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RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY

What's New in Reconstructive Microsurgery?

Mauai served as a magnificent backdrop to a rich program where the best and the brightest in microsurgery presented their work, discussed their findings and pushed the boundaries of the specialty to new and exciting limits.

Not least among these achievements was the dramatic presentation by Maria Siemionow of the first North American face transplant - arguably the most extensive one to date - and one that will be followed closely, not only by the surgical team that carried it out, but also by those members of the

Society fortunate enough to witness its unveiling. It was appropriate that this paper was showcased at the inaugural meeting within a meeting of the American Society of Reconstructive Transplantation, where the guest speaker was Thomas E. Starzl. He presented his early work on the induction of tolerance to reduce immunosuppressive dosing, which acted as a springboard for a number of presentations on the same subject. Clearly this line of research will prove pivotal if composite tissue allografting (CTA) is



Incoming President William Zamboni presents outgoing President Neil Jones with a token of appreciation for his dedication and service to the organization.

2009 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM CHAIR



J. Brian Boyd, MD

to become more than just a *tour de force* in a few select institutions.

To this end, the first large animal model (dog) was described in which mixed chimerism was induced prior to successful CTA. The result was that the treated animals accepted CTA without complication (and without immunosuppression) while the controls underwent rejection. Different papers probed different ways in producing mixed chimerism in varying animal models from rat to pig to primate. The use of donor bone marrow cells proved superior to bone marrow stromal cells and donor/recipient chimeric cells in inducing chimerism in a rat face transplant model. Furthermore, survival correlated with high

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2009 Master Series Faculty: (Left to right) Chairman Lawrence Gottlieb, Stefan Hofer, Peter Neligan, Scott Levin, Robert Walton, Fu Chan Wei, and Eduardo Rodriguez

What's New in RM?

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levels donor B-cell chimerism in the peripheral blood of recipients. A number of papers showed that the inclusion of marrow within the bone of the allograft induced chimerism within the recipient model and prolonged survival. Application to humans cannot be far off. An 18 month follow-up on a French face transplant (for plexiform neurofibroma) illustrated some of the longer term problems—specifically antiviral-resistant CMV infection and acute rejection—which may be encountered.

While mesenchymal stem cells from a donor may be used in the induction of chimerism in minipigs, they can also be seeded into free flaps to utilize a pre-existing vascular architecture and perhaps be induced to form differentiated tissues and organs complete with vascular pedicle. In another approach, three dimensional constructs with channels for microvascular ingrowth were produced—forming scaffolds for tissue engineering. It was also shown that vascularized tissue constructs could be increased in size by

drilling holes in the chamber walls. The application of inductive agents in reconstruction is beginning to jump from Petri dish to patient; and, in some cases, duplicate the work of free tissue transfer. One report documented the use of BMP-2 in a putty-like construct with tricalcium phosphate and blood—wrapped in a collagen sponge—for segmental mandibular reconstruction.

The use of microsurgery in breast reconstruction continues to expand. Much interest is currently focused on the preoperative mapping of perforators using duplex ultrasound; CT Angiography; MRI, and laser assisted fluorescent dye angiography (SPY). The authors justify the expense of each investigative modality by operative time saved from the tedious selection of perforators by hand. In terms of monitoring flaps, there appears to be a number of distinct advantages of transcutaneous infrared spectroscopy tissue oximetry (Vioptix) in that it can detect venous obstruction at a very early stage.

Among the few new flaps described and evaluated were: the posterior medial thigh flap (based on the profunda femoris artery); the posterior hip perforator flap (based on various perforators -



Outgoing President Neil Jones, MD

lumbar, superior gluteal, circumflex iliac); the septocutaneous gluteal artery perforator flap and the septocutaneous DIEP flap. However, some new modifications of existing techniques may prove even more helpful: for example leaving the epithelium on buried flaps until the overlying skin of a skin sparing mastectomy has declared itself. Another idea is the retrograde anastomosis of one of the deep inferior epigastric venae comitantes to the inferior stump of the internal mammary vein so as to improve venous drainage. Lymphatic drainage from a lymphedematous arm may be enhanced by harvesting the superficial groin nodes with the abdominal flap and positioning them in

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What's New in RM?

