



Leaders in  
microsurgery and  
reconstruction

# Reconstructive Microsurgery

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY • VOLUME 34.1

## Autumn-Winter 2023

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## ASRM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

# Work Hard/Play Hard. Get Ready for The Bahamas!



**Melissa Poh, MD**  
2024 Scientific  
Program Chair

**T**he ASRM Annual Meeting is only two months away and we are very excited to get the party started! This year, our theme is Collaboration at Our Core which speaks to the popular description that a plastic surgeon is a surgeon's surgeon. As reconstructive surgeons, we collaborate on multiple different levels – with other medical disciplines, with other surgeons around the world, with various surgical societies and even with technology. For ASRM 2024, we have invited panelists from head and neck surgery,

orthopedic surgery, urology, and neurosurgery as well as surgeons from Asia, Europe, Canada, Central and South America. We hope to expand the information exchange and the educational experience by bringing in diverse perspectives. Moreover, the AAHS/ASPN/ASRM Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Nadine Hachach-Haram, a Lebanese reconstructive surgeon working in London who developed an innovative platform utilizing AI/AR to allow surgeons all over

the world to operate, teach and learn together. In this way, miles are reduced to minutes.



*A dazzling fountain show imparts a special glow to evenings at the Grand Hyatt Baha Mar*

This year, to kick off the meeting, two pre-conference workshops have been added. First is the Microskills Workshop which is geared towards teaching basic skills of loupe and microscope microsurgery to residents and fellows. Second, in conjunction with IRM (Imaging in Reconstructive Microsurgery), is the Ultrasound/Imaging Workshop which will provide a didactic and hands-on session for members interested in applying various technologies to assist with flap design and planning. And lastly, as in years past, WSRM (World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery) has teamed up with ASRT (American Society for Reconstructive Transplantation) to provide a symposium on "Science and Clinical Application of Small Part VCA."

For 2024, one of the several additions to the program is the "Top 24 in 2024 Poster

*Continued on page 2*



*The local food is yours to discover right on the beach in The Bahamas!*

## ASRM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

*Continued from page 1*

Presentation Session” on Sunday January 14th. The authors of the top 24 posters will be placed in 3 groups and present their work to a standing audience with a short Q&A. Also, in partnership with AAHS and ASPN, a Medical Student/Resident Lounge will be constructed. The Lounge will be located in the main corridor of the conference venue and will serve as a spot for young microsurgeons-to-be to meet up with colleagues, friends and mentors.

The scientific program is packed with a broad range of topics and opportunities to learn so there is something new and different for everyone. Best Case/Best Save is back again, but this year we have sent out a casting call for those who may be interested in getting up on stage and acting as a judge. We are crowdsourcing our members to find the next witty, experienced commentator to perhaps add some new blood to the competition. But don't worry! Our Annual Meeting staples, such as the Master Series, YMG Program, WMG Program, Sewing with the Masters, and the Godina and Buncke lectures are still included. The program will conclude on Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> with two specialty symposiums in collaboration with the SGS (Society of Gender Surgeons) and APP (Advanced Practice Providers).

Of course, we all like to work hard and play hard. To balance the teaching and education, we have created an equally robust and active social program. The meeting starts off with the Welcome Reception just steps from the beach. Grab your favorite cocktail or beachy beverage and catch up with new and old colleagues and friends. Next year, the ASRM Social Event will take place on Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>. To honor our host country, we have planned a highly festive Junkanoo celebration which is a Bahamian tradition. For those that may not be familiar, Junkanoo is similar to the Caribbean Carnival with bright costumes, a dancing parade and music everywhere. So please bring your most colorful island attire and join us for a night of lively conversation, local eats, and all-around merriment.

## Future ASRM Meeting



**JANUARY 17–21, 2025  
ASRM 40TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Hilton Waikoloa, Big Island, Hawaii

We look forward to seeing everyone in The Bahamas! We can't wait for the 2024 ASRM Annual Meeting to begin. It will certainly be five full days of educational fun and enjoyment. Oh, and please don't forget your passport! **RM**

# Submit Your Case!

**Submissions due  
December 11, 2023**



Congratulations on that case you just finished! That amazing save you just did that only you and the scrub nurse know about. It's time to show the reconstructive world! Submit your one-of-a-kind, never-been-seen, did-they-just-do-that case to the **BEST CASE/BEST SAVE COMPETITION** at the ASRM Annual Meeting, January 12-16, 2024 in Nassau, The Bahamas.

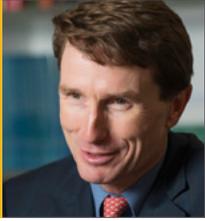
### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be an ASRM member with Active status
- Case must be done in 2023 calendar year
- Must be present at the meeting to present case

Visit [microsurg.org](https://microsurg.org) to submit your case

## FROM THE EDITOR

## What's Inside



**James Higgins, MD**  
ASRM Secretary,  
RM Editor

**W**e hope you enjoy this Autumn-Winter 2023 Issue of *Reconstructive Microsurgery*. Our contributors have included valuable information about the upcoming 2024 Annual meeting, with content from the 2024 Master Series, the scientific abstracts, our 2024 Advanced Practice Provider

(APP) Symposium and a sneak preview of the upcoming Annual meeting Keynote Speaker and Buncke lectures. Also included are details about the initiatives of the ASRM council under President Lipa's leadership, and the progress and growth of our Young Microsurgeons Group and Women's Microsurgery Group. This installment also provides valuable information of activities of our Future Growth, Microsurgery Fellowship, Outreach and Research committees. Be sure to check out the Historian's Corner. This issue is packed with great content we hope you all enjoy! Thanks to all of our contributors. **RM**

## ASRM COMMITTEE: FUTURE GROWTH FUND

## Making Big Strides in Driving ASRM Forward



**Justin M. Sacks, MD, MBA, FACS**  
Chair, Future  
Growth Fund  
Committee

**T**he Future Growth Fund Committee of the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery made up of ASRM members Bret Phillips (Duke), Carolyn DeLaCruz (PITT), and Steven Moran (Mayo), is making impactful strides in enhancing the society's growth and innovation. Our monthly meetings have been pivotal, fostering dynamic discussions and effective strategizing aligning with our goal of driving ASRM growth forward. A key focus has been to create yearly webinars, aimed at strengthening industry relationships. These digital events are anticipated to become a hub for innovation, knowledge sharing, and collaboration, enriching our ties with industry partners.

Enhancing engagement with industry professionals at national meetings has also been prioritized. Our recent participation at last year's annual ASRM meeting in Florida and the spring board meeting in Chicago, featuring industry roundtable collaborations with Drs. Joan Lipa and Greg Buncke, exemplifies this commitment. These interactions were valuable for deepening connections and promoting mutual growth with our industry partners. Additionally, we're innovating our approach to integrate membership dues with philanthropic activities, aiming to streamline processes and amplify our charitable impact.

Through these concerted efforts, the Future Growth Fund Committee is dedicated to propelling ASRM's mission, ensuring sustained development in reconstructive microsurgery. Our initiatives are not only reinforcing the society's legacy but also paving the way for future advancements in the field. **RM**

RECONSTRUCTIVE  
MICROSURGERY

Autumn-Winter 2023

**President**

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Anne B. Behrens

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The American Society for  
Reconstructive Microsurgery, Inc.

*Reconstructive Microsurgery* is published two times yearly for members of ASRM, a non-profit organization. The subscription price is included in the annual membership dues. All correspondence and address changes should be addressed to:

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The views expressed in articles, editorials, letters and/or publications published by ASRM are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the society's point of view.

*The mission of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery is to foster excellence and innovation in microsurgery and reconstructive surgery. ASRM upholds the values of Integrity, Collegiality, Scholarship and Innovation.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# People and Programs Firing on All Cylinders



**Joan E. Lipa,  
MD, MSc, FRCSC,  
FACS**  
ASRM President

“**C**ollaboration at Our Core” sums up this past year, during which time I have had the honor and privilege of working for you, our members, to build upon the strengths of our Society that have been developed over the past 40 years.

Most visible to all is the tireless effort of our Scientific Program Chair, Dr. Melissa Poh, and the Program Committee in putting together the amazing program for our 2024 meeting. There are many facets to this, coordinating the expertise across microsurgical subspecialties such as transplantation, imaging in reconstructive microsurgery and gender surgery. By popular request this year, we are re-integrating lymphedema surgery into the main meeting programming, working together with Dr. Dhruv Singhal. We have strived to make the main panel sessions have components that will appeal to everyone, and span all regions of the body. Similarly, the Masters Series Chair, Dr. Jamie Levine has followed suit, with an expert slate of innovators, collaborators, and program developers, with topics spanning the body from face transplantation (with the first eye transplant) to urinary continence surgery to orthoplastic approaches.

The Joint Presidential Keynote Lecture will be given by a woman who is changing the world – Dr. Nadine Hachach-Haram. She is an entrepreneur-reconstructive Plastic Surgeon at Guy’s and St. Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust in London, UK and CEO and Founder

of Proximie, a platform that allows surgeons to virtually scrub into any OR globally with the capacity for education, outreach, and improving patient care. We look forward to hearing of her experiences in leveraging technology in our surgical world.



