

THE EXCELSIOR

The News Magazine of The New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons

March 2003



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Paula Moynahan, MD

Presidential Message

The executive committee of the NYRSPS held its first meeting of 2003 on February 13th. A variety of important subjects were discussed.

The website of the society was introduced in 2002. As a result of this presence on the internet, our ability to publicize meetings and to reach our colleagues was facilitated. Attendance at meetings and membership in the society thereby dramatically increased during the past year. The website will be expanded and improved in 2003 which we expect will further improve community visibility and increase public awareness.

Members are encouraged to use the society's web address to e-mail topics of interest to our membership. Anyone interested in doing this should contact the chair of the website committee by e-mail and follow the procedure in place.

Medical malpractice litigation remains an issue of paramount importance. The executive committee has instituted a program enabling us to track expert testimony elicited in these cases. The ASPS has recently formed a task force to study expert witness in light of the standard for scientific evidence as established in the landmark case of Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals. The purpose of the task force is to examine expert testimony given by board certified plastic surgeons who are members of the ASPS. If the testimony amounts to "junk science" and in a material way depart from fundamental scientific norms upon which there is a consensus throughout the medical/scientific community, the ASPS will take the appropriate steps to hold the offender accountable. Public censure of two members of the society has already occurred.

Every doctor should know that Daubert is possibly the most important case to involve scientific evidence in seventy years. Suffice to say that courts will go a long way in admitting expert testimony deduced from well-recognized scientific principles or discovery.

However, according to Daubert, the principle must be sufficiently established to have gained general acceptance in the particular field in which it belongs.

The ethics committee of the NYRSPS will scrutinize sworn testimony by board certified surgeons in New York (city or state) to insure its members that testifying plastic surgeons offer opinions consistent with generally accepted scientific principles.

If a member of ASPS provides testimony which does not meet the Daubert standards, committee evaluation and court testimony will be forwarded to the Task Force for review and action. New Jersey and Connecticut plastic surgeons will be recruited to participate and contribute to this important effort.

I urge you to join the society so that by working together we can add luster to our profession by continuing our medical education, better serving of our patients and by consistently reinforcing values embodied by the Hippocratic oath. By acting in concert we can develop a full appreciation of the legal system and the rules of laws which, fairly and knowledgeably applied, ought to be a bulwark against baseless allegations of malpractice. If true science reins the medical profession and the public will benefit to an incalculable degree.

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The Year In Review



*Norman H. Schulman, MD and Paula Moynaban, MD,
President of the New York Regional Society
of Plastic Surgeons*



*Ted E. Lockwood, MD, Franklin DiSpaotro, MD,
Dennis J. Hurwitz, MD, Mitchell S. Roslin, MD,
Alan Matarasso, MD, Gregory Rauscher, MD,
John Hunter, MD (left to right)*



*Donald Wood-Smith, MD and Steven Wallach, MD
at the 2002 Winter Meeting*



*John Hunter, MD receives a plaque of appreciation for his
work as President from Gregory Rauscher, MD*

Winter Meeting

December 6, 2003

HOLD THE DATE - Will Include the Nojarova Lecture

The Nojarova Lecture may represent the first lectureship devoted to the contributions of women plastic surgeons. It is named after Dr. Paula Nojarova and funded by her husband, Dr. Haskell Elis. It is held on a bi-annual basis. Paula Nojarova was born in 1914 in Bulgaria. She was fluent in French, German, Croatian, Bulgarian, Czech, Russian and English, and conversational in Spanish and Italian. In 1940 she went to Prague and became a member of Dr. Franstisek Burian's group, the largest plastic surgery clinic in Eastern Europe at the time. Though unhappy with the

Communist philosophy, she was ordered to return back to Bulgaria. However, Paula was able to surreptitiously get off the train at the wrong railroad station in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. From there she obtained safe passage to Venezuela. Paula came to the United States and worked with Dr. John M. Converse and Dr. Blair Rogers at the Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery - NYU Medical Center. She had a special interest in facial disfigurement. She published numerous articles on cleft lip and palate and facial reconstruction. Paula passed away in May 1986 at the age of 72.



Tracy M. Pfeifer, MD

Tracy Pfeifer, MD

Editor

Welcome to the spring edition of the Excelsior newsmagazine. On behalf of the society I would like to thank John Hunter, MD for all his hard work as President in the last year. He spear-headed a major campaign to enhance our website and to facilitate member communication by e-mail, which has been very successful by all accounts.

