



**Spring-Summer
2014**

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Annual Meeting
Chair

Reconstructive Microsurgery

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY • VOLUME 25.1

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2014 ASRM ANNUAL MEETING

What's New in Reconstructive Microsurgery



Liza Wu, MD, FACS
2014 Scientific
Program Chair

In the case of Five-O, I believe it was a combination of many ingredients—timing, chemistry, Hawaii.

—James MacArthur

In the case of the ASRM 2014, it was the combination of so many talented people, great ideas, in a paradise setting that made the Annual Meeting one to remember. With 30 break out courses, 6 panels, and over 100 scientific abstracts presented, the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

has achieved in their continuous quest to provide its members and attendants with the most up to date information regarding complex reconstruction of head and neck, breast, extremity, and trunk defects, both microsurgical as well as non-microsurgical. We also addressed how to deal with complications such as

continued on page 6



*Clockwise from top:
Buncke Lecturer Isao
Koshima, MD;
members await the
start of the "Best
Case-Best Save"
presentation; Monday
night's reception
featured amazing
artistry with fire.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Focusing on the Next Set of Goals



Allen T. Bishop, MD
President

The American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery demonstrated its vitality and spirit of innovation under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Serletti and the Council this past year, culminating in a financially and scientifically successful annual meeting this past January. Another significant accomplishment was a mid-year Council strategic planning meeting in Chicago last July that provided focus for the effort to grow the society, advance the practice and better serve all of us as ASRM members. The Council members left Hawaii not only better tanned, but also energized to continue its work on behalf of the society.

The year will culminate in our first ever venture to the Bahamas for the Society's 30th Annual Meeting, whose theme will be "Artistry in Microsurgery: A Celebration of Innovation." I can think of no more innovative and exciting area of practice than reconstructive microsurgery—it is not a stretch to consider the work we do in restoring form and function to be both creative and artistic. The program co-chairs Steven Moran and Goetz Giessler are nearly done with forming all the sessions: it is going to be exciting, inclusive in multispecialty and international participation, and filled with innovative content. My thanks to both Steve and Goetz for their efforts on our behalf.

During the coming year, the ASRM council has defined a set of goals for the society related to membership, research, and education. These include building the membership by enhanced recruitment of microsurgery fellowship trainees, international microsurgeons, and specialists outside of plastic surgery with a microsurgery practice. The Research Committee is exploring mechanisms to foster ASRM-sponsored grants that meet the needs of members and microsurgery trainees. We continue to strive to improve the microsurgery fellowship match process and plan to

continued on next page

ASRM
Calendar

JANUARY 24–27, 2015

ASRM 30TH ANNUAL MEETING

Atlantis Resort
Paradise Island, Bahamas

JANUARY 16–19, 2016

ASRM 31ST ANNUAL MEETING

Westin Kierland Resort
and Spa
Scottsdale, Arizona

JANUARY 14–17, 2017

ASRM 32ND ANNUAL MEETING

Hilton Waikoloa Village
Waikoloa, Hawaii

NOW ACCEPTING ABSTRACTS

2015 ANNUAL MEETINGS

AAHS ASPN ASRM

January 21–24, 2015
American Association for Hand Surgery

January 23–25, 2015
American Society for Peripheral Nerve

January 24–27, 2015
American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

ATLANTIS • PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Continued*

incorporate basic microsurgery skills training as part of the ASRM services in the near future. We continue to partner with PSEN to provide microsurgery content online—available to all ASRM members regardless of your specialty training.

I would like to ask each of you to consider how you may help the Society build its membership rolls and enhance its activity. In particular, please encourage your colleagues and trainees to apply for membership, and to attend the 2015 meeting at the Atlantis Resort. Please feel free to contact me during the year with any of your thoughts—they are always welcome. **RM**



Dr. Bishop at the "Hawaiian style" reception on Monday night

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

THE **ASRM** COUNCIL AND THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM AND EXHIBIT COMMITTEES EXTEND A **THANK YOU** TO THE **2014 EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS** FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION:

AM Surgical	Orthoscan, Inc.
Aptis Medical, LLC	Osteomed
Aspect Imaging	Plastic Surgery Education Network (PSEN)
Assi-Accurate Surgical	Rose Micro Solutions
Auxilium	SegWAY Orthopaedics
AxoGen	Skeletal Dynamics
Canadian Journal of Plastic Surgery	Small Bone Innovations, Inc.
Conventus Orthopaedics, Inc	Snap On Optics
DePuy Synthes CMF	Solana Surgical, LLC
Hand Rehabilitation Foundation	Spectros Corp.
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Integra Lifesciences	Surgical Acuity, Inc.
Leica Microsystem	Surgical Specialties Corp.
Medartis, Inc.	Synovis Micro Companies Alliance, Inc.
Medical Modeling Inc.	TriMed, Inc
Micrins Snowden-Pencer	ViOptix, Inc.
MicroAire	Wolters Kluwer Health
Microsurgery Instruments, Inc.	Wound Care Technologies, Inc.
Mitaka USA, Inc.	Wright Medical Technology, Inc.
New Clip USA	