*Joint Presidential Keynote Lecturer  
Dr. Nadine Hachach-Haram*

As an invited guest for the President’s Lecture, I am pleased to welcome Dr. John L. Semple – a teacher and mentor, Canadian artist and plastic surgeon who not only completed a microsurgery fellowship and is a clinical leader in breast surgery and health systems solutions, but also created the cover watercolor illustration for the 5th edition of Neligan’s *Plastic Surgery*, and has a keen interest in climate change in the Himalayas and high altitude medicine and has an Adjunct Faculty appointment at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Wilderness Medicine. He will share experiences and insights from his Mount Everest expeditions and how these lessons can

be applied to the practice of collaborative surgical care.

Apart from the annual meeting planning, you may have noticed other activities throughout the year which could not have been possible without the ASRM Council and Committees, engaged members, and the support of our Executive Director. These ventures have crossed Committees and extended beyond ‘business-as-usual’. Here are a few snapshots:

Communication through the MICRO Minute – this was implemented to connect us throughout the year, spotlight members working behind the scenes, expose us to microsurgery history, entertain and enlighten us through the Connections series, and highlight major ASRM events, deadlines, or notifications in one brief email. As a testament to its reach, we have had more

applications than ever before for scholarship, award, and travel grant applications – making all of these awards that much more competitive.

Nominations and applications for committee positions – The process was changed with a major Bylaws update that was approved

such that there would be an organized approach in advance of the annual business meeting to be open to all members, without a rush on the floor at the meeting. As well, nominees

*Continued on page 5*



*Dr. John L. Semple is the  
invited guest speaker for  
the President's Lecture*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

*Continued from page 4*

could be vetted to determine if dues were up to date and if there was support from at least one other member. The preliminary ballot for your vote is currently active until December 15th, and following that Active and Candidate members will vote on a shortened ballot in person at the annual business meeting in Nassau in the event that one person did not receive 50% or more of the votes.

PRS and PRS-GO – Our partnership with these journals continues to evolve, with both journals being the official organ journals of the ASRM. Through the website for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, you can access 40 of the ASRM Top Reconstructive Articles (as selected by the ASRM Education Committee) by navigating through 'Journal Info' and then 'About the Societies' on the dropdown menu. Furthermore, for the first time this year, the top 2 Outstanding Abstract oral presentations are eligible for fast-tracked manuscript publication in PRS, and we have been able to offer

'opt-in' cited Abstract Publications for oral abstract presenters in an upcoming ASRM annual meeting abstract PRS-GO supplement set to be released in January, 2024.

Fair reimbursement for microsurgeons and patient access to education on options for reconstruction – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed changes to the availability of codes used for microsurgical breast reconstruction (sunsetting of S-Codes was slated for December 31, 2024) which prompted us to explore impact on our members and patients and provide a statement on behalf of ASRM advocating for fair reimbursement for all microsurgeons and continued access for patient education regarding options for breast reconstruction. Senior Member-at-Large Summer Hanson has been instrumental in representing ASRM and liaising with ASPS in their advocacy efforts and attending the CMS public meeting. On August 21, 2023, CMS announced the decision to maintain S-codes for autologous breast reconstruction. To help our members learn

from others in terms of negotiating with insurance payers, there will be a Monday morning breakout panel on "Optimizing billing and insurance contract negotiations in microsurgery". To help our patients continue to have access to education for all forms of breast reconstruction, the first patient-facing ASRM BRA Day event was held virtually, championed by the Outreach Committee.

Off-cycle educational and practice management events – We recognize that some events may not align with the timing or resources available at the annual meeting, particularly when the meeting is held off mainland US. In particular, we are unable to offer a cadaver course at this year's annual meeting, but we can offer this independent of the annual meeting in Baltimore on February 23-24, 2024 – more details to follow. We continue with virtual events as well, with the December 2, 2023 Reconstructive Challenges Symposium on the horizon, and the YMG has had their first career development virtual session.

*ASRM leadership and representatives from industry met in July for our first Corporate Collaboration Roundtable to determine ways to increase value for both parties*

*Continued on page 6*



## ASRM COMMITTEE: RESEARCH GRANT

## Your Research Project Needs Funds? Apply!

**Jonas Nelson, MD, MPH**  
Chair, Research Grant Committee

**W**e wanted to take a moment to remind our members about the opportunities for research funding offered through ASRM – specifically highlighting the Plastic Surgery Foundation (PSF) combined pilot grant and the medical student research grant.

The (PSF) combined pilot grant offers up to \$10,000 for a one-year research project. The Plastic Surgery Foundation (PSF) and the

American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (ASRM) recognize the importance of fostering the development of surgeon scientists and innovative research in reconstructive microsurgery. This grant is intended to fund a research project that will advance the scientific knowledge and clinical practice of reconstructive microsurgery. This grant supports the preliminary or pilot phase of these research projects. Applications are to be submitted through the PSF. This award is offered yearly.

The Medical Student Research Grant funds a research project to be completed during the three summer months between a student's first and second year in medical school. This grant awards up to \$2,500 for a three (3) month summer research project. Applications are due March 1st.

More information can be found directly on our webpage, under the research tab. **RM**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

*Continued from page 5*

Corporate Collaboration – ASRM has strong relationships and support from industry, but there is room for growth. With this in mind, we held the first Corporate Collaboration Roundtable in July, with representatives from industry sitting together with leadership to determine ways to increase value for both parties, prompting another look at sponsor recognition and the exhibit hall experience, opportunities for continuing our relationships beyond the annual meeting, and leveraging our collective knowledge expertise. If you have responded to one of our surveys, I thank you, and please reach out if you have ideas or abilities to foster ongoing partnerships.

Management change – Last but not least, we have been exploring and navigating management company

change, which is an opportunity for an exciting new prospect as our membership continues to grow both in number and in global representation. Stay tuned for

more details to be announced in 2024.

I look forward to hosting everyone in Nassau, The Bahamas. **RM**

## Reconstructive Challenges

**\* DATE CHANGE \* DATE CHANGE \* DATE CHANGE \***

**December 2, 2023**

**10:00am - 12:30pm Central Time (US)**

**VISIT [WWW.MICROSURG.ORG](http://WWW.MICROSURG.ORG) TO REGISTER**

Join us for the **3rd Annual Reconstructive Challenges** taking place virtually on December 2, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Central Time (US). This session is free to ASRM Members and \$50 for non-members.

The Reconstructive Challenges is designed to be a fun and interactive way to exchange ideas with colleagues, present difficult cases or complications and solicit advice from our panel of experts or show interesting new techniques. Each presentation will be approximately 5 minutes long and followed by a robust discussion by our panelist and virtual guests.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

## Historical Jackpot!



**Evan  
Matros, MD**  
ASRM  
Historian

Dear ASRM Members,

In the Spring of 2023, I visited our Chicago office in search of archival information about ASRM. Lo and behold, I came across a personal communication and folio of documents sent by Dr. Foad Nahai to the ASPRS/PSEF Executive Offices (Figure 1). JACKPOT! Dr. Nahai (Figure 2) was a founding member of ASRM and subsequently served as the organization's Secretary. He is well known for his seminal work with Dr. Stephen Mathes in 1981, which categorized the vascular anatomy of muscles into 5 types (Figure 3). Forty years onward, the Mathes and Nahai system remains the primary classification scheme used for teaching and clinical surgery by reconstructive surgeons worldwide.

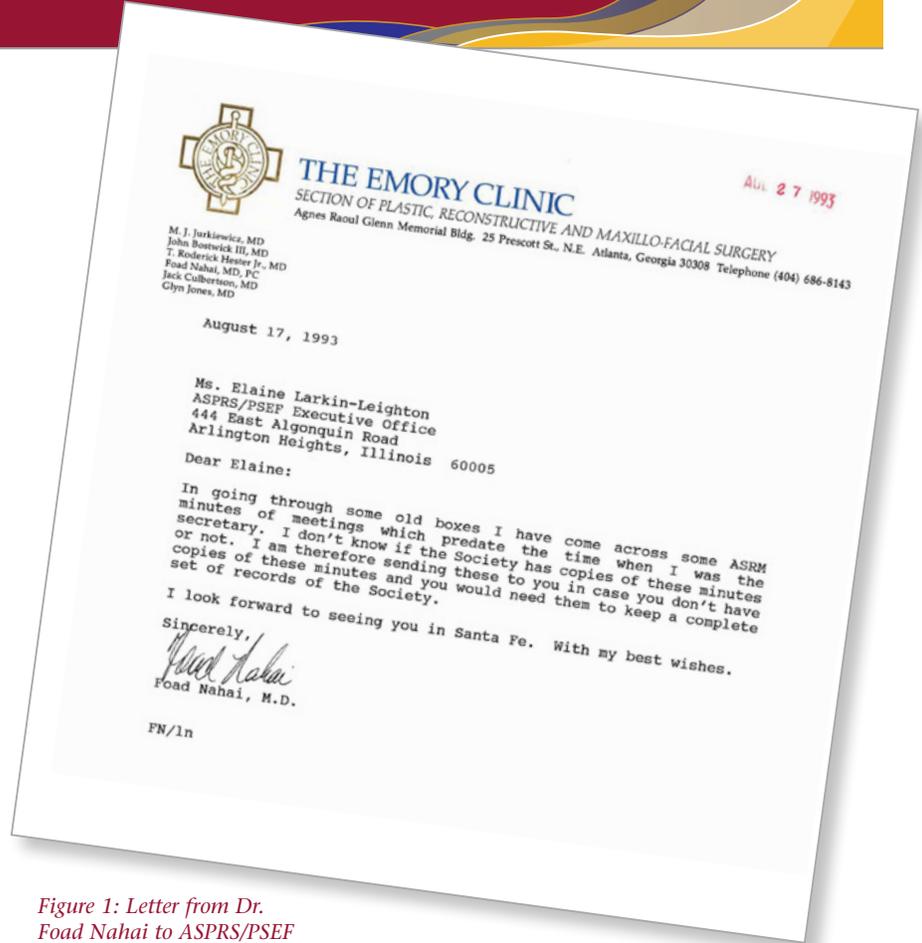
Contained within the folio is an original typed copy of Dr. Berish Strauch's Minutes of the Formative Meeting of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, held at the Hyatt Grand Hotel in New York City. Importantly it describes the emergence of the ASRM from the International Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, the forerunner of today's WSRM.

