As I enter my twenty-first year as Chief and Program Director, I reflect on the evolution of changes that must be accomplished to succeed in this new work place environment. Many challenges have remained constant; however, the approach to solutions has to be modified for an academic practice and career to survive. Our missions and goal endure. Provide high quality cost effective care to our patients, educate and train the best and the brightest at a variety of training levels to excel in the practice and delivery of care to our plastic surgery patients. Our division continues to be a leader in the area of clinical and basic science research to cultivate translational advances to enhance care of our patients. Lastly, we foster educating and improving the quality of life of our neighboring, regional, national, and global community.

When I began my career at the University of Miami, we faced some very specific issues that challenged the actual survival of the service as well as the residency program. Then during the economic downturn in the early 2000’s we were again confronted with the realities of our institutional community and possible phasing out a number of services. Although current stresses may not be potentially as draconian, they remain nonetheless problematic. Now to enhance our bottom line, the division has initiated so-called new product lines by recruiting faculty with innovative expertise. Dr. Chris Salgado established two exceptional and unique schemes centering on multi-disciplinary transgender and hernia services. Dr. Morad Askari has been working on initiating a hand transplant program while maintaining a brachial plexus clinic. Dr. Harvey Chim a recent addition to our faculty has introduced migraine surgery to our institution. These efforts may lead to the development of a multi-disciplinary headache clinic incorporating the knowledge of our institutional colleagues. Dr. Cristiano Boneti who joined our full-time faculty further exemplifies this model. Prior to completing his plastic surgery residency, he finished both general surgery and a breast oncology fellowship. He will staff both a breast clinic at JMH and provide to our patients at all affiliate institutions a distinctive approach to breast cancer management and reconstruction. In addition, he will be able to launch surgical options for resultant lymphedema from oncologic extirpation. Dr. Panthaki expands our hand surgery program, while Dr. Kassira expands our JMH staff Aesthetic Clinic. These are invaluable adjuncts to the overall well-being of our division. We look towards the future with the potential development of a Reconstructive Burn Center under the sponsorship of JMH. We are very excited with the building and expansion of the Miller School of Medicine to our Coral Gables campus with the completion of the Lennar Foundation Medical Center.

Upon starting my position, the residency program was composed of a total of six residents (3 per year for two years). They entered the residency at two entry points and applications were not handled via the SF Match. The six independent residents were retained; however, we did enter the formal match and standardized a July 1, commencement. Then the ACGME decided to increase the length of the training to three years due to the educational and clinical advances in our specialty. Suddenly we expanded to nine independent positions. This resulted in the foraging for necessary salary lines. Fortunately the institution lent its support. Now we have a total of nine residents within the independent format. Trending seems to be moving towards another mode of instruction: integrated. So once again, there was a search for salary lines, clinical rotations, and institutional support. Our division with the assistance of a variety of resources was able to initiate and obtain ACGME approval for an integrated program with one resident per year for six years. Last year, we accepted our first applicant and look forward to developing a new group of “stars”. Our residents had one opportunity to follow a clinical path in hand surgery. However, under the directorship of Dr. Zubin Panthaki we received ACGME accreditation for our plastic surgery hand fellowship and the capacity to have our fellows obtains a CAQ in Hand Surgery. Due
to increasing expansion, we have now obtained approval to supplement the fellowship with a second fellow. In addition, there is a litany of new alphabets and requirements. The PIF has been supplanted by the ADS and NAS. Site reviews have been superseded by computer surveys. Duty hours and other new compliance prerequisites and oversight have been introduced and must be considered.

New desires in resident’s to direct their training have dictated that the faculty reflect and initiate innovative topics to enhance their resident’s education and development. Our division has always provided each incoming resident a faculty mentor. Their role is to serve as a guide and provide support to each individual resident outside the boundaries of their daily existence on our medical campus. These relationships have been both invaluable as well as extend well beyond the residency years. In the past, residents have gone into practice lacking the basic business foundations to initiate and maintain a career. Dr. Randy Miller one of our invaluable voluntary faculty overseas an extensive annual course entitled the Business of Plastic Surgery 101. This is further enhanced by two of our former graduating residents, Dr. Rex Moulton Barrett via teleconference reviews the business end of setting up private practice. Dr. Tom Horn visits annually to analyze his practice and how he is able to improve the efficiency of delivering cosmetic procedures.

Within all of these enhancements, we now find ourselves needing to perform our task within the environment of such new evaluation tools as Press Ganey and ACGME surveys, not to mention, the internet. These assess our own care and interpersonal relationships with patients and trainees. This feedback can be utilized to fine-tune our own work product. Other surveys assessing faculty and residents are used to gauge their perceptions of their training atmosphere. Such instruments have become paramount appraisal devices. These have become substantial considerations of how we are judged as educators, physicians, and surgeons. Lastly, we must closely follow and adhere to duty hour compliance rules. This has become a weighty consideration in our dealings with on call schedules and planning of surgical cases. Our world will continue to change and we will continue to evolve. Our goals remain the same, the training and production of outstanding plastic surgeons who will take the clinical stage and make contributions to the care of patients and future pioneering advancements to the art and science of Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive surgery.

Plastic Surgery FACULTY UPDATES:

Dr. Zubin J. Panthaki

Dr. Zubin J. Panthaki continues to maintain one of the busiest practices in the division. His practice is equally split between breast cancer reconstruction and hand surgery. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Panthaki is also very involved with resident and fellow education. He has dual positions as the Associate Program Director for the plastic surgery residency program and the Program Director of the hand surgery fellowship program. He is also chairman of the clinical competency committee for the Division of Plastic Surgery. He serves on committees of numerous national, regional and local Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery societies. Having been promoted to the rank of full professor of clinical surgery at the University of Miami, Dr. Panthaki’s role has gradually transitioned to a mentorship role for junior faculty and fellows both in hand surgery and plastic surgery.

Dr. Panthaki’s current research interests in the field of breast cancer reconstruction involve novel minimally invasive approaches for autologous tissue flaps for the radiated patient. Some of these approaches have the potential to decrease hospital length of stay, decrease scars and decrease morbidity for these complex patients.

