

Orthopedics This Week

The 23 Top Foot & Ankle Surgeons in the U.S.

By OTW Staff



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Who do other orthopedists want treating their feet? We asked! Leaders in the foot and ankle realm let us know their thoughts on the top orthopedic surgeons in their subspecialty.

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 who are arguably the finest foot and ankle physicians, teachers, investigators or administrators in the country. This information was obtained via a telephone survey of thought leaders in the field. The information in quotes is what we heard about these surgeons.

In alphabetical order, here are the top 23 foot and ankle surgeons in the U.S.

Ned Amendola, M.D. is professor and director of the University of Iowa (UI) Sports Medicine Center. Dr. Amendola was named recipient of the Kim and John Callaghan Endowed Chair in Sports Medicine by the UI in June 2009. "He is a superb team physician with a good perspective on the field. He has a very practical way of managing the injured athlete."

Robert B. Anderson, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with OrthoCarolina,

and is a past president of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AO-FAS). He is also a founding member of the Foot & Ankle Institute at OrthoCarolina. "He is the 'go to guy' for professional athletes with foot and ankle problems. And he is just a very nice guy."

Donald E. Baxter, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with Athletic Orthopedics & Knee Center in Houston, Texas. He is also a past president of AOFAS. "He has made significant contributions to foot and ankle, and in particular, he is known for innovations in understanding problems related to runners."

James W. Brodsky, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with Orthopedic Associates of Dallas, and is clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical School. He is also director of the Foot and Ankle Surgery Fellowship Training Program at Baylor University Medical Center and UT Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Brodsky is a past president of the AOFAS. "He is a specialist in total ankle replacement, bunion surgery, and diabetic foot problems; he does great work in his gait lab."

Thomas O. Clanton, M.D. is chief of the Foot and Ankle section at the Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colorado, and is a past president of the AOFAS. Dr. Clanton is an affiliated clinical professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. "He is highly experienced, and is known for his work with elite athletes."

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. Dr. Coetzee is also an associate editor for *Foot & Ankle International*. "What a bright guy and a great researcher."

Mike J. Coughlin, M.D. is in independent practice in Boise, Idaho, and is a former president of the AOFAS. He was also president of the International Federation of Foot & Ankle Surgeons from 2002-2005. "He is extremely innovative, is a co-author of two major textbooks, and helped develop the STAR ankle. He probably knows more about the forefoot than anyone else in the U.S."

Jonathan T. Deland, M.D. is an associate attending orthopedic surgeon

and chief of the Foot and Ankle Service at Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Deland is also associate professor of surgery (orthopaedics) at Weill Cornell Medical College. "He is the world expert on posterior tibial tendon dysfunction, one of most controversial topics in our specialty."

James K. DeOrio, M.D. is associate professor of orthopedics at Duke University Medical Center who was formerly chair of Mayo Clinic Orthopaedics in Florida. At present, Dr. DeOrio also holds appointments at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, and Uniformed Service University of the Health Sciences. "He is a real talent, and is very experienced with total ankle replacement."

Rick D. Ferkel, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with the Southern California Orthopedic Institute, and is director of the Sports Medicine Fellowship Program at the same facility. Dr. Ferkel is also a clinical instructor of orthopedic surgery at the University of California Los Angeles. "He is an acknowledged expert in arthroscopic ankle techniques who has tremendous experience."

John S. Gould, M.D. is professor and section head of foot and ankle at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He is the lead author of 'Operative Foot Surgery,' and is a past president of the AOFAS. "He is a superb clinician who has written an impressive book on foot and ankle surgery. His technique is very subtle and his understanding of pathology is so thorough that he picks up things you don't think about."

Steven L. Haddad, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with the Illinois Bone & Joint Institute in Chicago. He is also Associate Professor of Clinical Ortho-

paedic Surgery at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. In addition, Dr. Haddad is section head of Foot and Ankle Surgery at NorthShore University Health Systems. "He is very innovative, especially with the ankle arthroscopy. He is creative and has the best PowerPoint presentations of anyone in the country."

William G. Hamilton, M.D. is clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, senior attending Orthopedic Surgeon at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, and assistant attending surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Hamilton is a past president of the AOFAS and is the official orthopedic surgeon of The New York City Ballet. "He is **THE** guru of the management of orthopedic problems in dancers."

Sigvard T. Hansen, Jr., M.D. is Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is also director of the Sigvard T. Hansen Foot & Ankle Institute, and was a founding member of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association. "He is IT as far as traumatology. And there is no type of case that he turns away."

Jeffrey E. Johnson, M.D. is professor of orthopedic surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is also chief of the Foot and Ankle Service and director of the Foot and Ankle Fellowship program at that institution. "He is a very clear thinking, top notch clinician who is also a highly sought after speaker. He is an expert on the management of diabetic ankle fractures and flatfoot deformities."

Thomas H. Lee, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with the Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Center in Westerville, Ohio. Ad-

ditionally, Dr. Lee was a design surgeon on the INBONE II Total Ankle System. “He is a very creative, dynamic, high volume surgeon.”

Roger A. Mann, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with Oakland Bone & Joint Specialists, and is a past president of the AOFAS. He is co-author of the most widely used orthopedic textbook on foot and ankle surgery, entitled, ‘Surgery of the Foot and Ankle.’ Dr. Mann was lead investigator on the FDA study evaluating the STAR ankle. “He is a leader in the field who has made an enormous contribution in bringing foot and ankle to the consciousness of orthopedic surgeons.”

Mark S. Myerson, M.D. is director of the Institute for Foot and Ankle Reconstruction at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Myerson is a past president of the AOFAS. “He is a prolific researcher and clinician and is a founder of a website that helps surgeons advance their clinical knowledge—FOOTinnovate.com.”

John S. Reach, Jr., M.Sc., M.D. is assistant professor of Yale Orthopaedics and is director of the Yale Foot and An-

kle Service. He has pioneered and advocated for the use of handheld ultrasound visualization to detect and treat musculoskeletal conditions—both in the consultation room and in the operating room. “He does any and all types of foot and ankle surgery, including trauma, forefoot and hindfoot surgery. The fact that he does trauma is impressive because most surgeons who have been in practice for years leave trauma to the younger guys.”

Mark A. Reiley, M.D. is the chief medical officer, inventor and founder of SI-BONE, Inc. He is also the creator of the INBONE Total Ankle System. Dr. Reiley developed and patented kyphoplasty; he is the co-founder of Kyphon. Before retiring from practice in 2009, Dr. Reiley practiced at Berkeley Orthopedics Surgical group. A founder of the group, Dr. Reiley practiced there for over 20 years. “He is a flexible thinker who has really changed how orthopedists practice worldwide.”

Charles L. Saltzman, M.D. is professor and chair of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He also holds an adjunct professorship in the Department of Bioengineer-

ing. Dr. Saltzman is a past president of the AOFAS. “He has been critical of the science in our field, and has been extremely involved with the NIH [National Institutes of Health] to bring the highest level of academics to foot and ankle.”

Lew C. Schon, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with Greater Chesapeake Orthopaedic Associates, LLC at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore. He holds academic appointments at Georgetown University Medical Center and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. “He is a bright thinker, a good surgeon, and the most forward-thinking clinical researcher we have. He is experienced with orthobiologics trials, and has done a lot of work on nerves in the foot and ankle.”

David B. Thordarson, M.D. is professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Southern California; he is also vice chair for education and residency program director. In addition, Dr. Thordarson serves as editor-in-chief of *Foot & Ankle International*. “He has good hands, is smart, and is very facile in the OR. He also possesses a wide depth of knowledge.” ♦