Reconstructive Microsurgery

The American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

Volume 4, Number 2, Summer 1993

Kansas City: ASRM is heading for the fountains

If you are coming to Kansas City for the September 25-27 American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery meeting, you are going to be surprised. Visitors are always amazed to discover our beautiful, vibrant and expansive city. Kansas City displays scenic boulevards that wind their way through rolling hills and gracious neighborhoods. At every turn it is obvious why Kansas City is called the City of Fountains.

The Ninth Annual Meeting of ASRM will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel adjacent to the historic Country Club Plaza. The Plaza area is known for its Spanish architecture, beautiful fountains and many unique buildings, most highlighted with decorative tilings. A focal point of the Plaza is the Horsemen Fountain which was sculpted in Paris in 1910 by Henri Greber. J.C. Nichols planned the Plaza area in 1922 as an active emporium and the nation's first outdoor shopping center. Modeled after Seville, Spain, the tile-roofed, pastel-colored buildings adorned with ironwork create an exciting European atmosphere. Within the 14 block district there are over 150 shops and services and 30 restaurants.

At every turn it is obvious why Kansas City is called the City of Fountains.

The Horseman Fountain is a focal point of the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City.

Westport, located just a few blocks north of the Plaza, is another unique concentration of boutiques, specialty shops, restaurants, courtyards and many conversational pubs. Some very interesting browsing can be enjoyed in Westport, one of Kansas City's most historic and attractively renovated areas.

Another "uniquely Kansas City" experience can be enjoyed on the southern edge of downtown. Crown Center is a shopping and entertainment complex developed by Hallmark Cards that will be home to this fall's American Society for Surgery of the Hand Meeting. The complex includes three levels of distinctive shops and restaurants, two luxury hotels, cinemas and live theaters.

In Kansas City you can discover the past in the present tense. We're a city rich in historical significance. The River Market area is a vibrant redeveloped historic neighborhood. Located in Kansas City's original riverbank commercial district are shops, galleries and the Arabla Steamboat Museum. The Arabla was excavated in 1988 for her 200 tons of remarkably preserved 1856 frontier supplies. Closer to the Country Club Plaza is the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The museum has achieved an international reputation for its Asian collection. In addition, everyone enjoys a stroll through the Henry Moore Sculpture Garden, featuring 13 larger-than-life works in a landscaped setting.

(continued on page 3)

From the President

Progress for our Society, not for world peace

All that we do... is done against the tragic backdrop of the appalling events in the Balkans.

The year goes well for our Society.

The meeting in Scottsdale, with a record attendance of 332, was an unqualified success. Sal Shenaq and his committee have worked to meet this challenge, and selected 54 papers from the 145 abstracts submitted (37%) with the results you have already seen in the Preliminary Program for Kansas City, September 26 and 27, 1993. I hope you like the look of that program and that you can fit it into your schedule. Note particularly that the Ritz-Carlton, probably the best hotel in Kansas City, is offering reduced rates and complimentary busing throughout the Hand Society Meeting through October 2nd.

The combined meeting in St. Tropez with the French and Italian Societies saw the relatively small American delegation of 29 participants more than hold its own. These meetings are invaluable, for techniques certainly differ and cross-pollinization enhances all practice.

Your committees have been very active, for which they have my personal thanks. As a result of which, you will see an annual Microsurgery Symposium in cooperation with the Plastic Surgery Education Foundation, the development of patient education brochures, the first of which will be Free Tissue Transfers and Following Replantation, correspondence from members on technical matters in all future issues of this newsletter, videotapes catalogued and reviewed in the publication, and successful annual meetings under the guidance of Bob Russell and Ralph Manktelow, for which budgets are already prepared. New committees are being established in the areas of Clinical Guidelines, Outcome Studies, Coding and Reimbursement, of which more is presented elsewhere in this issue.

We have developed good, cost effective management with Associated Management Services, through the efforts of many, but notably Elaine Larkin-Leighton, our Account Executive. Our finances, though modest, are adequate and our new investment policy sound.

