An Official Publication by IFAS

3rd Edition | Issue 03 | August 2025

Editor: **Dr Abhijit Bandyopadhyay** Printed & Published by: **Indian Foot and Ankle Society**

EDITORIAL

Fellowship Opportunities in Foot and Ankle Surgery: A Global Perspective

Dr Abhijit Bandyopadhyay

Hon. Secretary, IFAS



Dr Rajiv Shah

Patron, IFAS | National Chair, 5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course



h e I n d i a n O r t h o p a e d i c Association is the m o t h e r o f e v e r y subspecialty association. In the year 2021, IOA desired subspecialty associations to undertake some form of a cademic activity for general orthopods, as IOA was hardly able to allocate

space to these organisations throughout the year, as well as during IOACON. I was surprised to receive an invitation from Dr Navin Thakkar, the then-secretary of IOA, who appointed me as the National Course Director to represent the Indian Foot & Ankle Society (IFAS).

In my mind, there were many questions. Firstly, should I accept this invitation? What can I do to add value in academics for general ortho surgeons, and how can I reach out to every quadrant of the country with these meetings? I went back to my parent organisation, IFAS. Team IFAS asked me to proceed and promised full-fledged support and freedom.

As a senior orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeon, educator, and lifelong student of my craft, I have always believed that learning does not end with a degree, a title, or even decades of experience. It is this fundamental belief that led me to initiate the IOA-IFAS Foot & Ankle Courses—an endeavour born not out of convenience or tradition, but out of an urgent necessity to bridge a crucial educational gap in our orthopaedic landscape.

When I reflect on the trajectory of my foot & ankle journey, I can pinpoint moments where mentorship, hands-on experience, and focused discussions reshaped my understanding and elevated my practice. As the chairman of the Asia-Pacific Foot & Ankle

Continued in Page 2





cademic foot and ankle surgeons balance a high-level mix of tasks—from teaching and mentoring residents to balancing clinical and operating workloads, managing administrative tasks, and contributing to research. Although patient care and surgical competence are still fundamental, academic promotion frequently relies on research productivity and scholarly contributions

. Faculty members involved in fellowship programs under the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society offer fellows a unique opportunity to gain advanced clinical and surgical training. Outside the operating room, these fellowships tend to introduce fellows to medical device innovation, walking them through the steps of creating new products and learning about the path of intellectual property and patents—a valuable experience for those who will want to define the future of foot and ankle treatment. Over the past few years, orthopedic surgery has experienced more surgeons following fellowship training than ever before. Nevertheless, a concerning trend has emerged: the percentage of osteopathic surgeons entering foot and ankle fellowships has plummeted—down to only 3% in 2020 and 2021, even though they have traditionally represented 6-15% of fellows. This decrease is in contrast to overall expansion in orthopedic subspecialty training and brings questions about possible roadblocks to osteopathic surgeons. To ensure a more inclusive and representative future in orthopedic surgery, it's vital that we support and encourage greater participation of osteopathic graduates in fellowship opportunities.

Fellowship opportunities in foot and ankle surgery represent an important avenue for orthopedic surgeons looking to expand their surgical knowledge and professional opportunities. While the global burden of foot and ankle pathology continues to rise, specialized training options are limited, and there are both challenges and opportunities facing would-be subspecialists. The landscape of opportunities for fellowships in foot and ankle surgery extends across several continents, with unique programs to be found in European nations, American training institutions, and the Asia Pacific. In particular, these advanced training programs offer exposure to advanced surgical procedures, research, and mentorship by leading masters. Further, studies repeatedly show that fellowship-trained surgeons have better surgical outcomes and complication rates compared to their non-fellowship-trained counterparts.

The increasing demand for foot and ankle specialists stems from various demographic and health trends. Approximately 9 to 30% of people suffer from foot pain and foot-related conditions, which increases the need for trained subspecialty surgeons in orthopedics. However, the number of qualified foot and ankle specialists seems to be limited across multiple countries. The United States is projected to face a shortage of up to 122,000 physicians by 2032, as the demand for medical care continues to outpace



the growth of the physician workforce, according to recent data from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The estimated decline, ranging between 46,900 and 121,900 physicians, aligns with previous findings. This shortage is exacerbated by several factors. Nearly 60% of orthopedic surgeons are 55 years or older, indicating a "retirement cliff." The profession is also facing declining

recruitment, with DPM graduates dropping dramatically since the late 1990s

Traveling fellowship programs in orthopaedic surgery open doors for surgeons to experience different surgical approaches, build meaningful global connections, and collaborate across borders—all while broadening their clinical and cultural perspectives . A most recent study has reported that traveling fellowships play a vital role in shaping the academic and research trajectories of orthopedic surgeons, offering them invaluable skills, global exposure, and career-defining opportunities. The personal and professional impact of orthopedic manual physical therapy fellowship training in the U.S. has been found to improve clinical reasoning, mentorship, job satisfaction, and career advancement—particularly among newer fellowship-trained clinicians.

Foot and ankle surgery fellowships are crucial career opportunities for orthopedic surgeons who want to obtain specialized experience in this developing specialty. With the skyrocketing global growth in foot and ankle pathologies and the huge deficit of qualified experts, a challenge turns into an opportunity for future subspecialists. Thus, these fellowship programs provide outstanding value for surgeons wishing to stand out in the increasingly competitive healthcare environment. Regardless of geographic differences, all high-reputation programs have the following in common: (1) comprehensive surgical exposure, (2) research experience, and (3) mentorship by world-class experts. As a consequence, fellowship-trained surgeons invariably exhibit better surgical results than their non-fellowship-trained counterparts, highlighting the real payoff of this added education.

Application procedures involve careful attention to detail, strict deadlines, and documentation requirements. The majority of processes function through matching services with established deadlines. International applicants also have to work around visa considerations and travel arrangements, elements requiring advance planning and organization. Program models balance laboratory surgical training with academic activities. Fellows often rotate among several clinical environments, being exposed to a variety of cases and methods. Research requirements are different but typically entail publication expectations. Additionally, cadaver labs and simulation training complement clinical experience, affording complete skill development opportunities.

Continued in Page 3

IOA-IFAS Meetings: Why Do We Do These?

Council, I have consistently observed a recurring void—not only in structured training, but also in enthusiasm and recognition for foot and ankle orthopaedics, particularly in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Though foot and ankle problems account for a significant proportion of outpatient orthopaedic consultations and are intricately linked to quality of life, mobility, and pain-free function, I noticed that many young orthopaedic surgeons hesitated when it came to tackling foot and ankle cases. They lacked confidence, not because they weren't capable, but because they had never been given the focused exposure or mentorship necessary to master this subspecialty. They were often unsure about diagnosis, hesitant about surgical planning, and under-informed about the latest techniques and technological advancements. Fortunately, my thoughts were validated by IFAS, which was the powerhouse for me to go all out. Many IFAS members volunteered to help me in said mission.

That's where the idea took root: to create a structured, inclusive, and dynamic platform dedicated explicitly to day-to-day foot & ankle problems in the practice of general orthopaedic surgeons, a platform that would evolve into the IOA-IFAS Foot & Ankle Courses.

The challenge was also to keep the audience engaged about this commonly encountered but neglected subspecialty. A case-based format was devised to keep attendees engaged. I wanted to create a learning ecosystem where senior experts from IFAS could share their wisdom, where young surgeons could ask questions without hesitation, and where theory could seamlessly integrate with hands-on practice. To make the meeting more interesting, an expert mentor moderator was appointed from IFAS for every session to ensure that every question arising among attendees was addressed explicitly, thereby overcoming the



delegates' inhibition to stand up and ask questions. Sessions focused on trauma, neglected trauma, deformity correction, sports injuries, arthroscopy, and diabetic foot management were thus designed to deliver not just information, but transformation. Indeed, such a transformation could never have come to light unless many IFAS members volunteered their untiring services. To date, such a unique format has sustained the appreciation of one & all.

The last challenge was to address IFAS's desire to reach out to every corner of India through these courses. A central agenda was formulated, which was intended to run simultaneously at multiple centres across the country, with different regional leader faculties from IFAS. Over the past five years, we have had at least five centres each year. IFAS supported every course through resources and logistics. Thereby, we could cover more than 500-600 orthopods per year from every part of

I am happy that year after year, these courses have generated their brand & are awaited by one & all every year. These meetings are now more than just a course—they are a movement. And I consider it a privilege to lead this evolution on behalf of IFAS. Yes, IOA-IFAS meetings are about us—the IFAS community—and the future we are building together.