As Chief of hand surgery and plastic surgery at the Miami VA Hospital, a large part of Dr. Panthaki’s practice is devoted to care of our nation’s veterans. Furthermore, as Chief of hand surgery at University of Miami Hospital, which is our flagship hospital, our hand surgery practice has gradually evolved to offer some of the most advanced reconstructive techniques available. Recent capital acquisitions at the University of Miami have allowed us to pursue minimally invasive surgical techniques for hand surgery and ensure minimal doses of radiation for patients during some of the more complex cases.

This year, Dr. Panthaki has undertaken the challenge of co-editing two textbooks. One of the textbooks is a new concept for operative dictations in plastic surgery. This project is being spearheaded by one of our current residents, Dr. Tuan Tran. It has a multinational and multidisciplinary focus and should serve well as a reference for residents and fellows in training and those recently graduated in plastic surgery. The other textbook project he has undertaken is an update to a classic reference work in plastic surgery that deals with the unfavorable result and its management.

HAND FELLOWSHIP UPDATE:

The hand fellowship at the Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami Division of Plastic Surgery has developed into one of the
leading hand fellowships in the country. We now attract the best and brightest from around the country including past fellow, excellent orthopedic trained hand fellow, Dr. Keith Aldrich who graduated this year from our program and Dr. Laura Tharp, who graduated last year.

This year our Hand Fellowship just got approval from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to increase our complement of accredited hand fellows from one per year to two fellows. This was undoubtedly as a result of our excellent clinical and educational program and the teamwork provided by all the faculty and residents and staff in the Division of Plastic Surgery and at all our affiliated hospitals.

Our Hand Fellowship program participates in the Combined Musculoskeletal-Hand Surgery Matching Program (CMMP) of the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). The ACGME has approved our program for two Hand Fellows. We were able to obtain two excellent candidates, Dr. Gary DeCesare and Dr. Sanjeev Puri.

Dr. Christopher J. Salgado

Dr. Christopher J. Salgado has now been with our Division for the past 5 years. His recent achievements in addition to now over 90 publications on pubmed has been the publishing of a book on Aesthetic and Functional Genital Surgery in addition to Co-Editing a book on Operative Procedures in Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery with Drs. Thaller, Kassira and Hoschander. He has also been traveling nationally and internationally to present on the topic of Gender Confirmation Surgery in which he is editing a third book with Editors internationally. Currently the University of Miami Hospital has the busiest surgical Transgender Clinic that is University based and spearheaded by Dr. Salgado offering all aspects of Transgender surgical care. Dr. Salgado was also recently interviewed by Univision Television for a one hour documentary that was recently shown on Transgender patients and their transition.

Dr. Salgado also added to our Division a Research Associate, Dr. Priscila Sanchez, who has continued to work on a KCI funded study evaluating and comparing the effects of the VAC ultra with and without Prontosan to determine if bacterial loads can be decreased in the wound bed when using this antiseptic with negative pressure wound therapy. This is a multi-institutional study and we are fortunate to have this study being performed at the University of Miami Hospital.

Dr. Wrood Kassira

This past year Dr. Wrood Kassira was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award by the graduating Plastic Surgery Chief Residents. In addition, she became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. With training in general surgery, plastic surgery and aesthetic surgery, Dr. Kassira continues to provide plastic and reconstructive surgery for patients at University of Miami Hospital, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Jackson Memorial Hospital/Ryder Trauma Center. She provides nonsurgical facial rejuvenation, as well as procedures including, facelift, blepharoplasty, rhinoplasty, autologous fat grafting, breast reduction, breast augmentation, body contouring, abdominoplasty, post-bariatric surgery, post-trauma reconstruction, oncologic reconstruction, reconstruction of Mohs defects, microvascular surgery, and the broad spectrum of breast reconstruction, including both prosthetic and autologous-based reconstruction. She also treats patients faced with maxillofacial trauma and those needing limb salvage. Dr. Kassira continues to supervise the staff Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Clinic at Jackson Memorial Hospital where our Division provides high quality patient care and educates future plastic surgeons. As an aesthetic surgery fellowship-trained plastic surgeon, she continues to educate residents in cosmetic procedures of the face, nose, eyes, breast and body, and we have seen the staff aesthetic surgery patient volume at Jackson Memorial Hospital grow this year. In addition, Dr. Kassira continues to provide reconstructive surgery for Veterans at the Miami Veterans Administration Hospital and the Broward VA Outpatient Clinic.

Dr. Morad Askari

Dr. Morad Askari “JMH Orthopedic Hand” rotation has grown to be an active component of hand surgery education for the University of Miami Plastic Surgery residency program. Dr. Askari oversees the plastic surgery resident experience during this rotation. Together along with our resident’s involvement, the division has produced several scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals on various topics in hand surgery as well ongoing clinical studies.

The brachial plexus clinic at the University of Miami has continued to grow. Through this clinic the patients are offered a full spectrum of reconstructive options ranging from nerve reconstruction to nerve and tendon transfer as well free functional muscle transfers. Jackson Memorial Hospital hand service continues to be busy with general upper extremity trauma as well as complex soft tissue and bony reconstruction while the hand service in Bascom Palmer institute provides a balance of chronic and sub-acute upper extremity disorders. At the same time, the Composite Tissue Transplantation Project is well underway and prospect of a hand transplant in the coming year is becoming a tangible reality.
Dr. Harvey Chim

Dr. Harvey Chim joined the faculty at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine last September after completing a plastic surgery residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH and a hand and microsurgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. His practice consists largely of hand and reconstructive microsurgery.

A program offering surgical treatment of migraine headaches, the first in South Florida, has been initiated, with the first patient having experienced relief of her chronic intractable headaches after surgery. In collaboration with Dr. Salgado, transgender patients undergoing transition from female to male are also being offered osteocutaneous radial forearm free flaps. This has led to substantially better outcomes. On a personal note, he and his wife had their first child, Charlene Chim, born January 2nd 2015.

