

UK Fellowship Questionnaire

Did the Fellowship fulfil the BOFAS criteria **Yes**

A good quality F&A Fellowship should provide a balance between surgical practice in theatre and of decision-making in outpatients, with at least two clinics and at least three theatre sessions per week. There should be a regular multi-disciplinary team meeting, study leave with both protected time and a budget, a paid session for

research or audit and a clear mechanism for feedback.

Please answer all the questions.

1. Your Name **Andrew Walls**
2. Fellowship Centre **Bristol – Southmead North Bristol Trust**
3. In-charge Consultant (s) **Mr Steve Hepple, Mr Ian Winson, Mr Peter Robinson, Mr Bill Harries, Mr Andrew Riddick, Mr James Livingstone**
4. Duration. **6 months**
5. Which Year From **February 2022 To August 2022**
6. What was the annualised total number in your logbook? **362**
7. What was the % of cases that you were the lead surgeon for most of the procedure? **71%**
8. How many academic publications are you highly likely to submit from your Fellowship (be honest)? **1**
9. What were the highlights?

My six months fellowship with the Bristol Foot and Ankle Team was outstanding in every respect. All my personal goals were achieved and I would not be able to raise any deficiencies in this post. A highlight for me was the team itself with everyone being approachable and willing to teach. There was regular exposure to a core of four consultants with two others having less regular commitments. In addition, the unit has a surgical podiatrist who is hugely supportive to new staff starting and will share his experience both in the theatre and clinical settings. I have forged strong relationships with the team which will enable me to network and discuss complex cases further into my career as a consultant.

The timetable was busy with a good mix of operative and clinic time. Every week would start with a three-session elective list on the Monday which would have 5-6 good cases with a heavy arthroscopic focus. A typical week would have around 5-6 sessions of operating which would include exposure to major trauma lists. Opportunities frequently arose for me to have my own list with foot and ankle trauma which I enjoyed, assistance and help was always available if required.

In terms of operative experience, the fellowship is very heavy on arthroscopic work (Ankle/subtalar/OCD's etc) which was a skill I felt I mastered during my time in Bristol. There is also significant exposure to primary ankle arthroplasty, revision ankle arthroplasty, minimally invasive surgery

(calcaneal osteotomies and hallux valgus) lateral ligament pathology, complex hind/midfoot deformity work, forefoot reconstruction and diabetic foot pathology. The major trauma lists had a good mix of cases and this tended to be more complex foot and ankle related during my sessions with ankles and lisfrancs. As the Fellow I was encouraged and supported in becoming more confident as an independent operator and to work at consultant level.

Outpatient clinics were enjoyable and included consent clinics which I found to be a great learning opportunity to discuss indications and surgical plans. There was a strong multidisciplinary component to this fellowship

- 1) Regular radiology MDT for discussion of complex foot and ankle cases with MSK radiologist input.
- 2) Combined regional Foot and ankle complex cases (virtual platform for discussion of complex cases within the region)
- 3) Fortnightly Diabetic Foot MDT - podiatry, orthotist, endocrine and surgeon input.

The department has a strong research ethos and offers ample opportunity for high quality research and CPD. I had no difficulty in obtaining study leave or annual leave. Bristol is an excellent location for fellowship in terms of life experience and for those bringing partners and/or families. The city has much to offer in addition to Devon, Cornwall, Wales and the Cotswolds at its doorstep!

This is a desirable fellowship offering valuable training of the highest calibre, I would highly recommend.

By completing this and returning it to administrator@bofas.org.uk, you are giving your consent for us to publicise this on the BOFAS Website.