

Orthopedics

This Week

16 of the Top Foot and Ankle Surgeons in North America

ELIZABETH HOFHEINZ, M.P.H., M.ED.

Whether treating a calcaneal fracture or exploring it in the lab, these orthopedic foot and ankle surgeons are at the forefront of efforts to keep North America mobile and active. The 16 physicians here represent standout orthopedic surgeons dedicated to improving the daily lives of their patients. Those in the know about foot and ankle surgery gave us their thoughts on these top orthopedic specialty surgeons.

Here is that list. We don't have "the market" on lists... this isn't the be-all and end-all list—but it is a list of the most impressive orthopedic foot and ankle surgeons in the country. The information in quotation marks is what the peers of these top doctors said about them.

This information was obtained via a telephone survey of thought leaders in the field. No one at OTW names anyone to the list.

In alphabetical order, here are 16 of the top orthopedic foot and ankle surgeons in North America.

★ **Judith F. Baumhauer, M.D., M.P.H.** is a professor in the department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Rochester. She is a past president of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS) and the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS). "Judy is a caring, skilled orthopaedic surgeon who is always on the leading edge of how innovations may be applied to daily care of patients. She has recently served as the primary investigator for an international multicenter study that has proven the efficacy and safety of a new hemi arthroplasty implant for treatment of metatarsal phalangeal arthritis."

★ **Christopher P. Chiodo, M.D.** is chief of the Foot and Ankle Surgery Service at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "He is a leading figure in researching foot and



Source: U.S. Navy photo by Journalist Seaman Erica Mater

ankle disorders; he pursues this work with extreme care and thoughtfulness. He is also serving our field via his position on the editorial board of Foot and Ankle International."

★ **Thomas O. Clanton, M.D.** is director for Foot and Ankle Sports Medicine at the Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colorado, and is a past president of the AOFAS. "As an expert in foot and ankle and sports medicine, Tom maintains a thoughtful and effective approach to the management of sports foot and ankle injuries. Tom's talents and clinical acumen continue to distinguish him as a respected authority and educator for treating athletes with foot and ankle injuries."

★ **J. Chris Coetzee, M.D., Mb., ChB.** is an orthopedic surgeon with Twin Cities Orthopedics in Minneapolis and clinical associate professor at the University of Minnesota Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. "He is considered one of the most talented surgeons in foot and ankle. His excellence in teaching from the podium and in the

operating room have brought him international recognition. He is a critical thinker who brings efficiency and practicality into his roles as a leader, clinician and product designer."

★ **Michael Coughlin, M.D.** is an orthopedic surgeon with the Coughlin Foot and Ankle Clinic at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise, Idaho, and a clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of California San Francisco. Dr. Coughlin is a past president of the AOFAS and the International Federation of Foot & Ankle Societies. "He is one of the acknowledged experts in the field of foot and ankle surgery. He is an adept clinician who has many years of experience supporting his wealth of knowledge, and he has been one of the principal editors of the most widely used textbooks on foot and ankle surgery. These characteristics along with his affable nature and creative abilities (having designed several widely used surgical techniques) make him one of the top foot and ankle surgeons in the country."

★ **Timothy R. Daniels, M.D.** is an associate professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto and head of orthopedic surgery at St. Michael's Hospital. He is also an associate scientist in the Keenan Research Centre of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital. "Tim is one of the best thinkers in our profession. Every time he stands up and presents a paper, one has to stop and listen. There will be pearls of wisdom that one can use every day. As such, he is one of the most respected teachers in our time."

★ **Mark E. Easley, M.D.** is an associate professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Duke University Medical Center. He serves as one of the directors of the Duke Foot and Ankle Fellowship Program. He is the current president of the AOFAS. "He is a thoughtful, skilled orthopedic surgeon, teacher and leader in the orthopedic foot and ankle community. Mark has presented at numerous local national and international meetings where he has shared his clinical skills with colleagues from all over the world."

★ **Mark A. Glazebrook, M.D., FRCS(C), M.Sc., Ph.D.** is an assistant professor of surgery in the division of orthopedics at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia; he holds a cross appointment to the School of Biomedical Engineering. "Dr. Glazebrook has proven over the past few years to be the most innovative researcher in Canada. As part of the larger Canadian Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society he and his co-workers throughout Canada created the most extensive database on ankle arthritis and the management of that in the world."

★ **Jeffrey E. Johnson, M.D.** is a professor of orthopedic surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "He is adept with complicated cases, and knows how to break complex deformities into parts and address each part so that it is simplified. He has done innovative research on fusions and deformity correction."

★ **Anish R. Kadakia, M.D.** is an associate professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "He has been the leader in research in ankle fractures. He has top notch knowledge and the highest dedication to resident education."

★ **Florian Nickisch, M.D.** is an associate professor in the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of Utah. "He has been the leader in forefoot surgeries. He is a great educator and compassionate doctor with high patient satisfaction. He always gives clear bulleted teaching points with case examples."

★ **Salene G. Parekh, M.D., M.B.A.** is an orthopedic surgeon with the North Carolina Orthopaedic Clinic and an associate professor of Surgery in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Duke University. "Salene is a very busy and talented orthopedic surgeon who has the ability to use his clinical skills and ideas towards innovations in clinical care. Salene collaborates with surgeons and other colleagues to improve orthopedic care for patients through the development of surgical procedures and devices."

★ **Phinit Phisitkul, M.D.** is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. "He is rapidly developing into an academic leader in foot and ankle surgery publishing numerous articles in well-respected high impact orthopaedic journals. In a short time, he has made substantial contributions to the science and clinical knowledge of foot and ankle care in North America. He is active in the AOFAS and has strong leadership potential at both the national and international levels."

★ **Charles L. Saltzman, M.D.** is chair of the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of Utah where he serves as the LS Peery Presidential Endowed Professor. He

is a former president of the AOFAS and the International Federation of Foot and Ankle Societies and president of the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons. "He is one of the most well rounded academic foot and ankle surgeons in leadership, science and technology. He has been an international leader in establishing methods and systems for performing outcomes research in foot and ankle. His publications have established the standard of excellence in clinical and basic science lower extremity studies. Among his many innovations are innovative methods, technologies and devices to perform joint replacement, fusions and reconstructions."

★ **Lew C. Schon, M.D.** is director of foot and ankle services at MedStar Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore. He is also founder and director of the Orthobiologic Laboratory at that facility. Dr. Schon is a past president of the AOFAS. He is an associate professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a clinical associate professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Georgetown University School of Medicine. "Lew is very innovative with regard to surgical procedures, and approaches his cases with planning and precision. He has done impressive work with biologics as well, including pioneering basic science research that will contribute to advances in our field."

★ **Bruce Sangeorzan, M.D.** is a professor of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle and director of the VA Center of Excellence in Limb Loss Prevention and Prosthetic Engineering. He is the immediate past president of the AOFAS. "He is an expert in foot and ankle, as well as trauma surgery. Bruce maintains a thoughtful and carefully structured approach to orthopaedic foot and ankle care that distinguishes him as a role model among his peers."