Dr. Cristiano Boneti

Dr. Cristiano Boneti is originally from Brazil where he attended medical school and Surgery residency. From there, he completed General Surgery training at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, becoming a board certified General Surgeon and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He also completed a fellowship in diseases of the breast at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute in Little Rock Arkansas, where he subsequently was appointed Assistant Professor in the Surgery Department. More recently, he completed a Plastic Surgery Residency at the University of Alabama in Birmingham with some of the pioneers in breast reconstruction.

His main interests are to treat patients requiring reconstruction after oncological treatment, trauma, congenital, benign and malignant diseases. He is well versed in all types of reconstruction, including biointegrated prosthetics, local reconstruction and free tissue transfer. He has a particular interest in diseases of the breast, to include aesthetic deformities, facial rejuvenation and body contouring.

Dr. Boneti has been nationally and internationally recognized for his accomplishments. As a result of his superior research, Dr. Boneti’s work has been presented in some of the premier meetings within the field of surgical oncology. In addition he has numerous peer-reviewed publications in recognized journals, including Journal of the American College of Surgeons, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Annals of Surgical Oncology, Journal of Pediatric Surgery, Journal of the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons, and Journal of Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Boneti has played a very active and central role in breast cancer care. In particular, his research has had a tremendous impact on the field of lymphedema treatment internationally and in the U.S. His findings have the potential to prevent the disabling consequences of lymphedema and constitute a completely original contribution to research on the field. Dr. Boneti’s discoveries have been acknowledged by the national and international scientific community as outstanding, led to his receiving the 2009 ASBS Scientific Impact award, and have contributed to his position as a leading expert and visionary scientist.

OUR 2015 GRADUATING RESIDENTS

Dr. Rizal Lim

Dr. Rizal Lim graduated AOA from Medical College of Ohio in 2005 AOA on a full scholarship. He then proceeded to train in General Surgery at Boston University Medical Center. There he participated in a 2-year research sabbatical, studying postoperative abdominal scar tissue formation. Dr. Lim joined the UM Plastic Surgery program in 2012. During his time here he contributed to a book chapter, 2 peer reviewed manuscripts, and still had active projects through his final year. He had volunteered his time to participate in 3 cleft lip and palate mission trips to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Dr. Lim is in his next phase of training, having matched into a Craniofacial Surgery fellowship at UCLA.

In the future, Dr. Lim plans on a career in an academic setting, where he will specialize in the care of post-traumatic craniofacial reconstruction, cleft lip and palate, and other congenital head and neck reconstruction.

Dr. Anslem Wong

Anslem is nervous but excited that he is about to move on. Eleven years after graduating medical school, he is looking behind him at all his years of training and trying to incorporate them as his foundation. At the same time, he is looking ahead to the future as an opportunity to build a successful practice upon that foundation. He still plans to combine general reconstructive plastic surgery with his prior training in hand surgery to form his future practice.

No matter where he ends up, he will never forget his time in Miami -
2015 GRADUATING RESIDENTS CONTINUED

the training, the stories, the laughter, and the people he has been lucky enough to work with. These three years have really helped him to develop not only as a doctor and surgeon, but as a person as well. Although the days went by slowly at times, the years went by fast.

When he is not at work or studying, Anselm enjoys bicycling, going to concerts, and cheering for his beloved New England sports teams. He also used the last few months in Miami to explore the scenery and great restaurants to be found here. Although you’ll never be able to take the Boston out of him, he still enjoys the Florida weather and everything the area has to offer.

Dr. Tuan Tran

Dr. Tuan Tran is ecstatic to return to his hometown, Sacramento to start a fellowship in Hand surgery with Dr. Szabo at the University of California, Davis. He plans to pursue a mixed practice of plastic and hand surgery in southern California upon completion of his fellowship. As he planned his move, he felt sad about moving away from Miami which he called his home for the last three years and about leaving his brothers and sisters in arms at the plastic surgery training program. He stated that he would miss Miami terribly. As a part of his contribution to his beloved training program, he worked on a book entitled: Operative Dictations in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery with Drs. Thaller, Panthaki and a whole host of other prominent plastic surgeons.

3RD YEAR RESIDENTS

Dr. Renee Gasgarth

Dr. Renee Gasgarth has had exciting opportunities. She has gained experience in facial, breast, genitalia and lower extremity reconstruction. In addition, she has explored non-surgical facial rejuvenation, including laser treatment. Renee has also excelled academically, receiving certification by the American Board of Surgery for general surgery and participating in diverse areas of plastic and reconstructive research. Her research has included de-epithelialization of the inferior pedicle in breast reduction surgery, perceptions of the aesthetic appearance of male and female external genitalia, and preservation of function by utilizing a split latissimus dorsi flap for lower extremity reconstruction. She also had the privilege to travel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti with Project Medishare to provide surgical care to patients with cleft lips and palates. This recent trip reinvigorated her desire to provide care to pediatric patients.

A Florida native, Renee has been thrilled to return to her home state after completing her undergraduate studies at Harvard and medical school and her general surgery program. She also has the privilege to travel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti with Project Medishare to provide surgical care to patients with cleft lips and palates. This recent trip reinvigorated her desire to provide care to pediatric patients.
2ND YEAR RESIDENTS

**Dr. Ajani Nugent**

Dr. Ajani Nugent is in his second year of training. He is enjoying the diversity of cases and patients he has been involved with. Despite an engaging clinical schedule, he has managed to have one publication thus far, and is actively working on another. With his remaining spare time, he makes the most of the warm Miami weather by playing soccer and swimming. He is looking forward to continuing to mature as a surgeon and clinician in the field of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

**Dr. Jimmy Chim**

Dr. Jimmy Chim came to Miami by way of Portland, OR and Montreal, QC. He feels quite fortunate for the opportunity to be able to care for patients here in Miami-Dade with Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery needs. He also appreciates being able to gain breadth and depth in experience as a trainee with this very unique program. Jimmy has been trying to stay busy academically and is currently working on projects pertaining to transgender surgery, post-operative drain management and traumatic injury as it relates to Plastic Surgery. In his free time, Jimmy is taking advantage of the South Florida weather with his wife and 2 kids.