A SPECIAL
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FOLLOWING ASRM
ANNUAL MEETING
2014 SUPPORTERS:

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Axogen

**California
Pacific Medical
Center**

**S&T AG
Microsurgical
Instruments**

**Synovis Micro
Companies Alliance,
Inc.**

ViOptix

**Best
Resident
Clinical
Papers**

Ian Macarthur, MD

"Replacing Like with Like: An Algorithmic Approach Towards Total Functional Abdominal Wall Reconstruction"

Jiayi Hu, MD

"Decision Regret Following Breast Reconstruction: The Role of Self-Efficacy and Satisfaction with Information in the Preoperative Period"

**Best
Resident
Research
Papers**

**Chrisovalantis
Lakhiani, MD**

"In-Vivo Quantitative Evaluation of Perfusion Zones and Perfusion Gradient in the Deep Inferior Epigastric Artery Perforator Flap"

John Paro, MD

"The Stanford Microsurgical and Resident Training (SMaRT) Curriculum: Training Using an "On-The-Go App"

Johnson C. Lee, MD

"A Paradigm Shift in Microsurgical Fellowship Training: Revisiting the Learning Curve"

FROM THE EDITOR

Spring Is Here



David W. Chang, MD
Editor

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

Welcome to the spring 2014 issue of the ASRM newsletter. For those of us in northern part of the U.S. who endured one of the most hostile winter in our recent history, the scene of the green grass and the feeling of warm breeze that this spring brings means even more special this year.

The ASRM annual meeting in January at beautiful Kauai was not only a wonderful respite from the harsh winter, but a great opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends, and share our past successes and future visions in

reconstructive surgery. The meeting was a great success due to the hard work, dedication and leadership of the President Joseph Serletti, the Scientific Program Chair Liza Wu, and the organizing team that they put together. The meeting had many highlights including a session organized by the newly created American Society for Lymphatic Surgery, as well as updates from the American Society for Reconstructive Transplantation. We welcomed Allen Bishop, a world-renowned orthopedic microsurgeon, as our next President.

It is an exciting time for reconstructive microsurgery as we venture into the frontier of areas such as transplantation and lymphatic surgery. It is also an uncertain time with the profound changes that are expected in our health care system. However, ASRM remains strong as we continue to be an inclusive and diverse organization that will not only adept to changes but will pave the way as a trailblazer for new innovations.

RM

RECONSTRUCTIVE
MICROSURGERY**President**

Allen T. Bishop, MD

Editor

David Chang, MD

Executive Director

Krista A. Greco

Managing Editor

Anne 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.

FIND A PHYSICIAN

This is a reminder to sign up for the "Find a Physician" tool made available on the ASRM website. This added membership benefit allows you to be included in a searchable public listing. Please keep in mind this is an optional resource so you are not required to input your information, but if you wish to participate please log in to the members section of the ASRM website to complete your profile.

If you have any questions or difficulty, please contact Krista Greco at kristagreco@isms.org or you can call the Central Office at 312-456-9579. We look forward to your continued participation in the ASRM. **RM**

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.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY

2014 Committees

Audit

Steve Bonawitz, MD, *Chair*
Mark Villa, MD
Robert Whitfield, MD

Buncke Lectureship

Joseph Serletti, MD, *Chair*
Allen Bishop, MD
Goetz Giessler, MD, *Program Chair*
Steven Moran, MD, *Program Chair*
Julie Park, MD
Michel Saint-Cyr, MD

Bylaws

Michel Saint-Cyr, MD, *Chair*
David Mathes, MD
Babak Mehrara, MD

Clinical Guidelines & Outcomes

Damon Cooney, MD, *Chair*
Ivica Ducic, MD
Valerie Lemaine, MD
Christine Rohde, MD

CPT/RUC

Liza Wu, MD, *Chair*
Jay Agarwal, MD
Charles Butler, MD
Melissa Crosby, MD
Scott Hansen, MD
David Song, MD

Education

Joseph Dayan, MD, *Chair*
Stephanie Caterson, MD
Michael Gimbel, MD
James Higgins, MD

Electronic Communications

Raman Mahabir, MD, *Chair*
Ida Fox, MD
Matthew Hanasono, MD
Vu T. Nguyen, MD

Endowment

Lawrence Colen, MD, *Chair*
Keith E. Brandt, MD
William C. Pederson, MD
Joseph Serletti, MD