This edition of the Excelsior newsmagazine marks the 2nd under my stewardship and reflects a continual effort to enhance communication with our membership. Your executive committee is working hard on your behalf to promote the education and interests of plastic surgeons in the tri-state area. Under the leadership of Paula Moynahan, MD, President of NYRSPS, the society is reinvigorating its commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct expected of us as board certified plastic surgeons.

As always, we are striving to include as many plastic surgeons as possible in our membership. We welcome applications from all interested parties and particularly encourage the application of residents still in training. We look forward to your participation and welcome your suggestions.



John Vacarro, MD

Membership Report

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Alex Cech, MD
Hartford, Connecticut | Abolaji Sangosanya,
M D
Binghamton, New York | New York, New York |
| Thomas Hagerty, MD
Kingston, New York | Robert Gotkin, MD | Charles Loving, Jr.,
M D
New York, New York |

Ethics Committee & Malpractice Cases

The Ethics Committee, under the stewardship of Dr. William Rosenblatt, will be undertaking a new task. The Committee will review expert testimony provided by Board Certified Plastic Surgeons to the plaintiffs counsel. The Committee will assess the testimony for statements/opinions supported by the scientific literature. In the event that testimony is not supported by the scientific literature, the case will be referred to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons Ethics Committee for review.

Only malpractice cases which are concluded may be submitted for review. The case may have been dismissed, or settled in favor of either the plaintiff or the defendant. In order to submit a case for review, please write Dr. Rosenblatt or email him at wbrose@erols.com. Include a brief summary of the case. If your case is accepted for review, the Ethics Committee will request a copy of the testimony.

Website Updates & Innovations

Website News

As many of you have probably noticed, the New York Regional Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery website has undergone a facelift. The URL for the website is: www.plasticsurgeryny.org

The enhanced website is proving effective, with approximately 500 'hits' per month, which represents a substantial increase. The following improvements have been made:

- The website has been redesigned with professional graphics.
- The membership application can now be downloaded from the website.
- The membership directory has been updated.
- On-line registration for Society events/meetings.
- Linked NYRSPS to over 100 medical sites.
- Added a PDF of the newsletter on-line.

Batch E-Mail

A new feature available to all members is intra-membership e-mail. Any member can use this feature to batch e-mail the membership of the NY Regional Society. Dr. William Rosenblatt, a member of the executive committee, will review all batch e-mails prior to sending to insure appropriate content and usage of the batch e-mail system. For members who would like to take advantage of communicating with the membership by batch e-mail, please send your e-mail to Dr. William Rosenblatt at: wbrosen@erols.com.

E-Mail Campaign to Promote Society Events

In conjunction with an enhanced website and website capabilities, the Society is utilizing the Internet to promote meetings and increase awareness among medical professionals of the excellent education program offered by the Society.

The winter meeting 2002 was promoted through the traditional mail campaign and, for the first time, using batch e-mail to medical professionals to promote the event. As a result, over 60 non-members registered on-line for our winter meeting. This a dramatic increase compared to previous years. In addition, there was an increase in the number of physicians requesting membership in the Society.

In the future, the Society will continue the e-mail promotion of Society events. As a member, you may receive more than one e-mail notice of an upcoming event even if you have already registered. All members should receive a confirmation of meeting registration and subsequent e-mails should serve as a reminder of the upcoming meeting.

Contributed by
Tracy M. Pfeifer, MD

Imaging is Everything™

With a digital imaging system, all paper documents generated during patient encounters, including handwritten chart notes, superbills, referral forms, operative reports, etc., are scanned into the program. The software then organizes all documents into a digital chart, which is instantly accessible in the future. This is not a substitute for the written chart note. It's fast, accurate, and easy for the doctor and technician. Even the most complex patient encounters are quickly and accurately documented by hand. After the exam is complete, the handwritten chart note is scanned into the digital imaging software to be accessed instantly at any time. Patient volume is not impacted.

SRS Freedom Chart Manager™, utilizes high-speed scanners to image all paper as it is generated. Offices that have SRS have completely eliminated their paper charts, redeployed their filing clerks and have solved their file room space problem. SRS has also made it easy to comply with HIPAA regulations by tracking the date and time each employee accesses individual charts.

Instant access to a secure chart results in cost savings and better patient care!

Contributed by
Cynthia Salerno
Representative of SRS Software,
Inc.,
a company dedicated to providing
paperless office systems and
support.

If you would like to see a demonstration or discuss your office needs, please contact:

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Phone: 800-840-5043

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

In each newsletter we will highlighting one of our regional plastic surgery residency programs.