**Dr. Nicholas Galardi**

Dr. Nick Galardi is in his second year of training and is enjoying all aspects of the field of Plastic Surgery which he had no idea was so extensive; He is also enjoying the broad range of procedures he is exposed to and the great amount of autonomy he receives in the OR and in patient care.

Nick is definitely missing the seasons from up north but enjoying the many new experiences Miami has to offer. Nick’s current plans are to do hand fellowship following Plastics residency and ultimately move back up north in mid-eastern US. He is looking forward to going on Haiti (cleft palate) trip next year hopefully since it will be amazing experience.

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3RD YEAR RESIDENTS CONTINUED

residency at Emory. She currently plans to reside in South Florida after completing residency; however, she is currently considering taking a detour up North to pursue an additional fellowship in breast/microsurgery.

**Dr. Bryan Curtis**

Dr. Bryan Curtis has been enjoying his progression through plastics training. He is looking forward to his last year. He hopes to gain experience in aesthetics by working with the many great plastic surgeons in the Miami area. In the past year, he has continued with academic pursuits by submitting articles for publication, and seeking opportunities to scrub in the varied cases that the UM program has to offer. He has been involved in the community by participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum for high school students and involvement with the University of Miami Air Force ROTC program. Bryan and his wife, Cecelia, continue to enjoy the flavor of Miami in their time outside of work by trying local cuisine, attending events by local artists, and even taking advantage of the wonderful weather by enjoying occasional scuba diving excursions.

**Dr. Rebecca C. Novo**

Rebecca participated in the “Haiti Mission Trip” earlier this year and she experienced 4 incredible days in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where she participated in many pediatric procedures alongside her colleagues and teachers. The experience was life changing and she anticipates her return trip. Rebecca is aligning herself to find employment in Melbourne, Florida, ideally practicing all aspects of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.
Integrated Fellow update

Dr. Steven Ovadia

Dr. Steven Ovadia is the first resident in the Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency program at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital Program. Steven has already received a broad exposure to general surgery and surgical specialties having rotated through the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, VA General Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Burn Surgery, and Plastic Surgery Services. Steven continues to work on research with recent publications including a meta-analysis of locally administered beta blockers for infantile hemangiomas published in the February 2015 edition of Annals of Plastic Surgery and a review of upper extremity amputations to be published in the next edition of Seminars in Plastic Surgery. Steven manages to maintain a balanced life and enjoys going to the gym and movies.

Research Lab update

Dr. Jun Tashiro and Dr. David Gerth

“In the Elliot-Glassberg laboratory, Plastic Surgery Research Fellows Drs. David Gerth and Jun Tashiro conducted several experiments to evaluate the translational application of adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (ASCs) for wound healing under the supervision of Drs. Sharon Elliot and Marilyn Glassberg. ASC treatments are carried out on injured skin, with close observation of the effect on the wound healing process compared to control treatments. These studies are being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Dermatology. They also conducted clinical studies using a national database to evaluate differences in outcomes and resource utilization for breast reconstruction. These studies were presented at the Academic Surgical Congress in February. Manuscripts are currently under review. More recently, we have performed outcomes evaluations of facial fracture reductions and surgical management of pressure ulcers. Dr. Gustavo Rubio is the current Plastic Surgery Research Fellow.”

Hand Fellowship update:

Dr. Keith Aldrich

Keith Aldrich, MD is from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He completed his B.S. in Human Biology from Michigan State University. Keith earned his M.D. from Harvard Medical School. After medical school, he completed a preliminary internship in general surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. He completed his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. Keith plans to use his fellowship training to pursue a primary hand surgery practice while maintaining some general orthopedics.

DR. BRYAN CURTIS was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force at a ceremony held at the University of Miami, Coral Gables.

Congratulations Bryan!

Match Results for Independent Plastic Surgery Program starting July 2016:

Karen Kaplan, MD
General Surgery: Hofstra-North Shore-LIJ

Jeena Easow, MD
General Surgery: Boston University Medical Center

Sarah Hammond, MD
General Surgery: University of Tennessee
OUR PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENTS
Residents for 2015-2018

Dr. David Gerth

Dr. David Gerth was born and raised in Nashville, TN to American and Brazilian parents. He also spent some of his early years in São Paulo. He graduated from Brentwood High School and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Georgia with a B.S. in Genetics. He pursued his medical school education at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN. He also completed his residency training in Otolaryngology at the same institution. An interest in facial trauma, reconstruction, and aesthetic surgery led him to enter a facial plastic surgery fellowship, which he completed at New Brunswick, NJ in association with Rutgers University. During that time, he resolved to enter Plastic Surgery residency. In the meantime, he moved to Florida where he has functioned as research fellow in the University of Miami Plastic, Aesthetic, & Reconstructive Surgery division. David is extremely excited to begin his training at University of Miami/JMH. His ultimate goal is to become a well-rounded surgeon, capable of caring for any patient that may one day walk through his door. His time as research fellow has furthered his interests in translational science, and would like to continue tissue engineering research. He enjoys watching football, playing guitar, and traveling in his spare time.

Dr. Edgar Bedolla

Dr. Edgar Bedolla is originally from Michoacán, Mexico but immigrated to and grew up in Dallas, Texas. He attended Baylor University and graduated with a B.A. in Biology and minor in Chemistry. After college, he returned to Dallas and attended UT Southwestern Medical School where he met his wife, Cathy, prior to starting residency. Since then he completed his General Surgery Residency at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center in June 2014 and in January became Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery. Currently, Edgar worked as a Clinical Instructor and Trauma/Acute Care Surgeon at OU which allowed him time to enjoying watching his new born daughter, Laila, grow. Outside of work, Edgar is an avid soccer player and enjoys running and learning foreign languages. He speaks English, Spanish, Italian and is working on Vietnamese.