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the axilla. The incidence of postoperative lymphedema in the donor leg has yet to be established.

It may surprise many that the incidence of pulmonary embolism in free flap breast reconstruction is as much as 2.5 percent. Surely the time has come for routine prophylaxis to be advocated. Even more shocking are the demographics related to race and autologous breast reconstruction. It appears that African American women have greater preoperative co-morbidities, longer hospital stays, higher hospital charges, more blood transfusions and a much higher death rate (0.20% vs. 0.03%) than Caucasians. On the other hand, it would appear that patients of advanced age (over 65) have outcomes equal to the general population despite higher ASA status, BMIs and rates of blood transfusions! It is clear that future comparative studies should be matched for race if not for age.

Progress has also been made in head and neck microsurgery. The maxilla - long a graveyard of reconstructive options - has been addressed by a number of authors. Bilateral defects may be handled by an omega-shaped and osteotomized fibular osteocutaneous flap, or by stacked fibular flaps. In unilateral cases, a radial forearm osteocutaneous flap may be employed or even a 'scapular tip' flap. Aesthetically, flaps containing bone do much better than soft-tissue flaps alone. The latter are more prone to contour abnormalities, 'sinking in' and ectropion.

Options in oropharyngeal reconstruction have been expanded by the utilization of the medial sural artery perforator flap, gastro-omental free flaps and even modified DIEP flaps. It is now possible to take two independent radial forearm flaps from the same arm and use them for different compo-

nents of the buccal sulcus and oral cavity.

In the extremities, ways are being sought to avoid free tissue transfers through a greater understanding of the anatomy and distribution of perforating vessels. Examples are the posterior tibial artery perforator flap (lower leg), the perineal artery perforator flap (vagina), the anterolateral thigh-vastus lateralis perforator flap (pelvic exenteration defects) and



**Presidents' Invited Lecturer
Thomas E. Starzl, MD**

'propeller flaps' (ubiquitous) based on a single Dopplerable vessel. Our understanding of the reverse sural fasciocutaneous flap has been expanded by some experimental work in rabbits that suggests that the lesser saphenous vein should either be supercharged (by anastomosing its proximal end in an antegrade manner at the recipient site) or tied off. In other words, the survival may be increased by providing venous outflow or ligating venous inflow. Unsurprisingly, it was shown that this flap's survival is much less consistent in smokers, diabetics, arteriopathies and in older patients (70+). I wonder if race plays a part.

Finally, those of us embroiled in the boxer-shorts-versus-briefs debate will be heartened by the finding that rat testes covered by a pedicled flap maintain superior

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ASRM "Best" Awards 2009

Best Microsurgical Case of the Year Award

Lawrence Gottlieb, MD

Free Flap, Tissue Expansion, Hard Palate Graft

Best Microsurgical Save of the Year Award

David Low, MD

Latissimus Myocutaneous Free Flap/Free Fibula Graft



Lawrence Gottlieb, MD (left) receives the "Best Case" award from Michael Zenn, MD.



David Low, MD (left) receives the "Best Save" award from Michael Zenn, MD.

What's New in RM?

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function than when covered by a skin graft, as measured by the aptly named 'Johnson' score. This is despite the fact that the graft is more likely to maintain the temperature difference essential for normal spermatogenesis. Further investigation of this 'graft versus host' effect is clearly warranted. Roll on 2010! [RM](#)

Scott Levin and Neil Jones participate in a panel discussion.



