This is the time again for our annual newsletter. We have been very fortunate to have had a superb academic year. There have been clouds around especially when one considers the economic climate. This situation no doubt presents academic plastic surgery with numerous challenges. Fortunately our practice which is based at a large urban medical center is extremely well diversified. In my opinion such diversification also presents us with a unique opportunity to further enhance our position in various reconstructive fields primarily post mastectomy reconstruction, hand and upper extremity, facial fractures, reconstructive microsurgery and general reconstruction. These circumstances have contributed to our collaboration with our other Medical Center Colleagues. This year Dr. Oeltjen continues to develop our breast reconstruction program with colleagues from Surgical Oncology. In addition, he has cultivated a working relationship with members of our Division of Oral Surgery enabling our residents to gain clinical competence in microsurgical reconstruction of the head and neck following ablative oncologic surgery. In addition we had our first inter-disciplinary Trauma Journal club. Dr. Panthaki has continued to enhance our division’s skills in hand and upper extremity surgery. He has grown the hand service as Chief of Hand Surgery at The Miami Veteran’s Medical Center and the development of a bi-monthly hand clinic at The West Palm Beach Veteran’s Hospital and Miami Children’s Hospital. In addition, he has expanded our working relationship with our colleagues in general surgery with his innovative techniques for abdominal wall reconstruction. Dr. Armstrong also has maintained the level of excellence as Chief of Plastic Surgery at The Miami Veteran’s Administration Hospital with partnerships with dermatology, Otolaryngology, surgical oncology, and general surgery.

This year there have been significant other opportunities at our campus. The University of Miami purchased the hospital across the street formerly known as Cedars Medical Center it now serves as a referral center as The University of Miami Hospital and the centerpiece to U Health. We have secured office space and now see patients in a contemporary and pleasant ambiance in an office building attached to the University Hospital. The Division still maintains a strong commitment, association and presence at Jackson Memorial Hospital. This institution provides our service with an unsurpassed quality and quantity of clinical material for development of clinical and surgical competence. The division maintains a key position in medical student education. We have directed a regular suture training class for our students. Our students have consistently participated in numerous educational additional venues such as didactic sessions, grand rounds, research opportunities, and Visiting Professor Programs. We have collaborated with our community plastic surgeons in a number of significant educational and clinical programs. Our successful mentorship program pairs a Voluntary faculty member with one of our residents and serves to assist us in guiding the resident not only through the rigors of the residency program but the development of future practice plans. Dr. Randy Miller directs our Business of Plastic Surgery 101 to further develop these programmatic needs. Dr. Stuzin has opened his office for observation and enabling the residents to develop intense knowledge of aesthetic procedures of the face. Others have served as mock oral board examiners, staffing of resident clinics, journal club hosts, regular participants in our weekly grand rounds and assist in interviewing resident applicants. The eventual success of our program lies in the excellent clinicians we produce. This is directly related to the recruitment of superb candidates through the applicant pool. We have been consistently fortunate to be able to enroll wonderful candidates who are not only good physicians but excellent individuals. Our basic science lab continues to be extraordinary productive as we are now examining wound healing in diabetics. Lastly, the division with a PSEF grant from Smile Train has been able to initiate a program that will encourage both our residents and medical school students to give something back. Utilizing the assistance of Medishare, we have accomplished a number of surgical missions to Port Au Prince, Haiti. This experience has enabled us to both provide some of the children with an opportunity for surgical correction and the training of Haitian doctors.

In line with the new ACGME guidelines, we will plan to continue as an independent program with a three year curriculum and probably increasing our resident complement to nine for three per year. We will also plan to seek ACGME accreditation for our hand fellowship. Although many challenges may face us in the upcoming year, we plan to seek every opportunity to further develop our academic and residency program.
The Plastic Surgery service at the Miami Veteran’s Affairs Medical center has had a very productive year. The service continues to grow averaging approximately 300 cases per year. The case mix includes facial reconstructions after ablative cancer surgery, reconstructive breast surgery, upper and lower extremity reconstructions and a plethora of complicated wound problems. Referrals to the service come from General Surgery, Dermatology, Vascular Surgery, Neurosurgery, the Spinal Cord service and the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. This mix of reconstructive opportunities provides an outstanding educational environment for the Plastic Surgery residents and fellows. The rotation is designed for senior Plastic Surgery residents and allows them to evaluate patients, plan the operative procedures in conjunction with the attending surgeon and perform the operations with close faculty supervision. Current research projects include: an evaluation of surgical outcomes after facial reconstructions in patients with Moh’s resection defects. There is also a collaborative project with the VA Hand Service to evaluate the incidence, treatment and outcomes of patients with combined ulnar and median nerve compression syndromes of the upper extremity.