Dr. Mirtha Gonzalez

Dr. Mirtha Gonzalez was born in Managua, Nicaragua, and moved to the US in 1987. She grew up in Houston and graduated from the University of Houston where she completed a B.S. in Biology. Mirtha went to medical school at UT Southwestern in Dallas and completed her general surgery residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She is looking forward to her plastic surgery training. She does have a special interest in pediatric craniofacial surgery.

Hand Fellows for the July 2015-2016 academic year

Dr. Gary DeCesare attended the University of Florida and graduated with a B.A. in Finance. After college, he attended The University of South Florida for medical school. Gary has completed his general surgery residency at Georgetown University Hospital. During that time, he spent two years doing Research at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Afterwards, Gary completed his Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residency at the University of California Los Angeles.

Dr. Sanjeev Puri graduated from Boston University for both undergrad and medical school and has recently completed his surgical residency at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena. After he completes his hand surgery fellowship he plans on moving to Plastic Surgery at The University of Colorado Denver.

Incoming Integrated Program Resident 2015

Dr. Kriya Gishen is a recent graduate of the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine. Kriya is our PGY-1 integrated plastic surgery resident. Kriya was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and grew up in Boca Raton Florida. She completed a BS in Honors Biology at Brown University before attending Medical school in Miami. During her medical education, she traveled several times with the University of Miami team on surgical mission trips to Haiti, solidifying her interested in Plastic surgery. In her free time, Kriya enjoys drawing, photography, sculpting, yoga and spending time outdoors.

Match Results for the Plastic-Hand Surgery Program starting July 2016

Jeoffrey Konopka, MD
Orthopedic
Our Basic Science lab Researcher for 2015-2017

Dr. Gustavo Rubio

Dr. Gustavo Rubio is originally from Maracaibo, Venezuela, and moved to Miami, FL, during high school. He went on to the University of Miami to major in Economics and Biology. During this time, developed an interest in research and completed his Honors Thesis in the Department of Cell Biology under Dr. Richard Rotundo. Gustavo attended the University of Michigan Medical School, where he had the opportunity to participate in several unique experiences such as a service trip to the Dominican Republic, starting an accredited Medical Spanish course at Michigan, and holding leadership positions in local and regional organizations. He also had a great exposure to surgical specialties and decided to pursue residency training in General Surgery. He is currently a second year General Surgery resident at UM/Jackson Memorial Hospital and is very excited with the opportunity to dedicate two years to full-time research in the Division of Plastic Surgery. Gustavo’s post-residency goal is to pursue fellowship training, although he is still undecided with regards to a specific one. He is interested in surgical fields that include treatment of oncologic diseases. Ultimately, he wishes to pursue a career in academic surgery. Outside of the hospital, he enjoys traveling abroad and spending time with his family, fiancé, and friends. He is currently planning to be wed this August.

Our most recent graduates/Alumni: One year later…

Dr. Urmen Desai

Dr. Desai has found much success since graduating from the University of Miami-Jackson Memorial Hospital Plastic Surgery Residency Program last spring. He started his own boutique private practice on Park Avenue in Manhattan (New York City), while covering emergency room call at several Manhattan hospitals. He is currently on staff in the Department of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary and Mt. Sinai Hospital. Dr. Desai continues to remain active in research projects with Dr. Thaller and current residents. He recently completed a study examining the business aspect of plastic surgery among residency programs nationwide examining the degree of marketing, negotiating, and practice management education in the plastic surgery curriculum. He continues to remain close to his former co-residents Jason Edens, MD and Ari Hoschander, MD.

Dr. Ari Hoschander

Dr. Ari Hoschander has joined the private practice cosmetic and reconstructive surgical group, Greenberg Cosmetic Surgery. Ari’s practice has been growing steadily in breadth and volume. He has been performing a variety of cosmetic and reconstructive cases as well as injecting Botox, other neurotoxins and fillers. Dr. Hoschander has said that the training and mentorship I received at the University of Miami, has given me the skill and confidence to take care of my patients with the utmost attention to detail which translates into excellent results. Along with co-editors Dr. Salgado, Dr. Kassira and Dr. Thaller, Ari compiled and edited a plastic surgical textbook titled “Operative Procedures in Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery” which was just published. He looks forward to many years of continued practice growth, excellent results and most importantly, happy and satisfied patients.

Dr. Priscila Sanchez

Dr. Priscila Sanchez worked with the division for one year as a Research Associate/Clinical Research Coordinator on a 326K grant with Dr. Salgado. Priscila is currently a PGY I in General surgery at JMH/UM. Her future plans are to become a Plastic Surgeon and complete a craniofacial fellowship. She hopes to be able to go on mission trips.

Dr. Jason Edens

Dr. Jason Edens since graduating, Jason and his wife, Kirsten, have moved to Germany, where he has resumed his military commitment in the US Army. Jason has become the Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. He has seen and performed a wide variety of cases including cleft lip repair, brachioplasty, otoplasty, reduction mammoplasty, panniculectomy and abdominoplasty, and breast reconstruction. His training at the University of Miami greatly prepared him for his current assignment in the military. He also passed the Written Examination of the American Board of Plastic Surgery and will be preparing for the Oral Examination this November.

Jason and Kirsten also welcomed the birth of their first child, a healthy baby girl, Ava Sophia on September 27. She has changed their lives for the better and has kept them very busy. They plan to begin traveling throughout Europe in the coming months with trips to Paris and Greece already in the works.
Update/News from Past Alumni

Dr. Piotr P. Skowronski

Dr. Piotr P. Skowronski is currently Assistant Professor at UGA/GRU (University of Georgia/Georgia Regents University. He is also working as the Medical Director for the Wound Healing Center. His principal interest remains in reconstructive plastic Surgery. Piotr is a proud father of a daughter, Ava who was born last June. He states that his “Beautiful little girl has her mother’s personality”.

Dr. Benjamin J. Cousins

Dr. Benjamin J. Cousins passed his ABPS certifying examination in the fall of 2014 and is now board certified in both general surgery (ABS) and plastic surgery (ABPS). He is awaiting his CAQ exam in Surgery of the Hand. He continues to work in private practice in Miami and South Florida with MOSA plastic surgery and South Florida Hand Surgery.