Thank you for being a part of this journey Long live IFAS

(TABLE OF YEAR-WISE COURSES)

No.	Year	Centres	Organising Chairman	Organising Secretary
1	2021	Online	-	-
		Amritsar, Punjab	Dr Rajeev Vohra	Dr Inderjit Singh
2	2022	Kolkata, West Bengal	Dr Kumar Shantanu Anand	Dr Abhijit Bandopadhyay
		Jaipur, Rajasthan	Dr Malhar Dave	Dr Jayant Sen
		Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Dr Girish Motwani	Dr Abhishek Kini
	2023	Bangalore, Karnataka	Dr S M Ajoy	Dr Rajesh Simon
		Delhi,	Dr Hitin Mathur	Dr Ankit Khurana
		Firozabad, UP,	Prof Dr Vipul Agarwal	
3		Kolkata, West Bengal	Dr Subhro Chatterjee	Dr Maharshi Nandi
		Pondicherry	Dr Venkataram	Dr Dharmarajan
		Rajkot, Gujarat	Dr Jagdish Sakhiya	Dr Ketan Thakkar
		Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Dr Jayant Sen	Dr Rahul Upadhyay
4	2024	Kolkata, West Bengal	Dr Subrata Som	Dr Soumyajit Mandal
	2025	Jamnagar, Gujarat	Dr Dipak S Parmar	Dr Apoorva V Dodia
		Kolkata, West Bengal	Dr Abhijit Bandopadhyay	Dr. Soura Sekhar Saha
		Indore, MP	Dr Alok Jain	Dr Bhupesh Mahawar
5		Agra, UP	Dr Amrit Goyal	Dr Rajat Kapoor
		Kochi, Kerala	Dr Dennis P Jose	Dr Sreeganesh Krishna
				Prabhu
		Bangalore, Karnataka	Dr K P Raju	Dr S M Ajoy
		Purnia, Bihar	Dr V C Roy	Dr Kumar Shantanu
				Anand

IFAS Office Bearers 2024-2025



Dr Sureshwar Pandey

Patrons



Dr S S Jha





Dr Rajiv Shah



Dr Kamal Dureja



Dhillon



Dr Ajoy S M



Dr Dennis P Jose



Upadhyay Fellowship Co-ordinator





Dr Inderjit Singh

Core Executive Committee







Dr Soura

Dr Rajesh Simon Dr Abdul



Gafoor P M

Sekhar Saha



Dr Vishnu Senthil Dr Siddartha Sharma

Co-Opted Members



Dr Mahendra Kudchadkar





Dr Ankit Khurana Dr Gopal Kela

Sakhiya







Dr Abhishek Jain Dr Rajeev Anand Organising Secretary IFASCON 2025, Patna



Dr Sharat





Dr Sreeganesh





Krishna Prabhu





Fellowship Opportunities in Foot and Ankle Surgery: A Global Perspective

Continued from Page 1

Economic factors are still a priority when considering fellowship opportunities. Fellowships vary widely in their compensation structures—some require tuition, whereas others provide stipends. Accommodations and transportation arrangements also require planning, particularly with global moves. The worldwide distribution of fellowship opportunities provides the opportunity for surgeons to train in a wide variety of healthcare systems and cultural settings. International experience is essential as healthcare continues to become more globalized. Ultimately, entering into a foot and ankle fellowship is an investment in one's surgical future, which could potentially reap significant professional and financial rewards based upon anticipated deficits of qualified specialists through 2025 and beyond.

Table 1 shows the list of recognized fellowship programs for foot and ankle surgery and reconstruction. Recent years have seen a rise in publication counts among sports medicine fellowship applicants, with northeastern U.S. programs more likely to select candidates with stronger research output. Sports medicine fellowships greatly promote scientific advancement and career growth. Evidence shows a mean of 3.95 publications per fellow, with an increasing trend in 2016-17, with several published in high-impact factors. Up to 2025, orthopaedic research fellowships for medical students offer on average, 11.7 publications and 11.86 presentations, in addition to clinical experience and mentorship. Central determinants of fellow satisfaction are surgical independence, case diversity, mentorship, faculty prestige, and educational exposure. Recruitment frequently depends on an excellent letter of recommendation and the reputation of the applicant's residency program. Fellowships significantly affect low-resource setting surgeons, promoting research participation, academic development, and professional contact. A recent study has reported that the arthroplasty-trained orthopedic surgeons demonstrate the lowest rates of complications, readmissions, and reoperations compared to peers from other subspecialties or without fellowship training. Fellowship experience plays a key role in shaping surgical approach and implant choices in total hip and knee arthroplasty, emphasizing the importance of diverse training for informed clinical decisions –

Table 1. ACFAS Recognized Foot and Ankle Surgery & Reconstruction Fellowships

Program Name	Location	
San Antonio Sports Medicine		
Associates Foot & Ankle		
Surgical Fellowship	San Antonio	
TXPuerto Rico Foot and		
Ankle Reconstructive Surgical		
Fellowship	San Juan, PR	
Orthopedic Center of Florida		
(OCF) Foot and Ankle		
Fellowship	Fort Myers, FL	
Illinois Bone and Joint		
Institute (IBJI) Foot and Ankle		
Fellowship	Joliet, IL	
Pediatric and Adult Foot &		
Ankle Surgical Fellowship	Atlanta, GA	
Modern Foot & Ankle/Florida		
Orthopedic Foot & Ankle		
Center Fellowship	Sarasota, FL	
NOMS Ankle & Foot Care	Youngstown,	
Centers Fellowship	ОН	
Washington Orthopaedic		
Center Fellowship	Centralia, WA	

Balance Foot and	Concord
Ankle Fellowship	Township, OH
Virginia Mason Franciscan	
Health Fellowship	Seattle, WA
Foot and Ankle Physicians	Carres Cites OII
of Ohio Fellowship WVU Medicine Wheeling	Grove City, OH
Hospital Fellowship	Wheeling, WV
Orthopaedic Institute Brielle	Wall
Orthopedics Fellowship	Township, NJ
Center for Advanced Foot	
and Ankle Surgery	
Fellowship	St. Louis, MO
Weil Foot, Ankle & Orthopedic Institute	Mount
Fellowship	Prospect, IL
Silicon Valley	Mountain
Comprehensive Fellowship	View, CA
Kentuckiana Foot & Ankle	
Specialists Fellowship	Louisville, KY
FFLC Reconstructive &	Nonlog El
Limb Salvage Fellowship Foot and Ankle Deformity	Naples, FL West Palm
Correction Fellowship	Beach, FL
Palo Alto Foundation	
Medical Group Fellowship	Santa Cruz, CA
Foot & Ankle Specialists of	
Central Ohio Fellowship	Newark, OH
Phoenix Foot and Ankle	D1
Institute Fellowship	Phoenix, AZ
Indy Foot and Ankle Reconstruction Fellowship	Carmel, IN
Pennsylvania Intensive	
Lower Extremity Fellowship	Malvern, PA
Broadlawns Foot & Ankle	
Fellowship	Des Moines, IA
Southeast Permanente Foot	Atlanta, GA
& Ankle Fellowship Rocky Mountain	Atlanta, UA
Reconstructive Fellowship	Denver, CO
Northern California	,
Fellowship	Redding, CA
Northwest Illinois Fellowship	Sycamore, IL
Orthopedic Foot and Ankle	Worthington,
Center Fellowship	OH Adlanta CA
FASTR Fellowship of Atlanta Foot & Ankle Institute	Atlanta, GA
Fellowship	Indianapolis, IN
Virginia Fellowship in	
Reconstruction, Revision	Mechanicsville,
& Limb Preservation	VA
CORE Institute Foot & Ankle	D1 ' 4.77
Fellowship Pediatric Foot & Ankle	Phoenix, AZ Cedar
Fellowship	Knolls, NJ
CHRISTUS Health	Alamogordo,
Fellowship	NM
North Jersey Reconstructive	
Fellowship	Lyndhurst, NJ
Associates in Medicine	D- 434 PT
and Surgery Fellowship St. Patershurg Innovative	Fort Myers, FL
St. Petersburg Innovative Fellowship	Largo, FL
Nebraska Foot and Ankle	Largo, 1 L
Fellowship	Hastings, NE
Westside Reconstructive	
Fellowship	Plantation, FL
University of Maryland	
Limb Preservation Fellowship	Raltimora MD
1 Chowship	Baltimore, MD

-	_
Wellspan Health Fellowship	Lancaster, PA
MidAtlantic Fellowship,	
Roanoke	Roanoke, VA

Prospective foot and ankle surgeons must consider the reputation of the program, case volume, research potential, and logistics in making this vital career choice. The programs discussed herein are among the most elite training programs globally, each providing distinct benefits to subspecialty development. While application is time-consuming, the resultant skill sets place fellows to meet increasing global needs for advanced foot and ankle care.

