

# Hand surgery fellowship University Hospitals Leuven

## Goal

To improve and broaden the knowledge and skills of a trained orthopedic or plastic surgeon in hand and elbow surgery. This includes all elements of clinical care: surgical and non-surgical management, follow-up care and rehabilitation, as well as research, teaching and organizational aspects. The fellowship is an excellent opportunity to gain the clinical experience required to take part in the European Board of Hand Surgery Diploma examination.

## Job content

Our service treats patients with a wide diversity of hand, wrist and elbow conditions. These include minor and major traumatic injuries, arthritic and rheumatic diseases, infections, skin, nerve and tendon conditions, congenital deformities and tetraplegia. Our treatment is based on the most recent scientific evidence and insights and includes arthroscopic and microsurgical techniques, as well as open procedures.

Pediatric conditions are an important part of our daily practice, including traumatic lesions, congenital conditions, cerebral palsy and brachial plexus injuries.

There is a cooperation with several other departments such as pediatrics, rheumatology, rehabilitation medicine, the Center for Human Genetics, as well as other colleagues within the orthopedic department.

Depending on the candidate's preferences and interests, an emphasis can be put on certain aspects or conditions in the organization of the fellowship.

Participation of the fellow in the hand trauma on-call is mandatory, with an Orthopaedics resident present in the hospital and a senior staff member as a back-up. The fellow is not expected to participate in any other orthopedic or trauma on-calls.

## Organization

This is a full-time clinical position. The fellow is considered a junior staff member, fitting in between residents and senior staff members, and participates in all aspects of the clinical care. Most outpatient clinics and operating programs are performed under supervision of a senior staff member, but the fellow has his/her own scheduled outpatient clinic and operation room on a regular basis. A senior staff member is always available for advice and/or assistance if needed during these moments, but this gives the fellow the opportunity to gain experience in the organization and planning of surgical programs.

The fellow will be allowed to attend all cadaver workshops concerning hand, wrist and elbow organized by the Orthopedic Institute for Research and Training (IORT) throughout the year. Furthermore, individual moments for gaining anatomical insight or learning specific techniques can be arranged with the IORT. Microsurgery training is available in cooperation with the Center for Surgical Techniques. Time for these individual trainings is made available depending on the clinical organization.

For research purposes, the fellow can also make use of other services of the IORT, both for clinical studies and biomechanical research. For basic research, a cooperation with the laboratory of Skeletal Biology and Engineering is possible. As an employee of the University Hospitals Leuven, on line access to a wide range of medical journals is available through the

medical library. The hand surgery fellow needs to take on at least one research project during the year, this can be done in cooperation with residents and/or interns and with the support of the IORT.

During teaching activities concerning hand and elbow surgery, an active participation of the fellow is expected. These include Journal clubs, teachings, clinical case discussions and Morbidity & Mortality meetings, as well as cadaver workshops.

This is a salaried position; the fellow receives a monthly salary, in accordance to the appropriate pay scale of the hospital. Paychecks are received on the last working day of the month. Additionally, financial compensation for on-calls is provided, which is a variable amount depending on the amount of operation time during on-call hours. There are four weeks of vacation and two weeks available for scientific purposes.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- The fellowship is a full-time position for a whole year, starting on the first of August 2019. Individual arrangements for shorter periods or part-time attendance can be discussed, but preference is given to a one year commitment.
- The fellow must have completed a residency in plastic or orthopedic surgery by the start of the fellowship.
- A certified training in microsurgery has to be completed before the start of the fellowship, to be able to participate in the on-calls.
- An active knowledge of the Dutch language is mandatory for the clinical work. since all the patient's files are in Dutch. An understanding of French is an advantage, but not mandatory.
- The fellow has to be permitted to practice medicine in Belgium. Candidates from outside Belgium need to have a homologation of their medical degree and license.

### **Application procedure**

This involves several different documents:

#### ***Personal statement***

A letter explaining why you wish to pursue a Hand Surgery Fellowship training in Leuven. Indicate your current level of training, including microsurgical and arthroscopic experience. Also mention the fellowship year you are applying for and indicate whether you're applying for a fulltime or part-time appointment.

#### ***Curriculum vitae***

Including pre-medical, medical and post-medical school training, research publications, certificates, awards, scholarships and a recent ID photograph

#### ***Reference letters***

Three letters of reference. One letter must be from the most recent training director or chief of the division (residency or fellowship). Preferably, at least one of these letters is written by a hand surgeon and member of FESSH and/or EWAS. The people writing these letters can be contacted for verification.