As I write this letter, I am enjoying a wonderful view of the lagoons, pools, water features, white beach, deep blue ocean, and light blue sky awaiting us all at the Atlantis resort. Denise and I have just completed the site visit of this unique and spectacular property on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. With the help of our AGRM management team, including Tom Fise, Bob Hamilton, and Elaine McCubbin, the details of the annual meeting are being finalized for June 4-8, 2005.

This venue will offer many options for our members and families. The zero entry pools and lagoons are ideal for the safety of small children. Life guards are everywhere. Challenging water slides await the older children and young at heart. Water toys are plentiful at Neptune’s on Paradise Lagoon. Scuba certification classes are offered on site. Numerous daily excursions for diving, snorkeling, sailing, and fishing, as well as dolphin and stingray encounters are available. Of course, there is always the good ‘ol fashioned expansive beach and ocean. If mom and dad need a break, the Aqua Tots and Discovery Channel Camp programs provide supervised activities for children during the day and night. Club Rush offers a “nightclub” atmosphere available for pre-teens in the early evening and teens, ages 13-17, during the later hours (no adults allowed). We can all enjoy the complimentary movies in the Atlantis Theatre each evening.

If water activities are not your cup of tea, visit the Sports Center where a fine fitness facility, an 18 hole putting course, lap pool, and tennis courts await. A beautiful oceanside golf course is nearby. If refreshing pampering is your game, try the Mandara Spa. Fine boutique shopping is available in the hotel or you can venture into town. You may choose from many dining options at the resort, varying from family buffet to gourmet. And last, but not least, you can try lady luck in the casino and Pegasus sports book lounge any time day or night.

The plethora of recreational activities at the Atlantis should provide an enjoyable experience for the body and spirit, but we will also stimulate your mind. Bruce Shack is hard at work preparing an excellent scientific program to provide comprehensive educational opportunities and a forum for the exchange of ideas among members, as directed by our mission statement. This year’s program will feature the resident paper competition, member free paper presentations, and the popular seminar format to meet our educational goals. The seminars Deadline for Abstracts Approaching Please remember that the deadline for abstracts for papers for the June, 2005 meeting is January 20, 2005. Abstracts should be limited to 75-100 words. The original and six copies should be directed to the SESPRS office. cont. on page 2
Breast Symposium to be Held January 21-23 in Atlanta

Remember to send in your registration for the 2005 Southeastern Breast Symposium scheduled for January 21-23 at the Grand Hyatt Buckhead in Atlanta. Registration is quite easy online at www.SESPRS.org. You can also purchase DVDs from previous Breast Symposia on the SESPRS website. These contain valuable video of many different breast procedures, as well as lectures from some of the outstanding experts in the field.

The symposium this year will again feature live surgical procedures demonstrating techniques. It also will provide discussion on various controversies in breast surgery, both aesthetic and reconstructive. Included in the program will be concepts in management of capsule contracture, review and new concepts of autogenous tissue reconstruction, mastopexy after massive weight loss, improvements in expander reconstruction, and management of the radiated breast. In addition to Drs. Mark Codner, James Namnoun, and Frank Elliott as co-chairs, other featured speakers will include Drs. Dennis Hammond, Monty Eaves, John Tebbetts, Glyn Jones, Pat Maxwell, and ASPS president Scott Spear.

provide the lecturer adequate time for a detailed instructional course presentation and our members the opportunity for quality interaction with the experts. I am excited to announce that Dr. P.G. Arnold has accepted my invitation to give the Upchurch lecture, and the biannual Jurkiewicz Lecture will be presented by Dr. Luis Vasconez. Please offer your own scientific contribution by submitting an abstract for evaluation prior to the January 20, 2005 deadline. I hope each of you can make plans to join Denise and me at the Atlantis for this year’s annual meeting. You will not want to miss this informative program and entertaining venue.

Your board continues to strive for improvements in the function of the society and the services provided to our members. Our historian, Byron Barber, is working with the staff at the Lister Hill Library of the University of Alabama at Birmingham to complete the digital archiving of our historical documents, thus allowing each member online access to the rich history of SESPRS. Ann Ford Reilley, as parliamentarian, is investigating options for online and mail balloting to possibly streamline the membership application process. Jim Moore and Jim Grotting are working to ensure that quality new members continue to be elected each year. Preparation for renewal of accreditation of the society is being spearheaded by Henry Vasconez. Suman Das continues oversight of the research grant committee to ensure the most worthy proposals are funded and completed in a timely fashion. Fiscal stability of the society continues under the leadership of our treasurer, Jim Wade, and the finance committee. We are indeed fortunate to have such a talented group working for our membership on a daily basis.