Foot and ankle surgery fellowships in India are limited but growing in response to the increasing demand for specialized care in orthopaedics. These fellowships aim to provide advanced surgical training, clinical exposure, and research opportunities in the management of complex foot and ankle conditions. Table 2 provides the list of available foot and ankle surgery fellowships in India, whereas Table 3 provides the list of fellowships offered by European countries and Table 4 shows the list fellowships offered in Asia-Pacific countries. The AO foundation offers courses like AO Trauma Course—Advanced Principles of Fracture Management (Davos, Switzerland) and the AO Trauma Hand NA - Fellows and Chief Resident Course: Preparing for Fellowship and Beyond (San Diego, USA).

Overview of available foot and ankle surgery fellowships in India

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr Kamal Dureja -New Delhi

Duration: 6 Months

Application & Selection: Interview at IFASCON

2025

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr Pradeep

Moonot- Mumbai **Duration:** 1 year

Application & Selection: Interview at IFASCON

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr Rajesh Simon-Kochi

Duration:1 year

Application & Selection: Interview at IFASCON

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr T V Taja-

Chennai

Duration: 6 months

Application & Selection:Interview at IFASCON

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr Rahul Upadhyay

- Jaipurl year, **Duration:** 2 years

Application & Selection: Interview at IFASCON

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr Girish Motwani-

Duration: 2 fellows - 6 months each

Application & Selection: Interview at IFASCON

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr Anuj Chawla -

Gurgaon

Duration: 6 months

Application & Selection: Interview at IFASCON

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr Vijaykumar

Digge - Bengaluru **Duration:** 6 Months

Application & Selection: Interview at IFASCON

Fellowship Type/ Institution: Dr J Parthiban -

Chennai

Duration: 6 months

Application & Selection:Interview at IFASCON 2025

Continued in Page 5



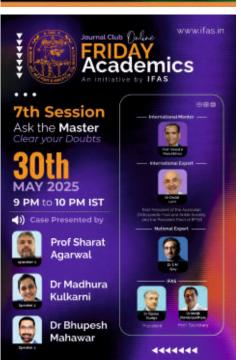














IFAS Presidents & Secretaries

1980 - 1988	President	Prof. Sureshwar Pandey
1988 - 1991	President	Prof. B. Mukhopadhaya
1991 - 1993	President	Dr. A. K. Das
1993 - 1995	President	Dr. H. S. Sandhu
1995 - 1997	President	Dr. P. T. Rao
1997 - 2000	President	Dr. P. Rangachari
2000 - 2002	President	Prof. R. L. Mittal
2002 - 2005	President	Dr. W. G. Rama Rao
	Secretary	Dr. S. S. Jha
2005 - 2007	President	Prof. K. P. Srivastava
	Secretary	Dr S. S. Jha
2007 - 2009	President	Prof. R. Bhalla
	Secretary	Dr S. S. Jha
2009 - 2011	President	Dr. S. S. Jha
	Secretary	Dr. Manish Khanna
2011 - 2013	President	Dr. A. N. Varma
	Secretary	Dr. R. A. Agrawal
2013 - 2014	President	Dr. Mandeep Dhillon
	Secretary	Dr. R. A. Agrawal
2014-2015	President	Dr. Rajiv Shah
	Secretary	Dr. Sampat D Patil
2015 - 2016	President	Dr. Balvinder Rana
	Secretary	Dr. Sampat D. Patil
2016-2017	President	Dr. S. R. Sundararajan
	Secretary	Dr. Rajesh Simon
2017 - 2018	President	Dr. Sampat D. Patil
	Secretary	Dr. Rajesh Simon
2018 - 2019	President	Dr. Nikesh Shah
	Secretary	Dr. Ajoy S. M.
2019 - 2020	President	Dr. Rajeev Vohra
	Secretary	Dr. Ajoy S. M.
2020 - 2021	President	Dr. Mahendra Kudchadkar
	Secretary	Dr. Kumar Shantanu
2021 - 2022	President	Dr. Malhar Dave
	Secretary	Dr. Kumar Shantanu
2022 - 2023	President	Dr. Rajesh Simon
	Secretary	Dr. Inderjit Singh
2023 - 2024	President	Dr. T. V. Raja
	Secretary	Dr. Inderjit Singh
2024 - 2025	President	Dr. Kamal Dureja
	Secretary	Dr. Abhijit Bandhopadhyay



Fellowship Opportunities in Foot and Ankle Surgery: A Global Perspective

Continued from Page 3

Table 2. European Countries-Based Foot and		
Ankle Training Fellowships offered by British		
Foot and Ankle Society		

Fellowship	Location
Avon Orthopaedic Centre	Bristol
Basildon Diabetic Foot Fellowship	Basildon
Cambridge University Hospitals	Cambridge
Cardiff & Vale Orthopaedic Centre	Cardiff
East Lancashire Teaching Hospitals	Lancashire
Epsom and St Helier	Epsom and St Helier
Fortius Clinic & Imperial Hospital	London
Fortius Clinic Sports F&A Fellowship (Chelsea & Westminster)	London
Freeman Hospital	Newcastle- upon-Tyne
Glasgow Royal InfirmaryGlasgow	Glasgow
Golden Jubilee Hospital	Glasgow
Guys and St Thomas's Hospital	London
Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Hampshire
Heatherwood & Wexham Park	Windsor
King's College Hospital	London
Leicester Foot & Ankle Unit	Leicester
Liverpool University Hospitals NHS	
Foundation Trust	Liverpool
Mid Cheshire	Crewe
North Tyneside	Northumbria
Nottingham University Hospital	Nottingham
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	Oxford
Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust	Portsmouth
Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Hospitals	Oswestry
Royal Bournemouth	Bournemouth
Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Trust	Exeter
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	Stanmore
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital	Birmingham
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals	Sheffield
South Manchester	Manchester
St Barts, Royal London and Newham	London
Surrey	Surrey
University Hospitals Sussex	Sussex
University Hospital Southampton	Southampton
Wrightington Hospital	Wrightington

Table 4. Foot and Ankle Training Fellowships offered by Asia-Pacific countries

Fellowship	Location
Pediatric & Adult Joint Preservation	
Surgery & Sports Medicine	0 1
Fellowship – Osaka Metropolitan	Osaka,
University & Osaka University	Japan
(ISAKOS)	(ISAKOS)
Kobe University Sports	
Medicine Fellowship Program	Kobe, Japan
Foot & Ankle Surgery	
Fellowship – National University	
HospitalSingaporeFoot & Ankle	
Surgery Clinical Fellowship –	
Tan Tock Seng Hospital	Singapore
Foot & Ankle Surgery Fellowship	
track at SingHealth (Changi	
General Hospital)	Singapore
Traveling Fellowships via Japanese	
Society for Surgery of the Foot	Japan
(JSSF) – biannual exchange with	↔ South
Korea Foot & Ankle Society	Korea
Foot & Ankle subspecialty training	
at Seoul National University	
Bundang Hospital (as part of their	Seongnam
orthopedic and research programs)	(Bundang),
	South Korea
Orthopedic subspecialty	
fellowships, including Foot &	Seoul
Ankle, at Bumin Hospital Group	& Busan,
(' ' ' C 10D)	C 41 TZ

In today's fast-changing healthcare environment, the demand for experienced foot and ankle surgeons is higher than ever, with more individuals worldwide presenting with associated conditions. Fellowship training provides more than refined surgical experience—it leads to mentorship, innovation, and worthwhile international relationships. While challenges like limited access for osteopathic and international applicants still exist, these programs remain a vital stepping stone for those aiming to make a real difference. By investing in fellowship training, we're not just building better surgeons—we're preparing compassionate, well-rounded professionals ready to meet the growing needs of patients everywhere.

(various sites in Seoul & Busan)

South Korea

References

- [1] D. J. Casciato, K. S. Cravey, and I. M. Barron, "Scholarly Productivity Among Academic Foot and Ankle Surgeons Affiliated With US Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency and Fellowship Training Programs," The Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery, vol. 60, no. 6, pp. 1222–1226, Nov. 2021, doi: 10.1053/j.jfas.2021.04.017.
- [2] D. J. Casciato, T. Page, J. Perkins, V. Vacketta, and C. Hyer, "Intellectual Property and Royalty Payments Among Foot and Ankle Surgery Fellowship Faculty," The Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery, vol. 62, no. 6, pp. 958–962, Nov. 2023, doi: 10.1053/j.jfas.2023.06.008.
- J. P. Henry, M. J. Partan, K. M. Chen, R. M.

Cohn, and A. D. Bitterman, "Foot and ankle fellowship-trained osteopathic orthopaedic surgeons: a review, analysis, and understanding of current trends," Journal of Osteopathic Medicine, vol. 125, no. 1, pp. 19–24, Dec. 2024, doi: 10.1515/jom-2024-0092.

