Orthopaedic Pediatric Fellowship

Academic Year 2023–2024

ortho.duke.edu
med.unc.edu/ortho
The Orthopaedic Departments at Duke and UNC make up the busiest orthopaedic practices in the Raleigh/Durham area seeing combined outpatients of over 140,000 annually. Duke and UNC rank #1 and #2 within the Raleigh-Durham region by U.S. News & World Report. They have 115 orthopaedic faculty members, 66 residents, and 19 fellows. Additionally, both pediatric orthopaedic programs were ranked in the ‘Top 25’ by U.S. News & World Report this year.

Twelve core pediatric orthopaedic attendings are involved in the fellowship:

**Duke:** Robert Lark, MD (Program Director); Benjamin Alman, MD; Robert Fitch, MD; Anthony Catanzano, MD; Kendall Bradley, MD; Amy Behman, MD, and Melissa Allen, MD

**UNC:** Joseph Stone, MD (UNC Site Director); James Sanders, MD; Anna Vergun, MD; Stuart Mitchell, MD; and Samantha Tayne, MD.

Together, they perform roughly 2,000 procedures yearly and cover all aspects of pediatric orthopaedics, including spine, hip, sports, trauma, complex limb deformity, and tumor. Core faculty at both institutions have published nearly 400 articles or book chapters, been invited to lecture worldwide, and received numerous awards for their work. Fellows complete six-month rotations at Duke University Hospital in Durham and UNC Medical Center in Chapel Hill. They rotate with the entire faculty in the clinics and the operating room. A typical week will consist of two days in the clinic and two to three days in the operating room. Each month, fellows participate in joint conferences between institutions and, respectively, at their rotating institutions.

Time and resources are provided to support fellows’ research work and attend regional and national educational events. Fellows receive graded independent experience, including the ability to supervise resident trainees. There is an abundant caseload for fellows to receive training to be proficient in all aspects of pediatric orthopaedics, including spine, hip, sports, trauma, and complex limb deformity. A state-of-the-art skills lab and soft tissue lab are available for the fellows’ educational needs.
Robert (Rob) Lark attended medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill prior to completing his orthopaedic residency at Duke University. He then went on to complete his pediatric orthopaedic fellowship at Rady Children’s Hospital, California before returning to Duke to join the faculty in 2010. Dr. Lark has clinical and research interests in early-onset spine deformity, non-fusion spine procedures, pediatric trauma, and growth. Dr. Lark is an active member of POSNA and the SRS, serving on committees for both organizations. Working with Dr. Lark you will be exposed to virtually all aspects of pediatric orthopaedics including trauma, growing spine techniques, and advanced hip reconstruction.

Ben Alman went to medical school at Jefferson Medical College before completing his residency in orthopaedics at Tufts University, and a pediatric orthopaedic fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Prior to his arrival at Duke, Ben was the head of Orthopaedics at the Hospital for Sick Children and Chair of Orthopaedics at the University of Toronto. He now serves as the Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Duke and is one of only a handful of orthopaedic surgeons who is a fellow of the Association of American Physicians. Ben has a broad pediatric orthopaedic practice but with a focus on children with unusual or complex orthopaedic conditions, syndromes, tumors, and tumor-like conditions, and neuromuscular problems. He received the Tator Mentoring Award from the University of Toronto, the Association for Surgical Education Excellence in Innovation Award, the Huene award for outstanding contributions to pediatric orthopedics, and the outstanding clinical paper at a recent POSNA meeting. While training with Dr. Alman, you will learn a practical approach to syndromes we see in orthopaedics, how to treat patients with deformity due to tumors or tumor-like conditions, and an efficient approach to common pediatric orthopaedic conditions.

Robert Fitch completed medical school and residency training at Duke University. Following fellowship at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, he joined the Orthopaedic faculty at Duke in 1983. In addition to his broad experience in general orthopaedics and trauma, he attends a multidisciplinary cerebral palsy clinic and is the medical director of the myelodysplasia clinic. He has specific expertise and interest in limb deformity management and has a busy spinal deformity practice. While working with Dr. Fitch, the clinical exposure will be broad and deep; there will be an emphasis on honing surgical skills and refining physical diagnosis capabilities.

Amy Behman completed a combined medical degree between the University of St. Andrews and the University of Manchester in the UK. Following this, she returned to Toronto to complete her Orthopaedic Surgery residency. During her Residency, Dr. Behman participated in the Surgeon Scientist Program and completed a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology and Healthcare Research. She truly enjoyed her time on pediatric rotations and decided to pursue a fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. She also completed a second fellowship in hip preservation surgery in Switzerland. She focuses on Pediatric Orthopaedics and Hip Preservation Surgery in the young adult.
Kendall Bradley was born and raised in Durham, graduated from Duke with Distinction and was captain of the Duke women’s soccer team. She continued her education at Duke Medical School and matched at Duke University for residency. She recently completed her fellowship in Sports Medicine and Shoulder Surgery at the University of California–San Francisco. Dr. Bradley is a sports medicine surgeon, specializing in injuries of the knee, shoulder, and elbow. Dr. Bradley focuses on return to play parameters for pediatric and adolescent athletes, development of arthritis following ACL reconstruction, and patellar instability.

Anthony Catanzano attended medical school at New York University prior to completing his orthopaedic residency at Duke University. After residency, he completed a pediatric Orthopaedics and Scoliosis fellowship in Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego, TX. His passion for pediatric orthopaedics developed from a desire to help children overcome these obstacles and allow them to return to what they enjoy doing most and experience a carefree childhood.