I would like to thank and congratulate Mark Codner and Jim Namnoum for their efforts in arranging this year’s annual Breast Surgery Symposium at the Grand Hyatt Buckhead in Atlanta. This symposium remains the only one in the U.S. solely dedicated to surgery of the breast and this year pays special tribute to mark the 25th anniversary of the Tram flap. An outstanding faculty of nationally and internationally prominent surgeons has again been assembled for our educational benefit. Live surgery is planned for Friday morning and the honorary Hartrampf Lecture for Friday afternoon. Numerous reconstructive, cosmetic, and breast implant topics will be discussed throughout the weekend. It is not too late to register for the symposium, if you have not done so already. A DVD of the meeting is included in your registration fee. Please take advantage of this wonderful educational opportunity.

I wish each of you and your family a happy holiday season and a safe and healthy new year.

I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta and the Bahamas!
Society Continues to Grow

Seven new active members and eight new candidate members were elected at the June meeting at the Homestead in Warm Springs, VA. Congratulations to the new active members:
Robert Colgrove, M.D.
G. Mabel Gamboa, M.D.
Daniel F. Haynes, M.D.
Christopher L. McLendon, M.D.
William R. Staggers, M.D.
Michael Stephanides, M.D.
Marshall Ross Yellen, M.D.

And to the new candidates for membership:
John Anastasatos, M.D.
Earl E. Breazeale, M.D.
Aldo B. Guerra, M.D.
Elizabeth Kinsley, M.D.
Edward J. Love, M.D.
Stephen E. Metzinger, M.D.
Elizabeth A. Rothman, M.D.
Kevin R. Snodgrass, M.D.

Scientific Program Taking Shape for 48th Annual Meeting

Attendance is expected to be quite high for the 48th Annual Scientific Meeting of the SESPRS to be held June 4th through June 8th at the Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, The Bahamas. It has been 15 years since the Southeastern met in the Bahamas, and this should be a tremendous time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Vice President Bruce Shack is currently putting together the program that will meet the standards of the Society. We are honored that Dr. P.G. Arnold has agreed to be the Upchurch lecturer. Some of the other highlights already taking shape include the continuation of the popular seminar concept from last year’s meeting, with Dr. Foad Nahai on facial rejuvenation, Dr. Jack Gunter on difficult and secondary rhinoplasty, and Dr. Dennis Hurwitz on body contouring after massive weight loss, a topic of increasing importance around the country. There will also be a panel on patient safety as it relates to office-based surgery chaired by Dr. Monty Eaves of the patient safety committee of ASAPS.

Residents from the Southeast are encouraged to submit papers for the resident competition, which for years has attracted some of the better research performed by the younger members of our profession. There will be yearly updates from the ASPS, the PSEF, and ASAPS. The call for abstracts for member papers went out to all members several weeks ago, and everyone is encouraged to submit their work, especially any research that relates to the guest speakers.

The deadline for applications for 2005 is February 1, so please encourage younger peers who have not yet had the opportunity to join to begin the process of applying. Call (or email) the SESPRS offices (703-820-7400 or info@sesprs.org) to have an application sent.
Reflections

As the year 2004 draws to a close, there are many things that have brought us together and also split us apart. The year has seen a very divisive presidential election, an unpredictable and largely stagnant economy, the death of Yasser Arafat and the continued unrest in Palestine, and the continued war involving American troops with no end point foreseeable in the future. The Iraqi people continue to suffer immeasurably as their country is in the throes of what amounts to civil war, and American troops remain away from family in personal danger.

Regarding our own profession, we continue to see increasing liability in a seemingly random fashion, decreasing reimbursement for reconstructive surgery, and increasing costs.

Hopefully we can work together in the coming year among ourselves, our physician colleagues, our professional colleagues in law and politics, and our fellow members of society to improve the environment for the provision of medical care here at home and the welfare of the global population.