



UK Fellowship Questionnaire
Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals Fellowship
Miss Sott, Mr Hamilton, Mr Yousaf

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 these questions in the free text box below.

1. Which Year?

2020

2. What was the annualised total number in your log book? (ie if 6/12 then double)

Would be around **300 cases** (disrupted because of COVID, and not including my independent biweekly fluoroscopy injection list)

3. What was the % of cases that you were the lead surgeon for most of the procedure?

Approximately **60%** (not including those supervising trainees), can definitely be higher for fellows with established ability to operate independently

4. How many academic publications are you highly likely to submit from your Fellowship (be honest)?

Two papers submitted, contributed to 3 national studies.

5. What were the highlights?

This is an excellent fellowship, in a well-established teaching hospital, known for its friendly and high-achieving Orthopaedic Department. The Fellow is treated by everyone with great respect, and their views are highly appreciated. They are encouraged and well supported to develop independency in clinic and theatres in a safe way, and encouraged to show initiative to develop the service in all levels.

Elective operating is undertaken at the **South West London Elective Orthopaedic Centre (SWLEOC)**, a centre of excellence with state-of-the-art facilities (www.eoc.nhs.uk). Operating with three fellowship trained Consultants, who share a relatively common surgical mind-set but also have some special interests and skills, gives the Fellow the right balance between variety and repeatability. There are a lot of forefoot cases, which means that the fellow can quickly build confidence and become independent, thus being completely prepared for what is likely to be the main workload for a junior Consultant. The Fellow also has a biweekly fluoroscopy guided injection list.

There is regular exposure to **trauma**, which can be amplified depending on the fellow's willingness to use research/admin and off sessions.

The **BOA Future Leaders Programme**, which is associated with this post, is excellent and equips the Fellow with advanced leadership skills, also giving them the chance to develop a brilliant network of colleagues and, potentially, friends.

(<https://www.boa.ac.uk/learning-and-events/courses/boa-future-leaders-programme/further-information.html>)

The Fellow is an integral part of the **Threatened Limp Service MDT** (biweekly), gaining valuable experience in dealing with diabetic foot problems, which is a growing necessity for a Foot & Ankle Surgeon in most hospitals.

There is a regular monthly **Foot & Ankle MDT**, which the Fellow organises and leads, for discussion of complex cases between Consultants at ESTH and St George's Hospital, with occasional participation of other Consultants from the region. A regional meeting between the **Surrey Ankle Surgeons group** is held every three months.

Finally, the Foot & Ankle Team collects PROMs using the sophisticated Amplitude software platform since October 2018, with all data connected to the BOFAS registry, giving the Fellow a powerful tool to conduct retrospective or prospective **research** work. ESTH has a dedicated research department and SWLEOC also has a separate research team, which can support the Fellow in research projects. All Consultants encourage research and have experience in publishing, giving extremely helpful guidance and support.

The Fellow is second on call on one Saturday and one Sunday approximately every two months, along with an SpR and an SHO, which means that there is attached banding, in contrast with other fellowships. Paid clinics are also an option,

occasionally.

Overall, I had an excellent experience, and I strongly believe that this is a fellowship with multiple benefits, which will effectively prepare you for a day-one Foot and Ankle Consultant post.

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.