[4] L. S. Gates et al., "Prevalence of Foot Pain Across an International Consortium of Population-Based Cohorts," Arthritis Care & Research, vol. 71, no. 5, pp. 661–670, May 2019, doi: 10.1002/acr.23829.

[5] "New Findings Confirm Predictions on Physician Shortage," 2019. [Online]. Available: https://www.aamc.org/news/press-releases/new-findings-confirm-predictions-physician-shortage

[6] P. Miller, "A Shortage of Orthopedic Surgeons is Looming," 2025.

[7] S. TE Simon MA, "Leaders are made, not born. The role of the American Orthopaedic Association leadership traveling fellowships and leadership development programs," J Bone Joint Surg Am, 2003.

[8] T. Quan, K. Yoon, M. Sabha, L. Benn, H. Hassanzadeh, and A. Mesfin, "Scholarly Success of Orthopaedic Surgeons Participating in Traveling Fellowships," JBJS Open Access, vol. 10, no. 3, Jul. 2025, doi: 10.2106/JBJS.OA.25.00064.

[9] M. R. Schumacher, J. A. Clark, A. J. King, C. J. Olson, and M. L. Steckler, "Exploring the personal and professional outcomes of pursuing fellowship training in orthopedic manual physical therapy: a mixed-methods analysis," Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy, vol. 33, no. 3, pp. 262–274, May 2025, doi: 10.1080/10669817.2024.2448203.

[10] S. F. DeFroda, K. N. Shah, O. Safdar, and M. K. Mulcahey, "Trends in research productivity of residents applying for orthopedic sports medicine fellowship," The Physician and Sportsmedicine, vol. 46, no. 1, pp. 61–65, Jan. 2018, doi: 10.1080/00913847.2018.1411170.

[11] M. Balagtas, J. Gocal, S. M. Saraf, and M. K. Mulcahey, "Orthopaedic Research Year Fellowships: Enhancing Medical Student Productivity and Hands-On Experience," JAAOS: Global Research and Reviews, vol. 9, no. 7, Jul. 2025, doi: 10.5435/JAAOSGlobal-D-25-00176.

[12] R. D'Ambrosi and R. Vaishya, "The importance of travel fellowships in orthopaedic surgery: Return to normality after COVID pandemic," Journal of Orthopaedics, vol. 32, pp. A1–A2, Jul. 2022, doi: 10.1016/j.jor.2022.04.015.

[13] A. N. Pfeil, J. H. Taylor, P. Desai, C. F. Hryc, W. R. Dunn, and A. R. Patel, "Impact of Fellowship Training Type on Complication Rates in Primary and Revision Total Knee Arthroplasty by Recently Trained Board-Eligible Orthopedic Surgeons," Cureus, Jun. 2025, doi: 10.7759/cureus.85637.

[14] S. T. Khan et al., "Practice Patterns of Adult Reconstruction Fellowship—Trained Surgeons: Current Trends and Evolution of Training From 1986 to 2022," JAAOS: Global Research and Reviews, vol. 9, no. 7, Jul. 2025, doi: 10.5435/JAAOSGlobal-D-25-00175.











GFAI 2025: A Landmark in Foot and Ankle Education – An Event Beyond Expectations and a Resounding success



Dr Ramakanth Rajagopalakrishnan

Treasurer, GFAI 2025

n k l

surgery. Heralded as an unequivocal success by all who attended, this year's medical instructional courses.

A Convergence of Minds: Scale and **Significance**

The sheer scale of GFAI 2025 was a testament to its burgeoning reputation and the critical importance of specialized foot and ankle training. The event proudly welcomed over 350 enthusiastic delegates from across the nation and beyond, transforming the venue into a vibrant hub of inquisitive minds and aspiring specialists. This impressive turnout underscored the acute demand for advanced education in this highly intricate and evolving subspecialty, reaffirming GFAI's role as a crucial platform for knowledge dissemination and skill enhancement.

The calibre of the faculty assembled for GFAI 2025 was nothing short of extraordinary. The course was immensely enriched by the invaluable contributions of

he corridors 16 distinguished national faculties (Dr of medical Rajiv Shah, Dr Abhijith, Dr knowledge Kumarshanthanu, Dr Kamal Dureja, Dr recently buzzed Girish motwani, Dr Rahul upadhya, Dr with unparalleled Ajoy SM, Dr Abdul Gaffoor, Dr Inderjith, excite-ment as the Dr Mahendran kudchadkar, Dr Shivum Ganga Foot and shah, Dr Chandan Narang, Dr TV raja, Dr e Parthiban, Dr Dharmarajan and 14 Regional Instructional (GFAI) Course 2025 drew to a Faculties -Dr Sundararajan SR, Dr magnificent close. From its meticulously Ramakanth, Dr Terrence, Dr Devendra, Dr planned agenda to its flawless execution, velmurgasen, Dr Arun kamal, Dr GFAI 2025 was not merely a conference; it Rajabhaskar, Dr Madhu periyasamy, Dr was a grand celebration of learning, Pushpa BT, Dr Santosh Sahanand, Dr collaboration, and the relentless pursuit of Chelian, Dr Major kamalanathan, Dr excellence in orthopaedic foot and ankle Dinerkar Pai, Dr vidhyasagar, luminaries in their respective domains who brought a wealth of Indian clinical experience and iteration has indelibly marked itself as a academic prowess to the fore. pivotal event, setting new benchmarks for Complementing this formidable national contingent were 2 internationally renowned faculties (Dr Sang Gyo Seo -Korea, Dr Nasef Mohamed - Egypt), whose global perspectives, innovative techniques, and research insights added an unparalleled dimension to the scientific discourse. This carefully curated blend of national and international expertise ensured a holistic, diverse, and cutting-edge educational experience for every participant. The interaction between these titans of the field and the eager delegates was a sight to behold, fostering an atmosphere of active learning and dynamic engagement.

An Unforgettable Learning Journey: **Program Highlights**

The heart of GFAI 2025's success lay in its brilliantly conceived and executed program,

Continued in Page 10

Brief on the First Advanced Arthroscopy Foot and Ankle Course by BOFAS & IFAS, Bangalore (27th-28th June 2025)

Dr Inderjit Singh

Immediate Past Secretary, IFAS Course Co-Ordinator, BOFAS-IFAS Course 2025

he inaugural Advanced Arthroscopy Foot and Ankle Course, jointly organized by the British Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (BOFAS) and the Indian Foot & Ankle Society (IFAS), was held in Bangalore on the 27th and 28th of June, 2025. This landmark event marked the first time in India that such a comprehensive, hands-on cadaveric course was conducted for foot and ankle arthroscopy.



A total of 36 enthusiastic delegates

participated, each gaining invaluable practical experience at one of the 12 dedicated arthroscopy stations—each equipped with its own cadaver specimen. This unique setup allowed for intensive, focused learning and set a new benchmark for surgical training workshops in the country.

The faculty featured - Mr. Rajesh Kakwani, Mr. Vivek Dhukaram and Mr. Maneesh Bhatia from UK and Dr Kamal Dureja, Dr Ajoy SM, Dr Sundarrajan, Dr Rajesh Simon and Dr Inderjit Singh from India. Their expertise, interactive teaching style, and commitment to education were widely appreciated by the attendees. Delegates were especially thrilled by the opportunity to practice advanced arthroscopic techniques under direct guidance, making the learning experience both enjoyable and highly effective.

The event was lauded for its meticulous organization, world-class faculty, and the unprecedented hands-on exposure it provided. It has set a new standard for arthroscopy training in India and left delegates eagerly looking forward to future editions.







To help improve muscle Strength, Endurance & Recovery in Fracture, Post-surgeries, Sarcopenia, OA & OP



Restore muscle mass to regain strength and mobility

Improve endurance and rehab compliance

Hasten post-surgical rehab outcomes and muscle recovery

Builds Strength, Endurance & Hastens Recovery

5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Indore

Dr Bhupesh Mahawar

Organising Secretary, 5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Indore







t's my indeed pleasure and honor to share the joyful news from Indore, MP, regarding 5th IOA-IFAS Pan-India CME, which was successfully conducted at Hotel Radisson Blu, Indore, on 22-06-2025, Sunday.

