



Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai

Career Planning Services Newsletter

April 2017

Spotlight on: Orthopaedic Surgery

Overview

From [AAMC Careers in Medicine](#) >choose your specialty> **Orthopaedic Surgery**

Orthopaedic surgeons are trained in the preservation, investigation, and restoration of the form and function of the extremities, spine, and associated structures by medical, surgical, and physical means. An orthopaedic surgeon is involved with the care of patients whose musculoskeletal problems include congenital deformities, trauma, infections, tumors, metabolic disturbances of the musculoskeletal system, deformities, injuries, and degenerative diseases of the spine, hands, feet, knee, hip, shoulder, and elbow. The orthopaedic surgeon manages special problems, diagnoses the injury or disorder, and establishes the treatment plan using surgery, medication, exercise, and/or physical therapy. They are also concerned with primary and secondary muscular problems and the effects of central or peripheral nervous system lesions of the musculoskeletal system. Orthopaedic surgeons treat patients of all ages, mostly on a short-term basis. Since many of their patients have been involved in accidents, orthopaedic surgeons also assess disability in legal actions. The field has undergone notable improvements in techniques and equipment, such as microsurgery and joint replacements. Their practice may be broad or limited to an area of special interest, such as hand surgery or sports medicine.



Why I Chose Orthopaedic Surgery

By David A Forsh, MD , Assistant Professor Chief of Orthopaedic Trauma

I was exposed to Orthopaedic Surgery early in life growing up playing sports. Intrigued by the musculoskeletal system, as well as the form and function of the human body, I entered medical school with the goal of becoming an Orthopaedic Surgeon. As my exposure and studies within the field expanded throughout medical school and residency, I was drawn particularly to the subspecialty of Orthopaedic Trauma. It's very humbling and gratifying to be able to help reconstruct patients who have sustained significant injuries or a major polytrauma and allow them to return to function. It keeps me on my toes as each day is mercurial and I have to be punctilious with each patient; prepared to operate all over the body, save a few places, at anytime. I also enjoy the pedagogy of working with and teaching the bright and talented young residents we have here at Mount Sinai! I wanted to choose a specialty which afforded me the opportunity to have a direct and immediate impact on my patients and their families' lives, as well as be a steward in advancing the field. Orthopaedic Surgery has been that and more for me.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Information about Surgery from AAMC Careers in Medicine

Subspecialties

- Adult Reconstructive Orthopaedics, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Foot & Ankle Orthopaedics, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Hand Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Musculoskeletal Oncology, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Orthopaedic Sports Medicine, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery of the Spine, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Orthopaedic Trauma, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatric Orthopaedics, Orthopaedic Surgery

Length of training

5 Years

Median Salary

\$ 576,677

Patient Profile

5 most frequently encountered conditions

1. Arthritis (any joint)
2. Fractures
3. Sprains/strains
4. Back pain
5. Carpal tunnel syndrome

Setting

55% of physicians in this specialty practice in an urban setting at:

- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching

6% of physicians in this specialty practice in a rural setting at:

- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching

Average Hours Worked Per Week

57



Want more information about Orthopaedic Surgery?

Specialty advisor: Alexis Colvin, MD

System Chair: Leesa Galatz, MD

Check out the Specialty Information page on the CPS App!

<http://cps.careteamapp.com/home>

Societies, Boards, and Other Organizations

[American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons](#)

[American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons - Diversity in Orthopaedics](#)

[American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons](#)

[American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery](#)

[American Orthopaedic Association](#)

[Clinical Orthopaedic Society](#)

[Knee Society](#)

[Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society](#)

[Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation](#)

[Orthopaedic Research Society](#)

Publications

[Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons](#)

[Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery](#)

[Journal of Knee Surgery](#)

[Archives of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery](#)

[Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research](#)

Office of Student Affairs

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<http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical/student-affairs>