In addition, Dr. Nahai's compendium contains 12 additional historical documents of the ASRM executive council from the early formative meetings through the second Annual Meeting held in New Orleans, LA, February 13-15, 1986 (Figure 4). Interesting

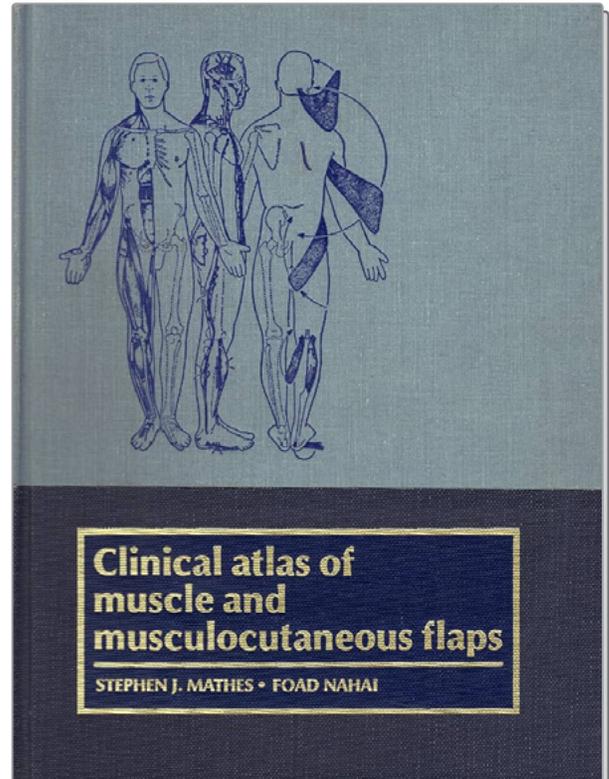


*Figure 2: Foad Nahai, MD, founding member and early Secretary for ASRM*

*Figure 3: 1981 publication by Drs. Mathes and Nahai*



*Figure 1: Letter from Dr. Foad Nahai to ASPRS/PSEF Executive Office*



## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

“

Invitations were sent to all North American members of the International Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, as well as to a few other selected people. It was pointed out that the International Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery is leaving the North American continent, perhaps for as long a period as nine years, and that a forum for microvascular surgery is needed in North America. The volume of material developed each year is greater than what could be presented at any of the present Societies. In addition, with a growth in the number of people doing reconstructive microneurovascular surgery, a need to join similar colleagues is being denied them by the International Society. Therefore, an American Society would be a most appropriate place for them to develop their interests. It was also pointed out that, with the adoption of a certificate for special competence in vascular surgery, a political forum would be useful to insure that vascular surgery be done by those involved in reconstructive microsurgery.

Though microneurovascular surgery is recognized primarily as a technique, and not as a separate discipline, those plastic surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, and general surgeons doing reconstructive microsurgery have common interests and similar operative procedures, and they require a forum for discussion of these procedures.

The prime aim of a new Society was felt to be that of a teaching forum. These functions could be served by an annual meeting, as well as by the sponsorship of local and national courses. At the same time, it was recognized that guild or political needs could also be usefully served by a national society.

It was resolved that an American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery be formed. Dr. Berish Strauch was asked to do the groundwork for this Society. He will form a small committee to develop the framework of such a Society, and the details of this committee will be presented at a meeting just prior to that of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand this February. Dr. Strauch named Dr. James Steichen, Dr. Alan Van Beek, Dr. Julia Terzis, and Dr. James Urbaniak to the committee to develop the constitution and bylaws of the Society. Drs. Van Beek, Steichen, and Terzis were present and accepted the responsibility. A letter will be sent to Dr. James Urbaniak requesting his participation.”

Prepared by Berish Strauch, M.D., June 24, 1983.

”

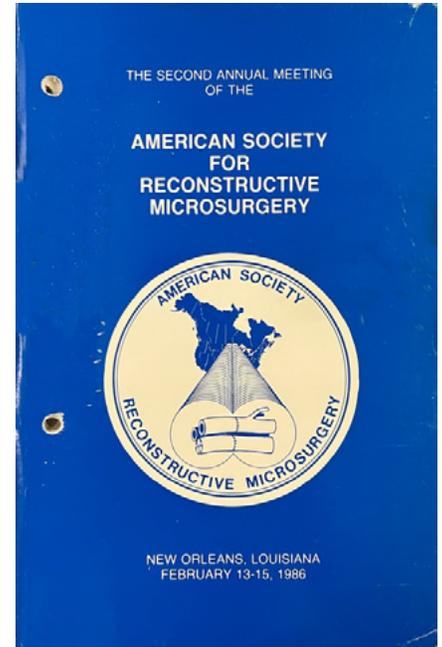


Figure 4: Program for the second annual ASRM meeting in New Orleans

## HISTORICAL JACKPOT!

*Continued*

historical findings contained within those documents are as follows.

*“The initial discussions were that the ASRM organization should have an open meeting and that it should be a forum for teaching and the exchange of information. It was felt that the organization attitude should be generous and the meetings open for residents and others who are in training. It was felt that the organization membership should be open to all United States and Canadian residents.”*

In regard to founding members, Dr. Strauch pointed out that all North American members of the International Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery before June 18, 1983, be invited to become founding members. Eighty-one invitations were

*Continued on page 9*

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

HISTORICAL JACKPOT! *Continued*

sent. Seventy-seven responded as wanting to be founding members. One did not wish to be a founding member, and three did not respond.

Details from the first Annual ASRM Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, January 1985:

It was recommended that Dr. Ralph Manktelow be the first Program Chairman.

*"He (Dr. Manktelow) intends to have a general theme regarding osseous flaps from reconstruction and facial reanimation. There would be open forums for presentation of a general topic and a session for problem orientation where only six slides would be presented. The Executive Committee felt that Dr. Manktelow should be encouraged to have a portion of the meeting be a forum for discussion from the floor without the necessity of submitting formal abstracts."*

At the business meeting in Las Vegas Dr. Manktelow gave the Program Committee's report. Sixty-three abstracts had been received and 40 were accepted.

Dr. Strauch reported that at the Las Vegas Meeting, 41 founding members were present, 41 residents present, and a total of 195 registrants.

In regard to ASRM's affiliation with the *Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery*:

*"The Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery has some interest in publishing the presentations at the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery annual meeting. While this is of interest, Doctor Strauch specifically requested that*

*a decision regarding having a periodical represent the Society at this time was undesirable. He states that he felt it would be a conflict of interest since he is the Editor of the Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery and President of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery."*

After this communication, Dr. Strauch announced that the 1985 scientific abstracts would be published in the *Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery*.

The *Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery* served as ASRM's official journal until 2013.



Figure 5: ASRM logo. Note the word "For" is not retained on logo.

There was considerable discussion about the Organization's logo. The logo which combines the North American continent along with a blood vessel and nerve was eventually chosen and would be redesigned and used both for letterheads and subsequently for diplomas/certificates. Dr. Strauch presented the logo to the membership in January 1985, and there was unanimous acceptance of it after some discussion. Notably, the motion was made that the logo be accepted as the "American Society Reconstructive Surgery" eliminating the word "for". The motion was seconded and passed (Fig. 5).

**RM**

All of these original documents will be posted on the Historian's Corner on the ASRM website.