Throughout this year, all that we do, happy or sad, personal or professional, is done against the tragic backdrop of the appalling events in the Balkans. What pleasure we gain from any success, what grief from any misfortune, has been softened by the nightly television images of torn bodies, homeless children and shattered antiquities. On behalf of our Society, I commend those who have personally tried to help, and pray that compassion will replace prejudice, that preservation of life will gain priority over protection of land and that peace will prevail.

Graham Lister

From the Editor

The focus of ASRM is our Annual Meeting. Because the society is small and the format of the meeting is not rigid, participation is possible for all members and guests.

Sal Shenaq and his program committee have put together an outstanding program with an international flavor in a great midwestern city. I hope to see you there!

Peter J. Stern
Secretary

Reconstructive Microsurgery

The mission of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery is to promote, encourage, foster and advance the art and science of reconstructive microneurovascular surgery; and to establish a forum for teaching, research and free discussion of reconstructive microsurgical methods and principles among members.

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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.

Scientific Meeting program preview

The ASRM annual scientific meeting will be held on Sunday, September 26 and Monday, September 27, 1993. The scientific program for this year includes instructional courses, scientific paper presentations, an international panel, scientific posters, and an audio-visual theater. The preliminary program for the 9th Annual Meeting is completed and mailed.

With the help of the membership which submitted a large number of diverse and stimulating abstracts, members of the Program Committee, Sal Shenaq (chairman), Allen Bishop, Robert Khouri, Dan Nagle, Julian Pribaz, and Ron Zuker, have selected 54 abstracts for scientific presentations from a total of 145 high quality abstracts which were submitted this year. Scientific presentations are grouped into seven Scientific Sessions on Sunday and Monday.

In order to encourage and utilize the young members of the Society, we elected for moderators to be younger members. The more senior members will be co-moderators. Commentators are assigned for each session for their personal comments on each scientific paper during the discussion period after each presentation. Audience participation and discussion will be encouraged by the moderator and the co-moderator.

Fourteen instructional courses, forty-five minutes each, are to be given during this year's meeting by more junior members of the Society. A commentator of international repute will be present for comments and discussion. Seven instructional courses will be given on Sunday beginning at 7:00 am and seven courses will be given on Monday at the same time. Among the highlights of this scientific program is the international panel Acute and Chronic Management of Grade III Extremity Wounds which will be given at 1:30 pm on Monday, September 27, by international panelists Zoran Arnez (Ljubljana, Slovenia), George Cierny (Atlanta, Georgia) and Michel Merle (Nancy, France), with Graham Lister serving as moderator.

The Founders Lecture will be given on Monday at 11:00 am by Algimantas O. Narakas. The First Godina Memorial Lecture will be given this year by Lawrence B. Colen at 11:00 am on Sunday, September 26. A selection of tapes covering basic science, microsurgical technique, and the clinical aspects of microsurgery will be available for viewing in the audiovisual theater. Theater hours were selected to avoid overlap with the scientific session and extend between 4:30 pm through 11:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The scientific posters will be exhibited during the entire meeting.

The Program Committee looks forward to an outstanding and a very successful 9th Annual Meeting of ASRM and we invite you to Kansas City.

Sal Shenaq,
Program Chairman

Fountains (continued)

Close by in Independence, Missouri, now an eastern Kansas City suburb, a visitor can see where historic trails began and the buck stopped. The renowned Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, Truman Home, and National Frontier Trails Center are all located in close proximity. The Trails Center details the history of the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe Trails from their origin near Independence.

Kansas City is very well known for its sax appeal. Kansas City style jazz is alive and well and heard nightly in numerous emporiums and clubs.

Kansas City is very well known for its sax appeal.

Your memory will savor your upcoming Kansas City dining experiences. Kansas City steaks are cut and aged to reveal their best flavor and world famous Kansas City Barbecue can be had in over 60 establishments. Kansas City barbecue sauces range in taste from the sublime to the sumptuously spicy.

The sports-minded will enjoy the proximity to the Plaza's many public tennis courts and sidewalk paths. The golfer will find easy access to many respected public golf courses all within a reasonable distance from our meeting hotel.

