



Atlanta Arthroplasty Fellowship

Playbook, Culture, and Expectations

Congratulations on joining the Atlanta Arthroplasty Fellowship. You have been selected from a highly competitive group of applicants to spend one year immersed in one of the highest-volume and most comprehensive adult reconstruction experiences in the world.

This fellowship is designed to transition you from a technically proficient orthopedic surgeon into an independent arthroplasty specialist capable of managing the full spectrum of primary and complex hip and knee reconstruction.

Over the course of this year, you will gain extensive exposure to:

- Primary total hip and knee arthroplasty
- Complex revision hip and knee arthroplasty
- Periprosthetic joint infection management
- Periprosthetic fracture management
- Robotic and computer-assisted surgery
- Ambulatory and ASC-based joint replacements
- Custom implants, severe deformity correction, and limb salvage

This experience is supported by a dedicated faculty, experienced APP teams, nurses, surgical technologists, and administrative staff committed to your education and development.

Faculty

- **Brandon Naylor DO** (Program Director)
- Tom Bradbury MD (Associate Director)
- Alexis Alva MD (Education Director)
- George Guild MD (Research Director)
- Charlie DeCook MD
- Robert Wood MD
- Adam Land, MD

- Jon Minter DO
- Chase Dean MD
- Sam Vojdani MD
- Brian Seng, MD

Program Coordinator: Heather Ward

Clinical locations

- *Northside Forsyth/ACJRF:* Minter, Dean, Naylor, Guild, DeCook
- *Northside Atlanta/ACJRA:* Vojdani, Bradbury
- *Northside Duluth/Gwynett/ACJRG:* Wood, Dean, Alva
- *Northside Cherokee/ACJRC:* Land, Seng

The TJS Standard

This fellowship is not a continuation of residency. You are expected to function as a junior partner in a high-performing adult reconstruction practice.

The best TJS fellows demonstrate four fundamental characteristics:

1. Ownership

Great surgeons own their patients.

You are expected to:

- Know your patients thoroughly
- Understand their history, imaging, and surgical plan
- Follow their postoperative progress closely
- Identify potential problems early and communicate them promptly

2. Preparation

Excellence in the operating room begins long before entering the operating room.

For every case, fellows are expected to:

- Review all relevant imaging
- Understand the diagnosis and indication for surgery
- Develop a complete operative plan
- Understand implant choices and available alternatives
- Anticipate technical challenges and potential complications
- Know the backup plans before incision

3. Professionalism

You represent not only yourself but also Total Joint Specialists and Northside Hospital.

Our expectations include:

- Be punctual
- Communicate proactively
- Treat every patient and every member of the healthcare team with respect
- Maintain integrity and humility
- Accept feedback and continuously improve

4. Intellectual Curiosity

The best arthroplasty surgeons continually ask “why.”

Fellows are expected to:

- Understand the literature supporting their decisions
- Participate actively in academic discussions
- Challenge dogma respectfully
- Develop habits of lifelong learning

The Rules of the Game: Non-Negotiable Expectations

Operating Room

The fellow should arrive prepared for every surgical day.

Expectations:

- Review all cases before surgery
- Know patient-specific anatomy and imaging
- Understand the surgical strategy
- Be familiar with implants, instrumentation, and technology being used
- Understand potential complications and bailout strategies

The goal of fellowship is progressive autonomy. Increased responsibility is earned through preparation, reliability, sound judgment, and technical performance.

Clinic

Clinic is not a break from surgery, it is where surgical judgment is developed.

Fellows are expected to:

- Evaluate patients independently
- Develop an assessment and treatment plan before discussing with faculty
- Learn appropriate non-operative treatment strategies
- Understand patient optimization and surgical indications

Education and Conference Expectations

Weekly X-ray Conference/Quarterly M&M

This is one of the most important educational conferences of the fellowship.

The goal is not simply to show images—it is to think like an independent arthroplasty surgeon.

For every case, the fellow should understand:

- What is the diagnosis?
- What are the treatment options?
- What does the literature support?
- What is the operative plan?
- What are the potential pitfalls?
- What is the backup plan if things do not go as expected?