Melissa Allen earned a dual MD and MS in Clinical Research from the Medical University of South Carolina. She completed her residency at the Mayo Clinic and a pediatric orthopedic fellowship at Texas Children’s Hospital and Shriner’s Hospital Houston. Before she arrived at Duke, she practiced at the Children’s Hospital of Georgia. Dr. Allen’s primary clinical and research interests include limb deformity, hip dysplasia, and post-SCFE impingement. She serves on committees for both POSNA and AAOS and is on the Editorial Board for CORR. Dr. Allen has a passion for education and utilizes the science of adult learning to help trainees maximize knowledge construction and skill development.
University of North Carolina
Core Faculty

**Joseph Stone**’s clinical focus includes spinal deformity, including early-onset scoliosis with a special interest in non-fusion procedures, in addition to advanced hip preservation techniques for select hip pathology. He joined UNC Faculty in 2017 having practiced at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta prior. He attended medical school at the Medical College of Georgia followed by his orthopaedic residency at the University of Kentucky. He then went on to complete his orthopaedic pediatric fellowship at Children’s Colorado. He is a member of Children’s Spine Study Group, POSNA, and AAOS; and loves honing his skills with sharp residents and fellows.

**James Sanders** graduated with his MD from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and fellowship at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Prior to his arrival at UNC, he was Chief of Staff at Shriners Hospital for Children then Chief of Pediatric Orthopaedics at the University of Rochester. Currently the Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of North Carolina, Dr. Sanders has a pediatric orthopaedic practice with a focus on scoliosis. He has received a number of awards for his work on predicting human spine growth to maturity. His research interests are in spinal growth, skeletal maturity, and improving care through quality improvement techniques.

**Samantha Tayne** attended medical school at Tufts University before returning home to Chicago to complete residency at University of Illinois at Chicago. She continued her training with a fellowship in pediatrics orthopaedics at Phoenix Children’s Hospital and a second fellowship in sports medicine at Duke University. Dr. Tayne’s clinical interests include pediatric and adolescent sports related injuries, hip preservation, and fracture care.
Anna Vergun’s clinical focus is on hip dysplasia, clubfoot, limb deficiency, pediatric amputees, and lower limb deformity. She completed her orthopaedic residency at the University of California Los Angeles and her fellowship in Pediatric Orthopaedics at Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. She also has an interest in international issues regarding pediatric orthopaedics and access to care and serves on the medical advisory board for MiracleFeet and The Palestine Children’s Relief Fund. She is the current president of the Association of Children’s Prosthetics and Orthotics Clinics and is an active member of the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Stuart Mitchell attended medical school at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he stayed to complete his residency as well. Following residency, he completed his fellowship in clinical Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He is actively involved in research in spinal deformity and trauma with a special focus on patient-reported outcome measures. His clinical areas of interest include spinal deformity and trauma.
Welcome to Durham and Chapel Hill, the cities of outrageous ambition. Only 10 miles apart, these two cities have a little something for everyone. From the temperate climate and modern take on Southern cuisine to the entrepreneurial culture and low cost of living, Durham and Chapel Hill are vibrant cities in the heart of North Carolina. In 2019, Durham-Chapel Hill Metro Area had a population of 644,367; and Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill had a population of 2,079,687 — and they’re still growing! You’ll find your pick of sports, history, food, and the arts — all right here.

Learn more about what Durham and Chapel Hill have to offer at DurhamNC, DukeDurham, and VisitChapelHill.
DURHAM

With more than 8,500 new jobs paying a living wage, $1.3 billion of investments, and 6.6 million square feet of commercial space (all in 2018), Durham is a city on the rise. The area is home to a wide range of innovative and established companies, such as Google, Microsoft, Fidelity, Red Hat, SAS, Epic Games, Burt’s Bees, and many more internationally known employers. Durham is part of what is called the Research Triangle. Raleigh-Durham International (RDU) airport is less than 25 minutes from Duke and averages 126 daily departures to 41 destinations, including non-stops to Chicago, New York, Atlanta, London, Paris.

Durham, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh, known as the Triangle, are a nucleus for many startups and a vibrant hub for innovation and technology. Groups like InnovateCarolina, the Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED), and events like Triangle Entrepreneurship Week and the Duke Start-Up Challenge, provide resources and opportunities.
Chapel Hill and the campus of the University of North Carolina have distinctive beauty and charm. In addition to the extensive UNC undergraduate, graduate, and medical campus, some of the attractive features of life in Chapel Hill include shopping in many specialty shops and bookstores, dining in a variety of excellent restaurants, and a strong public school system. The area also offers places of worship for all faiths, excellent public and university libraries, public television and radio stations, and live entertainment in local clubs and night spots. And few can escape the excitement of NCAA sports with UNC Athletics.

The mild climate with four distinct seasons and many sunny days provides numerous recreational choices. Joggers and bikers are ever-present on the streets, greenways, and trails. Tennis, handball, squash, and racquetball courts are in excellent supply. Indoor and outdoor pools provide plenty of water for lap swimmers. For serious athletes, there are road races and even mini-triathlons in the local area. The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department has organized team sports in softball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball. Fishing and boating are popular pastimes on University Lake and on the much larger Jordan Lake just eight miles from Chapel Hill.
BY THE NUMBERS

TOP 15 UP & COMING NEIGHBORHOODS
Businessweek

10 BEST US CITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURS
Durham • Citi10.com

#16 BEST PLACES FOR BUSINESS AND CAREERS
Forbes

BEST FOODIEST SMALL TOWN
Bon Appetit

ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO RECOVER FROM THE PANDEMIC
Moody's Analytics

#5 BEST PLACE FOR NEW COLLEGE GRADS
The Atlantic

TOP 10 PLACES TO LIVE IN THE US
U.S. News & World Report

AMERICA'S 5TH GEEKIEST CITY
Forbes

BEST CITY FOR BASKETBALL FANS
WalletHub
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