September weather can be somewhat unpredictable. If I were to predict, I would expect the highs to reach the mid- to upper- 70's and the lows dipping into the low 50's. If you are trying to plan "what to wear," I recommend you bring primarily pants or slacks and long-sleeved shirts. An optimist may consider bringing bermuda shorts. None the less, bring a light coat, sweater or jacket for the evenings!

I am looking forward to seeing you all accept a healthy portion of Kansas City hospitality this September.

Gary L. Baker,
Local Host

Meeting Schedule

Saturday, September 25, 1993

7:00 am – 3:00 pm	Council and Committee meetings
2:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Registration
4:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Audiovisual Theatre
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Welcoming Reception

Sunday, September 26, 1993

6:30 am – 4:30 pm	Registration
6:30 am – 4:30 pm	Exhibits
6:30 am – 7:00 am	Continental Breakfast
7:00 am – 7:45 am	Instructional Courses (#1–7)
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Scientific Session A
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Break
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Scientific Session B
11:00 am –12:00 noon	**First Godina Memorial Lecture** "Progress in Marko's Interests and Teaching" Lawrence B. Colen, MD
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Scientific Session C
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Scientific Session D
4:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Audiovisual Theatre
5:30 pm	Buses Leave for Little Theater
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	KC Jazz, BBQ and Ms. McBeth

Monday, September 27, 1993

6:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration
6:30 am – 4:30 pm	Exhibits
6:30 am – 7:00 am	Continental Breakfast
7:00 am – 7:45 am	Instructional Courses (#8–14)
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Scientific Session E
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Break
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Scientific Session F
11:00 am –12:00 noon	**Founders Lecture** "The Life and Pursuits of a Microsurgeon" Algimantas Narakas, MD
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	**International Panel: Acute and Chronic Management of Grade III Extremity Wounds**
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Scientific Session G
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Break
5:00 pm	Members Business Meeting

Program highlights

Founders Lecture

Algimantas O. Narakas, MD, FRCS Eng. (Hon.), will deliver the 1993 Founders Lecture entitled "The Life and Pursuits of a Microsurgeon." Dr. Narakas is an Honorary Professor and Chief Surgeon of the Longeraie Clinic for Surgery of the Hand, Upper Limb and Peripheral Nerves in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dr. Narakas was born and raised in Lithuania, the son of the Minister of the Interior there. In 1938 he was sent for treatment to Switzerland, where he has remained. He completed his medical studies at the University of Lausanne, and is now a member of 26 national and international societies. He has published close to 200 articles and chapters.

First Godina Memorial Lecture

Dr. Lawrence B. Colen will present the First Godina Memorial Lecture "Progress in Marko's Interests and Teaching." This lectureship is supported by the Marko Godina Fund whose trustees have asked that the lecture be given by a member of the American Society who is younger than 43, the age at which Marko Godina died in 1986.

Dr. Colen serves as Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia. He attended Dartmouth Medical School, and completed his internship and residency at the University of California San Francisco. He is a member of 17 national and international societies and has published 50 articles and chapters.

International Panel: Acute and Chronic Management of Grade III Extremity Wounds

Zoran Arnez, MD
Ljubljana, Slovenia
George Cirrny, MD
Atlanta, Georgia
Michel Merle, MD
Nancy, France
Graham Lister, MD, Moderator

After initial presentations, difficult cases will be presented and reviewed by the panelists. An opportunity for discussion between the panelists and attendees will be included.

Social Events

Welcoming Reception

The Welcoming Reception will be held on Saturday evening from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm in the Exhibit Area. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available. Two complimentary drink tickets are included in the registration fee for attendees; spouses and guests may purchase reception tickets for $25.

KC Jazz, BBQ and Ms. McBeth

The art deco style of the Little Theater, evocative of the days of Prohibition when it was built, will provide an ideal setting for Sunday evening's entertainment. A jazz ensemble during cocktails, jazz piano with dinner and to follow a jazz concert by Ms. Ida McBeth promises a memorable occasion.