Ben remains enthusiastic about being a mentor of young and upcoming plastic surgeons. Remembering how important it was for him to ask questions and get opinions about future changes in medicine, practice patterns and strategies. He also enjoys teaching and presenting unique cases for the residents to discuss in a timed oral format so as to polish their presentation skills.

Dr. Tarik Husain

The mentorship program is a very strong advantage in the program. My mentor eventually became my practice associate (Dr. Joe Garri). It was nice to have a plastic surgeon away from the hustle and bustle of JMH and UMH, to provide a different perspective on things and to just stay motivated during the inevitable tough moments of residency. I think it was especially advantageous to have a mentor who had been through it all at JMH before because they understood the unique challenges presented there. Definitely keep the program going and I would like to continue being involved. Thank you!

The following past residents passed the American Board of Plastic Surgery 2014 Oral Boards:

MIKE LAKE, TARIK HUSAIN, BEN COUSINS, AND AL SOLTANI

Congratulations!!!

JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RESIDENT CLINIC

The Jackson Memorial Hospital Plastic and Reconstructive Staff Clinic, located in ACC west continues to be a busy place on Wednesday’s. The residents are providing quality care to patients with a great variety of reconstructive challenges.

These problems range from facial fractures, skin cancer defects, breast reconstruction, breast reduction & augmentation, to lower extremity wounds & abdominal wall reconstruction. They are closely supervised by full-time faculty: Dr’s Wrood Kassira, Morad Askari, and Harvey Chim. In addition, Dr’s Peter James and Alan Rapperport, retired Voluntary Staff members and Dr. Jay Ellenby, each with over 30 years of private practice experience are regularly present and involved. They all combine to offer a unique, comprehensive overview of plastic surgery in the clinic setting, as well as in the private practice world.

The clinic provides an opportunity to determine a treatment plan, as well developing the skills to utilize the latest ICD and CPT coding systems. Residents develop the shells to manage post-op patients and observe long term results under the direct supervision of the attending staff. Accordingly, the clinic facilitates the residents’ transition to becoming independent practitioners. With the current 3 year residency program, third year residents are often available in the clinic as assist as well and obtain long term follow-up of their operative results.

In addition, a resident cosmetic practice continues to grow in the clinic, with surgery offered at affordable prices. Patients are seen in consultation, evaluated and a specific, appropriate plan is developed for them.

Finally, the Minor Surgery room is frequently used to perform small procedures, of various types. This is convenient for the patients and allows for another dimension surgical training.
51 years ago at a Christmas party in Baltimore, I was talking with Jim Jude about his plans to come to Miami to be the Chief of Cardiovascular surgery. At that time I was in my second year as chief resident in Plastic Surgery at Johns Hopkins, where one had to spend two years as chief resident, not one, under Milton Edgerton. Jim Jude casually asked me if I would be interested in coming to Miami, because Dean Warren, who was then Chair of the Dept of Surgery, was going to start a Division of Plastic Surgery at the med school and was looking for a chief. Never thinking that he would take a guy who was just finishing his residency, but being naturally a risk-taker, I said I’d definitely be interested. Dean Warren contacted me, and I came down for interviews. By July 1st, I had arrived, ready to go to work, but found that there was no Plastic Surgery office. They offered me a basement office in Jackson, which I refused. They said I could use Dean Warren’s office while he was away on vacation; I did that for a few weeks and, when no other space was found, informed the department that I would work from home. Lo and behold, suddenly space was found on the general surgery office floor. Plastic surgery had arrived. Well, at least we had an office, and a secretary. There were some excellent plastic surgeons on the attending staff of the Department of Surgery before I arrived including Clifford Snyder (no relative, though everyone asked if he was related), and Ralph Millard, who had an international reputation for repairing cleft lips and palates. They had operated at Jackson for many years, but Dean Warren wanted to start fresh and new, and I was it. As you can imagine, Cliff Snyder and Millard had many years on me in plastic surgery and it was a challenge to hold my own in those circumstances. But I was young and impetuous, and I didn’t let it worry me too much.

My goal was to pattern the program on the one I had known at Hopkins.

Tribute to Gilbert Synder, MD

As the news got out that there was a plastic surgery residency program at the medical school, we began to get applicants and within a year we had our first resident. Teaching rounds were started; many practicing plastic surgeons and general surgeons in the community attended our rounds. You should know that in 1964 there were only 10 plastic surgeons in Miami.

In addition to teaching procedures, techniques, and patient care, we realized the future of tissue transplantation in Plastic Surgery, and obtained a grant from NIH to study the factors of complement fixation for prolongation of survival of tissue transplants.

At the same time, I pursued my ideal of plastic surgery being integrated with other medical specialties, in order to take care of the whole patient. I had been trained at Hopkins to involve psychiatrists, ophthalmologists, ENT, oral surgeons, and dentists when appropriate. I approached the Chiefs of each division or Specialty to work out how we could cooperate in training and patient care. None turned me down, and I like to think that this approach set a tone for the training and practice of Plastic Surgery at the U of M during my time.

My previous experience had been mainly on trauma and reconstruction of congenital deformities. So I have to admit I was astonished at first by the amount of cosmetic surgery Miamians requested. This was definitely not Baltimore!

When I felt I had laid the foundation and proven that this place could have a first class program, I made the choice to go into private practice. My own love had always been taking care of patients and doing surgery, not administration. So the choice was really a simple one for me.

Needless to say, at this celebration of our 50th anniversary, it’s clear the program I started way back then has been in capable hands. It is a pleasure to see how it has evolved, to see the scope of the work done here, and to see it thriving with so many outstanding staff, trainees and supporters. I’m pleased to have convinced the surgery department to move us out of the basement in 1964, and proud to have a hand in getting academic plastic surgery started at the U of M --- way back in the day.

Students Interested in Plastic Surgery (SIPS)

Students Interested in Plastic Surgery (SIPS) is a student-run organization at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine that aims at facilitating connections between interested students and the Plastic Surgery Division. In addition to fostering relationships with regards to shadowing and research opportunities, we host various stimulating lunchtime talks given by esteemed professionals in the field, such as Breast Reconstruction after Mastectomy and Transgender Surgery. Meanwhile, we also engage students in hands-on scrubbing and suturing workshops.