THE **ASRM** COUNCIL AND THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL EXHIBITS COMMITTEES WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR THANKS TO THE **2009 EXHIBITORS** FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION:

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Tornier (Guest Room Key Cards)	Ascension Orthopedics (Program Book Back Cover)
California Pacific Medical Center (Buncke Lectureship)	ViOptix (Internet Café)
Synovis Micro Companies Alliance (Best Case/Best Save Awards)	ASSI-Accurate Surgical (ASRM Cocktail Reception)

Golf Tournament Winners

First Place Team:

Heidi Marin
Phil Marin
Jeremy Williams

Longest Drive:

Karen Leinhauser

Closest to the Pin:

Greg Buncke

Longest Putt:

Jaime Flores



The Social Events Were Not to be Missed!



Michael Neumeister, Randy Sherman and Robert Russell enjoying the Welcome Reception



Jimmy Mac & the Kool Kats engaged attendees at the 25th Anniversary Gala



A celebration of 25 years of success



Dancing the night away

Young Microsurgeons: A Key to the Future of ASRM

The first ASRM Meeting I attended was as a resident many years ago when I was privileged to present my research work during the Scientific Session at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. At that meeting I was excited and captured by the enthusiastic and innovative spirit displayed by the leadership, members and attendees. I knew at that moment that this society was special and one I would want to be a part of.

It is therefore with great humility and pride that I speak to you as President ASRM 2009. It is the passion and commitment of our past Presidents that has made ASRM the premier society for microsurgery and complex reconstruction. In light of this I would like to honor Neil F. Jones our immediate past president for an extremely successful year culminating in a spectacular 25th year anniversary meeting in Maui Hawaii. During his tenure, a number of important initiatives were accomplished and our membership soared to new heights. I would also like to congratulate Brian Boyd, Scientific Program Chair and the Scientific Program Committee of the anniversary meeting for organizing and delivering a wonderful and exciting program that was highly successful. As president I feel very fortunate to have an extremely talented Executive Council. Our exiting council meeting in Hawaii was very productive, as the 2009 initiatives were proposed and endorsed. For the remainder of this letter I would like to focus on these initiatives which I am confident will move our society to a new level.

One of the most important initiatives during my presidency, with the support of the Executive Council, is the establishment of a

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



William Zamboni, MD

While we had a record year in total new membership in 2008, we need to realize the importance of our younger active and candidate members.

Young Microsurgeons Group (YMG) within ASRM. There are basically two reasons that lead to this initiative: 1) several of our young microsurgeons approached me at this year's meeting with this concept; and 2) the fact that 42 of our 64 elected members from last year are candidate members. By comparison, in the year 2007, there were 42 new members elected of which 24 were candidates. One can see that the ratio of candidate-to-active member applications is increasing, so while we had a record year in total new membership in 2008, we need to realize the importance of our younger active and candidate members. This is an extremely talented group of individuals that can con-

tribute greatly to our society. This makes the YMG initiative necessary to make sure our young members have a strong voice in the society so that our candidate-to-active membership conversion rate is solid.

This is truly the future of our society as it stands right now. As such I have appointed a YMG ad hoc committee of which the chair is Michael Klebuc, who is the Junior Member at Large on the Executive Council. In addition, the committee includes six young members: Rob Whitfield, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin; Liza Wu, MD, University of Pennsylvania; Jay Agarwal, MD, University of Utah; and candidate members Raman Mahabir, MD, Scott White, MD, and Rich Baynosa, MD, University of Nevada School of Medicine. At our exiting meeting, the Executive Council voted in favor of this initiative and we all agreed that Dr. Klebuc would be the best to carry this initiative forward. This committee will begin communication in the near future to set up a working structure and set of by-laws for the YMG.