Finance

Gregory R. D. Evans, MD, *Chair*
Lawrence Gottlieb, MD,
Ex-Officio
Steven Moran, MD

Godina Fellowship Selection

Gregory R.D. Evans, MD, *Chair*
Allen Bishop, MD
Edward Chang, MD, *YMG Rep.*
Melissa Crosby, MD
Michel Saint-Cyr, MD

Masters Series Symposium

Samir Mardini, MD, *Chair*
Patrick Basile, MD, *YMG Rep.*

Membership

Gregory R. D. Evans, MD, *Chair*
Charles Butler, MD
Stefan Hofer, MD
Jamie Levine, MD
Aldona Spiegel, MD
Mark Villa, MD

Microsurgery Fellowship

Michel Saint-Cyr, MD, *Chair*
Thomas Hayakawa, MD
Peter Neligan, MD
Minh-Doan Nguyen, MD,
YMG Rep.
Stephen Vega, MD

Nominating

Joseph Serletti, MD, *Chair*
Patrick Garvey, MD
Valerie Lemaine, MD, *YMG Rep.*
David Mathes, MD
Steven Moran, MD
Michael Neumeister, MD,
Past President
Scott Oishi, MD

Program

Steven Moran, MD, *Chair*
Goetz Giessler, MD, *Chair*
Martin Boyer, MD
Joseph Disa, MD
Jeffrey Friedrich, MD
John Hijjawi, MD
Stefan Hofer, MD
Sami Khan, MD

Howard Levinson, MD,
YMG Rep.
Samir Mardini, MD
Jan Jereon Vranckx, MD
Liza Wu, MD, *Ex-Officio*

Technical Exhibits

William Dzwierzynski, MD,
Chair
Patrick Garvey, MD
Ian Valerio, MD

Time & Place

Joseph Serletti, MD, *Chair*
Keith E. Brandt, MD
Michael Neumeister, MD

Young Microsurgeons Group

Jesse Selber, MD, *Chair*
Patrick Basile, MD
Edward Chang, MD
Goetz Giessler, MD
Valerie Lemaine, MD
Steven Levine, MD
Howie Levinson, MD
Melissa Poh, MD
Ian Valerio, MD

Women's Microsurgery Group

Julie Park, MD, *Chair*
Joan Lipa, MD
Liza Wu, MD
Melissa Crosby, MD
Karen Horton, MD
Valerie Lemaine, MD
Aldona Spiegel, MD

Research

Paul Cederna, MD, *Chair*
Timothy King, MD
Ergun Kocak, MD
Bernard Lee, MD
Howard Levinson, MD
Samuel Lin, MD
David Mathes, MD

2014 Council

President

Allen T. Bishop, MD

President-Elect

Gregory R. D. Evans, MD, FACS

Vice President

Charles E. Butler, MD

Secretary

David W. Chang, MD

Treasurer

Lawrence J. Gottlieb, MD

Immediate Past President

Joseph Serletti, MD

Senior Member at Large

Guenter Germann, MD

Senior Member at Large

Joan Lipa, MD

Junior Member at Large

Matthew Hanasono, MD

Junior Member at Large

Liza Wu, MD

Historian

Michael Zenn, MD

YMG Representative

Jesse Selber, MD

WHAT'S NEW IN RM *Continued*

flap thrombosis, health care economics, and the basic science at the basis of our clinical work.

The breakout courses each addressed a specific microsurgical problem in a more comprehensive format, allowing for open dialogue and an in depth discussion with experts in the particular field. Each session focused on one of the following topics, breast, extremity, trunk, head and neck, education, and general reconstructive issues.

The panels addressed complex issues by expert microsurgeons, topics include hand transplantation versus prosthetics, facial reanimation, lymphatic surgery, and the changing economic environment. There was also a young microsurgeons panel on microsurgery education and a young microsurgeons forum on how to start a microsurgical practice.

Paper sessions highlighted clinical and scientific research being conducted by the faculties and residents of different national and international programs as well as a number of clinical practitioners in the community.

continued on next page



Incoming ASRM President Allen Bishop, MD, thanks Dr. Serletti for his time of service.