Our first installment features the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Berish Strauch, MD, is the plastic surgery residency program director at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine - Montefiore Medical Center.

The two-year independent plastic surgery residency is approved for four residents per year. The four first-year residents rotate on a three-month schedule. Three months are spent at Montefiore Medical Center / Moses Division; the west campus. Three months at Long Island Jewish Hospital on Long Island. Three months at Montefiore/Weiler Hospital, on the east campus. In addition, there is a split-rotation, including one month on the burn service at Jacobi Medical Center, three weeks in the microsurgery laboratory, and a 5-week rotation in the private offices of selected voluntary attendings.

The four second-year residents also rotate on a three month schedule. Three months are spent at Montefiore Medical Center, three months at Beth Israel Medical Center, three months at Jacobi Medical Center, and three months at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center.

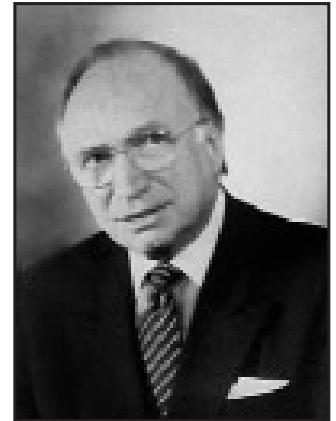
The current chief residents who will finish their training this June include:

Bernard Lee, MD will be starting private practice in July, 2003.

Heather Erhard, MD and Joshua Levine, MD will complete fellowships at Louisiana State University, 6 month fellowship in Breast Reconstruction including Perforator Flaps and Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, 6 month fellowship in Aesthetic Surgery.

Renata Weber, MD will complete a fellowship in Hand Surgery at Washington University-St. Louis.

The current microsurgery fellow is Alberto Navarro, MD.



Berish Strauch, MD

*Professor & Chairman,
Dept. of Plastic Surgery,
Albert Einstein College
of Medicine*

*Contributed by
Steven Wallach, MD*



*Steven Lamm, MD receives certificate of appreciation
from Gregory Rauscher, MD in recognition of his
presentation at Resident's Night*

Resident's Night Guest Presentation

Steven Lamm, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, New York
University School of Medicine

GUEST PRESENTATION TOPIC:

Sex in the City:

Preserving and Enhancing Sexual Performance

Alan Matarasso, MD
 Scientific Program Chairman



Alan Matarasso, MD

On December 13, 2002 the New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons held its annual winter meeting. The topic was *"Body Contouring including Post Bariatric Surgery"*. We were pleased to have had the following speakers:

Ted E. Lockwood, MD; Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Plastic Surgery, University of Kansas Medical School. "Body Contouring in the 21st Century"

Dennis J. Hurwitz, MD; Clinical Professor of Plastic Surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "Body Contouring including Post Bariatric Surgery"

Eric Hollander, MD; Professor of Psychiatry, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. "New Developments in Body Dysmorphic Disorder & Body Image Disorder"

Mitchell S. Roslin, MD; Chief of Obesity Surgery, Lenox Hill Hospital. "Obesity Surgery and What the Plastic Surgeon Needs to Know"

Franklin DiSpaltro, MD; President, American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons. "ASPS Update"

This was the first plastic surgery meeting devoted to the interdisciplinary topic of Bariatric Surgery. It provided fascinating insight into this emerging field which will treat between 60,000 and 100,000 patients in the coming year. Several local surgeons also shared their experiences in this area.

Spring Meeting
 April 26, 2003

"Breast Reconstruction and Breast Augmentation"

The program will include "An Incoming President's View on the Future of Aesthetic Surgery" by Robert W. Bernard, M.D., President-Elect, American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

THE PROGRAM FEATURES:

G. Patrick Maxwell, MD

Breast Reconstruction and Augmentation - The Current State

Alex Keller, MD

DIEP and SIE Flaps in Breast Reconstruction

L. Franklyn Elliott, MD

Breast Reconstruction - What I am Doing and What I am Not

David A. Hildago, MD

Vertical Breast Reduction

Robert W. Bernard, MD

Maintaining Long-Term Nipple Projection after Breast Reconstruction and Preventing Expander Exposure Due to Marginal Necrosis after Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction



William Rosenblatt, MD

William Rosenblatt, MD

Vice President, Medical Society State of New York

Vice Chairman, MSSNY PAC

What is the worst problem our medical profession faces? Is it tort reform, the proposed Medicare cuts, managed care, or the implementation of HIPAA? I don't believe it is any of these, I think it is our own torpor and political naiveté. Our livelihoods are on the line. Our expenses continue to grow and our income from non-cosmetic surgery decreases. As plastic surgeons we are lucky that we have the ability to charge and be paid well for what we do. This provides us a little buffer from decreasing reimbursements from insurance companies. Yet, this also allows us to become lazy and politically inactive. We are still physicians and need to help our profession and our patients.