Organizing team-Chairman – Dr Alok Jain
Org. secretary –
Dr Bhupesh Mahawar,

Chairman – Dr Alok Jain
Org. secretary Dr Bhupesh Mahawar,
Co-Org. secretary –
Dr Vishal Yadav
Event was organized in
association with MP Chapter
IOA (MPIOA) & AOSI
(Association of orthopedic
surgeons of Indore)
The CME Academics was
greatly appreciated and

attendees. Total registration received- 90 Following talks were included for case-based discussion.

acknowledge by all the

- 1. Unusual ankle fracture Dr Hemant Mandovra
- 2. Posterior malleolus fracture– Dr P Choudhari
- 3. Lisfranc fracture Dr Bhupesh Mahawar
- 4. Syndesmotic & deltoid ligament injury Dr Vishal Yadav

- 5. Synovial fistula ankle Dr Deepak Jaju
- 6. Jones fracture Dr Anil Agrawal
- 7. Lytic lesion distal fibula Dr Abhay Manchanda
- 8. Choparts fracture fixation Dr Bhupesh Mahawar
- Equinocavovarus foot deformity correction – Dr Vishal Yadav
- 10. Illizarov in ankle fractures –
- Dr Arvind Verma Jhangid
 11. Medial malleolus with talus

fracture – Dr Sachin Chhabra

- 12. Complex ankle fracture fixation –
- Dr Ankur Maheshwari

 13. Calcaneum fracture
 fixation
 - fixation Dr Vishal Yadav
- 14. Talus Hawkins type-3 Dr Ashish Agrawal
- 15. Interesting Pillon fracture Dr P Choudhari
- 16. Acute & chronic ankle sprains -Dr Bhupesh Mahawar (Final prog. Brochure

attached in folder)
There were 3 sessions with talk time of 10 mins for each presenter followed by open

discussion of 10 mins, with take home message.

The special guest was – Dr Vivek Singh (HOD, Dept. of orthopedics-RD GARDI Medical college,

The chairperson of event were-

- 1. Dr D K Taneja
- 2. Dr S K Lunawat
- 3. Dr D K Jain
- 4. Dr Alok Verma
- 5. Dr Manish Shroff
- 6. Dr Pramod Nema

7. Dr Abhay Manchanda Saraswati Vandana, lamp lightning and official Inauguration was done by the respected dignitaries.

As a token of thanks & appreciation, souvenir memento were given to all chairperson & faculties respectively.

The event included breakfast, lunch & high tea for all the attendees.

The whole event was flawlessly completed at 4pm.

Vote of thanks was given by Dr Bhupesh Mahawar

Trade partners of event – SUN Pharma, leafiaa pharna, Matias pharma

Arthroscopy in Foot and ankle: A Dawn on the Horizon

Dr Abhishek Kini

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Foot ARC Clinic & Advanced Orthopaedics Centre, Mumbai, India



oot and ankle arthroscopy has undergone remarkable advancements in recent years, driven by technological innovations, refined surgical techniques, and a deeper understanding of foot and ankle pathologies. These develop-ments have significantly enhanced diagnostic accuracy, surgical precision, and patient outcomes. This article

delves into the latest progress in foot and ankle arthroscopy, highlighting key innovations and their clinical implications.

In the realm of foot and ankle surgery, arthroscopy has become an invaluable tool, offering benefits such as reduced postoperative pain, quicker recovery times, and minimized surgical trauma compared to traditional open procedures. Recent advancements have further expanded its applications and improved its efficacy.

Technological Innovations Nano-Visualization Systems

A significant breakthrough in foot and ankle arthroscopy is the introduction of nano-visualization systems. For instance, NYU Langone Health pioneered the use of the NanoScopeTM visualization system—a needle-sized, 1.9-mm chip-on-the-tip scope. This technology enables high-resolution imaging within the joint, facilitating accurate diagnosis and treatment of conditions such as arthritis and cartilage injuries. Notably, procedures using this system can be performed under local anesthesia, allowing patients to walk out of the office shortly after the intervention.

Preoperative Ultrasound Mapping

To enhance the safety of anterior ankle arthroscopy, preoperative ultrasound mapping has been introduced. This non-invasive technique involves mapping the vascular and neurological structures in the anterior compartment of the ankle before surgery, reducing the risk of iatrogenic damage. Studies have demonstrated that ultrasound-assisted mapping is a quick and safe procedure that aids in preventing complications during anterior arthroscopic surgery.

Minimally Invasive Surgical Techniques

The evolution of minimally invasive surgery (MIS) has significantly impacted foot and ankle arthroscopy. MIS techniques utilize smaller incisions and specialized instruments, resulting in less tissue disruption and faster recovery. Advancements in instrumentation and imaging have expanded the scope of MIS, allowing for procedures such as minimally invasive bunionectomy, percutaneous Achilles tendon repair, and endoscopic plantar fascia release. These techniques have become preferred options for addressing common foot and ankle ailments, offering patients the benefits of reduced postoperative pain and quicker return to normal activities

en more effective, offering patients less invasive options with improved recovery times and overall satisfaction. **Posterior Ankle and Hindfoot Arthroscopy**

Advancements in posterior ankle and hindfoot arthroscopy have broadened the range of treatable conditions. Indications now include loose bodies, posterior ankle impingement, flexor hallucis longus (FHL) tendinopathy, Achilles tendon problems, osteochondral lesions of the talus (OLT), subtalar conditions, and Haglund's deformity. The two-portal posterior approach, typically performed with the patient in a prone position, has become well established.

Continued in Page 8

5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Jamnagar

Dr Dipakkumar Sumanlal Parmar

Associate Professor | Orthopaedic Department G. G. G. Hospital & M. P. Shah Govt. Medical College Jamnagar, Gujarat, India

hanks, For providing us opportunity to host 5th IOA-IFAS foot and Ankle course under able guidance of Dr Rajiv Shah and his team of young and experienced foot and ankle surgeons at Hotel Vishal International, Jamnagar, Gujarat on Sunday,

22nd June 2025. Highest number of active, attentive and enthusiastic delegates- 128 had attended the course. Great topics and academically reach discussion among facilities and delegates. Very much useful and enough to ignite fire in new and young ortho-paedic surgeons for Foot and ankle pathologies. I am sharing pics of the event.

Once again, thank you. And will be ready to host such event in future.







Arthroscopy in Foot and Ankle: A Dawn on the Horizon

Continued from Page 7

This technique allows for effective debridement and access to the subtalar joint, with studies reporting significant improvements in postoperative outcomes and high fusion rates in arthrodesis procedures.

Arthroscopy of small joints

Arthroscopy is also being increasingly utilized for small joints of the foot, particularly the metatarsophalangeal (MTP) and interphalangeal (IP) joints of the toes. Common indications for these are hallux rigidus, osteochondral lesions, loose bodies and instability evaluations. These are less invasive approaches to inta articular pathologies and help faster recovery.

Tendoscopy

Tendoscopy, the endoscopic examination of tendon sheaths, has emerged as a valuable procedure in foot and ankle surgery. Initially described

for the peroneal and Achilles tendons, regeneration, and modulating continue to evolve, the scope and tendoscopic techniques have been inflammation. These biologic efficacy of minimally invasive extended to most tendons around the ankle joint. Common indications include non-insertional Achilles tendinopathy, peroneal tendon tears and tenosynovitis, and posterior tibialis tenosynovitis. Although many studies are of Level IV and V evidence, tendoscopy has proven to be a safe and reliable option, either as a standalone treatment or as an adjunct for tendinopathy problems

Integration of Biologics and Regenerative Medicine

The incorporation of biologic agents and regenerative medicine has opened new avenues in the treatment of foot and ankle disorders. Therapies such as platelet-rich plasma (PRP), mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), and growth factors have shown potential in enhancing tissue healing, promoting conditions like tendon injuries, osteoarthritis, and cartilage defects, potentially reducing the need for more invasive surgical interventions.

Future Directions

The future of foot and ankle arthroscopy is poised for further innovation. Emerging technologies such as 3D printing, virtual surgical planning, and patient-specific implants are reshaping surgical approaches, enabling personalized treatments tailored to individual anatomy and pathology. Additionally, ongoing research into intraoperative imaging techniques, including real-time MRI and advanced stereotactic radiographic methods, promises to enhance surgical precision and outcomes. As instrumentation and techniques

treatments offer promising results for procedures are expected to expand, offering patients even better results.

> To conclude, recent developments in foot and ankle arthroscopy have markedly improved the diagnosis and treatment of various conditions affecting these complex structures. Technological innovations like nanovisualization systems and preoperative ultrasound mapping, along with advancements in minimally invasive techniques and the integration of biologics, have enhanced surgical precision and patient outcomes. As research and technology continue to advance, foot and ankle arthroscopy is set to become even more effective, offering patients less invasive options with improved recovery times and overall satisfaction.

5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Agra

Dr Amrit Goyal

Organising Chairman, 5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Agra

he 5th IOA-IFAS Foot and Ankle Course, organized under the aegis of the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) and the Indian Foot & Ankle Society (IFAS), was successfully held on 22nd June 2025 at Lemon Tree Hotel, Agra. The course



focused on the CME topic: 'Foot and Ankle Pathology in Daily Practice', aligning with the IOA President's theme 'OLD is GOLD, 360° Care for Elderly' and the IFAS President's theme 'Defining Gold Standards of Foot and Ankle Care.'