Outgoing ASRM President Joseph Serletti, MD



Buncke Lecturer Isao Koshima, MD

Best Resident Posters

Rachel Campbell Hooper, MD

"Fabrication of a Functional, Perfusable Vascular Network within Tissue Engineered Constructs"

Eric Jablonka, MD

"A Portable Handheld Facial-Grading Device for Unilateral Facial Paralysis Following Facial Reanimation Surgery: Reproducibility and Reliability"

Denver Matthew Lough, MD

"Development of a Chimeric Free Flap Allograft Using the LGR6+ Epithelial Stem Cell"



Poster reception

Michael Neumeister, MD, Julie Park, MD and Gregory R. D. Evans, MD, MD attend the Young Microsurgeons' Group Reception

WHAT'S NEW IN RM *Continued*

The "Masters Series in Microsurgery" course was presented by experts in the field of microsurgery describing their journey from becoming "good to great." They presented their vast experience of successes as well as complications that have made them an "expert" in the field.

The Best Case/Best Save, one of the highlights of the program, did not fail to entertain, educate and leave us in awe of the types of problems and the degree of difficulty many of us face in our reconstructive careers.

Finally, a special memorial lecture was given by Dr. Robert Walton as well as the first inaugural prize was awarded to the best breast paper presented at the meeting in honor of Dr. Elisabeth Beahm.

Overall, the meeting was very comprehensive, capturing the essence of what we do on a daily basis, made successful from all of us who participated as faculty and as attendants. Mahalo for making the ASRM 2014 Annual Meeting so special and event to remember!

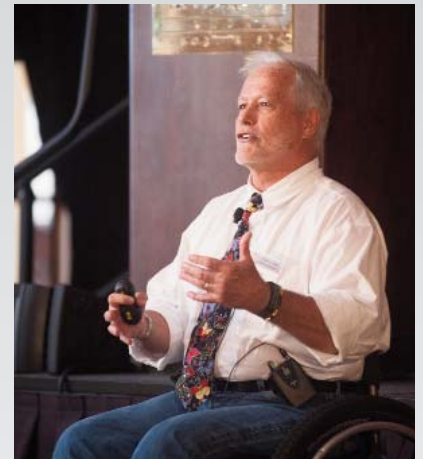
Liza Wu, MD, FACS
2014 Scientific Program
Chair



Dr. Robert Walton delivers the Elisabeth K. Beahm Memorial Lecture



President Joseph Serletti, MD with Godina Lecturer Michel Saint-Cyr, MD



Joint Presidential Keynote Speaker Peter Galpin, MD, FACS



Above: Godina Alumni. At left: Past President Michael Neumeister, MD (left) and incoming ASRM President Allen Bishop, MD kick back at the member reception on Saturday.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Special Awards

Best Microsurgical Case of the Year Award Winner
Adam Maciejewski, MD, PhD

Best Microsurgical Save of the Year Award Winner
Joon Pio Hong, MD, PhD, MMM

Beahm Best Breast Paper Award Winner
John P. Fischer, MD



Best Save winner Joon Pio Hong, MD, PhD, MMM (center)



Best Case winner Adam Maciejewski, MD, PhD (center)



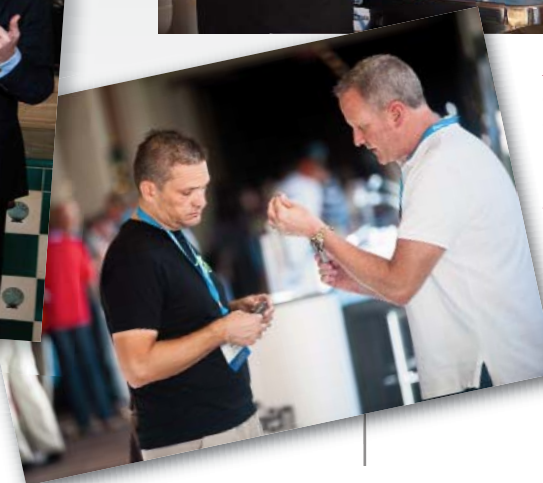
Dr. Robert Walton (right) presents the Beahm Best Breast Paper Award to John Fischer, MD



Members were able to check out products in the exhibitor hall between sessions.



The Past Presidents' Breakfast



2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Highlights
from
Hawaii!


Monday night's
"Hawaiian
Style" event
was definitely a
fiery affair!



Saturday
reception was a
chance to touch
base with old
friends and
make new
connections too.

MICROSURGERY OVERSEAS

Destination Cities to Host WSRM Meetings

WORLD CONGRESS 2015 MUMBAI, INDIA MARCH 19–22, 2015

Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy

Organizing Chairman

Dr. Samir Kumta

Chair, Scientific Committee

The 8th Congress of the World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery will be held in Mumbai, India, from March 19th to the 22nd, 2015. Under the theme, "Looking Back, Surging Ahead" we have envisaged a rich scientific program covering a wide range of topics. Master classes for microsurgeons new to the field as well as the more experienced have been planned, including the pre-conference "Must See Videos,"

showcasing operative techniques by acknowledged experts, and "Make Your Point: 3 Minutes, 10 Slides" giving delegates the chance to present ideas, tips and tricks concisely and be "seen, heard, and noticed" by their peers.