The ASRM Council felt strongly about the following in regards to YMG: 1) membership would include young members with less than eight years in practice in addition to candidate members; 2) one of the Junior Members at Large positions should go to an YMG appointed individual so that they have a voice on the ASRM Executive Council; 3) YMG will have their own meeting time at our annual meeting the first of which will occur in Boca Raton; and 4) at this year's upcoming meeting, Dr. Chuck Butler Scientific Program Chairman will incorporate an YMG panel which I

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President's Letter

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think will be very exciting. The next step will be to review the proposal for the structure and by-laws for YMG at our mid-year Council Meeting in August. I will report to the ASRM membership in the Autumn/Winter issue of *RM* on the progress of this initiative.

Another important initiative for this coming year is to announce the first combined ASRM/PSEF Research Grant which will be funded at \$10,000. As President I was pleased to serve as the ASRM representative to the PSEF Research Oversight Committee (ROC) which convened this March 14th in Los Angeles. PSEF now has a very important initiative which is a program matching dollar for dollar to plastic surgery related specialty societies. The ASRM Council has voted to take \$5,000 out of our Research Fund to match with the PSEF which will yield a \$10,000 grant which will be available for ASRM members to apply. Once the details have been worked out there will be a formal announcement and call for Research Grant Applications with the tentative deadline being the middle of December 2009. It is my hope that with the reactivation of the Endowment Committee under the guidance of Past President Scott Levin we can have the resources to expand this grant matching program in the future.

Our public education initiatives will continue in 2009. Many of you received my e-mail calling for submissions for the Reconstructing Lives Program through ASPS. As the premier complex reconstructive society it is my hope that the majority of innovative cases submitted will come from our membership. These submissions will be highlighted in *Plastic Surgery News*, the ASPS website and potentially in the media. You'll note that Dr. James Higgins,

ASRM member and past winner of "Best Microsurgical Case," was featured in the March 2009 issue of *PSN* for saving a teen basketball player's arm after a crush injury. In order to submit your case for this important program please contact Dr. Keith Brandt (brandtk@wustl.edu). We will also be working with ASPS/ASMS on a patient safety campaign. The lawn mower and firework injuries campaigns have been a success in the past. Topics for this year's campaign are currently being considered.

Another important initiative that will become reality this year is a microsurgery training program match. I would like to thank Dr. Chuck Butler and his committee's hard work in bringing this initiative to its full fruition. This program will be administered through the San Francisco Match and will be available this year. A formal announcement will be forthcoming once the details of the match rules and other important issues are finalized.

As usual the ASRM will endorse and/or participate in several important educational symposia in 2009, including the Mayo Clinic Symposium in Reconstructive Microsurgery, the Duke 7th Annual Fresh Cadaver Flap Dissection Course for Reconstructive Surgery, The Stephen Mathes Reconstructive Symposium 2009 at UT Southwestern, the QMP Reconstructive Surgery Symposium, and the ASPS/PSEF Santa Fe Breast Symposium. The ASRM will also endorse and participate in the 1st Atlanto Pacific Microsurgery Conference that will be held in Modena, Italy, in Fall of 2009. It is extremely important that we have as a priority continued collaboration with our international colleges in microsurgery. I'm happy to see the great response from ASRM

members regarding their commitment to participate in the Atlanto Pacific Microsurgery Conference. In addition, please do not forget about the WSRM meeting which will be held in Okinawa, Japan, on June 25-27, 2009.



Godina Lecturer Michael Sauerbier with Committee Chairman William Zamboni

At this point I would like to say a few words about the upcoming Annual ASRM Meeting in Boca Raton. As incoming president, one of the most difficult decisions to make is the appointment of the scientific program director. I am extremely pleased that Dr. Chuck Butler has accepted this position and is well on his way to working with the Scientific Program Committee to make this one of the best meetings ever. This year the Scientific Program Committee is made up of a number of our younger members which I anticipate will give a fresh infusion of energy in the preparation of the scientific program. My job, of course, will be to work with our management team to pick the best social venues possible to enhance what I expect to be a spectacular scientific program under Dr. Butler's direction. [RM](#)

American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery 2009 New Members