**June 24, 1983**

Minutes of the Formative Meeting of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, Hyatt Grand Hotel in New York City, New York, Prepared by Berish Strauch, MD

**August 30, 1983**

Minutes of the Initial Meeting of the Founding Council of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, Prepared by Allen L. Van Beek, MD, Acting Secretary

**February 4, 1984**

Minutes of the Second Formative Meeting of the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Hilton Hotel Atlanta, Allen L. Van Beek, MD, Secretary

**February 4, 1984**

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery Founding Council, Hilton Hotel Atlanta, Allen L. Van Beek, MD, Secretary

**July 8, 1984**

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City

**December 12, 1984**

Minutes of the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Membership Committee Conference Call, Julia K. Terzis, MD, Membership Committee Chairman

**January 17, 1985**

ASRM Membership Committee Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Thursday, January 17, 1985**

Executive Council Meeting, ASRM, Las Vegas, Nevada

**January 19, 1985**

Executive Council Meeting, ASRM, Las Vegas, Nevada

**January 19, 1985**

American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Business Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada

**July 8, 1985**

Communication from James Urbaniak to Allen Van Beek. (Dr Van Beek Absent – Dr Steichen Substituted). Serving as the "Minutes of the Executive Meeting" for the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery of July 3, 1985

**Feb 13, 1986**

Minutes of the ASRM Executive Council Meeting, Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans, Allen Van Beek, Secretary

**Date unknown**

American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Business Meeting, Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans, Allen Van Beek, Secretary

## IN MEMORIAM: RANDY SHERMAN, MD FACS

## Tribute to a Beloved Titan, Dr. Randy Sherman

(MAY 27, 1951 – JULY 18, 2023)

By L. Scott Levin, MD FACS

It is an honor to reflect on the life and legacy of Randy Sherman, MD FACS. Dr. Sherman was the Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and the General William Willa Dean Lyon family Endowed Chair of Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery. He formerly served as the Audrey Skirball Kenis Endowed Chair and Division Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive surgery at USC from 1994-2008. His contributions and leadership in multiple Surgical Organizations, Aviation Societies, and Humanitarian Boards characterize his life mission of selfless effort on behalf of all that were fortunate to know him and work alongside him.

Dr. Sherman was an accomplished aviator who was qualified to fly a myriad of aircraft—that included Steerman biplanes, jets, helicopters and vintage World War II aircraft. Departing Santa Fe July 18, 2023, shortly after takeoff in his Cessna 310, he lost an engine and crashed while trying to return his plane safely to the airport. On September 10, 2023, Randy was celebrated and remembered at the Barker Hanger in Santa Monica California. The Condor Squadron flew a “missing man” formation to conclude the event. Dr. Sherman was a pilot in the squadron. He is survived by his son Max, former spouse Sandy, brother Andy and sister-in-law Vicky, nieces Laura and Danielle. In addition to his

immediate family members, Randy’s passing has affected colleagues and friends from around the world. Fellow aviators, Hollywood movie icons, famous architects, authors and countless surgeons knew him and respected him. Dr. Sherman was a true



renaissance man. Jazz Piano, horticulture, pottery defined his world in addition to Plastic Surgery.

My first recollection of Randy centers on his unwavering sense of commitment to medical education. In 1990 I had organized an American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery instructional course on extremity trauma and wanted Randy to participate. We were just getting to know each other professionally, but I sensed greatness at every level. Humility, intelligence, integrity, expertise and experience, commitment and servant leadership – were qualities that defined him. Loyalty was his watchword – to his trainees, his partners

and professional colleagues from around the world. His passion for microsurgery and reconstructive surgery was infectious. Everyone knew and respected Randy, locally and globally. Randy was “all in” to participate in the AAOS course, with the exception of remembering to book a hotel room in advance of the meeting! Of course, the evening he arrives, he realizes that the conference hotels were sold out. I offered my room as a place he could stay, and he agreed. Randy arrived wearing his leather flight jacket, T-shirt, jeans and black clogs, carrying his overnight bag and slides that were already loaded in the carousel. I was all set to sleep on the floor, but he would not hear of it, and instead he spent the night on the carpet with a blanket and a pillow. That was

Randy Sherman.

As he did throughout his career, he promoted others, never seeking the limelight for himself but priding himself in identifying young talented surgeons and advocating for them in a myriad of ways. In professional societies, within their institutions and providing sage career advice to so many, myself included. Mensch and mentor. He was the ultimate “Level Five” leader as defined by Jim Collins—author of *Good to Great*.

What was the key to his success? I believe it was his character. He

*Continued on page 11*

## IN MEMORIAM

## RANDY SHERMAN, MD FACS

(MAY 27, 1951 – JULY 18, 2023)

*Continued from page 10*

bonded with those he touched. He “connected” with everyone he met regardless of their background, language, profession or social stature. He cared deeply. He was principled. He was an advocate in the truest sense of the word – in the sky flying in formation, in the operating rooms at LA county, Cedars, Vietnam, the West Bank, and Africa. As the Chief Medical Officer of Operation Smile, he traveled the world to provide humanitarian care to hundreds of children. His purpose was always to serve: he was the epitome of the servant leader.

His sense of humor served him well. His laugh was infectious. His smile unique. His wit and charm engaging. The football injuries ravaging his knees, back and shoulder provided untoward challenges and frustrations, yet he endured and adapted. In fact, a week or two after rotator cuff surgery, he attended our annual Penn flap course in a sling, dissecting with the residents and fellows with enthusiasm and passion. That was Randy.

Randy and I shared personal journeys with each other that I will mention with a profound sense of gratitude, respect and sensitivity. We spoke often when I was going through a painful divorce. His older brother passed from cholangiocarcinoma in 2010. I shared this pain with him, and then years later, he was there for me as I supported my younger brother’s battle with pancreatic cancer that was lost in 2022. I tried to reciprocate by providing emotional

support as his beloved partner Martha DeLaurentis succumbed to brain cancer. Randy always knew what to say, when and how to say the things that mattered when I needed them the most.

Randy built relationships with people by establishing trust, demonstrating mutual respect, and



giving of himself in so many ways. It would not be unusual for Randy to call me and ask for a favor. “This student wants to do a rotation with you,” or “this friend needs a recommendation for an orthopedic surgeon in Philadelphia,” and “this young surgeon from Rome would like to visit your Department.” My response was always.... Of course! The way Randy would ask impressed me the most. He was asking always for someone else, never himself.

Over the years, we spoke often. I would call and say “Randy, I just need “a little dose of Sherman today,” and off we would go. We

would talk about cases, people, his latest flying achievement and Max. I will miss these exchanges terribly. Often he would call me and say “Scooter....” my assigned nickname. Perhaps it might become my ‘call sign’ in another life.

Our Penn flap dissection course took place this past September 23 & 24, 2023. For the first time in 20 years Randy was not there. However, to honor his legacy we inaugurated the annual “Penn Flap Course Randy Sherman MD Lectureship” that will now live on for perpetuity. The lecture was shared this year by three past presidents of the ASRM and close friends of Randy. The lectures were given by Bob Walton, Larry Colen, Chris Pederson and Milan Stevanovic. Milan worked with Randy for 30 years at USC. I arranged this lecture “formation” similar to the four vintage P51 planes that flew over Barker Hanger on September 10. Randy Sherman was missing, but no doubt, his influence and what he represented to his brothers and sisters in reconstructive microsurgery live on forever in generations that follow his flight plan. **RM**

► *On the following pages is a collection of thoughts from ASRM members sharing the impact Randy Sherman had on their lives both personally and professionally.*

*A huge thank you to ASRM Historian Evan Matros MD for requesting and assembling these memories and stories and for creating the amazing photo collage of moments and highlights in Dr. Sherman’s life and career.*

## IN MEMORIAM: RANDY SHERMAN, MD

## Thoughts about Dr. Sherman from the ASRM membership

“Dr. Randy Sherman was an icon in Plastic Surgery and part of the history of the advancement of microsurgery. He served as the President of the ASRM in 2001 and as a Director of The American Board of Plastic Surgery from 2000-2006, and was known for his humility, skill, level-headedness, humanitarianism, kindness, and his love of flying. From my first interactions with him as a fellow to a decade later when I was able to cross paths as a colleague in Los Angeles, to more recent ASRM meetings, he continued with that humility and used his wisdom to help others. We are all devastated by his loss.”

—Dr. Joan E. Lipa,  
ASRM President 2023

“Randy was unrelenting in his pursuit of being the best doctor possible. He loathed protocol and knee-jerk action. Every operation needed to be thought out and customized to the situation. Every flap considered. And never should one hesitate to do the right thing. Cutting corners was not part of his culture. Most of all, he dedicated himself to his patients and colleagues – people who needed him and his skill set. He was selfless in sharing that part of himself. If you ever called him with a problem, he took it on as his personal mission to fix it. There are any number of stories to illustrate this – the police officer who was near death after a gastric perforation that Randy pushed to aggressively treat with resuscitation and a transabdominal muscle flap... the leg of a colleague that was going to be amputated due to osteomyelitis that he aggressively and repeatedly debrided until he could finally put a flap that would save it. He was the surgeon's surgeon – the guy you would call if you ever had a problem no one else could fix.