The venue will be the Hotel Grand Hyatt, a five-star facility available at a special price negotiated just for the delegates. (Around US \$150 for a standard double occupancy room inclusive of all taxes, breakfast and Wi Fi). The Organizing Team is making every effort to make this congress one of the best ever held in terms of scientific content, social events and hospitality.

Please do come with your family: we promise them a great time. If you would like to stay longer to see



the sights India has to offer, special pre- and post-congress tours are available.

To register or get more details about the congress, please visit the Web site www.wsrms2015mumbai.com.

See you in Mumbai in March 2015, your date with **Incredible India!**

WORLD CONGRESS 2017 SEOUL, KOREA JUNE 15–18, 2017

Dr. Myongchul Park

Organizing Chairman

The 2017 Hosting Committee

Today, Seoul is a leading economic center and a vibrant global city, equipped with advanced IT that enhances transportation and the tourism experience for locals and visitors. Complementing all the high tech is the city center, which is steeped in historical and cultural significance dating back to 18 B.C. Seoul's reputation as a world design capital is recognized by UNESCO, which named it a City of Design, defined as a "design-driven

creative city with a vision to become an eco-cultural city based on advanced IT infrastructures." A dynamic city of 10 million, Seoul has successfully hosted the Summer Olympics in 1988, the 2002 FIFA World Cup, the G20 global summit in 2010, and much more.

Against this backdrop is the biennial meeting of the World Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery (WSRM), which will be held June 15–18, 2017, when it is the most pleasant time of the year in Seoul.

With 3 years left, the local hosting committee is working hard to ensure a most successful meeting. The host nation chairman Dr. Myongchul Park and the committee are soliciting and



welcome ideas and suggestions for the meeting.

Please visit the Web site www.wsrms2017.com and provide us your suggestions or directly e-mail Dr. Myongchul Park (mpark@ajou.ac.kr). We are excited to be hosting this great meeting, and with your help, we hope to bring all reconstructive microsurgeons together in Seoul, Korea. **RM**

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Capturing the Moments



**Michael Zenn,
MD, MBA**
Historian

Since its inception, the ASRM as a society has been dedicated to serving its members in all facets of governance, education, and promotion of our specialty. Importantly, the society also provides the social fabric that connects the members of our small subspecialty of microsurgery. While our annual meetings allow us to share the latest techniques and outcomes, they also allow us to socialize and form bonds and friendships that can last a lifetime. We realize that in this day and age, many of our interactions take place in visual media over the written word, and we as a society would like to keep up with this trend.

The ASRM has a storehouse of photographs from all prior annual meetings that provide a rich history of our society. Until now, these photographs have been catalogued and stored, largely unseen in years. Utilizing modern technology, the society will be making these photographs available for members to view online. It is our goal to categorize each photo by year, subject, and to "tag" members in each of the photos. The potential exists for these photos to be available for viewing individually or as a slide show based on defined search criteria, such as a member's name. It is our hope that this new resource will help celebrate the history of our great society and provide entertainment to our members.

In future meetings, we hope to further enhance this feature by soliciting photos, "selfies", videos, and any other acceptable media from our membership taken at the meeting or throughout the year as an ongoing documentation of our society, to be posted on our members-only website.

Check our Web site microsurg.org for the latest developments. **RM**



Whether scripted presentations or fleeting moments, all are the stuff memories and relationships are made of.



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY

2014 New Members

**Active**

Dunya M. Atisha, MD
Tampa, FL

Gregory H. Borschel, MD,
FAAP, FACS
Toronto, ON, Canada

Annika M. Card, BSc,
MD, DVM, FRCPSc
Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Edward Caterson, MD,
PhD
Boston, MA

Edward I. Chang, MD
Houston, TX

Jonathan J. Cheng, MD
Dallas, TX

Randall O. Craft, MD
Gilbert, AZ

Joseph H. Dayan, MD
New York, NY

Fredrick L. Durden,
JR., MD
Omaha, NE

Anthony Echo, MD
Houston, TX

Joshua Fosnot, MD
Philadelphia, PA

Matthew Goodwin, MD,
FACS

West Palm Beach, FL

Nicholas D. Hamelin, MD
Longueuil, Quebec, Canada

Darrin M. Hubert, MD,
FACS
Richmond, VA

Amy F Kells, MD, PhD
St. Louis, MO

Daniel Kwick-way
Kwan, MD
Sioux Falls, SD

Mikko Larsen, MD
The Hague, The Netherlands

Lucie Lessard, MD,
FRCSC, FACS
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Andres R. Lorenzo,
MD, PhD
Uppsala, Sweden

