

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HAIL FROM THE CHIEF

by Seth R. Thaller M.D., D.M.D.



The strength of any residency program is its product: the graduating class of residents or alumni. We have been fortunate here at the University of Miami to have representing our institution some of the most competent and productive plastic surgeons in the country. This legacy shall continue with our incoming group of residents as well as our recent graduates. This past year in Phoenix, for the first time in my memory, all of our candidates passed their examinations for the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

Our educational mission remains the keystone of the residency program. We continually modify our program to enhance our residents' education. This year, at the behest of the residents, we instituted a Plastic Surgery Business 101. Randy Miller and other Voluntary Faculty members meet with the residents and review such topics as how to establish an office, CPT coding and how to obtain bank financing.

Our program continues to thrive. We have developed excellent working relationships with our colleagues in various subspecialties and have been able to demonstrate the expertise afforded their patients in the closure of complex wounds and reconstruction of difficult defects from trauma and surgery. This year we have initiated some innovative learning experiences for our residents. For example, we have established a one-month rotation: Independent Hand Surgery in lieu of a second month on the JMH Orthopedic Hand Service. During this month, the resident take advantage of the excellent clinical material at the Veteran's Administration Hospital under the supervision of Zubin Panthaki, Jackson Community Hospital South with Milton Armstrong, pediatric hand cases with Deidre Marshall and the private offices of Felix Freshwater and Jesse Basadre. Thus each resident is afforded the opportunity to work closely with our faculty and gain a comprehensive understanding of the various aspects of surgery involving the upper extremity.

This year also marks the development of our division's participation in telemedicine. Our faculty has broadcast interactive lectures with Plastic Surgeons in Monterrey, Mexico and will start with a closer neighbor-Boca Raton Community Hospital that will eventually become the site of a new affiliate medical school and a Miller School of Medicine interdisciplinary medical office.

We maintain an excellent relationship with our community colleagues. We are committed to working with our colleagues in the community to further the educational mission of the division as well as our community partners. This collegial relationship has enhanced both our Visiting Professor program and the educational program of the Society. Typically a distinguished visitor who speaks at the Miami Society evening meeting. The next morning, he will lecture at our Grand Rounds and supply our house-staff and faculty with their experience at Indications Conference and a lunchtime tête-à-tête. The Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons has initiated an endowment for our educational needs. Eventually this endowment will permit us to develop other educational opportunities such as a regular cadaver course and other important lectures. It is important for all of our alumni to be aware of the opportunities to donate and to ensure their program's development of educational resources for practicing plastic surgeons.

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MEET THE RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS



Left to Right: Deniz Dayicioglu, Jonathan Fisher, Jason Altman, Michelle De Souza, Kerry Latham, Cassidy Mitchell and Vincent Boyd

FIRST YEAR RESIDENTS

JASON ALTMAN

Jason grew up on Long Island with his parents and younger brother. He left Long Island for the freezing winters of New Hampshire where he majored in Biophysical and Chemical Engineering at Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering. Following graduation He returned to Long Island to attend the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine, earning his M.D. in 2001. Jason completed his surgical internship and residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Miami has allowed him to pursue some of his favorite activities in his spare time including SCUBA diving (He has an advanced open water certification and is working slowly towards becoming a rescue diver).

He recently became engaged to Carla Munoz and is planning to marry her in the summer of 2008. Carla is hoping to attend veterinary school afterwards and he will most likely take an academic position at the university where she is accepted.

MICHELLE DE SOUZA

Michelle was born in New Jersey and raised in Leavenworth, Kansas. After earning her bachelors degree in biology and doctorate in medicine at the University of Kansas, she returned to New Jersey for her general surgery residency at Cooper University Hospital.

As a child she learned to play tennis and snow ski, which she still enjoys. In college she began training in the martial arts, earning gold and silver medals at national competitions and ultimately her black belt. However, with her chosen career she has all but abandoned karate in order to protect her hands. In residency she discovered golf, which is her current pastime. She successfully completed the qualifying exam for general surgery and will take the certifying exam this May.