After the traditional lamp lighting ceremony, the welcome address was delivered, setting the tone for an insightful and interactive academic session.

The course witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 60-70 delegates, including practicing orthopedic surgeons, postgraduates, and fellows. The scientific sessions covered practical aspects of diagnosis, surgical techniques, and management strategies for common and complex foot and ankle pathologies. Faculty experts Dr. Anuj Chawla, Dr. Rahul Upadhyay, Dr. Inderjit Singh, and Dr. Chandan Narang actively engaged delegates through detailed discussions and practical insights, making the sessions highly interactive and informative.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I extend heartfelt gratitude to all the faculty members, delegates, sponsors, and the entire support team for making this event a grand success. We look forward to organizing more such enriching academic events in the future.



HOWRAHCON 2025 & 5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Trauma Course

Dr Soura Sekhar Saha

Core EC Member, IFAS | Organiser, 5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Kolkata





21st june and 22nd june, Howrah Orthopaedic Club hosted two blockbuster conferences: the Kolkata trauma conclave: Howrahcon 2025 and 5th IOA IFAS foot ankle course. The events attracted more than 110 delegates, who heard from leaders in the fields of orthopaedics. The theme of this event was: Dilemma in orthopaedics.

The conferences was the brainchild of

the convenor Dr Abhijeet Bandopadhyay and was conducted by the Howrah Orthopaedic Club, under the aegis of West Bengal Orhtopaedic Association (WBOA). It was attended by many national and local faculty members.

On day one, Dr Amiya Bera and Dr Sanjay Kumar chaired the first session, where Dr Sunil Kulkarni, Dr Dhaval Dilip Desai, Dr Ajith Kumar and Dr Indrajit Sardar spoke on various topics on poly trauma.this was followed by a panel discussion of clinical cases by Dr John Mukhopadhyay. After a healthy discussion and addressing of queries from the delegates, the next session based on lower limb trauma commenced. This session was chaired by Dr Sunita Hazra . The esteemed speakers were : Dr Soumitra Misra, Dr Navinchandra Narsinhdas Thakkar, Dr Ajith Kumar, Dr Subrata Basu and Dr Gurinder Bedi. The panel discussion for this session was hosted by Dr Desai and involved many interesting cases.

The next two sessions further delved into lower limb trauma, with discussion on several dilemmas such as : nailing vs plating, surgical tips and tricks etc. Dr Sunil Kulkarni, Dr Rajeev Chaterjee, Dr Gurinder Bedi and Dr Rakesh Rajput.

The next few sessions addressed upper limb trauma with stalwarts like Dr Anirban Chaterjee ,Dr Ravi Bharadwaj, Dr Abhishek Nandy, Dr Abhishek Saha and Dr Anindya Dutt. Dr Nilesh Kamat and Dr Abhik

Kar spoke on shoulder injuries.

The final session of the day was focussed on hand injurynad was helmed by Dr Abhijeet Wahegaonkar, Dr Arya Roy and Dr Sutanu Hazra.

This was followed by the inauguration. The dinner programme witnessed the delegates interacting with the faculty. The faculty from all corners of our country enjoyed the hospitality as well as our local cuisine.

On day two, the 5th IOA IFAS foot and ankle course commenced. The first session was about neglected trauma. Dr Girish Motwani, Dr John Mukhopadhyay , Dr Soura Sekhar Saha and Dr Ramakant Gopalakrishnan were the speakers of this case based discussion. This was followed by the prestigious Professor Biplab Acharya Oration, which was delivered by Dr Dr Navinchandra Narsinhdas Thakkar. The Dr M.S.Ghosh Oration was delivered by the evergreen Dr Indrajit Sardar. While Dr Thakker spoke on " absolute fixation", Dr Sardar spoke on "safety and common sense".

The next session was on tendons and ligaments, where Dr Siddhartha Sharma, Dr Kushal Nag and Dr Ashwin Chowdhury were the speakers. This was followed by a case based discussion.

Finally the post lunch session focussed on the trauma around ankle. Apart from the previous speakers, Dr Koushik Nandy, spoke on tumours around ankle.

Finally, the hands on workshop was enthusiastically conducted by the faculty, which involved all the delegates. Topics like CTEV, Hanging cast, total contact cast, suprapatellar nailing and TTC nailing, were taken up.

The feedback from the faculty as well as the delegates was tremendous. This was a focussed learning extravaganza for all

IFAS at ASAMICON 2025: Global Perspectives in Foot & Ankle Reconstruction

Dr Siddharth Sharma

Core EC Member, IFAS | Faculty, NZOA-IFAS Session 2025



Dr. Hemant Sharma, an eminent deformity correction surgeon from Hull, UK, being felicitated at ASAMICON 2025.

Left to Right - Dr. Siddhartha Sharma, Dr. Shamsul Hoda, Dr. Hemant Sharma,
Prof. Sanjay Jain (Dean Research PGIMER Chandigarh and Chief Guest), Prof. R K Kanojia and Dr. Rajat Aggarwal



SAMICON 2025, the annual congress of ASAMI India, was held from 6th to 9th February 2025 at Chandigarh, in a vibrant academic setting that brought together some of the finest minds in orthopedic limb reconstruction. The event,

hosted with meticulous attention to academic quality and scientific relevance, was helmed by Dr. Rajat Aggarwal and Dr. R.K. Kanojia as Organizing Chairmen, with Dr. Siddhartha Sharma and Dr. Shamsul Hoda serving as Organizing Secretaries. The conference featured a multidisciplinary scientific program across four days, with notable engagement from national and international faculty.

One of the standout sessions of the meeting was the IFAS Foot and Ankle Session, held on Saturday, 8th February. Curated jointly by ASAMI India and the Indian Foot and Ankle Society (IFAS), the session offered a refreshing, case-based format that moved away from didactic lectures and focused instead on real-world clinical challenges. Chaired by Dr. Manish Dhawan, Dr. Satish Nesari, and Dr. Aradhana Rathod, the session drew a packed hall and maintained a crisp academic tempo throughout.

What truly elevated the session to international standards was the presence and contribution of two globally respected experts in the field of foot and ankle surgery—Dr. Hemant Sharma from the United Kingdom and Dr. Alexander Kirienko from Italy.

Dr. Hemant Sharma, a leading foot and ankle surgeon based in Hull, UK, brought a unique global perspective to the session. His talk on combined techniques in foot and ankle reconstruction addressed the increasingly relevant challenge of dealing with complex, multiplanar deformities in both post-traumatic and degenerative settings. He outlined a pragmatic surgical philosophy that combined precision with adaptability, often blending

osteotomies with fixation strategies, soft-tissue procedures, and staged reconstructions. Drawing on his extensive experience within the UK's National Health Service and private sector, Dr. Sharma's talk reflected an elegant balance of evidence-based practice and surgical intuition. His visuals were compelling, and his delivery was both humble and authoritative, leaving the audience with not only solutions, but also frameworks for thinking through complex cases.

Dr. Alexander Kirienko, one of the most prominent global voices in Ilizarov methodology for foot and ankle deformities, contributed in two key parts of the session. First, he delivered a structured lecture on evaluation, planning, and sequential correction of adult foot and ankle deformities. This was a masterclass in clinical logic—how to assess, quantify, and deconstruct deformities before attempting correction. Dr. Kirienko emphasized the importance of respecting both biomechanics and biology. His insights resonated particularly with younger orthopedic surgeons, many of whom are navigating the learning curve of external fixation.

Following this, Dr. Kirienko led a hands-on workshop that demonstrated Ilizarov frame application techniques tailored specifically for foot and ankle deformities. The workshop offered delegates an opportunity to observe his frame configuration strategies, pin placement techniques, and fine-tuning of hinge constructs in real-time. Delivered with clarity and characteristic precision, the session was a rare opportunity for Indian delegates to learn directly from one of the world's foremost authorities in circular external fixation. It was not just a demonstration—it was a synthesis of decades of clinical wisdom distilled into a highly practical teaching format.

The Indian faculty added substantial academic value to the session. Dr. Hitin Mathur presented a case-based discussion on Charcot foot and ankle, addressing a condition that remains difficult to manage due to its variable presentation and high risk of complications. Dr. Rahul Upadhyay shared a

technically focused talk on neglected calcaneus fracture dislocations, a topic relevant to many practitioners in resource-limited settings. Dr. Vikas Verma's talk on post-traumatic foot deformity correction using Ilizarov techniques offered a grounded, real-world view into frame planning and execution in complex reconstructions.

