

## **SESPRS 52nd Annual Meeting**

The Southeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons held its Fifty-Second Annual Meeting June 6-10, 2009 at the Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Resort, just outside of San Juan, Puerto Rico, marking the first time the Society held an annual meeting in Puerto Rico, and only the second time the Annual Meeting was held in the Caribbean. The meeting also was marked with a number of other "firsts." For the first time, papers and contributions were presented by our plastic surgery colleagues from Puerto Rico. Another first was the inclusion of a Poster Session as a part of the Annual Meeting program, with 33 excellent member and resident posters presented. SESPRS' first "Most Outstanding Poster" award was presented to Drs. Alireza Sadeghi and Kamran Khoobehi for their work entitled "Autologous Fat Grafting to the Breast for the Implant Crippled Patient."

Program Chair Dr. Jim Grotting's guidance of the Scientific Program provided quality presentations from invited guests and members in a balanced program of both reconstructive and cosmetic topics. The Keynote Address, "Never Say Die" by author and adventurer Lincoln Hall, was an entertaining and spell-binding account of his escape from certain death high on the cornices of Mt. Everest and how to apply some of his life's lessons to our own "sometimes harrowing" lives. Dr. Gus Colon presented the 2009 Upchurch Lecture, and in his inimitable style made everyone stop and think about what it is like to be "on the other side of the white coat" -- a patient. The Jurkiewicz Lecture, presented every other year, was given by Dr. John McCraw, who took us on a journey through his training and academic development, which mirrored the emergence and growth of musculocutaneous flaps and vascular territories, as well as the many new plastic surgical techniques that have evolved from these discoveries. Dr. Bill Little guided listeners through his current thinking in an excellent presentation on "Facial Rejuvenation." Dr. Robert Walton's presentation entitled "The Backside of the Power Curve: The Death of Reconstructive Surgery" provided a look at the challenges the health care arena creates for the survival of the very roots of plastic surgery. Finally, Karen Zupko's informative presentations on the business side of plastic surgery helped attendees navigate through the challenges presented by the current economy. The educational panels -- always timely and interesting -- included "The Future of Breast Reconstruction" moderated by Dr. Frank Elliott, "Artistry in Complex Nasofacial Reconstruction" moderated by Dr. Bruce Shack, "Facial Rejuvenation: What I Did and What I'm Doing Now" moderated by Dr. Mark Codner, and "Cosmetic Surgery in the Office Setting" moderated by Dr. Onelio Garcia.

A wide variety of Member papers were presented and discussed. These included several papers on breast reconstruction, evaluation of preoperative risk factors and complication rates in cosmetic breast surgery, fat grafting, and management of hot-press hand injuries. The always popular Residents Competition once again demonstrated the exciting and remarkable work being done in Plastic Surgery Residency programs throughout the Southeast. The Glancy Award was presented to Drs. Scott Hollenbeck, Issei Komatsu, Jun Yang, Scott Levin, and Bruce Klitzman of Duke University for their paper entitled "Flap Margin Administration of Hypoxia Pre-Conditioned Adipose-Derived Stem Cells Improves Oxygenation by Promoting Local and Interfacial Angiogenesis."

The offshore meeting was a big hit for members and families alike, with this tropical location making an enjoyable backdrop for a meeting known for a mix of education, camaraderie, and family fun. Time to explore San Juan, paddle through a fluorescent pool after dark, zip line through a tropical rain forest, participate in sporting events, and the opportunity to enjoy the sand and surf of this Caribbean island provided a great variety of activities to enhance everyone's experiences. The Caribbean Carnival theme dinner provided a casual evening of colorful dress, dancing, good food and socializing despite some untimely summer evening showers that forced a change of venue indoors. The Dinner Dance Tuesday evening was the culmination of the week's social activities and the venue for the passing of the Presidential Medallion from Dr. Jim Wade to 2009-2010 President Dr. Jim Moore.

All in all, the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting provided a variety of educational pearls and great opportunities for members and their families to relax and recharge in this tropical island setting.