Active

James S. Andersen, MD
Duarte, CA

Donald Baumann, MD
Houston, TX

Steven L. Bernard, MD
Cleveland, OH

Steven C. Bonawitz, MD
Lewiston, ME

Ara Chalian, MD
Philadelphia, PA

June S. Chen, MD
Salt Lake City, UT

Steven H. Colbert, MD
Columbia, MO

Melissa Crosby, MD
Houston, TX

Ramazi O. Datiashvili, MD
Newark, NJ

Heather A. Erhard, MD
Bronx, NY

Geoffrey C. Gurtner, MD, FACS
Stanford, CA

John B. Hijjawi, MD
Milwaukee, WI

Timothy Shane Johnson, MD
Hershey, PA

Gordon Kwanlyp Lee, MD
Palo Alto, CA

John Menezes, MD
Las Vegas, NV

Oleg N. Militsakh, MD
Omaha, NE

Marc AM Mureau, MD, PhD
Rotterdam, Netherlands

Christine Rhode, MD
New York, New York

Ned Snyder IV, MD
Austin, TX

Jason A. Spector, MD
New York, New York

Wei Z. Wang, MD
Las Vegas, NV

Candidate

Peter Ashjian, MD
Los Angeles, CA

Joyce Aycock, MD
Aurora, CO

G. Phillip Barnsley, MD
Las Vegas, NV

James H. Boehmler IV, MD
Columbus, OH

Niclas Broer, MD
New Haven, CT

Darrell Brooks, MD
San Francisco, CA

Chris A. Campbell, MD
Charlottesville, VA

Brendan J. Collins, MD
Baltimore, MD

Carolyn De La Cruz, MD
Pittsburgh, PA

Brian P. Dickinson, MD
Los Angeles, CA

Amir H. Dorafshar, MD
Chicago, IL

Robert Ferguson, MD
Houston, TX

Jaime Ivan Flores, MD
Baltimore, MD

Patrick Bryan Garvey, MD
Houston, TX

Adnan Ghozi Gelidan, MD
Vancouver, Canada

Ryan Samuel Hoffman, MD
Chicago, IL

Scott T. Hollenbeck, MD
Durham, NC

Helen Hui-Chou, MD
Baltimore, MD

Lisa L. Jewell, MD
Santa Monica, CA

Mahlon A. Kerr-Valentic, MD
Salt Lake City, UT

Shane Kim, MD
Kansas City, KS

Ergun Kocak, MD
Houston, TX

Joshua A. Lemmon, MD
Richardson, TX

Peter Robert Letourneau, MD
Las Vegas, NV

Nina Rachel Lightdale, MD
Los Angeles, CA

Michael Lofgren, MD
Miami, FL

John LoGiudice, MD
Milwaukee, WI

Michele Ann Manahan, MD
Baltimore, MD

Gerhard S. Munding, MD
Baltimore, MD

Vu T. Nguyen, MD
Pittsburgh, PA

Andre Panossian, MD
Los Angeles, CA

Julie E. Park, MD
Chicago, IL

Sameer A. Patel, MD
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Springfield, MA

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Houston, TX

Shai Rozen, MD
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Jesse Selber, MD
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Simon G. Talbot, MD
Boston, MA

Jon Peter Ver Halen, MD
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Colin Patrick White, MD
Ontario, Canada

Corresponding

Lan Mu, MD
Beijing, China

Communicating to Each Other

welcome you as the new editor of the ASRM newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to convey to our membership the current activities of ASRM. In addition, this is *your* newsletter. We want to showcase and communicate current topics and innovations of our membership. Consequently we encourage you to submit articles, new ideas, techniques or thoughts that can highlight our membership and cross cultural differences. Further, if you have ideas on how this newsletter can help to communicate better, please do not hesitate to write or call. I look forward to helping our membership interact and thank you for the opportunity. [RM](#)



Gregory R. D. Evans, MD

The purpose of this newsletter is to convey to our membership the current activities of ASRM.

RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY

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

President	William Zamboni, MD
Editor	Gregory R. D. Evans, MD
Executive Director	Krista A. Greco
Managing Editor	Anne Behrens

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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 Formation of the Godina Club

It's been 15 years since the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery established the Godina Traveling Fellowship honoring Dr. Marko Godina, an unrivaled leader and innovator in reconstructive microsurgery whose life was tragically cut short at the young age of 43. This distinguished Fellowship highlights a young, promising microsurgeon who has demonstrated innovation, leadership, and

commitment to expand the horizons of our field in the best traditions of Dr. Godina. Dr. Lawrence B. Colen was the first to receive the Godina Traveling Fellowship Award in 1993. Ongoing recipients of the award are as follows: Dr. Mark A Schusterman (1994), Dr. Randy Sherman (1995), Dr. Zoran M. Arnez (1996), Dr. L. Scott Levin (1997), Dr. Phillip Blondeel (1998), Dr. Gregory R.D. Evans (1999), Dr. Roger Khouri (2000), Dr. William

Zamboni (2001), Dr. Raymond Dunn (2002), Dr. Milomir Ninkovic (2003), Dr. Michael Neumeister (2004), Dr. David W. Chang (2005), Dr. Ming-Huei Cheng (2006), Dr. Peirong Yu (2007) and Dr. Michael Sauerbier (2008).

In order to provide an opportunity for all the Godina Fellows to get together at the annual meetings, the Godina Club was formed and its inaugural meeting took place at the ASRM 2009 Annual Meeting held in Maui. All former Godina Fellows attended the Godina Club meeting with the exception of: Dr. Mark Schusterman, Dr. Randy Sherman, Dr. Zoran M. Arnez, Dr. Phillip Bondeel, and Dr. Milomir Ninkovic. A number of issues were discussed at the meeting. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed getting together and look forward to the yearly event. [RM](#)



American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery 2009 Council and Committees

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Junior Member at Large

Michael K. Klebuc, MD

Eduardo Rodriguez, DDS, MD

Program Chair

Charles E. Butler, MD



COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Audit

David W. Chang, MD, *Chair*

Brad Wilhelmi, MD

Matthew Hanasono, MD

Buncke Lectureship

Neil F. Jones, MD, *Chair*

Charles Butler, MD

Elliot Rose, MD

Michael Sauerbier, MD

William Zamboni, MD

Bylaws

E. Gene Deune, MD, *Chair*

Paul Cederna, MD

Robert Whitfield, MD

Clinical Guidelines & Outcomes

James Higgins, MD, *Chair*

Howard Langstein, MD

Michael Neumeister, MD

Peter Cordeiro, MD

CPT/RUC

Raymond Dunn, MD, *Chair*

Daniel Nagle, MD

Gabriel Kind, MD

Greg Buncke, MD

Michael Zenn, MD

William Pederson, MD

Education

William Kuzon, MD, *Chair*

Maurice Nahabedian, MD

Peirong Yu, MD

Stefan Hofer, MD

Electronic Communications

Michael Miller, MD, *Chair*

Charles Butler, MD

Matthew Concannon, MD

Peter Murray, MD

Howard Langstein, MD

Endowment

L. Scott Levin, MD FACS, *Chair*

Lawrence Colen, MD

Robert Walton, MD

Finance

Peter Neligan, MD, *Chair*

Allen Bishop, MD

Joseph Serletti, MD

Michael Neumeister, MD

Godina Fellowship Selection

Peter Neligan, MD, *Chair*

Michael Sauerbier, MD

William C. Pederson, MD

William Zamboni, MD

Master Series Symposium

Lawrence Gottlieb, MD, *Chair*

Membership

Peter Neligan, MD, *Chair*

Eduardo Rodriguez, MD

Elisabeth Beahm, MD

Robert Whitfield, MD

Roman Skoracki, MD FRCS

William Zamboni, MD

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Charles E. Butler, MD, *Chair*