Beyond its academic content, the session stood out for its spirit of collaboration, humility, and knowledge sharing. It reinforced the importance of interdisciplinary learning and global partnerships in advancing foot and ankle surgery in India. The IFAS session at ASAMICON 2025 did more than just inform—it inspired. It brought global expertise to Indian soil and created a space where clinical science, surgical artistry, and mentorship could converge.



Dr. Alexander Kirienko, an internationally acclaimed expert in foot and ankle deformity, demonstratingcore principles of Ilizarov-based correction at ASAMICON 2025

GFAI 2025: A Landmark in Foot and Ankle Education – An Event Beyond Expectations and a Resounding Success









Continued from Page 6

designed to cater to a wide spectrum of learning preferences and professional needs. The feedback from delegates and faculty alike resonated with profound appreciation for the diverse and impactful sessions offered.

The Thrill of Live Surgeries: Learning in Real-Time

Among the most universally acclaimed features were the live surgical demonstrations. 9 Live surgeries that were demonstrated are Tri-malleolar fracture fixation, Communicated calcaneal fracture fixation, Lisfranc's fixation, TA repair, Flat-foot correction, MIS for Hallux valgus correction, TTC fusion, Distraction Sub-talar Arthrodesis and Tibialis posterior for Foot drop correction. These sessions transcended conventional teaching methods, offering delegates an unparalleled window into the operating theatre. Participants watched in awe as complex procedures were performed by master surgeons, with intricate details explained and decision-making processes elucidated in real-time. This immersive experience allowed attendees to observe advanced surgical techniques, understand nuanced anatomical considerations, and grasp the intricacies of surgical judgment in a dynamic, high-stakes environment. For many, it was akin to having a front-row seat to surgical artistry, providing practical insights that no textbook or lecture could replicate. The interactive Q&A segments during these surgeries further enhanced their educational value, allowing delegates to probe the surgeons' rationale and clarify doubts as the procedures unfolded.

Lectures: Precision, Clarity, and Crisp Information

The scientific lectures at GFAI 2025 were hailed for their excellent, crisp information. Far from being mere recitations of facts, these presentations were masterclasses in clarity, depth, and conciseness. Faculty members presented evidence-based content, distillling complex topics into easily digestible and highly actionable knowledge. The emphasis was on practical applicability, ensuring that the insights gained could be directly translated into improved patient care. Delegates particularly appreciated the way complex subjects were simplified without losing their academic rigor, a testament to the faculty's pedagogical skill and their commitment to effective knowledge transfer. Each slide, each word, seemed carefully chosen to convey maximum impact, making the learning experience both efficient and profoundly enlightening.

Engaging Panel Discussions: Fostering Dialogue and Solutions

The engaging panel discussions were another cornerstone of the course's success. These sessions transformed passive learning into active dialogue, bringing together diverse expert opinions on challenging cases, controversial techniques, and evolving treatment paradigms. The vibrant exchanges fostered a deeper understanding of complex clinical scenarios, encouraging critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving. Delegates relished the opportunity to witness seasoned experts debate, dissect, and arrive at consensus or explore divergent viewpoints on difficult subjects. These discussions not only clarified ambiguities but also provided a platform for delegates to present their own questions and gain personalized insights, truly embodying the spirit of community learning.

Hands-on Workshops: Bridging Theory and Practice

Perhaps one of the most impactful components of GFAI 2025 was its series of hands-on workshops. Recognizing that theoretical knowledge must be complemented by practical proficiency, these sessions provided delegates with invaluable opportunities to practice techniques, refine skills, and gain confidence in a supervised, supportive environment. From cadaveric dissections to simulated surgical procedures and instrument handling, the workshops offered a safe space for learning by doing. This direct application of theoretical knowledge was highly valued, as it allowed participants to consolidate their understanding and develop the tactile skills essential for mastery in foot and ankle surgery. The patient guidance from the faculty during these workshops ensured that every delegate received personalized attention and constructive feedback, making these sessions profoundly effective.

"This was truly a mega event," remarked Dr. Ananya Sharma, a delegate from Bengaluru. "The blend of live surgeries, the concise yet comprehensive lectures, and especially the hands-on sessions, made it an unparalleled learning experience. I've gained so much practical knowledge that I can immediately apply in my practice. Every aspect, from the organization to the scientific content, was top-notch."

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, a seasoned orthopaedic surgeon and first-time GFAI delegate, shared similar sentiments: "I've attended many conferences, but GFAI 2025 stands out. The quality of the

information was phenomenal, delivered in such a crisp manner. The panel discussions were incredibly stimulating, addressing real-world challenges. I am extremely happy to have participated and look forward to the next edition."

The national faculties, who are often at the forefront of shaping medical education in India, expressed immense pride in the event's execution. "To see over 350 delegates so deeply engaged and eager to learn is truly rewarding,". "The GFAI team worked tirelessly to ensure every detail was perfect, and the appreciation from delegates validates all that effort. It reinforces our belief in the importance of such focused instructional courses for advancing our specialty."

Another national faculty, highlighted the collaborative spirit:

"This event wasn't just about lectures; it was about building a community of learners and experts. The interactions, both formal and informal, were incredibly enriching. Everyone, from the youngest delegate to the most experienced faculty, left feeling empowered and inspired. It was a mega event in every sense of the word."

Behind the Scenes: A Symphony of Coordination

The seamless execution of GFAI 2025 was the result of months of meticulous planning and dedicated effort by a committed organizing committee. From the initial conceptualization of the scientific program to the logistical arrangements, every detail was carefully considered to ensure a smooth and enriching experience for all participants. The venue Ganga Hospital, technological support for live streaming and presentations, delegate registration process, and the coordination of faculty travel and accommodation were all handled with exemplary professionalism.

In conclusion, GFAI 2025 was more than just a conference; it was a vibrant testament to the power of shared knowledge and collective ambition. With its exceptional faculty, comprehensive program, and the enthusiastic participation of delegates, it was truly a mega event that will be remembered as a significant milestone in orthopaedic education. The reverberations of its success will surely be felt in operating rooms and clinics for years to come, benefiting patients and practitioners alike.

Unanimous Acclaim: Voices of Appreciation

The resonating success of GFAI 2025 was echoed in the glowing testimonials from both the participating delegates and the distinguished faculties.

3rd Odisha Foot and Ankle Course held in Bhubaneswar for the Third Consecutive Year

Dr Shakti Swaroop

Co-Opted Member, IFAS
Organising Secretary,
3rd Odisha Foot & Ankle Course





The Odisha Foot and ankle course began for the first time in 2022 and we had the privilege of having Dr Rajesh Simon, Dr S M Ajoy and Dr Kamal Dureja as national faculties with 118 delegates participating in the event. The course was fantastic and we were encouraged to do subsequent courses. The second course was done in 2024 with again more than 100 delegates with 5 national faculties Dr T V Raja, Dr Kamal Dureja, Dr Abhijit Bandopadhyay, Dr Inderjeet Singh, Dr Venkatram V. The third course was done in 2025 with 3 national faculties Dr Kamal Dureja, Dr Abhijit Bandopadhyay and Dr Sampat Dumbre Patil and we also had the opportunity of having two remote lectures from Prof Dr Raju Ahluwalia from Kings college, London. The 3rd foot and ankle course took place on 12th and 13th April 2025 at IMS and SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar and was attended by 106 delegates. Many topics were discussed starting from ankle fractures, syndesmotic injuries, talus, calcaneum fractures and malunited foot fractures. We are currently in the process of forming an Odisha foot and ankle society with the support from Odisha Orthopaedic Association and its office bearers OOA president Dr K R Mohapatra, OOA secretary Dr Satya Patro and senior mentors and IFAS members from Odisha Dr Shakti Das, Dr Sanjay Das, Dr Pabitra Sahu, Dr D Padhy, Dr Aniruddh Dash, Dr Biswajit Sahu. We are looking forward to conducting more such courses in the future with the support of IFAS, OOA to further the cause of better foot and ankle care in the state and country.

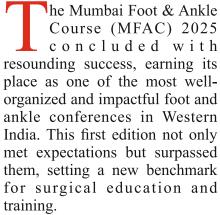
Mumbai Foot & Ankle Course (MFAC) 2025

Dr Pradeep MoonotCourse Secretary, MFAC 2025











Spanning three engaging days, MFAC 2025 brought together an exceptional lineup of national and international faculty, offering attendees a rare chance to learn from global experts. Among the distinguished international speakers were Dr. Anish Kadakia from the USA and Dr. Seung Yeol Lee from South Korea, whose invaluable insights and live demonstrations captivated the audience.