Andrea A. Moreira, MD
Moreland Hills, OH

Rebecca Nelson, MD,
MSc, FRCSC
New Westminster, BC, Canada

Zoran Potparic, MD, PA
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Amir H. Taghinia, MD,
MPH
Boston, MA

Tormod S. Westvik, MD
Skien, Norway

Candidate

Tomer Avraham, MD
New York, NY

Robert Bajnrauh, MD
Phoenix, AZ

Aaron J. Berger, MD, PhD
Stanford, CA

Sebastian Brooke, MD, BS
Hummelstown, PA

Donald W. Buck, II, MD
Chicago, IL

David Cabiling, MD
Houston, TX

Nicholas W. Clavin, MD
New York, NY

Wojciech Dec, MD
New York, NY

Simon Frank, MD
Halifax, NS, Canada

Michael T. Friel, MD
Jackson, MS

Isak A. Goodwin, MD
Salt Lake City, UT

Alexander J. Gougoutas,
MD
Seattle, WA

Summer Hanson,
MD, PhD
Houston, TX

Gwendolyn M.B.
Hoben, MD
St. Louis, MO

Christine Marie Jones, MD
Hershey, PA

Santosh S. Kale, MD
Richmond, VA

Jerrold N. Keith, MD
Iowa City, IA

Jonathan D. Keith, MD
Pittsburgh, PA

Hana Farhang Khoei, MD,
MScM, BMSc
Hamilton, ON, Canada

Jason H Ko, MD
Seattle, WA

Theodore A. Kung, MD
Ann Arbor, MI

Luis H. Macias, MD
Marina del Rey, CA

Lino F. Miele MD, MS
Pittsburgh, PA

Suhail Kamrudin
Mithani, MD
Durham, NC

Dung Nguyen, MD
Palo Alto, CA

Marilyn Q. Nguyen, MD
Halethorpe, MD

Trang Q. Nguyen, MD
New York, NY

Matthew J. Nykiel, MD
Palo Alto, CA

Daniel A. Osei, MD
St. Louis, MO

Ketan Patel, MD
Washington DC

Marie-Eve Pepin, MD,
FRCSC
New York, NY

Christopher E. Price, MD
Observatory, South Africa

Karim A. Sarhane,
MD, MSc
Baltimore, MD

Daniel B. Schmid, MD
Philadelphia, PA

Jason Ulm, MD
Boston, MA

Ida J. Wagner, MD
Chapel Hill, NC

Eric Wright, MD
Stanford, CA

Xiaoti Xu, MD
San Francisco, CA

WOMEN'S MICROSURGERY GROUP

Building a Great Foundation



**Julie E. Park,
MD, FACS**

Women's Microsurgery
Group Chair

The Women's Microsurgery Group (WMG) held its inaugural reception on Saturday, January 11th in Kauai. It was a great success with 43 attendees that included medical students, residents, fellows, and attendings. We also introduced the first WMG ViOptix Travel Fellowship. Sixty seven outstanding women applied this year. It is exciting to know that there are so many women medical students, residents and fellows interested in pursuing microsurgery. It is our hope that the WMG can help foster this interest as these women complete their training and ultimately join us as members of ASRM.

This year's WMG ViOptix Travel Fellowship recipient was MarQuita Kilgore. MarQuita graduated *summa cum laude* from Emory with a joint degree in anthropology and human biology. She is now a second year medical student at Yale University School of Medicine and has an interest in global health. At right is an essay from MarQuita about her experiences at ASRM. **RM**



Left to right: ViOptix representative Kristi Data, WMG Scholarship Winner MarQuita Kilgore, WMG Committee Chair Julie E. Park, MD

My experience as the inaugural Women's Microsurgery Group ViOptix Travel Scholarship recipient has proved to be life-changing and awe-inspiring. On my way to the ASRM annual meeting, I left New Haven as a second-year medical student, stressed and mostly consumed with preparation for my upcoming USMLE Step 1. Amazingly, I left Lihue with an entirely refreshed outlook on my journey through medical training. Please allow me to share the details behind this transformation, as it transcends not only my interest in microsurgery, but also my sense of career development in general.

The most eye-opening lesson I learned during my time at the meeting was the power of professional networking. Of course, as students, we all hear and realize on some level that networking is important. However, through interacting with and learning from others at the meeting, I felt that I finally truly understood its undeniable value.