The Little Theater, setting for Sunday evening

"The major reason…is Ida McBeth, an electrifying blues and jazz singer… (who) knows how to move an audience, driving it to stomp and dance with a saucy rhythm and blues number, or quieting everyone down with a soft jazz ballad." —*The New York Times,* August 12, 1990.

The evening will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and the jazz entertainment. Transportation to and from the Little Theater and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel will be provided. One ticket is included in the meeting registration fee. Additional tickets may be purchased for $75.00.

Registration questions

Please direct questions regarding registration for the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery Ninth Annual Meeting, September 25-27, 1993 in Kansas City, Missouri to:

ASRM Central Office
444 East Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005
(708)228-9717; Fax (708)228-9131

Telephone registrations cannot be accepted.

Instructional courses

Sunday, September 26, 1993
7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

1
Vascular Territories
Lecturer: N. John Yousif, MD
Commentator: Gilles Dautel, MD
Nancy, France

2
Base of Skull Defects
Lecturer: N. Bradly Meland, MD
Commentator: Neil F. Jones, MD
Los Angeles, California

3
Thumb Reconstruction
Lecturer: Frederick A. Valauri, MD
Commentator: Ulrich Lanz, MD
Bad Neustadt a.d. Saale, Germany

4
Difficult Vascular Access
Lecturer: William C. Pederson, MD
Commentator: Robert D. Acland, MD
Louisville, Kentucky

5
Mandibular Reconstruction
Lecturer: Mark A. Schusterman, MD
Commentator: Fu Chan Wei, MD
Taipei, Taiwan

6
Vascularized Bone Grafts
Lecturer: Allen T. Bishop, MD
Commentator: Michael B. Wood, MD
Rochester, Minnesota

7
Free Flap Fabrication
Lecturer: Roger K. Khouri, MD
Commentator: Jacques Baudet, MD
Bordeaux, France

Monday, September 27, 1993
7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

8
Pediatric Microsurgery
Lecturer: Larry S. Nichter, MD
Commentator: Alain Gilbert, MD
Paris, France

9
Free TRAM Flap for the Breast
Lecturer: James C. Grotting, MD
Commentator: Zoran Arnez, MD
Ljubljana, Slovenia

10
Distal Musculoskeletal Neoplasms
Lecturer: Venkat K. Rao, MD
Commentator: Minoru Shibata, MD
Niigata, Japan

11
Vascular Disorders of the Hand
Lecturer: Neil F. Jones, MD
Commentator: Guy Foucher, MD
Strasbourg, France

12
Restoration of Damaged Feet
Lecturer: C. Vaughan A. Bowen, MD
Commentator: Alfred Berger, MD
Hanover, Germany

13
Free Fibula versus Ilizarov
Lecturer: Daniel J. Nagle, MD
Commentator: George Cierny, MD
Atlanta, Georgia

14
Esophageal Reconstruction
Lecturer: William C. Lineawearer
Commentator: Jacques Baudet, MD
Bordeaux, France

Audiovisual Theater

The Audiovisual Theater will be open from 4:30 pm to 11:30 pm on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27 in Kansas City for the Ninth Annual Meeting of the ASRM.

As of June 9, 1993, the AV Committee has received a total of four (4) abstracts. The deadline for submission of abstracts is June 30, 1993.

The ASPRS and the ASSH have agreed to provide pertinent videotapes from their libraries for our Annual Meeting. These videotapes will be available for viewing by members during the regular AV Theater hours of the Annual Meeting. Order forms will also be available for members who wish to purchase any of the videotapes.

Richard Idler

Godina Memorial Lecturer

Tenth Annual Meeting
Marco Island, January 1995

Applications welcome

The Godina lecturer must be a member of the society under the age of 43 when the lecture is given. He or she receives an honorarium of $500 and the Godina Memorial Medal. Members interested should submit a single paragraph out-line of a 30 minute lecture to President-Elect Bob Russell by August 15, 1993.

Committees 1993-1995

President-Elect Bob Russell is currently preparing committee assignments for next year. All members are asked to study the committee charges which have appeared in this and the last newsletter, and write Bob Russell telling him where they would like to become involved in the Society's work. We need all the participation we can get!