*In losing Randy, we lost a leader who was the glue of our 6-surgeon team and a fixture among the surgical greats not only of our institution, but the academic community as a whole. And we lost a man who cared deeply about his patients and colleagues — an advocate for the weak and helpless but also for those aspiring for the greatness he had achieved in his storied career.”*

— Dr. Ed Ray, ASRM member and plastic surgeon at Cedars Sinai

*“In Randy we lost a man who cared deeply about his patients and colleagues — an advocate for the weak and helpless, but also for those aspiring for the greatness he had achieved in his storied career.”*

“Randy and I first met when he was a surgical resident in the UCSF program at Moffit hospital and I was in my first academic job as a young attending in the early 80's. We connected initially through a shared interest in aviation and later collaborated on a number of panels and projects in organized hand and microsurgery. Randy was always a leader. He exuded a 'je ne sais quois' persona that was both interested and interesting. He was wise. A forward thinker, he carefully thought about issues at hand and proffered reasonable solutions. He was kind, generous, compassionate about education and surgery and, well, about almost everything he did – the consummate academic role model. Over the years, Randy and I shared multiple life experiences dealing with our personal and professional trials and tribulation. I considered him a true friend and confidant. Several years ago, Randy gifted me a book, *The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, a renown French pilot who flew for the

resistance during WWII. Randy explained at the time that this little book contained important life lessons for both children and adults. After his death, I reread *The Little Prince* and came across the following passage that, I feel, is Randy speaking to all of us:

*“All men have stars, but they are not the same things for different people... You, you alone will have stars as no one else has them... In one of the stars I shall be living. In one of them I shall be laughing. And so it will be as if all the stars will be laughing when you look at the sky at night. You, only you, will have stars that can laugh! And when your sorrow is comforted (time soothes all sorrows) you will be content that you have known me. You will always be my friend....”*

Randy, you will always be my friend....

— Dr. Robert Walton,  
ASRM President 2004

“Randy found me at a point in my academic career where I was jaded, burnt out, and contemplating leaving California medicine altogether. After a Friday morning Grand Rounds at my former hospital, Randy pulled me aside and said he wanted to let me know how impressed he was with the microsurgical reconstruction I performed for a pediatric hand. He prefaced never to give that passion up for helping patients in need and always strive to put our skills and abilities toward patient care. In typical Randy fashion, he paid genuine interest in me and wanted to see me reach my highest potential. Randy took me under his wing and was more of a father figure than a boss. Like a nurturing dad, he only wanted to see the best in his progeny. In his words, there is no more important calling in academia than training the future innovators and leaders of tomorrow. In closing, I would not be where I am today without Randy Sherman's guiding and loving hand. His absence leaves a huge hole in my heart but also serves as a gentle reminder that I must now do my part and pay it forward.”

— Dr. Mitch Seruya, ASRM member and plastic surgeon at Cedars Sinai

Continued on page 13

## IN MEMORIAM: RANDY SHERMAN, MD

“Mentor, teacher, friend and supporter. Helped develop and grow my career. He was the one who really inspired me toward plastic surgery.

— Dr. Greg Evans,  
ASRM President 2015

“Well, I have known Randy for 30 years. We visited each other’s home and spent vacation time together. Most recent was in Capri 2019, shortly before Martha got sick.

Randy was a renaissance man. Brilliant, well-traveled, well read and with so many interests and activities that I was always wondering, how he got this all packed into his spare time.

Absolutely kind and a wonderful host. Instead of a typical quote, I will just describe a typical experience. During our Capri vacation we had a lot of café (correct Italian word for espresso). One morning we found a package on our bed with an electrical typical “espresso maker”. Since I’m the one to serve espresso bedside every morning, I think of Randy every morning ever since.”

— Dr. Gunter Germann,  
ASRM President 2020, 2021

“Randy Sherman was a giant in the world of plastic surgery and a figure of many dimensions, of which it seemed that most of us could only view a few at a time, like a monument seen in a black and white snapshot.

As a surgeon he was masterful, compassionate, and uncompromising in his dedication to his patients, and had the vision to establish lay the foundations for orthoplastic care decades before the term was popularized. As an educator, Randy was a believer in principalization; he had a gift for immediately clarifying a complex clinical problem by reducing it to one critical obstacle or goal. As a leader he was like dad: full of advice, solicited or not, to keep us out of trouble; but unstoppable in support of “his” people if an issue arose. As a mentor, he brought his decades of experience to

separate real from imagined priorities and impart sometimes unexpected wisdom.

Randy has other legacies in his family, close friends, patients, fellow pilots and humanitarian workers – but for those of us fortunate enough to have trained and worked with him, he will always live as a guiding voice that tells the way.”

— Dr. Phil Brazio, ASRM member  
and plastic surgeon at Cedars Sinai

“Randy took me under his wing and was more of a father figure than a boss... he only wanted to see the best in his progeny. In his words, there is no more important calling in academia than training the future innovators and leaders of tomorrow.”

“Randy Sherman was a dear friend of mine for many years. I remember him as a skeptic about much of the complex stuff we did, always suggesting a simpler but equally effective way to handle the problem. The nice thing was that he seemed so happy with Martha the last several years which I think was a great time for him, at least until her untimely passing. I hope they are together now!

— Dr. Chris Pederson,  
ASRM President 2005

“I first met Randy when he arrived at UCSF, I believe in 1977, when I was beginning my PGY 3 year in General Surgery. I believe he was a PGY 2 at that time. Randy was always a gregarious, bright, witty, and a fun person to be around. We always had a great time together, laughing at all the same things. Due to resident number restrictions at

UCSF Randy left UC in 1979 to complete his General Surgery training. I became a microsurgery fellow with Dr. Buncke in 1978 and Randy would frequent the micro lab and the ORs at Davies Medical Center to both help and observe whenever he could. For a while, we were almost inseparable.

We stayed in contact during the completion of his Surgery and Plastic Surgery training and reconnected with the help of the ASRM, beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> ASRM meeting in Las Vegas in 1985. Though Randy’s professional career was always in Los Angeles, we would look forward to hanging out at the annual ASRM meeting as well as the annual Duke Flap Course/Penn Flap Course. We would think nothing of giving each other a call to discuss complex cases along with planning our next get together.

I have and will continue to miss Randy. Up until his recent death, I always knew he would be there for me and offer sage advice when requested (sometimes even when NOT requested). He was truly a “brother from another mother.” Randy should be remembered for outstanding clinical skills, fearless operative approaches, level-headed methods to complex surgical problems, and, most of all, the way he enjoyed being around good friends.

— Dr. Larry Colen,  
ASRM President 2007

“Randy was a great friend and colleague for more than 35 years. We shared many great cases and many experiences. He was a superb teacher and surgeon. He had two passions in life: 1) Doing and teaching microsurgery and 2) Flying. When I saw him about a month before his last flight, I told him I thought it was time for him to stop flying. He told me he would rather die than stop flying. What a tremendous loss for us, but at least he died doing what he loved.”

— Dr. Milan Stevanovic, ASRM member  
and orthopedic surgeon at USC

IN MEMORIAM: RANDY SHERMAN, MD



## ASRM 2023 ANNUAL MEETING SYMPOSIUM

## Have Your APP and Nurse Registered for the ASRM Meeting Yet?



**Katie Egan, MD**  
APP & Nurse  
Symposium Co-Chair

### 2024 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER AND NURSE SYMPOSIUM

In the spirit of the theme of this year's ASRM meeting, 'Collaboration at Our Core', the ASRM Advanced Practice Provider and Nurse Symposium will again be held as an adjunct to the annual meeting. The inaugural APP and Nurse Symposium was held last year in Florida, and we hope to welcome even more of our microsurgery team members this year in The Bahamas. The symposium will capitalize on the success of last year's symposium with expansion through the addition of several of our APP colleagues who will be speaking and moderating at the symposium.

Two new panels, with talks on collaborative teams and the holistic team, will feature experienced APPs from diverse

practice settings and backgrounds throughout the country. The collaborative team panel will address topics including optimizing training of APPs and efficiently collaborating with your team in both the clinic and operating room. The holistic team panel will address strategies to improve practice through improving team dynamics and handling unexpected patient and flap outcomes. We are thrilled to also have the case-based 'Advancements in Postoperative Microsurgery Protocols' panel return, which attracted a great deal of lively discussion at last year's symposium. This debate-style panel involves discussion of differences in practice management and advances in care of flaps. A variety of microsurgical care areas will be covered in the panels, including breast, head and neck, extremity/replant, and gender flaps.

This year's symposium will be held on Tuesday, and although the target audience is advance practice providers and nurses who are part of microsurgery teams, all conference attendees are also welcomed to attend. APPs and nurses who register for the ASRM meeting and symposium are also welcomed to join in the general programming of the ASRM meeting and meeting festivities. Registration for APPs and nurses is discounted to the same rate as resident registration, and the symposium is included at no extra cost. We hope this symposium will not only provide new ideas to improve your practice but will also allow for valuable networking opportunities for APP and nurse colleagues. We encourage you to consider supporting your APP and nurse team members to attend the meeting and look forward to seeing everyone in The Bahamas! **RM**

"Two new panels (at the upcoming symposium), with talks on collaborative teams and the holistic team, will feature experienced APPs from diverse practice settings and backgrounds throughout the country."



Members of the inaugural 2023 APP & Nurse Symposium planning committee with Dr. Gregory Buncke. From left to right: Drs. Helen Hui-Chou, Megan DeLano, Katie Egan and Tracy Kwan, NP

## ASRM COMMITTEE: MICROSURGERY FELLOWSHIP MATCH

## Supporting the Pipeline that Brings the Next Generation into Our Specialty



**Graham S. Schwarz, MD, MSE, FACS**  
Chair, Microsurgery Fellowship Match Committee

**A**s we approach the midpoint of the academic year and our current class of microsurgery fellows continue to hone their clinical skills in a culmination of their training, preparations are being made for another match cycle and its interview season.