CASSIDY MITCHELL

Cassidy was born in Jacksonville, Florida, but grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. The son of a veterinarian, Cassidy obtained his bachelors degree in Chemistry and medical degree from Creighton University in Omaha. Cassidy completed his general surgery residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in June 2005 and remained on the faculty in the division of trauma covering general surgery, trauma, and occasionally burns. While at the University of Iowa, Cassidy met his wife, Melanie, who works as a clinical dietician. They have one son, Rowen, who was born May 15, 2005. Cassidy has passed the qualifying exam for general surgery and plans to take the certifying exam this fall. In his spare time he enjoys playing with his son, soccer and reading- particularly history.

SECOND YEAR RESIDENTS

KERRY LATHAM

Kerry is a graduate of Princeton who received her medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda. She completed her general surgery training at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and Wilford Hall Medical Center and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Plastic Surgery. She is a major in the US Air Force and upon graduation will expect to be deployed to Biloxi Mississippi.

JONATHAN FISHER

Jonathan was born in Berkeley, California and spent his formative years in the San Francisco Bay Area. Following stints as a marine biological field worker for the University of California at Berkeley, in Fiji, and French Polynesia, and a theater residency at St. Peter's College in Oxford, England, he attended Harvard College, and graduated with a degree in Philosophy. Jonathan earned both a Master's Degree in Applied Physiology and his Doctorate of Medicine from Chicago Medical School. He completed his internship in General Surgery and his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, and was Board Certified in 2004. Dr. Fisher became interested in the challenges of reconstructive surgery when treating head and neck cancer patients in a multidisciplinary setting, and spent a year in private practice in Houston prior to starting his residency here. Jonathan plans to return to the San Francisco Bay Area after graduation.

HAND FELLOWS

VINCENT BOYD

Vince was born in Hammond Indiana. He attended Indiana University and University of South Carolina, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. He worked as radio-chemist at Abbott laboratories for several years making radio labeled analogues of investigational drugs for animal and human metabolism studies. Vince's best friend convinced him to obtain a medical degree. So he attended Ross University. Vince completed his General surgery Residency Monmouth Medical Center/Beth Israel Medical center in New Jersey and passed the qualifying exam for general surgery 3 months later. After completing his residency Vince worked as a contracted general surgeon at Fitzgibbon Hospital in Marshall Missouri for 6 months and he worked for 18 months taking emergency call only for several small hospitals in Missouri. Vince then moved to Houston where he completed a one-year Plastic Surgery fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. Vince enjoys most outdoor sports and activities, and traveling. He has visited 56 countries over last 20 years. He plans to practice general and hand surgery after he completes his fellowship although he is still uncertain as to where it will be.

DENIZ DAYICIOĞLU

Deniz was born in Kayseri, Turkey and obtained her medical degree from Istanbul University in 2001. She completed her plastic surgery residency at Ministry of Health Vakif Gureba Training Hospital in Istanbul. Although she has passed all parts of the USMLE and has an ECFMG certificate. Deniz plans to return to Turkey when she completes her fellowship.

SURGICAL SKILLS COURSE

by M. Felix Freshwater M.D.

Plastic Surgery is a dynamic field. As teachers, we have a responsibility to our residents and fellows. Not only is it necessary that we teach them the principles and practice of Plastic Surgery today, but also we must teach them how to maintain their current competence. Many of the procedures that we perform in the first decade of the 21st century did not even exist in the last decade of the 20th century. With these thoughts in mind, we have developed a surgical skills course that gives our students the skill set to learn evolving surgical procedures.

The course that we have developed has been applied to hand surgery, however, it can be applied to any subspecialty within Plastic Surgery. Although the residents and fellows are exposed to a variety of surgical procedures during their hand surgery rotation, there are many procedures with which they have no hands on experience. A list of the more valuable procedures has been compiled and it includes everything from the more common fasciocutaneous flaps of the upper extremity to the most useful tendon transfers and latest means of internally fixating wrist fractures.

A comprehensive list of these procedures was developed and each resident and fellow chose at least two procedures that he was most interested in demonstrating. Next, the residents and fellows were responsible for locating at least two important papers from the surgical literature, rather than from textbooks, that would clearly explain how to perform their chosen surgical procedures. The course directors gave advice about what were the key papers. After the key papers were chosen, they were shared amongst the students so that every one had the opportunity to read about the planned procedures. The actual surgery was performed during an all-day session in the Baptist Hospital Pathology Department where one of the instrument companies had donated to fresh cadaver arms and the instrumentation necessary to stabilize fractures. Baptist Hospital allowed the students to use its instruments, fiber optic light sources and fluoroscopy equipment. The students brought their own surgical loupes and cameras so that they were able to simulate the surgery that they performed and permanently document their surgical approaches.