Perhaps our most exciting event is our annual suturing workshop led by plastic surgery residents and attending physicians. They teach interested students various suturing and knot-tying techniques. In 2014, we were elected as UMMSM Organization of The Year for our active contribution to the student body with various workshops and presentations.

By: Lam Phung University of Miami Miller School of Medicine MD Candidate Class of 2017
Plastic Surgery educational and social memories...
RESIDENT EDUCATION IN THE BUSINESS OF PLASTIC SURGERY by Dr. Anselm Wong

Because there are so many learning opportunities in the operating room and our extensive didactics program, it is all too easy to become immersed in the program and lose sight of what happens outside of it. In addition, since most of the residents and fellows have been training for a considerable amount of time, it makes it more difficult to remember that at some point, they will eventually graduate and move on to practices of their own.

Over the past few years, the residents have had more opportunities to learn about what it is to practice medicine in the real world. Multiple plastic surgeons in the community have offered their time to talk about their models of business practices, how to attract and keep patients, and how to maintain efficiency in the office and operating room settings — details not easily found in textbooks or in literature searches. Dr. Thomas Horn, a former graduate of the program, has travelled from Atlanta yearly to meet with the residents about what it was like to set up his practice, and Dr. Randy Miller also invites the residents to his office for a discussion about preparing for life after the residency program. The residents have even held a series of question-and-answer teleconferences with Dr. Rex Moulton-Barrett all the way in California via Skype.

Additional volunteer faculty attending’s such as Dr. Jesse Basadre are offering to share their knowledge and experience with the residents as well, as these meetings provide another outlet for more plastic surgeons to become involved with resident education. Given that every practice is unique, from patient population to geographic area to day-to-day affairs, we anticipate that this additional component of resident education will be tremendously useful in preparing our future graduates to use their skills gained in UMIami to their fullest potential, and to move on from the program to build a successful practice they can truly be proud of.
Dr. Onelio Garcia
Dr. Onelio Garcia in 2014 was elected to the ASAPS ethics committee for a 2 year term and was appointed as the Florida representative to ASPS council of state societies and advocacy committee. He presented a paper on ultrasound in body contouring at the ASPS annual meeting in Chicago and a paper on breast reconstruction at the FSPS annual scientific meeting. Publications include a paper in the journal of tissue engineering on the histologic characterization of ADMs in a porcine model of breast reconstruction and a paper for QMP plastic surgery pulse on an algorithm for the management of red breast syndrome.

Dr. M. Felix Freshwater
Dr. M. Felix Freshwater had 15 PubMed listed publications in the 2013-14 academic year. He continued his editorial board memberships for Annals of Plastic Surgery, HAND, Journal of Hand Surgery (Eur) and JPRAS. At the 2014 ESPRAS meeting he held 2 workshops on “How to get your plastic paper published in a peer reviewed journal”, he also presented his research on the history of plastic surgery which will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Aesthetic Surgery Journal. In addition, Felix was appointed the US representative for the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgeons to the British Schools and University Foundation.

Felix just accepted an invitation to join the editorial board of the Indian Journal of Plastic Surgery. Currently, he serves on J Hand Surg (Eur), HAND, Annals, and JPRAS.

Has recently also accepted an invitation to serve on the faculty of a couple of courses in Germany including the European Plastic Surgery Research Council

Dr. Rex Moltan Barrett, MD
Dr. Rex Moltan Barrett, MD I have been in community private practice for 16 years! The work has always included cosmetic surgery with reconstructive surgery with hand surgery and has always included a MediSpa with skin care, lasers, fillers and Botox/Xeomin which 3 the nurse employees keep busy. Last year we added 2 new office based technologies that actually work: CoolSculpting and ThermIRFskin tightening.

My family remains the support and joy from which I balance a vigorous work setting and my daughter just turned 7 yrs of age continues to surprise me every day. The small vineyard at the house has turned it’s 4th year and this year I am determined to make wine, despite mold, bluejays and drought.

Dr. Alan Matarasso
Dr. Alan Matarasso was named the American Society of Plastic Surgery (ASPS), Vice President of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery - Private Practice. He is a member of the ASPS Executive Committee, on their Board of Directors; as well as the Board of Directors for Plastic Surgery Practice Solutions.


He presented teaching courses at the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery during their annual meeting in San Francisco, CA, on both the face (a lecture named: Facelift Rejuvenation: Short Scar Facelift, Necklift & Temporal Brow Lift), and the abdomen: “System of Classification and treatment of Abdominal Contour Surgery”. He also presented during the annual American Society of Plastic Surgery meeting in Chicago, IL in 2014: “System of Classification and treatment of Abdominal Contour Surgery” with Dr. Al Aly. Also during the 2014 ASPS meeting, Dr. Matarasso served as a moderator for “Hot Topics in Plastic Surgery: Aesthetic, Injectables, Implants” and moderated panels with Dr. Peter J. Rubin on Facial Rejuvenation (Mini Symposium Part 1&2).

The Division of Plastic Surgery would like to “Thank” all the following Voluntary Faculty, Alumni community Plastic Surgeons for their continuous support of our program:

James Stuzin
Onelio Garcia
Alan Serure
Peter James
Alan Rapperport
Randy Miller
George Levine
Felix Freshwater
Fred Barr
Joe Garri
Jay Ellenby
Steve Schuster
Jesse Basadre
Thomas Horn
Benjamin Cousins
Tarik Husain
Pat Pazmino
The University of Miami VEST program continues to grow in 2015. Previous fellows, Zhongyi Sun and Ling Tao have returned to China and continue to run very successful practices. Zhongyi Sun was recently awarded a 2 million dollar grant from the Chinese government to pursue his investigations in andrology.

Our new fellow is Kenneth Guler, a plastic surgeon who graduated from the University of Chile in 2010. He lives in Santiago capital of Chile and is practicing in both a public hospital (Hospital del Salvador) and in a private hospital (Clinica Las Condes) both associated with the University of Chile. He is a Professor of Surgery at the University of Chile and the Director of the experimental microsurgery laboratory focused in training physicians.

