Message From the President

As I sit here in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, I ask that you afford me some latitude in the first of my Presidential Messages. Though I’m certainly a creature of habit and a staunch supporter of tradition, it is my hope that I may digress from the more structured addresses of my predecessors (without any disrespect whatsoever) to impart some items of consideration that may or may not have bearing upon us all. In this last week, I’ve had opportunity to reflect upon the most mundane of day to day existence such as availability of food, water, gasoline, and shelter. It has offered occasion to appreciate many of the graces bestowed upon me such as the safety of my family, colleagues, and friends who have been spared the worst of the ravages nature can command. Though many have been impacted negatively, the spirit of the human soul continues to reign supreme and that gives me great comfort. Any of you who have experienced such devastation that nature may offer can appreciate what an impact it can have on an individual’s existence. Having said such, I hope that each of you is safe and prospering in your individual environs.

Now, to the more applicable matters as they relate to the Southeastern. I could certainly sit here and expose the glories of the Southeastern but it would be superfluous – we all know and realize the Southeastern is arguably the most respected and acclaimed regional society of Plastic Surgeons in the United States. Our charge is to not only maintain that level of acclaim but to try and bring it to a level even greater than our cohort. In that regard, our effort should be to spread the word of our Society and bring others within our region into the fold. There are many practicing Plastic Surgeons in the southeastern states who are members of the ASPS and/or ASAPS and are not members of the Southeastern. Over the last year, a concerted effort has been implemented by your Board to recruit new, and especially younger, members into our Society. I would ask that each of you extend that effort by personally communicating with any reputable Plastic Surgeon(s) in your community and/or state and asking them to consider applying for membership. Applications are easily attainable by visiting our website – www.SESPRS.org.

This raises another important point. Though our website is a work in progress, plans are for it to become a user friendly medium by which information can be exchanged and dues paid. Registration for SESPRS sponsored meetings for the year will be the 2nd Annual Oculoplastic Symposium on Thursday, January 15 to be immediately followed by the 25th Annual Atlanta Breast Surgery Symposium, January 16-18. Registration is available on the website, www.SESPRS.org.

The next meeting of note is our 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Society of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons to be held June 6-10, 2009 at the Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Hotel in Puerto Rico. Again, registration is available online at www.SESPRS.org. Applications are easy to obtain by visiting the site and making plans to attend:

The 2nd Oculoplastic Meeting
January 15, 2009

and

The Breast Surgery Symposium
January 16-18, 2009

at the Intercontinental Hotel in Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mark your calendars now, and make plans to attend:

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The SESPRS’s “Worst Kept” and “Best Kept” Secret

In 1983, under the tutelage of Dr. Carl Hartmann, the first symposium of the SESPRS was held to showcase a new technique in breast reconstruction. A modest number of attendees were present in Atlanta to learn the science of the technique and to watch Dr. Hartmann demonstrate live surgery—this year’s TRAM flap. But the secret is out, and over the last 25 years, the SESPRS Annual Breast Surgery Symposium has evolved from a regional meeting into now a meeting of international renown. Last year’s meeting had a total attendance of 493 with attendees from 39 states, and 24 foreign countries. As one of the few Plastic Surgery symposia to continue to feature live surgery, this year’s 25th Annual Breast Surgery Symposium will be held at the Intercontinental-Buckhead Hotel, Atlanta GA, January 16-18, 2009, will have a 25th anniversary feel. "We will be looking at the evolution of the TRAM flap from its development by Dr. Hartmann to the variations that have evolved over the years to create safer, more consistent techniques for breast reconstruction with autogenous tissue,” says Dr. Codner, symposium program chair. In addition to breast reconstruction, breast augmentation, mastopexy, and breast reduction will be highlighted. And a prominent part of the program will also be dedicated to the science, safety, and practicality of autologous fat transfer to the breast.

But wait, there’s more…

Having completed its inaugural year in 2008, the SESPRS Oculoplastic Symposium, in contrast to the widely popular Breast Symposium, may be the SESPRS’s “best kept” secret. But it won’t stay that way for long, for the SESPRS 2nd Oculoplastic Symposium, scheduled this year on January 15th (the day preceding the start of the Breast Symposium), will provide a remarkable educational opportunity for plastic surgeons. With lectures and panels from a world class faculty, this year’s program will address trends in facial aesthetics, upper/lower lid surgery, plosis surgery, injectable use in the periorbital region, and a comprehensive facial section with emphasis on the mid-face.