The course was highly successful and as one resident commented "This was one of the best educational events we have ever attended. It was well run, very efficient, and full of useful clinical and technical tools."



Left to Right: Jason Altman, Felix Freshwater, Cassidy Mitchell and Vincent Boyd using the MINI C-ARM to plate a distal radius fracture

MIAMI SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS NEWS

by: Pat Pazmino M.D. Secretary/Treasurer

Greetings from the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons! The Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons has had an exciting year with a wonderful variety of speakers at great venues all across Miami.

Many UM alumni are members of the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons. Town Gown relations are wonderful with current President, Jorge De La Pedraja being a UM alumni and our Vice President, Zubin Panthaki currently a UM faculty member. As always, all UM alumni are welcome at our society meetings.

2006-2007 has been a busy year for the Society. We passed long-needed amendments that will allow us to expedite the membership process and brought our voting and communication techniques into the 21st century. We are now completely digital! (Please send us your e-mail and we would be happy to include you on our mailing list of events).

Our year began with our dinner meeting at The Cellar Wine Bar in Coral Gables in September 2006. Dr. Mayoral, a Miami dermatologist, spoke about the use of Sculptra and how to incorporate this filler into our facial aesthetics armamentarium.

This event was followed soon after by our October 2006 dinner at Joe's Stone Crab. As always, this proved to be a very popular venue. Jeffrey Segal MD, a neurosurgeon and CEO of the firm Medical Justice, spoke on "Frivolous Lawsuits, Demands for Refunds, Angry Bloggers, and Other Joys in Medicine: Definitive Solutions for Plastic Surgeons". We also heard from Michael Sheinberg MD, another neurosurgeon and a representative from Physicians' Financial Resource Group on "Three Whopping Mistakes to Avoid in Retirement Plans." The highlight of the evening was a special guest appearance from retired member Ralph Millard who was introduced to the younger members by Tom Baker.

Our holiday dinner was in December 2006 at The Palm in Coral Gables. We had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Onelio Garcia discuss his experiences with VASER liposuction. The results were very impressive and the presentation generated a great conversation.

We returned to Joe's Stone Crab in March 2007 to hear Dr. Henry Kawamoto from UCLA the ASMS visiting professor, speak about "The Divine Right of Man." Sponsored by Pablo Garzon from Inamed/Allergan.

In May, returning alum Dr. Scott Spear from Georgetown University will speak to us at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in Coral Gables. This will be sponsored by Vince Parra from Lifecell.

As we come to the end of the 2006-2007 year, we look forward to welcoming new members to our Society and to the events of the coming year. Through the support of the UM alumni and the members of the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons, we have ensured that the Society remains a vibrant and relevant voice for plastic surgery in South Florida. If you are planning a trip to South Florida- please contact me and I would be happy to send you the schedule of our upcoming events. Our dinner meetings are great opportunities to catch up with old friends and fellow alumni, meet new surgeons in South Florida, and learn from the invited speakers. Members have also said that they appreciate the opportunity to hear and talk to these nationally recognized speakers in a setting far more intimate than in our larger national meetings.

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Congratulations to all graduates of the program. Only the 2006 graduates must take the oral exam, everyone else has passed the oral exam!

Two of our alums **Dominic Heffel** and **Wendell Perry** have migrated to different private practices in Arizona!

Work has been continuing with the Study Group on Sex and Gender Differences Lab in the Vascular Biology Institute under **Sharon Elliot** and **Noor Kassira**, our plastic surgery research fellow.

Our work was recently awarded a \$20,000 developmental research grant from the **Dewitt Daughtry** Department of Surgery. **Michael Gombosh** '09 Med won 1st place in the Basic Science Poster Presentation at the 2007 Eastern Student Research Forum for his work on "'17-beta Estradiol Improves Diabetic Wound Healing by Decreasing Matrix Metalloproteinase Activity."