First, on behalf of the current Microsurgery Fellowship Match Committee, I would like to thank Dr. Jay Agarwal and his fellow committee members who did a fantastic job helping microsurgery fellowship programs to navigate the yearly match process through the last three years of covid-inspired uncertainty. During their tenure we learned how to conduct a virtual interview process successfully and have come to understand its benefits and limitations. Collaboration among fellowship programs was encouraged to enhance coordination of planned interview dates. Guidelines were established to choose an initial universal date that interview invitations can be sent to applicants. These measures increase equity between programs, and promote increased access to available fellowship opportunities for our applicants

The MS Fellowship Match committee intends to carry these guidelines forward and respectfully ask that all participating programs abide by them. We have created a web resource for program directors and coordinators to allow for streamlined listing and viewing of planned interview dates.

Importantly, the MS Fellowship Match Committee has been collaborating with the Website Committee to update program contact information on the Fellowship page. General program information for all microsurgery programs participating in SF Match will be listed on the website. Specific information, such as finalized interview dates should be maintained in the SF Match System for participating programs. Non-SF Match Programs wishing to be listed on the ASRM website fellowship page must maintain their programmatic information about application deadlines and interview dates on their local/institutional website.

Over the last 3 years, there has been a trend toward increased numbers of Microsurgery fellowship programs in the match and increased spots per program. This is coupled with a slightly diminished number of match registrations and submitted rank lists (data through 2023 SF match). In this past 2022-2023 Match cycle there were 30 participating programs with 51 positions offered and 35 positions filled. The Microsurgery committee along with ASRM leadership intends to explore these trends and pursue strategies to encourage advanced microsurgery training for graduating residents. With perpetual advances in microneurovascular reconstruction and a consistent pipeline of eager microsurgery fellows, the future of our specialty is bright. We are committed to ensuring that trainees are exposed to our innovative field and that they may access a wide array of educational opportunities to advance their knowledge and microsurgical skills. **RM**

**“The Microsurgery Fellowship Match Committee has been collaborating with the Website committee to update program contact information on the Fellowship page.”**

## YOUNG MICROSURGEONS GROUP

## YMG – Learning About our Members and Increasing Opportunity for Involvement



**Amanda Silva, MD**  
Chair, Young Microsurgeons Group

One of the main objectives for YMG this year was to better understand who our members are and increase opportunities for involvement.

In order to better understand who our members are, we started a new signup sheet to create a YMG member database. To date, we have 89 members representing 52 residencies, 35 fellowships, and practicing in 42 locations. Fifty-three percent of members are male, 46% female, and 1% non-binary. The majority of our members are in academic practice (79%). Twelve percent are hospital-based and 9% in private practice. Members represent the full spectrum of 1 to 8 years out from practice and we have relatively equal representation for each year. Our members perform microsurgical reconstruction throughout the body. Most members perform breast reconstruction (71%), followed by lower extremity (67%), lymphedema (46%), upper extremity (42%), head and neck (35%), and gender surgery (25%).

In addition to getting a better idea of who our YMG members are, we've also been able to create many new avenues for involvement, almost 3-fold. Which has allowed us to engage 53 YMG members



thus far (see photo). We have the established opportunities: the ASRM meeting speakers' panels and fellowship roundtable. This year for ASRM we have some great YMG panels lined up. The first panel is "Challenges with Building a Practice: Navigating Collaboration with Other Specialties". We have a diverse group of speakers all representing different clinical niches who will each talk about building their practice as a young microsurgeon. This will be on Sunday, January 14, from 2:45-4:00pm. YMG committee member, Dr. Rachel Anolik, will moderate and our speakers are Dr. Kerry-Ann Mitchell, Dr. Blair Peters, Dr. Joani

Christensen, Dr. Lily Mundy, and Dr. Brett Phillips. Our second panel is "Setting Yourself Up for Success as a Young Microsurgeon: The Importance of Wellness". Again, we have a great group of speakers who represent different clinical practice settings. This will be on Monday, January 15, from 8:15-9:15am. YMG committee member, Dr. Josh Vorstenbosch, will moderate and our speakers are Dr. John T. Stranix, Dr. Jamie Zampell, Dr. George Kokosis, and Dr. Deedee Bird. Our microsurgery fellowship roundtable is a great

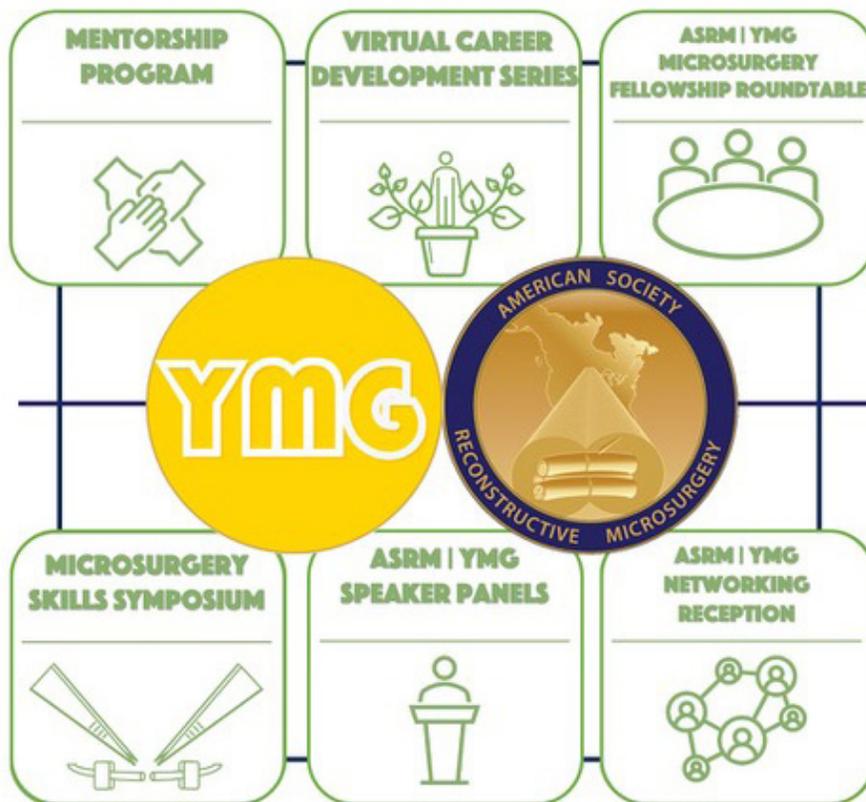
*Continued on page 18*

## YOUNG MICROSURGEONS GROUP

LEARNING ABOUT OUR MEMBERS *Continued from page 17*

opportunity for prospective applicants to learn more about the programs from the current fellows. It will be hosted by Dr. Ara Salibian and Dr. Rebecca Knackstedt on Monday January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:30pm. Our YMG ASRM programming is rounded out by the YMG networking reception on Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm. Come join us to meet the young members of ASRM. We're incorporating a new element to the event that will facilitate those looking for a job or looking to hire.

We're also really excited about some of the new YMG initiatives we've started this year. One of those programs is the pre-ASRM meeting microsurgery skills symposium. This will be held Friday January 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great opportunity for young microsurgeons to teach trainees essential microsurgery skills. Another new program is the YMG



mentorship program. This is a peer mentorship program that connects early and early-mid career microsurgeons with guided discussion topics. We're doing a

pilot run this year with a small group of YMG members and we've made some great connections so far! We're planning to debrief after this round, make necessary improvement, and offer this program to more YMG members in Summer 2024. We also have the new YMG virtual career development series. This involves various virtual speakers' panels with YMG members sharing their advice on various career development topics. We had our first meeting in October, and it was a great discussion. Stay tuned for our next session in the Spring!

If you're a microsurgeon in the first 8 years of practice and aren't already a member of YMG, please sign up! ([bit.ly/YMGsignup](http://bit.ly/YMGsignup))

If you're a microsurgeon in the first 8 years of practice and aren't already a member of YMG, please sign up! ([bit.ly/YMGsignup](http://bit.ly/YMGsignup)) **RM**

## ASRM on Social Media!

Keep informed and up to date



Instagram @asmr\_micro



X, formerly Twitter @asmr\_micro



Tik Tok @asmr\_micro



Facebook group: American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

Email [ASRMposts@gmail.com](mailto:ASRMposts@gmail.com) with questions or content for posting!

