fixation, and arthroscopy (for which funding is provided by Swedish, the Waldo Medical Foundation and the International Foot & Ankle Foundation).

Specialty rotations take place at renown nearby hospitals, including Harborview Medical Center (Level 1 regional trauma and burn referral center for Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) and Virginia Mason Medical Center. The program maintains a unique collaboration with orthopedic surgeons specialized in foot and ankle care, vascular surgeons and other specialties.

Rotations

Year I
- Foot and Ankle Surgery
- Sports Medicine/Biomechanics
- Research Development and Publication
- Anesthesiology/Pain Management
- Vascular Surgery
- Family Medicine
- Microneurovascular Surgery
- Wound Management and Clinic
- Pathology
- Radiology
- Infectious Disease

Year II
- Foot and Ankle Surgery
- Podiatric Clinic
- Trauma Surgery/General Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Plastic Surgery/Burn Surgery
- Research Development and Publication
- Radiology
- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery and Clinic

Year III
- Foot and Ankle Surgery
- Podiatric Clinic
- Behavioral Science
- Rheumatology Clinic
- Sports Medicine Clinic and Surgery
- Research Development and Publication
- Orthopedic Surgery and Clinic

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 certification in both Forefoot and Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery with the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and continue in the academic realm, as leaders in podiatric medicine nationally and internationally.

Externship program
Podiatric medical students are invited for a one-month clinical rotation. Students will be in the operating room on a daily basis. 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.