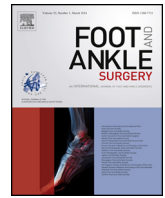




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Editorial

EFAS Fellowship Program



Talking about a Fellowship Program on a time where travelling is extremely difficult seems a little out of order but we need to keep in mind that better times will come.

Foot and Ankle Surgery is a rapidly increasing field of Orthopedics. The development has been in terms of methods, technology and commitment. This evolution made this part of knowledge and expertise extremely complex and requiring exclusive attention. So the room for general orthopedic surgeon that occasionally operates a bunion is becoming narrower. The need for devoted Foot and Ankle Surgeon is well established in several European countries but there is still a lot of ground to cover in most of the Continent.

Becoming a Foot and Ankle Surgeon it's an act of will but it's more than an act of will. It's necessary to gain oriented knowledge and specific skills. It's mandatory to have Education and Training.

EFAS must take the place of the leading institution where this Education and Training is obtained in Europe on Foot and Ankle field.

EFAS is an organization extremely devoted to Education. We are sure that the way to go is to increase the level of expertise and information of the European Surgeons that embrace the field of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

This effort must be more effective on young surgeons, because it's obvious that the future is on their hands.

Also, we need that young surgeons feel that EFAS is a place for improvement and exchange of expertise and knowledge.

We are also certain that research is the foundation for the building of clinical excellence.

On the other hand, being confronted with different experiences and realities can be enriching. Bearing this in mind, EFAS consider as central on its activity the development of a strong Fellowship Program.

EFAS has conducted for several years a program of travelling fellowships which has been a success and that we intend to expand as soon as the epidemic situation permits. We had already

designed two routes, with 5 stops each, where two fellows can interact and observe renowned surgeons with recognized Foot and Ankle expertise. This kind of experience has been enlightening for several young surgeons of different nationalities coming from diverse backgrounds, which felt this experience as a confirmation of their vocation as Foot and Ankle Surgeon.

In addition, we are starting, conditioned by the sanitary situation, a project for Research Fellowships where the Fellow will spend some months on a select Research Centre and develop a project on the Foot and Ankle field. This project will naturally generate a written study that can be published, for instance, in Foot and Ankle Surgery.

At the same time, we are selecting a group of Fellowship opportunities across the Continent and internationally with a more Clinical environment, where the Fellow can integrate a Team on a selected Centre with a renowned Tutor. On these cases EFAS can act as a sponsor and facilitator, bring together the fellows and the fellowship sites.

Also we are about to close an Exchange Program with AOFAS, where European Surgeons can have the opportunity to contact with the North American experience and vice versa.

As soon as the sanitary situation allows, all these opportunity will be available through the EFAS site.

Fellowships mean travelling. Covid 19 implies lockdown. Exchange of experiences and knowledge needs contact. Covid 19 forces distancing. Networking demand interaction. Covid 19 makes us more inventive and creative. On these strange times we are obliged to raise high and carry far the torch of Knowledge and Expertise. We have to do our bit and keep the road clear for better times. That's our Focus.

Nuno Corte Real
Head EFAS Fellowship Committee