I witnessed several fourth year medical students that are applying into plastic surgery residencies call upon the national connections that they made through away rotations and by proactively engaging the field. In the Young Microsurgeons Lunch Forum entitled, "Starting a Microsurgical Practice: Lessons Learned and Tips for Success," the speakers emphasized the importance of longterm relationships and reputation in building a referral base. It

was evident that many of the microsurgery colleagues catching up or traveling together at the conference were actually good friends, rather than just co-workers. Furthermore, the Women's Microsurgery Group Reception allowed me to experience the strong connections that have been forged between women in microsurgery. Rather than shying away from my very apparent lack of connections in the microsurgery world, I set the goal to likewise invest in relationships, especially at this early stage in my career, emphasizing mentorship and accountability as I grow in my training.

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WMG *Continued*

Given my interests in the intersection of surgery, public/global health, and healthcare management, I have struggled with finding a career niche that suits such diverse interests, but the meeting gave me hope! The session on Outcomes Assessment in the Era of Quality Improvement and Cost Containment exposed me to surgeons engaging phenomenal challenges related to both public health and healthcare management. Surgery has historically been neglected in the realm of public health, but as quality of care and outcomes-based payment become the model for healthcare systems, the issues of health services outcomes, quality improvement, safety, and finances become increasingly relevant to modern-day surgeons. It was awe-inspiring to meet surgeons who were also passionate about addressing such issues. They thoroughly defined the concept of “quality” in the context of plastic surgery. I enjoyed their perspectives on how quality-based medicare payments, hospital ratings, and safety measures will affect microsurgery and other surgical fields. Living vicariously through their experiences, I mentally constructed the foundations of my dream career, on which I intend to continue building.

Attending the conference gave me the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the ingenuity that encompasses microsurgery. I learned more than I ever imagined I would learn in the few days that I was there! When case descriptions were over my head, which was rather frequent, I inquired my way to at least a basic understanding. The fact that I was continuously engaged and excited by the clinical and surgical masterpieces



The first Women's Microsurgery Group Reception

further encouraged me to continue exploring the possibility of a career in microsurgery. The “Best Case/Best Save Competitive” was an action-packed experience that gave me a wonderful glimpse into the skill, general attitudes, and passion of the microsurgery community. I interacted with many researchers and innovators who further exemplified these traits. I learned about several different career paths through which various meeting attendees had entered microsurgery, which gave me several clerkship options to consider in planning my third and fourth years of medical school. The beautiful surgical transformations and astoundingly brilliant innovations in microsurgery inspired me to continue pushing and working hard now to better prepare myself to take part in similarly grand opportunities in the future.

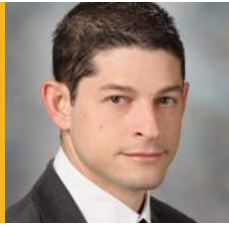
I extend my deepest gratitude to ViOptix and the ASRM Women's Microsurgery Group for affording me exposure to such excellent career lessons and sources of inspiration through my attendance at the ASRM 2014 Annual Meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

MarQuita Kilgore
M.D. Candidate, Yale School of
Medicine Class of 2016

YOUNG MICROSURGEONS' GROUP

Initiatives Add Value to Membership, Foster New Talent



**Jesse Selber, MD,
MPH, FACS**

Young Microsurgeons
Group Chair

It is my pleasure to write to you today as this year's YMG Chair and Representative to the ASRM Executive Council. I am grateful for the opportunity, and want to expend a few words updating you on our activity so far this year, and our plans for the remainder of it.

The charge of the YMG is to enhance the voice and representation of younger ASRM members. Under the previous leadership of Dr. Whitfield and Dr. Bueno, this cause has been well-championed, and I'm happy to report that I have come into this position to find a vibrant and energetic organization.

One of our key responsibilities is to increase awareness of the benefits of the YMG and promote membership. When I assumed this role in January, I discovered that many eligible members, those in practice less than 8 years, did not know their membership status. My first initiative was to email the ASRM membership, soliciting eligible members to enroll and provide basic demographic information. I am happy to report that the response was excellent, and within one week the YMG had increased its membership by 40%. It will be important to enroll new members as they become eligible and keep records of eligibility for existing members so we can direct our efforts and activities to reflect the needs of the constituent members.

With this more robust membership to reach, we convened our first committee conference call to organize our efforts for the current calendar year. One of our first actions taken was to assign committee members to committee appointments. I am happy to report that we have able-bodied young microsurgeons on the ASRM Program Committee, the Godina Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Masters' Series Committee. I am confident that the spirit of youth and vigor that characterizes the YMG will be carried forth in these venues.

**Many eligible
members did not know
their membership
status.**

To further impact next year's program, we submitted 4 ideas for instructional courses that we felt best represented the YMG membership and hope that the program committee will find these valuable. I spoke with the program chair and received affirmation that we would feature a special session in the 2015 program which will pit Old Microsurgeons against Young Microsurgeons in a friendly contest of case-based competition. This will shine a spotlight on our talented group of young members, and provide both entertainment and opportunity for recognition of

the contribution of YMG members.