Robert C. Russell
SIU School of Medicine
Division of Plastic Surgery
747 N. Rutledge St.
Baylis Bldg., 3rd floor
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Surgical Specialties Corporation sponsors Society newsletter

Surgical Specialities Corporation, a leading manufacturer and the marketer of Sharpoint® microsutures and cutting instruments continues its commitment to innovation and excellence in microsurgery by proudly sponsoring this issue of Reconstructive Microsurgery.

When it comes to microsurgical sutures you can count on Sharpoint® for the quality and consistency you've come to expect.

SURGICAL SPECIALTIES CORPORATION
Manufacturer of quality **Sharpoint** products.

ASRM Jewelry Order Form

	Gold Filled	10K Solid Gold	14K Solid Gold
Tie tack	$32.75___	$95.75___	$123.75 ___
Lapel Pin	$32.75___	$95.75___	$123.75 ___
Charm	$32.75___	$95.75___	$123.75 ___
Necklace Accessory	$22.50___		
Bracelet Accessory	$28.45___		

Send to: ASRM
444 E. Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. All orders must be pre-paid.

Guidelines, outcome studies, coding & reimbursement

Mark Buehler, one of our members, wrote an impassioned plea that the Society represent its members in the current turmoil which is health care reform. The Forward Planning Committee had already been charged with making recommendations on this task, but found themselves divided, for valid reasons all, on whether this Society should enter that arena. Council however, were unanimous since it seemed that too little was being done by our larger societies in the area of microsurgery. Ad hoc committees are therefore being formed on Clinical Guidelines and Outcome Studies and on Coding and Reimbursement under the chairmanship of John Lubahn and Dan Nagle respectively. Draft charges to these committees are detailed below.

Further encouragement came in the form of a publication from the AMA/ Specialty Society RVS Update Committee, which prompted the attached letter.

I believe that we have a responsibility to represent our membership, indeed all who do microsurgery, for what we do is little understood by our colleagues. This is particularly so with regard to the "physician work component" which represents 54% of the RBRVS, and is defined as "…the time it takes to perform the service; technical skill and physical effort; mental effort and judgement; stress associated with the physician's concern about iatrogenic risk". I hope that even the most apolitical of us will agree that only we can understand, evaluate and describe this component and will assist these committees when asked to do so.

Coding and Reimbursement Committee

Charge

1. To review the CPT codes which apply to microsurgery;
2. To rationalize, and where appropriate design additions to, those codes;
3. To develop vignettes describing the typical service and patient for each code;
4. To define the "physician work component" (which represents 54%

(continued on next page)

RVS Update Process and Microsurgery

I have followed with interest the development of the AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update committee. Composed as it is of only 302 members, drawn primarily from Orthopaedic and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the relatively young American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery has thus far felt it inappropriate to engage actively in RVS Update and review activities.

It has become increasingly clear, however, that in their understandable and laudable preoccupation with the large majority of procedures provided by virtually all their members, the major specialty societies can pay little heed to the small number of patients treated by surgical techniques demanding high magnification.

It is true, nonetheless, that such procedures provide an increasing and invaluable service in the repair and reconstruction of patients, especially after major trauma and cancer resection. Microsurgery has been shown to reduce the hospital stay and return to work time of such cases by periods which are statistically highly significant.

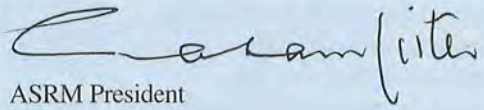
With these considerations in mind our Society has developed a group which can serve as an RVS Committee. This Committee is eager to review the inadequately small number of CPT codes which apply to microsurgery; to develop vignettes describing the typical service and patient for each code; to identify at least 30 physicians who would agree to complete any written surveys which would assist the AMA RVS Update Committee; indeed to survey our entire membership in whatever detail is deemed desirable. Our Society has been encouraged by the recent AMA publication "The AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update Process" and especially by two sentences therein:

Specialty societies that are not in the House of Delegates also may be invited to participate in the development of relative values for coding changes of particular relevance to their members.