## ASRM COMMITTEE: OUTREACH

## An Opportunity to Improve on Awareness about Microsurgical Breast Reconstruction



**Adeyiza O. Momoh,**  
**MD FACS**  
Chair, Outreach  
Committee

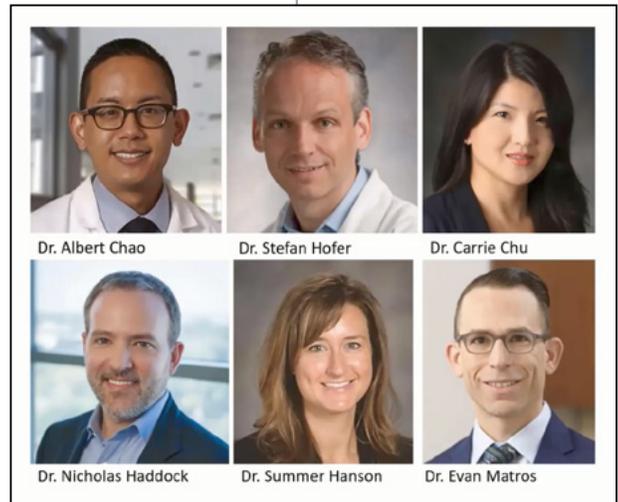
I have had the pleasure of serving as Chair of the Outreach Committee. This year one of the important areas of focus of the committee was to help raise awareness to promote microsurgical breast reconstruction nationally. To this end, we developed and hosted a virtual event focused on Microsurgical Breast Reconstruction on October 18th, Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day. This BRA day event was a first for the ASRM and as such the design, promotion and execution required invaluable collaborative efforts from multiple committees, including the Social Media and Website committees under the respective leadership of Melissa Poh and Evan Matros.

The BRA Day event was hosted over two hours and was attended by breast cancer patients, survivors and support groups. The first half of the evening saw an expert panel of speakers from the United States and Canada give short patient friendly presentations on topics including, Who is a Candidate for Surgery, Using your Own Tissue for Reconstruction, Outcomes From the Patient's Perspective, Finding a Surgeon, and Insurance Coverage. The second half involved a virtual Show-and-Tell lounge with two patients interviewed about their experiences with breast cancer and microsurgical reconstruction. As a part of the interviews, photographs capturing the preoperative presentation and postoperative results were shared with the audience. Each session was followed by a period of questions and answers allowing for some interaction between

attendees and the speakers. The information shared in a variety of ways was appreciated by many who attended and we hope to build on this in subsequent iterations of the event.

I would like to thank Joan Lipa, our ASRM President who conceived of the idea of a BRA day with a microsurgery emphasis and guided our efforts to make it a reality. I also want to thank the panelists Albert Chao, Carrie Chu, Stefan Hofer, Nicholas Haddock, Summer Hanson, Evan Matros, David Mathes and Toni Zhong who all gave of their time to make the event a success.

Earlier this year, Dr. Stefan Hofer visited Nepal as the MicroSurge Visiting Educator. Dr. Pierre Chevray will also be visiting Nepal in 2024 as one of next year's MicroSurge Visiting Educators. Dr. Hofer and Dr. Chevray were originally selected as the 2020 MicroSurge Visiting Educators but their trips were delayed due to the COVID pandemic. MicroSurge is the joint clinical outreach program of the ASRM and ReSurge International that provides ASRM members the opportunity to provide reconstructive care to patients in underserved communities in developing nations while also contributing to surgical capacity building efforts. We look forward to hearing about Dr. Hofer's trip at the upcoming annual meeting in The Bahamas. **RM**



*The panel of speakers at October's Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day event.*

*"The [2023] BRA Day event was a first for the ASRM and as such the design, promotion and execution required invaluable collaborative efforts from multiple committees."*

## ASRM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING AT-A-GLANCE



## 38th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

Theme: "Collaboration At Our Core"

January 12-16, 2024

Grand Hyatt Baha Mar, Nassau, The Bahamas

■ SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS ■ SOCIAL EVENTS

### Thursday | 01.11.2024

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**ASRM Women in Microsurgery Wellness Workshop**

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

**ASRM Women in Microsurgery Wellness Workshop Dinner**

### Friday | 01.12.2024

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**ASRM Council Meeting**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**WSRM/ASRT "Science and Clinical Application of Small Part VCA"**

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**ASRM Microsurgery Skills Workshop**

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**ASRM/IRM Ultrasound/Imaging Workshop**

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**ASRM/YMG Microsurgery Skills Workshop and Ultrasound Imaging Workshop Reception**

### Saturday | 01.13.24

6:30 AM – 8:00 AM

**ASRM Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors**

6:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Exhibit Hall Hours**

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**ASRM Electronic Poster Viewing**

6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

**AAHS-ASPN-ASRM Medical Student & Resident's Lounge**

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

**AAHS/ASPN/ASRM Instructional Courses**

201 Spastic Hand

202 Hand Ischemia

203 AIN Palsy

204 State of the Art in Amputation Care: Optimizing Function After Limb Loss

205 Management of Adult Brachial Plexus Injuries

206 Reconstruction of Traumatic/Iatrogenic Nerve Injuries

207 Functional Abdominal Wall Reconstruction

208 Staging Reconstruction for the Mangled Hand/Upper Extremity

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**ASRM Sewing with the Masters**

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM

**AAHS/ASPN/ASRM Presidents' Welcome** (Not for Credit)

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

**AAHS/ASPN/ASRM Combined Panel: Worst Case NO Save: Extremity Cases**

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

**Coffee Break with Exhibitors**



10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Joint Presidential Keynote Lecture: Nadine Hachach-Haram, MD** (Not for Credit)

"The Journey of Exploring the Potential of Operating Room Digitization"

Dr. Hachach-Haram will share her journey, challenges and vision regarding the future of surgery, focusing on the pivotal role of healthcare technology in enhancing patient care and health system efficiency.

Dr. Hachach-Haram is a reconstructive plastic surgeon and MedTech entrepreneur at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, UK, and the CEO and Founder of Proximie.

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**AAHS/ASPN/ASRM Joint Outstanding Paper Session**

*Continued on next page*

## ASRM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING DAYS-AT-A-GLANCE

**Saturday | 01.13.2024** *(continued)*12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**ASRM Lunch with Exhibitors** (Not for Credit)1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**ASRM Shotgun Start Golf Invitational** (Not for Credit)

Held at the Royal Blue Golf Course at Baha Mar. Departures from the lobby begin at 12:00 pm

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**ASRM Master Series in Microsurgery  
“Mastering Collaboration”** (Not for Credit)5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**ASRM Golf Invitational Reception** (Not for Credit)5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**ASRM Young Microsurgeons Group and New Member  
Reception** (Not for Credit) *(Supported by Synovis MCA)*6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**ASPN/ASRM Welcome Reception** *(Supported by ASSI)***Sunday | 01.14.2024**6:30 AM – 8:00 AM**Continental Breakfast w/Exhibitors**6:30 AM – 12:45 PM**Exhibit Hall Hours**6:30 AM – 5:00 PM**ASRM Electronic Poster Viewing**6:30 AM – 6:00 PM**AAHS-ASPN-ASRM Medical  
Student & Resident’s Lounge**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Breast I,  
Basic Science/Translational Research/VCA**8:00AM – 4:00PM**ASRM Sewing with the Masters**8:15 AM – 9:15 AM**ASPN/ASRM Combined Panel: Reanimating  
the Eye in Facial Palsy**9:15 AM – 10:15 AM**ASPN/ASRM Combined Panel: Functional Sarcoma  
Extremity Reconstruction**10:15 AM – 10:45 AM**ASPN/ASRM Coffee Break with Exhibitors**10:45 AM – 11:45 AM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations:  
Extremity I, Clinical Outcomes I**10:45 AM – 11:45AM**ASRM Break Out Panels**

- 401 Stacked Flaps vs. Hybrid Reconstruction – When a Single Donor Site is Not Enough
- 402 ASRM/ASLS: Collaborating with your Breast Surgeon in Lymphedema Surgery
- 403 My Approach to Maxillary Reconstruction
- 404 Bone Flaps for Extremity Reconstruction
- 405 How to Set Up a Microsurgical Practice Anywhere
- 406 Taking Risks vs. Playing it Safe

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM**ASRM Lunch with Exhibitors**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**Women in Microsurgery Lunch Series**12:45 PM – 1:45 PM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Nerve / Pediatrics**12:45 PM – 1:45 PM**ASRM Scientific Poster Presentations**1:45 PM – 2:45PM**ASRM President’s Lecture:  
Joan Lipa, MD & John  
Semple, MD**

Dr. Lipa’s invited guest speaker, Dr. Semple, is a Canadian artist, plastic surgeon, and an expert in high altitude/wilderness medicine, with a keen interest in climate change in the Himalayas. He will share experiences and insights from his Mount Everest expeditions.