We have also submitted a request to the ASRM Executive Council for a number of bylaws changes. We hope these changes will bring more efficiency and imbue the YMG with more autonomy and relevance in the coming years. If these are voted into effect, I will have an update for you at the earliest convenience.

Several more YMG initiatives were discussed, all of which are intended to add value to the young members of our society. First, we will attempt to gain sponsorship for a YMG Fellowship this year, which will ideally be available to any trainee who meets eligibility and wants to apply. The fellowship will cover the costs of the 2015 annual meeting, including airfare and hotel, and the ASRM has been kind enough to offer registration free of charge. Also, as microsurgery has been an inspiration to all of us, we discussed a formal effort on the part of the YMG to reach medical students and trainees who might want to know more about microsurgery. This outreach program would allow YMG members opportunities to speak to future medical professionals who might be inspired, like we have been, to pursue a career in microsurgery. Finally, we proposed the idea of a YMG T-shirt that would be available to all the YMG members for free, and all others for purchase.

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YMG *Continued*

This might be a fun way to build solidarity and bring a little more exposure to our group and its mission.

For young plastic surgeons, there are many career paths from which to choose, yet we hear a steady refrain of reasons to avoid choosing microsurgery: “It’s hard work. Reimbursement is going down. Academic medicine is a dying art. Time in private practice is better spent doing higher value procedures. The Affordable Care Act will be the End of Days.” I don’t dispute that all these challenges are real. But in every challenge there is opportunity. Microsurgery is not just about looking through the oculus of a microscope, but an opportunity to be among a select group of surgeons who can provide complete solutions for every reconstructive problem that afflicts the human body.

The reconstructive surgeon will always have a role in our healthcare system, no matter what laws pass and what doomsday scenarios promise to unfold.

Whether performing a fillet of leg flap for extremity reconstruction, a supercharged jejunum for esophageal replacement, highly individualized, multi-disciplinary care of the breast cancer patient, or one of the myriad of un-named, creative reconstructive solutions that can’t be found in any textbook and can’t be taken “off-the-shelf,” microsurgeons provide services that are 100% uniquely indispensable. The reconstructive surgeon who can provide head-to-toe solutions to any



The Young Microsurgeons Group Reception at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

reconstructive problem will always have a role in our health care system, no matter what laws pass and what doomsday scenarios promise to unfold. Reconstructive surgery has more flexibility and opportunity—due to not only its scope, but the uniqueness and necessity of our skills—than any other area of plastic surgery. And beyond these practical considerations, reconstructive microsurgery provides plastic surgeons an opportunity for a richness that is beyond measure: the deeply rewarding experience of helping others in their moments of greatest need.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share some updates and thoughts with you. **RM**

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2015 PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Your Invitation to "Artistry in Microsurgery"



Goetz Giessler, MD
2015 Scientific
Program Co-Chair



Steven Moran, MD
2015 Scientific
Program Co-Chair

On behalf of your president Dr. Allen Bishop, Dr. Goetz Giessler and I would like to extend an early invitation for you to join us at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the ASRM at the Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, in the Bahamas. The theme of this year's meeting will be "Artistry in Microsurgery: A Celebration of Innovation." We have included new topics and new speakers to provide the members with the most up-to-date issues in reconstructive microsurgery while showcasing the art and creativity within our specialty. International speakers from Europe and Asia have been invited to provide a global perspective on topics ranging from perforator flaps to resident education.

On Saturday our combined panel with the AAHS and ASPN will focus on reconstructive surgery in the era of the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Andrew Gurman, Speaker for House of Delegates for the American Medical Association and Dr. Michael Wood, renowned microsurgeon and former CEO of Mayo Health Care System, will provide insightful and interesting perspectives on this timely subject.

Over the following days we will include the always entertaining Best Case/Best Save forum, but will also introduce the Young Turks/Old Turks showdown where seasoned veterans and the individuals from the Young Microsurgeons' Group will square off in a lively competition to see who can be the most creative in solving complex reconstructive problems.



Photos courtesy of www.atlantis.com

Finally, we will continue the breakout programs in conjunction with the American Society for Lymphatic Surgery and hear updates from the American Society for Reconstructive Transplantation.

The educational component of the meeting promises to be comprehensive and thought provoking as we celebrate the creativity in all aspects of microsurgery.

We promise you'll learn something. We hope to see you in the Bahamas. **RM**



The spectacular Atlantis Resort features many different ways to enjoy relaxation and fun, including a waterslide that takes you under the shark pool.



JANUARY 24-27, 2015

**ASRM 30TH ANNUAL
MEETING**

Atlantis Resort
Paradise Island, Bahamas