The RVS evaluation is an extremely open process.

I welcome your comments, advice and instructions.

Graham Lister,



ASRM President

of the RBRVS), with respect to the time it takes to perform the service; the technical skill and physical effort required; the mental effort and the judgment involved; the stress associated with the physician's concern about iatrogenic risk;
5. To determine methods for listing microsurgery procedures for which codes do not currently exist;
6. To Liaise with the Relative Value Scale Update Committee of the American Medical Association;
7. To identify at least 30 members who would agree to complete written surveys which would assist that AMA Committee;
8. To commence development of documents outlining appropriate billing practices and global fees for microsurgery to define reasonable and ethical billing practices;
9. To inform and to survey when necessary the membership of the Society via the Newsletter.

St. Tropez meeting an informative pleasure

The combined meeting of the French, Italian and American microsurgery societies was held May 20-23, 1993, in scenic Saint Tropez in the south of France. The general meeting was chaired by Dr. Jaime Restrepo and organized chiefly by Dr. Alain Gilbert of the G.A.M. and provided a unique combination of panels and free paper presentations from authors on both sides of the Atlantic.

The program included presentations in either French or English but despite language differences allowed an excellent exchange of new and innovative information. At last count there were 29 attendees from the American society, most of whom were active participants in the program. Free papers were presented by Elliott Rose, Anthony Smith, Allen Bishop, Fred Valauri, Roger Khouri, Julian Pribaz, Dean Sotereanos, Christina Ahn, Bill Lineaweaver, Achilleas Thoma, Tsu-Min Tsai, Steven McCabe, and Grady Core. Panel participants included Neil Jones, Michael Wood, Graham Lister, Brian Boyd, John Franklin, Chris Pederson, Scott Levin, Bill Lineaweaver, Rod Hentz, and Vaughan Bowen.

The finale of the program included an elegant banquet in full view of the Mediterranean from the fortified castle of Saint Tropez. By all accounts, I believe members found the program stimulating and the ambience enticing. On behalf of ASRM, I wish to extend my thanks to the G.A.M. and Italian societies for microsurgery for this opportunity.

Michael B. Wood

Clinical Policies and Outcome Research Committee

1. To develop a standardized format including computer data base to be used in preparing all guidelines for microsurgical procedures.
2. To develop educational models for clinical situations to guide the clinician in managing patients and/or diagnoses with conditions suitable for microsurgical reconstruction.
3. To determine the format and methodology for conducting studies of the efficacy of microsurgical procedures which will be acceptable to scientific groups and to government agencies.
4. To monitor and participate in private and public sector activities involving the practice of clinical microsurgery.
5. To select and prioritize those operations to be studied.
6. To collaborate with the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery and the American College of Surgeons clinical committees to ensure cooperation and communication in the use of policies and guidelines both from the standpoint of education and as a guide to implementation of useful outcome data.
7. To seek funds with which to pursue outcome studies in microsurgery.
8. To set up a nationwide and possibly worldwide network of data collection to achieve significant numbers for statistically adequate, meaningful outcome data.
9. To inform and to survey when necessary the membership of the Society via the Newsletter.
10. To develop a patient questionnaire for outcome data.

Graham Lister

Education Committee: an update

At the Scottsdale meeting, an Ad Hoc Committee on Education was created. It consists of Tom Trumble (Chair), Ghazi Rayan, Mary McGrath, Larry Nichter, and Brad Meland. One of the charges was to develop patient education brochures which would be available to the membership for use in their practice. The preliminary text for two brochures has been written: Micro-surgical Free Tissue Transplantation and Following Replantation. Tom Trumble and his committee welcome suggestions for additional topics.

Peter J. Stern

Questionnaire
AV Theater topics

For several years ASRM has offered space on its program for video presentations. The format of program availability has varied from scheduled presentations with introductions and question sessions to video rooms for individual screening by interested individuals.

