

John A. Feagin, Jr. Sports Medicine Fellowship

The John A. Feagin, Jr. Sports Medicine Fellowship is one of only two accredited orthopaedic fellowships in the U.S. Army and to-date there has been 30 graduates. Drs. Masini and Dickens are Fellows numbered 31 and 32 will graduate from the program on 27 June 2014.

COL Steven J. Svoboda, MC became the fifth Fellowship Director on May 15, 2009.

Applicants must have graduated from an accredited Orthopaedic Residency program and be ABOS Board eligible or certified. Applicants must be citizens of the United States and willing to serve on active duty in the military. Graduates from the fellowship incur a Military Service obligation of two years. Fellows are eligible to join the AOSSM as candidate members during their training and become full members once they graduate. Graduates are also eligible to sit for the new Sports Medicine CAQ which is overseen by the ABOS.

Fellowship History

The idea of a Sports Medicine fellowship started with Dr. John Feagin, team physician and Chief of Orthopaedics in 1970, who recognized the enormous volume of soft tissue injuries in cadets, due to the physical demands of the curriculum. The idea continued to be nurtured with successive orthopaedists, Dr. Bob Protzman and Dr. Walt Curl, in the mid-to-late 70's. Clinical research was done by the Keller Orthopaedic staff, and slowly West Point began to develop a name within the U.S. Orthopaedic Community for having expertise in Sports Medicine.

Dr. Jack Ryan "took the ball" in 1985-86, and designed and implemented the "U.S. Army Joint & Soft Tissue Trauma Fellowship", after approval from Graduate Medical Education of the Army Medical Command and General Quinn Becker, the Army Surgeon General. The fellowship was initially divided into two years. The first year was the basic science year conducted at Letterman Army Institute of Research (LAIR) San Francisco, CA, and the second was the clinical year conducted at Keller Army Community Hospital (KACH), West Point, New York. The first fellow began training in 1988 and arrived at West Point in 1989. The first year program moved from LAIR in 1994 to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

From 1991-2000 COL Bob Arciero was the Fellowship Director. COL Dean C. Taylor was the Fellowship Director from 2000 to 2005, followed by COL Thomas M. DeBerardino from 2005-2009. On 8 October 2004, the fellowship program was renamed from the U.S. Army Joint and Soft Tissue Trauma Fellowship to the John A. Feagin, Jr. Sports Medicine Fellowship in honor of COL (R) John A. Feagin, Jr., MC.

In December 2006, with the approval from Graduate Medical Education of the Army Command, the John A. Feagin, Jr. Sports Medicine Fellowship implemented training of an additional fellow for a one-year clinical rotation at KACH. Beginning in July 2007, two fellows would undergo the clinical year training at KACH with the last two year-fellowship trained fellow completing the basic science year at ISR in June 2008.

The success of our relationship with the Hospital for Special Surgery, one of the top five hospitals in the country for orthopaedic surgery, also bears mentioning. Since the inception of our sports medicine fellowship, our clinical fellow has rotated on the Sports Medicine Service at HSS. This is always a highlight of the clinical year for our graduates.

The fellowship has been expanded to include a 2-month rotation at the Hospital for Special Surgery, one 2-week rotation at another sports medicine center of excellence and an annual Northeast Fellows' Sports Medicine Symposium featuring scientific presentations from Northeast Regional Sports Medicine Fellowship programs. The fellowship has been responsible for over 200 national and international presentations, 90 scientific publications and 25 chapters.

The fellowship culminates a long education process of orthopaedic surgery training and one year of intensive exposure in complex joint injuries (ligament & cartilage) at Keller Army Community Hospital (West Point, NY). Soldiers and athletes sustain numerous shoulder, knee and ankle injuries in training activity. The appropriate rehabilitation and surgical management of these injuries have implications for continued athletic participation, quality of life, and for combat readiness.

The mission of the Sports Medicine Fellowship is to develop an expert in the field devoted to improve care of soldiers, innovation in improving rehabilitative or surgical care, and commitment to research. Fellowship graduates train orthopaedic residents at various military medical centers or are assigned to one of several Army Medical Facilities with large troop concentrations.

The Fellowship is recognized as fully accredited by the American Council of Graduate Medical Education, the Residency Review Committee, and the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

Unique Educational Opportunities

The fellowship program includes several unique educational opportunities that provide diversity during the clinical year:

Elective Rotation

The Fellow is allowed to spend time with another sports surgeon and institution of his choosing for a 2-week period. Previous Fellows have spent time with Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Steadman in Vail, Dr. Fu and Dr. Harner at the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Fowler in London, Ontario, to name a few.

Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) Rotation

The Fellow spends two months rotating at HSS under the guidance of Doctors Warren, Wickiewicz, Rodeo, Hannafin, Alchek, Marx and the entire Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Service.

Fellows' Day Sports Medicine Symposium.

The Fellows help the orthopaedic staff at Keller Army Community Hospital host an Annual Fellows' Day Sports Medicine Symposium in June of each year. Many of the Northeast Regional Sports Medicine Fellowship Programs attend and the Fellows are encouraged to present their research in a formal didactic session.