He states he has come to the “University of Miami Division of Plastic Surgery because of the prestige of the Division and its physicians in order to improve his plastic surgery knowledge”. He will be with us in Miami for one year and has come with his family.

**DR. JAMES M. D. STUZIN: The 49th Annual Baker Gordon Symposium** on Cosmetic Surgery was held at the Hyatt in downtown Miami on February 12th through 14th, 2015. The theme of this year’s meeting was “Integrating the Subtleties of Nuance into Surgical Expertise – Face, Breast, Cosmetic Medicine”. The keynote speaker for this year’s meeting was Dr. Ronald Gruber from Oakland, California. Dr. Gruber, a pioneer in open rhinoplasty, shared his 30 year experience in mastering the nuances of open rhinoplasty, as well as demonstrate his technical refinements through an interactive video. Live surgical procedures scheduled for this year’s symposium include extended SMAS face lift, combining breast implants with lipo filling, transaxillary breast augmentation, and tumescent face lift.

Next year will be the 50th Annual Baker Gordon Educational Symposium and is scheduled for February 11th through 13th, 2016. The 50th Symposium will be a special gala event, honoring not only 50 years of excellence in aesthetic surgery education, but also the incredible contributions of Thomas J. Baker to plastic surgery.
Dr. Peter James: What changes have you observed in the plastic surgery community over the last 50 years?

Dr. Thomas Baker: When I first came to Miami in the late 1960s there were about six plastic surgeons now there are probably over 100. There has been a major transition of the practice of plastic surgery from the hospital environment to the office setting.

Dr. Peter James: How would you describe the university’s relationship to the Community?

Dr. Thomas Baker: There was no relationship before Dr. Thaller, he visited occasionally. After Dr. Thaller he became associated with the program and start to scrub with the residents. Then more physicians became involved. It’s important for the residents to see outside the university system. They need to see and have more clinical contact.

Dr. Peter James: What do you consider to be your major contribution to plastic surgery?

Dr. Thomas Baker: My biggest contribution and major satisfaction, was creating the Baker-Gordon symposium in 1967, which was before ASAPS was even founded. It has now been in existence for 49 years, and has been an opportunity to really educate hundreds of surgeons over all the years. It continues to be very successful with its unique live surgery. In the 1960s “cosmetic surgery” was a bad word, which was one reason he started the symposium. Another major satisfaction is that aesthetic surgery is now considered a very acceptable specialty.

Dr. Peter James: If you could change anything in the past what would you have done?

Dr. Thomas Baker: I might have stayed full time in an academic position. I enjoy teaching. I did that here as a clinical professor.

Dr. Peter James: Do you have any advice for new plastic surgeons?

Dr. Thomas Baker: Yes, the first is pick a place for you want to live and practice in that basic area. The idea of joining a practice as an associate is a good one because of the complexities of the specialty & the business of plastic surgery today. I also would advise taking a fellowship in an area of weakness or particular interest. Plastic surgery today has a lot of subspecialties within it.

Dr. Peter James: What do you see as the future of plastic surgery?

Dr. Thomas Baker: Plastic surgery has taken many strides. There’s a lot of new material and modification of old procedures. It’s important to share knowledge and to benefit from the knowledge shared by others.

Dr. Peter James recap regarding Dr. Thomas Baker’s retirement:

He misses being in the operating room and sharing time with old colleagues. He found it hard to quit but it became time. He spends his time in social activities with friends, playing golf, attending Cleveland Orchestra performances, and has a close association to the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami.
Residents experience in Haiti

The division once again returned to Bernard Mev Hospital in Port Au Prince, Haiti this past January/February. This trip followed the foundation of our past experiences by caring for a wide range of patients with cleft lip and palate. This ongoing global experience has become both a unique and exceptional opportunity for residents and faculty.

Dr. Thaller and Samantha Viveros along with Billy the Marlin at the Miami Marlins stadium for the game against the St. Louis Cardinals on June 23, 2015. Samantha Viveros has been a patient of UHealth since just after her birth and she endured a number of surgeries to repair her cleft lip and palate. With the assistance from our UHealth physicians and staff and the love and support of her family, Samantha has been able to overcome several obstacles. Today, Samantha is currently a student at Miami Dade College studying Culinary Arts Management and will be throwing the first pitch at the game.
HELP US MEET THE CLEFT CHALLENGE

DID YOU KNOW...

• Cleft Lip/Palate affects 6,800+ newborns in the US every year.
• Kids with cleft undergo many surgeries from birth to adulthood.
• Cleft affects speech, facial development and much more.

The Cleft Lip and Palate Education and Research Fund in the Division of Plastic Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Your Gift Counts!

By donating to the Cleft Lip and Palate Education and Research Fund at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, you can fund life-saving research and help our patients live longer, healthier lives. Your donation will not only support education and prevention, it will also help fund research efforts to improve advanced surgical techniques.

Yes! I want to help advance Cleft Lip and Palate Education, Research, and Patient Care by making a gift today!

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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
The Division of Plastic, Anesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgery in the Department of Surgery, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, offers comprehensive treatment for children and adults with cleft lip and palate, including ongoing management, guidance and support to patients and their families. Our expertly trained physicians, along with ground breaking clinical and basic research, helps us to find new ways to treat our patients.

Cleft lip and palate is one of the most common birth defects in the United States. Untreated, cleft lip and palate can disrupt speech and childhood development. But there’s a reason to smile! With proper medical treatment, which often includes plastic and reconstructive surgery, patients can lead normal lives.

The Spreading Smiles luncheon - in its fifth year- supports the research, clinical, and educational work being accomplished in adult and pediatric cleft lip and palate at the Miller School. Graciously hosted annually by our good friend, Arlene Desiderio, owner/operator of the beautiful Renato’s Restaurant in West Palm Beach, the Spreading Smiles Luncheon is helping us bring hope to each child and adult faced with this difficult disorder.