Gordon K. Lee, MD

Greg Buncke, MD

Joseph Serletti, MD

Keith Brandt, MD

Peter Cordiero, MD

Peter Neligan, MD

William Zamboni, MD

Nominating

Neil F. Jones, MD, *Chair*

Gabriel Kind, MD

Gregory Evans, MD

Howard Langstein, MD

Peirong Yu, MD

Program

Charles E. Butler, MD, *Chair*

Kayvan Khiabani Taghpour, MD

Gedge Rosson, MD

David Chang, MD

Fred Duffy, MD

Howard Wang, MD

J. Brian Boyd, MD

James Higgins, MD

Joan Lipa, MD

John Menezes, MD

Maria Siemionow, MD

Robert Whitfield, MD

Wei Z. Wang, MD

Technical Exhibits

Randall Culp, MD, *Chair*

Eduardo Rodriguez, MD

L. Scott Levin, MD FACS

Time & Place

Neil F. Jones, MD, *Chair*

Lawrence Colen, MD

L. Scott Levin, MD FACS

The 25th Anniversary Year

By David W. Chang, MD, FACS

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (ASRM). The annual meeting was held at the beautiful Grand Wailea Resort, Maui, Hawaii from January 10 to 13, 2009. Under the leadership of President Dr. Neil F. Jones and organization of Program Chair Dr. J. Brian Boyd, the meeting was a tremendous success. There were 364 abstracts submitted this year—120 more than last year—and approximately 408 registrants representing 26 countries.

The meeting started on January 10 with a combined American Association of Hand Surgery (AAHS)/American Society for Peripheral Nerve (ASPN)/ASRM day. The AAHS/ASPN/ASRM Presidents' Invited Lecturer was Dr. Graham Grumley. The topic of his very inspirational presentation was "Helping Our Hands Restore Their Own Feelings." His talk was based on his recent experiences

with small teams of hand and upper limb surgeons providing free care in the developing world, with a discussion about the opportunities, challenges, and rewards of such service. The Masters Series in Microsurgery was organized by Dr. Lawrence Gottlieb this year. Entitled "Disasters of the Masters," the talk was different from previous years in that an international panel of renowned microsurgeons (Drs. Gunter Germann, Stefan Hofer, L. Scott Levin, Eduardo Rodriguez, Peter Neligan, Robert Walton, and Fu-Chan Wei) presented on disasters that they had experienced and taught us how to manage and avoid such situations.

One of the fathers of transplantation, Dr. Thomas Starzl—who performed the first successful liver transplant—gave the President's Invited Lecture on January 11. He shared highlights of his groundbreaking work in transplantation, which transformed the face of science and medicine. The Godina Lecture was given by Dr. Michael Sauerbier, Chairman and Professor in the Department of Plastic, Hand, and Reconstructive Surgery

at the Main-Taunus Hospitals in Hofheim and Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany. His excellent talk, "Teachers and Mentors in Reconstructive Microsurgery," shared his personal experience of how his mentors and teachers had influenced his professional career.

On January 12, the Buncke Lecture was given by Dr. Ralph Manktelow on the topic "Creating Change and Responding to It." It was very thought provoking. The Best Case/Best Save presentations were moderated by Dr. Michael Zenn. The Best Case award was won by Dr. Lawrence Gottlieb from the University of Chicago and the Best Save award was won by Dr. David Low of the University of Pennsylvania. The conference ended on January 13 with a business meeting, at which 63 new members were added to the ASRM membership, now totaling 608.