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM**ASRM YMG Forum: Challenges with Building a Practice –  
Navigating Collaboration with other Specialties**2:45 PM – 4:00 PM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Head and Neck I**4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**ASRM Best Case/Best Save***(Supported by Synovis, MCA)*7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**ASRM Celebration! Junkanoo and More!***Continued on next page*

## ASRM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING DAYS-AT-A-GLANCE

**Monday | 01.15.2024**6:30 AM – 8:00 AM **Continental Breakfast w/Exhibitors**6:30 AM – 1:15 PM **Exhibit Hall Hours**6:30 AM – 5:00 PM **ASRM Electronic Poster Viewing**6:30 AM – 6:00 PM **AAHS-ASPN-ASRM Medical Student & Resident's Lounge**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Quality Improvements, Scientific Mixalot**7:00 AM – 8:00 AM**ASRM Break Out Panels**

- 407 Radiation and Microsurgical Breast Reconstruction: Does Timing Matter?
- 408 How I use the Scapular Flap in Head and Neck Reconstruction
- 409 ASRM/ASLS: The Practice Side of Performing Lymphatic Surgery
- 410 Pediatric Microsurgery in Upper Extremity
- 411 Optimizing Billing and Insurance Contract Negotiations in Microsurgery
- 412 Factors Affecting Outcomes in Breast Microsurgery
- 422 Facial Nerve Reconstruction in Traumatic or Oncologic Setting

8:00AM – 4:00PM**ASRM Sewing with the Masters**8:15 AM – 9:15 AM**ASRM Break Out Panels**

- 413 Faster and Better Together: How to Improve Efficiency in Microsurgical Breast Reconstruction
- 414 Advanced Reconstruction of the Scalp and Skull
- 415 Made to Order Flaps: Prelamination/Prefabrication
- 416 Next Level Replantation: Don't try this at Home
- 417 When your Back is to the Wall
- 418 Secondary Urethroplasty in Gender Affirming Phalloplasty
- 419 Longevity in Microsurgery – Pivoting in your Career
- 420 YMG: Setting Yourself Up for Success as a Young Microsurgeon

8:15 AM – 9:15 AM**YMG Panel: Challenges with Building a Practice – Navigating, Collaboration**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**ASRM Past Presidents Breakfast**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Clinical Outcomes II, Extremity II**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**ASRM/ASLS Panel: Collaboration at Our Core in Lymphatic Surgery**10:30 AM - 11:00 AM**ASRM Break with Exhibitors**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**ASRM Panel: Beyond Borders – Global Outreach in Microsurgery**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Lymphedema I**12:00 PM – 1:15 PM**ASRM Lunch with Exhibitors**12:15 PM – 1:15 PM**ASRM Business Meeting** (Members Required to Attend)1:30 PM – 2:00 PM**ASRM Awards and Acknowledgments**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM**ASRM Godina Lecture: Arash Momeni, MD**

Dr. Arash Momeni is an Associate Professor of Surgery, Ryan-Upson Scholar, and Director of Clinical Outcomes Research in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Stanford University. He is Board-certified both in Germany and the United States. He has challenged conventional concepts and introduced novel approaches through collaboration in his over 200 publications, and has served as the exemplary ASRM ambassador during his traveling fellowship.

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM**ASRM Panel: Godina Fellowship – Where are They Now?**3:15 PM – 4:45 PM**ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Breast II, Head and Neck II**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**ASRM Women's Microsurgery Group Reception***(Support provided by a meeting sponsor)**Continued on next page*

## ASRM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING DAYS-AT-A-GLANCE

■ SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS   ■ SOCIAL EVENTS

## Monday | 01.15.2024 (continued)

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### ASRM Godina Alumni Reception

(Supported by Synovis MCA)

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

### ASRM President's Dinner (Invite Only)

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

### ASRM Microsurgery Fellowship Roundtable

8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

### ASRM Microsurgery Fellowship Roundtable Reception

## Tuesday | 01.16.2024

6:30 AM – 8:00 AM

### ASRM Continental Breakfast

6:30 AM – 12:00 PM

### ASRM Electronic Poster Viewing

6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

### AAHS-ASPN-ASRM Medical Student & Resident's Lounge

7:00 AM – 8:45 AM

### ASRM Council Meeting

7:00 AM – 8:45 AM

### ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Surgical Education

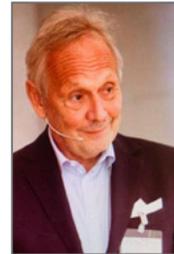
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

### ASRM Breakout Panels

- 421 Free Flaps vs. Pedicled Flaps for Oncologic Breast Reconstruction
- 423 ASRM/ASLS: What's Next in Lymphedema Surgery
- 424 Lower Extremity Coverage: Where's the Beef?



- 425 Secondary Surgeries in Gender Affirming Phalloplasty: Implants, Revisions and Redo's
- 426 The Crossroads of Technology and Microsurgery
- 427 Pediatric Mandibular Defects: Timing and Reconstructive Options



9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

### ASRM Buncke Lecture: Guenter Germann, MD

"An Exciting Long and Winding Road"

Surgeons, especially microvascular surgeons, arrive at their ultimate career goals in a variety of ways.

*Dr. Germann, founder of ETHANIUM Clinic Heidelberg, is a full professor and former chair of Plastic and Hand Surgery (1999) at the Univ. of Heidelberg. His leadership roles also include serving as ASRM President (2020-22), ASRM Council Member (2008-22), and President of German Society for Plastic, Reconstructive and Hand Surgery (2009-10).*

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

### ASRM Scientific Paper Presentations: Lymphedema II, Gender

11:15 PM – 3:00 PM

### American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery and Society of Gender Surgeons: Gender Symposium

11:15 PM – 3:00 PM

### Nurse/APP Symposium: Collaboration at Our Core

Meeting concludes **RM**

## AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY: NEW MEMBERS AUTUMN 2023

# Welcome to ASRM's New Members

## ACTIVE

Travis Boyd, MD  
*Dallas, TX*

Vincent A. Chavanon, MD  
*Orlando, FL*

Jong-Woo Choi, MD  
*Seoul KOREA*

Nicholas Cormier, MD  
*Ottaw, Ontario CANADA*

Margot Den Hondt, MD  
*BELGIUM*

Akitatsu Hayashi, MD  
*Tokyo JAPAN*

Siba Haykal, MD  
*Toronto, Ontario CANADA*

Elizabeth House-Potter, MD  
*Austin, TX*

Kate Buretta Krucoff, MD  
*Brookfield, WI*

Juan Rodolfo Mella-Catinchi, MD, MPH  
*Miami, FL*

Spencer Michalke, MD  
*Phoenix, AZ*

Stephanie Nemir, MD, PhD  
*El Paso, TX*

Jeremy M. Powers, MD  
*Johnson City, TN*

Sarah Sorice-Virk, MD  
*Alamo, CA*

Teun Teunis, MD  
*Pittsburg, PA*

Eric D. Wang, MD  
*Orange, CA*

Sunishka M. Wimalawansa, MD  
*Kettering, OH*

Corrine Wong, MD  
*Denver, CO*

## ASSOCIATE

Abdl-Rawf Al-Nowaylati, MD  
*Atlanta, GA*

Paul, Deramo, MD  
*Provo, UT*

## CANDIDATE

Seth Aschen, MD  
*New York, NY*

Janos Barrera, MD  
*Palo Alto, CA*

Nicholas Bene, MD  
*Medford, MA*

Karel-Bart Celie, MD  
*Los Angeles, CA*

David Cholok, MD  
*Palo Alto, CA*

Hao-Jun Jonathan Chong, MD  
*Portland, OR*

Kevin J. Contrera, MD  
*Houston, TX*

Justin Davis, MD  
*Springfield, IL*

Evgenios Evgeniou, MD  
*Tampa, FL*

Vane Fahradyan, MD  
*Rochester, MN*

Kerily Godbe, MD  
*Kansas City, KS*

Christopher Goodenough, MD  
*Salt Lake City, UT*

Kareem Hassan, MD  
*Philadelphia, PA*

Michael Holland, MD  
*Philadelphia, PA*

Bao-Quynh Julian, MD  
*Baltimore, MD*

Emma Koesters, MD  
*Chicago, IL*

Anzai Lavinia, MD  
*Chicago, IL*

Nicole Kim-Anh Le, MD  
*Tampa, FL*

Candice Leach, MD  
*Kansas City, MO*

Garrison A. Leach, MD  
*San Diego, CA*

Floriana I. Leoveanu, MD  
*Barcelona SPAIN*

Alexander Y. Li, MD  
*Palo Alto, CA*

Jocelyn Lu, MD  
*Brooklyn, NY*

Adrian McArdle, MD  
*Toronto, Ontario CANADA*

Ian T. McGraw, MD  
*Temple, TX*

Heather Ann McMahon, MD  
*Philadelphia, PA*

Elizabeth Moroni, MD  
*Pittsburg, PA*

Leila Musavi, MD  
*Los Angeles, CA*

Hani I. Naga, MD  
*Durham, NC*

Edward Nahabet, MD  
*Beverly Hills, CA*

Irfan Rhemtulla, MD  
*Avondale, PA*

Danielle Rochlin, MD  
*New York, NY*

Alexis Ruffolo, MD  
*Springfield, IL*

Joshua Scarcella, MD  
*Tampa, FL*

Ellen Shaffrey, MD  
*Madison, WI*

Afaaf Shakir, MD  
*Chicago, IL*

Lauren Sinik, MD  
*Overland Park, KS*

Charalampos (Harry) Siotos, MD  
*Chicago, IL*

Klara Sputova, MD  
*Houston, TX*

Vanesa Tapias, MD  
*Toronto, Ontario CANADA*

Jose A. F. Trevino, MD  
*Toluca MEXICO*

Grace Um, MD  
*Seattle, WA*

D'Arcy J. A. Wainwright, MD  
*Tampa, FL*

Takumi Yamamoto, MD  
*Tokyo JAPAN*

Victor Zhang Zhu, MD  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**RM**