One of the most praised components of the course was the cadaveric dissection workshop, held at MGM Hospital, Navi Mumbai, and expertly coordinated by Dr. Nilesh Vishwakarma. This hands-on session provided participants with an unparalleled opportunity to hone advanced surgical techniques under expert guidance. The workshop's structured, practical approach bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application — a highlight repeatedly mentioned in post-event feedback.

MFAC 2025 also featured a well-rounded academic program, including didactic lectures, saw bone workshops, case-based discussions, and live surgeries, covering a comprehensive range of foot and ankle conditions. The interactive format encouraged open dialogue between faculty and attendees, fostering a collaborative environment where clinical tips, techniques, and personal experiences were shared freely — extending the learning beyond the lecture hall.

The conference received overwhelmingly positive reviews, with attendees praising the seamless organization, high-quality content, and engaging format. Many described MFAC 2025 as one of the best-organized foot and ankle events in Western India — a testament to the dedicated organizing team who ensured every detail was executed to perfection. From the smooth logistics to the thoughtfully curated academic sessions, the event ran without a hitch, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

MFAC 2025 has undoubtedly raised the bar for orthopedic education, emerging not just as a conference but as a transformative learning experience. Attendees left with enhanced knowledge, refined surgical skills, and renewed motivation to elevate foot and ankle care in their practice.

With such an outstanding first edition, anticipation is already building for the next chapter of MFAC — promising to return bigger, better, and even more impactful.

IFAS Foot & Ankle Trauma Workshop at NZOACON 2025

Dr Siddharth Sharma

Core EC Member, IFAS | Faculty, NZOA-IFAS Session 2025



Faculty at the NZOA-IFAS Session: Left to Right – Dr. Abhishek Jain, Dr. Bhupesh Mahawar, Dr. Harpal Selhi, Dr. Rajiv Vohra, Dr. Anuj Chawla, Dr. Hitin Mathur, Dr. Siddhartha Sharma, Dr. Inderjit Singh

he Indian Foot and Ankle Society (IFAS), in collaboration with the North Zone Orthopaedics Association and the Department of Orthopaedics, Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana, organized a high-impact Foot and Ankle Trauma Workshop on 2nd May 2025 as part of the 43rd Annual Conference of the North Zone Orthopedic Association

(NZOACON 2025). Held as a full-day preconference event, the workshop was designed to deliver practical, case-oriented learning with a strong focus on anatomy, surgical techniques, and real-world decision-making in foot and ankle trauma.

Convened by Dr. Siddhartha Sharma and Prof. Harpal Selhi, the workshop opened with a cadaveric anatomy session that set the tone for the day. Delegates were guided through surgical approaches to the ankle and the Lisfranc joint using cadaveric specimens, allowing them to develop a spatial understanding of relevant structures before engaging in technical modules. This unique hands-on start ensured that participants could correlate their anatomical insights with the surgical techniques that followed.

The scientific content was structured into four focused modules covering ankle fractures, talus fractures, calcaneal injuries, and midfoot trauma, with each module featuring short lectures, surgical tips, video demonstrations, and interactive case discussions. In the ankle trauma session, Dr. Bhupesh Mahawar, Dr. Anuj Chawla, Dr. Hitin Mathur, and Dr. Rajeev Vohra discussed syndesmotic injuries, posterior malleolar fractures, and deltoid involvement, offering practical guidance on fixation principles and intraoperative strategy. This was followed by the talus fracture segment, where Dr. Siddhartha Sharma, Dr. Hitin Mathur, and Dr. Rajeev Vohra outlined the challenges of talar neck and body fractures. The session included a live hands-on demonstration on plate fixation techniques for talus fractures, bridging theory with tactile

learning.

The calcaneus module brought together Dr. Rajeev Vohra, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, and Dr. Siddhartha Sharma to discuss the mechanism of injury, classification, and operative strategies for complex calcaneal fractures. Both extensile lateral and minimally invasive approaches were addressed, offering participants a comparative perspective on surgical

choice. This was followed by a high-yield discussion on beak fractures, which are commonly missed in clinical practice but carry significant functional implications.

In the final didactic session of the day, the focus shifted to Lisfranc and midfoot injuries. Dr. Anuj Chawla introduced the key principles of surgical access, while Dr. Abhishek Jain and Dr. Inderjeet Singh shared technical pearls on fixation of navicular fractures and complex midfoot instability. TTC nailing for advanced pathology was also covered, rounding out a comprehensive exploration of midfoot trauma.

In the afternoon, participants were treated to a live patient examination session on post-traumatic foot deformity. The faculty worked through clinical assessment, deformity classification, and reconstructive planning in real time, offering attendees a rare opportunity to observe expert-level reasoning at the bedside. This was followed by a dedicated Lisfranc injury workshop, where surgical techniques discussed earlier in the day were practiced in a simulated environment under faculty supervision.

The workshop was appreciated by delegates for its clarity, structure, and interactivity. With cadaveric anatomy, case-based lectures, hands-on skill stations, and live patient interactions all seamlessly integrated into a single day, the event stood out as a model for future orthopedic education initiatives. It reinforced the IFAS commitment to structured, high-quality training in foot and ankle surgery and left participants with not just knowledge, but lasting surgical confidence.



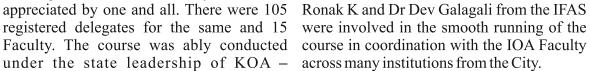
Cadaveric session at NZOA-IFAS Session: Left to Right – Dr. Anuj Chawla, Dr. Rajiv Vohra, Dr. Hitin Mathur, Dr. Siddhartha Sharma, Dr. Inderjit Singh, Dr. Bhupesh Mahawar

5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Bangalore

Dr S M Ajoy

Vice-President, IFAS | Course Director, 5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Bangalore

he Bangalore edition of the 5th IOA IFAS was successfully conducted at the BGS Medical College and Research Institute's auditorium and skill lab on the 22nd June. The program was extremely well received and had excellent discussions on each and every case scenario leading to excellent learning. The format was truly





Dr Anil B Patil (President), Dr Harish Murthy (Hon. Secretary), the local leadership of BOS - Dr Subodh Shetty (President). Dr S. M. Ajoy (President – Elect IFAS) coordinated the course with Dr K P Raju (Prof and HOD – Orthopaedics, BGS Medical College) who was the Local Organising Secretary from the BGS Institutions. Dr

across many institutions from the City.







Conference List 2025

September, 2025			
Sl. No.	Name of the Conference	Venue	Date
1.	AOFAS Annual Meeting 2025	Savannah Convention Center, Savannah, Georgia, USA	17th - 20th
October,	2025		
2.	COFAS Think Tank AOFAS Surgical Skills Course	Montreal, Quebec Rosemont, IL, USA	10th - 11th
3.	EFAS CONGRESS	Vilnius, Lithuania	10th - 11th
4.	The 10th Meeting of ASIAN Federation of Foot and Ankle Surgeons	Singapore	30th - 1st Nov
November 2025			
5.	British Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society Annual Meeting 2025	Glasgow, England	26th
Decembe	er 2025		
6.	IOACON 2025	Guwahati, India	15th - 20th

5th IOA-IFAS Foot and Ankle Course, Kochi

Dr Sreeganesh Krishna Prabhu

Co-Opted Member, IFAS | Organising Secretary, 5th IOA-IFAS Foot-Ankle Course, Kochi

he Kochi edition of the 5th as the Organizing Chairman and Dr. designed IOA-IFAS Foot and Ankle Sreeganesh K as the Organizing in a case-Course was successfully Secretary. The organizing team also b a s e d held at Sree Narayana Institute of included Dr. Jiss Joseph Panakkal discussion Medical Sciences (SNIMS) on as Co-Chairman, and Dr. Abdul format, 22nd June 2025. This program is Gafoor and Dr. Nikhil Joseph encouragi part of a nationally coordinated Martin as members of the Scientific ng interacademic initiative conducted Committee. The scientific sessions a c t i v e

across eight centers in India. Jointly were formally inaugurated by Dr. learning or ganized by the Indian Prof. India Kumari K. R., Principal and practical application. The event Orthopaedic Association (IOA) and of SNIMS, in the presence of Dr. was well attended and received the Indian Foot and Ankle Society Chandrababu, Professor and former highly positive feedback. Many (IFAS), the course was designed for President of the Kerala Orthopaedic delegates expressed their orthopedic surgeons at all levels of Association (KOA). The course appreciation for the quality and training who seek to enhance their was attended by 52 delegates. A relevance of the sessions and knowledge and surgical skills in total of 14 talks were conducted, showed keen interest in attending foot and ankle orthopedics. The based on the IFAS-provided similar academic events in the event was led by Dr. Dennis P Jose curriculum. The program was future.









Supracal 2000®

Supracal[®]

Supracal K2®