The conference begins promptly at 4:00 PM on Mondays (excluding holidays). The fellow is responsible for:

- Preparing and organizing the one hour presentation
- Ensuring audiovisual and virtual platforms are ready
- Coordinating with faculty regarding case details
- Leading thoughtful discussion
- Include upcoming cases, post-ops, and relevant or new research

Quarterly *M&M*: 2nd Monday of Jan/April/July/October

- Fellow to identify 2-3 cases with “major” complications- discuss with faculty appropriate cases. Send invite/case requests at the beginning of month.
- Will also review quarterly ASC complication numbers
- Use M&M format ppt and will need sufficient time to pull applicable data

Post-conference monthly *Fireside Chat*

- First Monday following conference
- Faculty will discuss various topics in small format with fellows

Journal Club and Didactics

Fellows are expected to actively participate in all educational activities.

Events occur monthly, times TBD. For Journal club, fellows to send selected articles by first of the respective month.

The expectation is not simply to read papers, but to understand:

- The clinical question
- Study design and limitations
- Statistical validity
- How findings influence modern arthroplasty practice

Didactic Curriculum

Comprehensive 50-week curriculum schedule. Please be prepared to discuss each week. See Google drive for updated schedule.

Recommended reading (in Ortho Library - aka Dr. Naylor's shelf):

- OKU
- Master Techniques-Pagnano
- Revision Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty-Berry
- The Direct Anterior Approach-Rubin
- Total Knee Arthroplasty-Scott

Research and Academic Expectations

Academic contribution is an important component of the TJS Fellowship.

Fellows are expected to:

- Author and submit at least two scholarly works
- Participate in weekly research meetings
- Present research at regional or national meetings whenever possible

Grant funding is available for travel/lodging/education when not paid by industry. Submit receipts to Heather Stephens and Dr. Naylor for reimbursement.

Clinical Experience and Rotations

Fellows rotate among *three* clinical services in *four-month blocks*, providing exposure to multiple arthroplasty philosophies, techniques, technologies, and practice models.

This diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the TJS Fellowship and is intentionally designed to help fellows develop their own reproducible approach to patient care.

Trainees are encouraged to request coverage change if unique cases are being performed by different service/attending.

Call Coverage

- *Office Call*
 - Rotate through regional call schedule (Midlevel call pool). 2 wks per block.
 - Patient phone calls after hours/weekend
 - Weekend rounding and operative coverage
- *General Ortho Call*

- 3-4 days/month paid general ortho call (3days NSF, 1 NSC)
- Patients to follow up with doc on service

Rounding

- Work closely with floor team to manage post op patients of those on service
- Round POD#1 (weekday only) on those who fellow did majority of case

PAC Clinic

- PAC clinic coverage 2 days per block (6 total for year)
- Prepare patients for surgery, master protocols, review labs

Case Logs

- Surgical cases logged through AAHKS portal for all cases

By the End of the Fellowship, You Should Be Able To...

Technical Mastery

- Independently perform routine primary THA and TKA
- Execute complex revision strategies
- Manage infection, instability, bone loss, and periprosthetic fractures
- Utilize modern technologies including robotics and computer-assisted surgery

Clinical Judgment

- Identify appropriate surgical candidates
- Optimize patients before surgery
- Recognize and manage complications
- Understand when non-operative management is the best treatment

Professional Development

- Function as a joint arthroplasty partner
- Lead a multidisciplinary care team
- Communicate effectively with patients and colleagues
- Establish habits that will support a lifelong career in adult reconstruction

The Legacy of a TJS Atlanta Arthroplasty Fellow

The goal of this fellowship is not simply to complete a year of additional training.

Our goal is to graduate surgeons who are technically excellent, intellectually curious, humble, dependable, and prepared to lead the future of adult reconstruction.

The best TJS fellows do not wait to be told what to do. They anticipate needs, embrace responsibility, seek feedback, and make everyone around them better.

That is the TJS standard.

Looking forward to a great year!