If you have wanted a digital copy of **Ralph Millard's** books, wish no more. **Duke Millard** has obtained the copyrights for his father's books and is now making them available as a CD. The CD includes each book in both text and PDF formats so you can search by keyword and see the scanned images. The CD includes everything from "The Principles and Art of Plastic Surgery" to "Rhinoplasty Tetralogy" as well as all three volumes of Cleft Craft and "Principilization of Plastic Surgery". Just send a check for \$95 to **Duke Millard**, 5625 Cedar Creek Dr., Houston, TX 77056.

If you have any personal or professional news or gossip that you want to share with your colleagues in the next issue, email your juicy tidbit to mfelix.freshwater@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS

The faculty has made a number of contributions to plastic surgery scholarship.

This list contains the faculty's 2006 publications cited in PubMed:

1. Cohen MN, Evans GR, Wexler A, Thaller SR, Sadove AM. American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, 1997 to 2006: another decade of excellence in education and research. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2006 Oct;118(5 Suppl):325-42S.
2. Trombly R, Sandberg DI, Wolfe SA, Ragheb J. High-flow orbital arteriovenous malformation in a child: current management and options. *J Craniofac Surg.* 2006 Jul;17(4):779-82.
3. Nathan N, Thaller SR. Sturge-Weber syndrome and associated congenital vascular disorders: a review. *J Craniofac Surg.* 2006 Jul;17(4):724-8.
4. Cole P, Horn TW, Thaller S. The use of decellularized dermal grafting (AlloDerm) in persistent oro-nasal fistulas after tertiary cleft palate repair. *J Craniofac Surg.* 2006 Jul;17(4):636-41.
5. Latham K, Fernandez S, Iteld L, Panthaki Z, Armstrong MB, Thaller S. Pediatric breast deformity. *J Craniofac Surg.* 2006 May;17(3):454-67.
6. Wolfe SA. The root of all evil. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2006 May;117(6):2074-5.
7. Wolfe SA, Rivas-Torres MT, Marshall D. The genioplasty and beyond: an end-game strategy for the multiply operated chin. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2006 Apr 15;117(5):1435-46.
8. Wolfe SA. Timing of otoplasty for prominent ears. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2006 Feb;117(2):680; author reply 680-1.
9. Drosou A, Benjamin L, Linfante I, Mallin K, Trowers A, Wakhloo AK, Thaller SR, Schachner LA. Infantile midline facial hemangioma with agenesis of the corpus callosum and sinus pericranial: another face of the PHACE syndrome. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2006 Feb;54(2):348-52.

This list contains the known books and book chapters published by the faculty in 2006:

1. Armstrong MB, editor: *Lower Extremity Trauma*, New York: Informa Healthcare, 2006.
2. Fisher J, Venugopal R, Armstrong MB: *Microsurgical Repair of Complex Soft-Tissue Defects*. In: Armstrong MB, editor: *Lower Extremity Trauma*, New York: Informa Healthcare, 2006.
3. Freshwater MF: *Dupuytren's Disease*. In: Thorne CM, Bartlett SM, Beasley RW, Aston SJ, Gurtner GC eds.: *Grabb & Smith's Plastic Surgery*. 6th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2006.
4. Latham K, Lacayo Baez, M, Armstrong MB, Arias E: *Lowr Extremity Surgical Anatomy*. In: Armstrong MB, editor: *Lower Extremity Trauma*, New York: Informa Healthcare, 2006.
5. Panthaki Z, Okpaku A: *Wound Healing and Tissue Engineering*. In: Armstrong MB, editor: *Lower Extremity Trauma*, New York: Informa Healthcare, 2006.
6. Stuzin JM, Baker TJ: *Aging Face and Neck*. In: Mathes SJ, Hentz VR eds: *Plastic Surgery*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2006.
7. Wolfe SA, Rivas-Torres MT, Ozerdem O: *Acquired Facial Bone Deformities*. In: Mathes SJ, Hentz VR eds: *Plastic Surgery*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2006.
8. Wolfe SA, Rivas-Torres MT, Ozerdem O: *Reconstruction of the Periorbital Adnexa*. In: Mathes SJ, Hentz VR eds: *Plastic Surgery*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2006.

We would like to thank the following sponsors...



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