What we need to do now!

(1) Keep up to date on legislative changes by joining and supporting organized medicine. If it wasn't for the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY), we would have an 8% provider tax assessed on our revenue - who would pay for that - managed care? I don't think so. MSSNY's Political Action Committee also needs your support so we can keep anti-medical legislation from being passed in Albany. Right now MSSNY has active law suits against the managed care organizations that refuse to pay on time, won't tell you the reimbursement levels, and deny care to our patients, even though we have laws in our state forbidding all of this.

(2) Make our patients our strongest allies by educating them as to what will happen to their care if certain anti-medical legislation is passed. For example, if the Medicare cuts go into effect, many more doctors will not participate in Medicare and Medicare patients may have difficulty finding qualified doctors to provide care. Medicare reimbursements may be a small part of your income, but we do provide an important service to a needy section of the population. The AMA is pushing for tort reform and repeal of the Medicare cuts. To contact your federal legislators call 800-833-6354.

(3) Be more politically vocal regarding tort reform. Tort reform is at a crossroads. Plastic surgeons are sued frequently; however, judgments against us are not large. Despite this, our malpractice premiums can increase. What will you do if your liability insurance increases 25%? Will you sit back and pay it? Or will you take action and call your legislators?

During my trips to Albany, I tell our legislators our problems, and their retort is "I haven't heard anything about that from my constituents." Doctors need to be more vocal. We need to keep the pressure on our legislators. Don't just complain in the doctor's lounge - call your State Senator or Assemblyman! If they aren't there, speak to their aide. If we don't tell them our problems, they won't help us deal with them. I enjoy representing you, but I need your support. At a minimum, join MSSNY and support their PAC. Your fellow physicians are working on your behalf, and our organizations need your financial support to continue making a difference.

Let your patients know that it might be necessary to curtail services, as was done in West Virginia and in New Jersey, if there are further increases in medical malpractice insurance.

If you can take a day off from work once or twice a year, come to Albany with us and make your voices heard. Be a leader. Every one of you can make a difference. Doctors in New Jersey and West Virginia who were willing to strike for just one day for tort reform have had their voices heard and changes are now occurring. It's time for New York doctors to take a stand as well. The time to stand up and be counted is now.

The annual Plastic Surgery Residents' Night was held this year on March 3, 2003. Ten residents from 6 different regional plastic surgery programs presented their research work. The scientific program was coordinated by Gregory Rauscher, MD, who gave the opening remarks and facilitated the question/discussion period. The judges were Frederick Lukash, MD, Lorelle Michelson, MD, and Norman Schulman, MD.

The Winning Papers for 2003

First Place

Jason Spector, MD

New York University Medical Center-Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery

The Osteoinductive Action of FGF2 Occurs via an Increase in Osteoblast Expression of Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2 and a Decrease in MSX

Second Place

Robert Nemerofsky, MD

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Lesson Learned from 100 Consecutive Body Lifts

Third Place

Sheel Sharma, MD

New York University Medical Center-Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery

Rebalancing Forces with Trapezoid Resection in Basal Joint Osteoarthritis

The following residents gave excellent presentations as well and we applaud the efforts of all the residents who participated in the Resident's Night this year.

Deborah Pan, MD

Yale-New Haven Medical Center

Microarray and RT-PCR Analysis of Duputren's Disease

Daniel Ronel, MD

New York-Presbyterian

A Rational Approach to Forearm Fasciotomy

Michael Christy, MD

Mount Sinai Medical Center

Color Doppler Monitoring of Radial Artery Flow-Through Flap (RAFT) in Lower Extremity Salvage and Reconstruction

Heather Erhard, MD

Montefiore Medical Center

Use of Irradiated Cartilage in Rhinoplasty of the Non-Caucasian Nose

Iannis Bitzos, MD

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Oncologic Hemipelvectomy with Immediate Reconstruction

Marcel Scheinman, MD

New York-Presbyterian

Combined Hard Palate Graft, Midface Suspension and Canthopexy for Treatment of Post-Operative Lid Retraction

Nina Shaikh-Naidu, MD

New York-Presbyterian

Determinants of Patient Satisfaction Following Reconstruction after Mastectomy