The Audiovisual Committee is reassessing the place of video presentations on the program, including whether or not videos should originate solely from meeting participants or whether videos available from other organizations (e.g., ASPRS) should be included. Your response to the questions regarding the AV theatre included with the survey within this newsletter will be extremely valuable in formulating the role of video presentation at future meetings. Kindly take a few moments and respond to this survey.

William C. Lineaweaver

ASRM 1993 Membership Survey

The ASRM committees have developed a membership questionnaire to evaluate your expectations of ASRM. Please complete the survey and return it to the ASRM Central Office, 444 East Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 by **August 15, 1993**. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Annual Meeting

1. Do you plan to attend the 1993 Annual Meeting in Kansas City? *(check one)*

   ❑ yes ❑ no

2. ASRM has historically met in conjunction with related organizations. Would you prefer that ASRM: *(check one)*

   ❑ continue to meet immediately prior to the American Society for Surgery of the Hand meeting
   ❑ meet immediately prior to the American Association for Hand Surgery meeting
   ❑ alternate between the two
   ❑ meet separately from other societies

3. The annual meeting to follow Kansas City will be held in January 1995 in Marco Island, Florida in conjunction with the American Association for Hand Surgery. Do you plan to attend? *(check one)*

   ❑ definitely yes ❑ definitely no
   ❑ probably yes ❑ don't know
   ❑ probably no

4. In which annual meeting activities do you participate, and which do you find most beneficial? *(check all those you attend and rank each, beginning with 1, as most important)*

Attend	Rank	
____	____	scientific papers
____	____	scientific posters
____	____	instructional courses
____	____	Founders Lecture
____	____	audiovisual theatre
____	____	commercial exhibitors
____	____	annual business meeting

5. If ASRM were to plan an independent meeting, would you prefer:

   a. Time of year:
   ❑ winter ❑ spring ❑ summer ❑ fall

   b. Location:
   ❑ downtown ❑ resort

   c. Region:
   ❑ Northeast ❑ Southeast ❑ Mid-Central
   ❑ South ❑ Central ❑ West coast
   ❑ mountain states ❑ Southwest ❑ offshore

   Comments:

Audiovisual Theatre

6a. Have you submitted videotapes for the ASRM annual meetings in the past?

   ❑ yes ❑ no

6b. If no, why not?

   _____
   _____
   _____

7. Would you consider submitting tapes for future ASRM meetings?

   ❑ yes ❑ no

8. Would you be interested in seeing videotapes incorporated into the scientific program with allotted time for discussion?

   ❑ yes ❑ no

   Comments:

Newsletter

9. Do you read the ASRM Newsletter? *(check one)*

   ❑ always ❑ sometimes ❑ never

10. What features of the Newsletter do you read? *(check all that apply)*

   ❑ Presidential Message
   ❑ Committee news
   ❑ annual meeting highlights
   ❑ upcoming meetings calendar

11. The Membership Correspondence subcommittee is planning to include letters from members with each newsletter which would offer ideas, techniques and "pearls" that might be of interest to other members. How likely is it that you would: *(check one)*

	not at all		possibly		definitely
a. read the letters	1	2	3	4	5
b. contribute a letter	1	2	3	4	5

12. What other information would you like to see included in the Newsletter?

   _____
   _____
   _____

Comments:

CPT Coding and Reimbursement

13. Are you satisfied with the current CPT codes assigned to microsurgery?

❑ yes ❑ no

14. What procedures require more precise or new CPT codes?

_____
_____
_____

15. Are the current CPT codes too "global" (i.e., 20816 "Replantation, Digit," 15755 "Free Flap")?

❑ yes ❑ no

16. Should there be an "a la carte" approach to coding for replants and free flaps?

❑ yes ❑ no

17a. Do you think that you are appropriately reimbursed for your microsurgical procedures?

❑ yes ❑ no

17b. If no, which codes are of concern to you?

_____
_____
_____

Comments:

Further comments regarding coding and reimbursement should be faxed to Committee Chairman Dan Nagle at (312) 337-3601.