RM



Buncke Lecturer Ralph Manktelow, MD and Chairman Lawrence Colen, MD



(Left to right) Neil Jones with Graham Gumley and Ranjan Gupta

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Microsurgery Introduces a Fellowship Match Program

*Charles E. Butler, MD
Micro Fellowship Committee
Chairman*

The ASRM recognizes the need for a formal match process for microsurgery fellowships. Due to the increased interest in microsurgery fellowship positions, the ASRM has been working with leaders in microsurgery and plastic surgery to investigate the opportunity to be the sponsoring organization for a microsurgery fellowship match program. A dedicated committee has been diligently evaluating the potential for a microsurgery fellowship match over the past two years and presented compelling facts and information to the ASRM Council this January. Based on this prolonged evaluation and ongoing discussions with ASRM leaders, the ASRM will move forward with sponsoring the match as a primary service to make the process fair and seamless for candidates and programs alike. For more information, please contact the Chairman of the Fellowship Committee Dr. Charles E. Butler at cbutler@mdanderson.org. **RM**

Membership: Interest in Complex Reconstructive Surgery is Growing

*Peter Neligan, MD
Membership Committee
Chairman*

The society is extremely healthy from the point of view of membership. This year alone we welcomed 64 new members. The ASRM membership roster now totals 609 members. These numbers have increased significantly in the last several years and it is gratifying to see that interest in complex reconstructive surgery is growing. We obviously want to continue this trend and welcome surgeons interested in all forms of complex reconstruction, whether microsurgically based or not and, in particular, we want to attract members from other specialty groups who share a common interest in this type of surgery.

Currently we have 20 applicants to be considered in 2009 for membership in 2010. Individuals with completed membership applications on file receive a discounted registration rate to the 2010 Annual Meeting in Boca Raton, Florida. So if you know of anyone who is thinking of joining, encourage them to get their applications in so they can avail themselves of this offer.

A number of changes have been made to the membership process in an effort to make it easier, particularly for candidate members (non-board certified), to become active members of the organization once they achieve board certification. Formerly they had to re-apply for active membership. However now, they just need to

request a status change and submit a limited number of required documents.

Please encourage any of your colleagues whom you think would enjoy ASRM Membership, to join. To become a member of the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, have them visit our web site www.microsurg.org to view the different membership categories available and to identify the one that best fits their circumstances. Membership benefits include access to this newsletter as well as the society website, the ability to network with colleagues of like mind, a reduced registration rate for the annual meeting (approximately a \$200 saving) as well as a reduced subscription rate for the Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery. There is no application fee and applications are due August 15, 2009! **RM**

ASRM FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

2010

JANUARY 9-12, 2010
Boca Raton Resort & Spa
Boca Raton, FL

2011

JANUARY 15-18, 2011
Ritz Carlton Cancun
Cancun, Mexico

2012

JANUARY 14-17, 2012
Red Rock Casino Resort Spa
Las Vegas, NV



Keeping the Future Bright!

The ASRM just celebrated 25 years of success and our future is bright. As the interest in microsurgery grows we have seen considerable growth in attendance to our meetings and continued quality programming. The program committee is dedicated to continuing to provide attendees with revolutionary topics that address clinicians as well as researchers. Looking forward to the 2010 Annual Meeting we have a great location with easy access for national and international guests in Boca Raton, Florida. We thank you for your feedback of the 2009 Annual Meeting provided through the on line survey. We hear the need to maintain the instructional courses and provocative panel presentations, improve the poster presentation format, and increase discussion time. The Program Committee is committed to making the ASRM meeting a continued success and to provide you with quality, evidence-based education in an effective format.

In 2010 we will continue the very popular Best Case and Best Save Presentations initiated by Mike Zenn and bring it back to a more social format in the evening. We had great feedback from the attendees at the Disaster of the Masters and Dr. Lawrence Gottlieb will be chairing the Master Series programming again for 2010. While the Program Committee is responsible for putting together a successful program we can't do this without quality abstract submissions. The submission web site is open and we encourage you to make your submissions as soon as possible and prior to June 1st. Last year was a record breaking year with over 350 abstract submissions and we would like to see this trend continue.

Place it on your calendars to be in Boca Raton, Florida January 9-12 in 2010 to attend a fantastic meeting.

Charles E. Butler, MD
2010 Program Chairman