For more information on the SESPRS’s 25th Breast Symposium or the 2nd Oculoplastic Symposium please refer to the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery website at: www.sesprs.org and click on the ‘meetings’ icon.

Winners of the High School Essay Contest

As the recommendation of last year’s President, Dr. Sumari Das, the Southeastern undertook a pilot project of investing into the future of the profession with an outreach to high school students who were offered a modest prize for authoring an essay demonstrating knowledge about the plastic surgery field. We are pleased to report the names of the winners of the recent high school essay contest. The topic for the contest was the role of Plastic Surgery in the United States and was open to students in the state of Mississippi. Over 90 students responded to this pilot program. After much deliberation three $500 prizes were awarded. The winners were Tari Torrence from Brandon, Lesia Watts of Tupicur, and Channing Durham of Booneville. Just to give you a flavor of these strong writing efforts, here’s a brief excerpt from the paper written by Channing A. Durham of Booneville. Just to give you a flavor of these strong writing efforts, here’s a brief excerpt from the paper written by Channing A. Durham:

Functional reconstruction can be traced back as far as 700 B.C. In the twelfth century Europe, Henrich Von Ploperundt performed a process to make a new nose for one who lost it entirely because a dog had devoured it. However, because of the dangers associated with surgery involving the head or face, such surgeries did not become common until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In the United States, the first plastic surgeon was Dr. John Peter Mettaver, who performed the first clear palate operation in 1827 with instruments he designed himself. World War I and II injuries found other surgeons developing new techniques for those suffering facial injuries.

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2009 Meeting in Puerto Rico—Remember to HOLD THESE DATES!

Southeastern Changes Bylaws to Welcome Board-certified plastic surgeons in the Caribbean

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he 52nd meeting of the SESPRS will be held in PUERTO RICO at the Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Hotel, JUNE 6-10, 2009.

With a topical and comprehensive program already being developed and a beautiful tropical resort setting, you won’t want to miss out on being a part of this “Southeastern” Puerto Rico Experience. Be on the lookout for information about the meeting—the first piece will be the Call for Abstracts which should be mailed to you within the next month or so, or you can watch for this information on our website, where it will appear, likely well in advance of the actual member mailing.

It is noteworthy that at the 2008 meeting in Boca Raton, the SE membership approved a bylaws change allowing plastic surgeons from the Caribbean to apply for membership in the SESPRS. The Puerto Rico Society is enthusiastic about this invitation and will be well represented at the 2009 annual meeting. Gus Colon has been instrumental in the communications and coordination.

Need a reason to firm up your plans to attend the June, 2009 meeting in Puerto Rico? Here’s what one SE member said about the 2008 meeting at Boca Raton: “Each year, the Southeastern Meeting delivers a top-notch educational experience and update on the latest in science and technique. What could be better than having the very best in scientific education, at a five-star resort with plenty of fun for the main family, and there’s not even a registration fee—you can’t beat that value!” said Wyndell Merritt.

In making your plans to attend the meeting, please bear in mind that Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory and, as such, U.S. citizens do not have to go through Customs or Immigration when traveling to and from the mainland. While a passport is not needed to travel to Puerto Rico, it does still make sense to carry your valid passport as the very best identification and proof of citizenship.

For the June, 2009 annual meeting in Puerto Rico, we are requesting that authors submit abstracts online. Abstracts will be accepted from November 1st to January 30th. All papers accepted for the program must be either coauthored or presented by a current SESPRS candidate, active member, or life member. Indicate whether the paper is being submitted for the resident competition or for the member paper section. Both the resident competition papers and the member papers are equally important. The abstract submission deadline is January 29th. Abstracts will be accepted from SESPRS members and from Plastic Surgeons in the Caribbean. For the June, 2009 meeting in Puerto Rico, we are requesting that authors submit abstracts online. Abstracts will be accepted from November 1st to January 30th. All papers accepted for the program must be either coauthored or presented by a current SESPRS candidate, active member, or life member. Indicate whether the paper is being submitted for the resident competition or for the member paper section. Both the resident competition papers and the member papers are equally important.

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