Membership

18. How important are the following ASRM member benefits to you? *(rank each, beginning with 1 as most important)*

____ Annual Meeting
____ newsletter
____ membership roster
____ recognition of membership by colleagues

19. ASRM is expanding its activities on behalf of members to include the following. Which activities are you pleased to see ASRM undertake? *(check all that apply)*

❑ member correspondence included in newsletter
❑ address coding/reimbursement issues
❑ address clinical guidelines and outcomes

Comments:

Central Office

20a. Have you ever called the central office?

❑ yes ❑ no

20b. If yes, please rate their response in the following areas: *(circle one number)*

	Poor				Excellent
Helpful	1	2	3	4	5
Informative	1	2	3	4	5
Promptly returned call	1	2	3	4	5
Promptly sent materia	1	2	3	4	5

Demographics

Please tell us a little about yourself.

21. Gender:

❑ male ❑ female

22. Which category best represents your age? *(check one)*

❑ <35 ❑ 45-54 ❑ >65
❑ 35-44 ❑ 55-64

23. How many years have you been in practice?

❑ <5 ❑ 11-15 ❑ >20
❑ 6-10 ❑ 16-20

24. What percentage of your practice involves microsurgery?

_____ %

25. To what other medical organizations do you belong? *(check all that apply)*

❑ Amer Acad Orthopedic Surgeons
❑ Amer Assn for Hand Surgery
❑ Amer College of Surgeons
❑ Amer Medical Assn
❑ Amer Soc of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
❑ Amer Soc for Surgery of the Hand

Please forward completed survey by August 15, 1993 to:

ASRM Central Office
444 East Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

Membership Directory Corrections

Please make the following additions and corrections in your directory.

Addition:

L. William Mulbry, Jr, MD
400 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143
(415) 476-4534

Correction:

Dr. Michel P. Merle's name was spelled incorrectly. Our apologies to Dr. Mulbry and Merle for these oversights.

Microsurgery calendar

July 30-August 1, 1993
1993 ASSH Comprehensive Review Course in Hand Surgery, Dallas, TX. Contact: ASSH, (303) 755-4588.

August 15-18, 1993
PSEF International Symposium on Plastic Surgery, Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: PSEF, (800) 766-4955.

September 19-22, 1993
ASPRS/PSEF/ASMS Annual Scientific Meeting, New Orleans, LA. Contact: ASPRS, (800) 766-4955.

September 25-27, 1993
ASRM Ninth Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO. Contact: ASRM, (708) 228-9717.

September 29-October 2, 1993
ASSH 48th Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO. Contact: ASSH, (303) 755-4588.

December 1-5, 1993
AAHS Annual Meeting, Cancun, Mexico. Contact: AAHS, (312) 644-0828.

March 12-16, 1994
2nd International Workshop on Congenital Differences in the Hand
Salt Lake City, UT

March 17-20, 1994
Tissue Expansion and Free Flaps Symposium, San Francisco, CA. Co-sponsored by PSEF and ASRM. Contact: PSEF, (800) 766-4955.

January 11-14, 1995
ASRM Tenth Annual Meeting, Marco Island, FL. Contact: ASRM, (708) 228-9717.

Attention ASRM Members

To: Members of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

From: Michael A. McClinton

Date: May 20, 1993

Subject: ASRM Correspondence Newsletters

The officers of ASRM have asked Lawrence Colen and me to undertake an exciting project for the Society. This is the creation of member correspondence newsletters which would be included in the twice yearly mailing of our newsletter.

Our correspondence newsletters would be similar to Correspondence Newsletters of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. As you know, this involves a solicitation of the members to send, on their own stationery, an idea, technique or just a thought that would be of value to other members of the Society. Since microsurgery is technically intense, we feel there are many tricks our members possess that would be of interest to others. Our society is smaller than the Hand Society and since many members already contribute to the Hand Society Correspondence Letters, our thought was to launch ours on a smaller scale.

Basically, we will aim for ten letters to go out with each Reconstructive Microsurgery Newsletter. Members of ASRM will be contacted in alphabetical order to submit a letter. Please start thinking about contributions you could make.

ASRM
444 East Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

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