The hand surgery service at the Miami VA Hospital has been run under the auspices of plastic surgery for the past two years. In that time, the service has matured into a model of patient service and resident education, with a broad range of hand surgery procedures performed. Clinic efficiency, turnaround time for patient scheduling, and patient satisfaction have all improved in the new environment. Approximately 250 cases are performed per year, with variety spanning the gamut of pathology from fractures, arthritis, sports injuries, contracture releases, removal of benign and malignant lesions and nerve decompressions. Our referral basis has expanded to encompass all of South Florida, with an additional satellite service set up at the West Palm Beach VAH.

From humble beginnings two years ago in the Brain Institute of Miami Children’s Hospital; UM’s Pediatric Hand Surgery Service at MCH has grown to the point where we have become the most easily accessible and available resource of pediatric hand services at MCH. Our bi-weekly clinic now sees an average of 15-20 patients at a time, and receives referrals from community pediatricians, geographic MCH staff and community plastic surgeons. The majority of cases involve pediatric hand fractures and congenital deformities, which complement our hand fellowship experience in adult hand surgery very well.

Our very close collaboration with the Surgical Oncology Service and with the Dermatology Department at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center has led us to a very busy and productive program in cancer reconstruction. A busy clinical practice is combined with active research collaborative efforts including studies in cohesive silicone implant trials, oncoreductive mammoplasty, and more recently, in safety studies of nipple sparing mastectomies with localized electron radiation. This year, we also instituted a new journal club in Breast Cancer and Reconstruction.

Now firmly entrenched in the University of Miami Medical system and with the assistance of the Plastic Surgery fellows, we are able to provide state-of-the-art reconstructive surgery support for multiple disciplines throughout the medical center. Much of the focus is breast reconstruction from implant based reconstruction to deep inferior epigastric artery perforator free flaps. In creating a new breast reconstruction resident clinic within the Jackson Breast Center, there has been an increase in the number of referrals and a decrease in the turn-around time for immediate reconstructions. Additionally, referrals from Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and the community have risen as details of the availability of perforator flaps and reputation of our outcomes spreads. We continue to provide support to the Orthopedic Trauma service in lower extremity reconstructions with both local flaps and free flap salvage of the lower limb. This includes local patients and patients transferred to Jackson Hospital from the Caribbean and Central American basins to the Ryder Trauma Center. Additionally, we have broken new ground by collaborating with Dr. Robert Marx, Chief of the Oral Surgery Division. By providing free flap reconstructive support for some of his more difficult primary and secondary reconstructive cases, we are improving upon the resident exposure to head and neck reconstructive cases. Finally, the reconstructive service is not all microsurgery. Local flaps, pedicled flaps, skin grafts, acellular dermal matrix application, and basic wound healing principles, are all important to the everyday practice and serve as the pillars of the resident educational experience.
**CURRENT RESIDENTS**

**RAMIRO PEREZ** is a native of Miami but left for Gainsville where he graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Biochemistry. He then went on to Nashville from where he received his medical degree. Ramiro completed his General Surgery training at Jackson Memorial Hospital and will complete his Plastic Surgery training also at JMH June 2009. Ramiro’s future plans are to practice general plastic surgery here in Miami. He is married to Darlene and they have a beautiful baby boy who recently turned one.

**ERICK MARTELL** is a native of New York and still considers it his home. He obtained his medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine, his general surgery training at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. He is a major with the U.S. Army. Erick’s hobbies include racquetball, tennis, running, and also enjoys cycling. Erick will complete his Plastic Surgery training at JMH June 2009. His future plans include a fellowship in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. He plans to continue in international humanitarian missions.

**RAJIV IYER** is a native of Southern California. He obtained his medical degree from UCLA, completed his general surgery training at Wayne State University and will complete his Plastic Surgery at JMH June 2009. Rajiv has served active duty with the U.S. Air Force. He is married to Andrea and they have one son. Rajiv enjoys spending time with his family, model aviation and astronomy.

**WROOD KASSIRA** grew up in Miami, Florida. She graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science degree with general honors. Woody then continued her education at the University of Miami School of Medicine, and completed her General Surgery training at JMH, and is currently in our residency program with expected completion in June 2010. Woody holds a special interest in craniofacial, breast, and lower extremity reconstruction as well as aesthetic surgery.

**MARI REBANE** was born in Tallinn Estonia. She graduated summa cum laude from Baylor University with a degree in Biology. She obtained her medical degree from Yale University and her general surgery training at Brown University. After completing her Plastic Surgery training in June 2010 she hopes to move closer to her in-laws in the Northeast and complete a fellowship in either microsurgery or facial aesthetics. In October 2008, Mari and her husband had a beautiful baby girl.

**MICHAEL LOFGREN** was born and raised in upstate New York. He completed his medical school degree and general surgery training at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia. Michael is currently in our program with an expected graduation of June 2010. Having recently passed the written portion of the American Board of Surgery exam, Michael plans to complete the oral portion this spring. His professional interests include trauma reconstruction with a focus on extremity reconstruction. His personal interests include flying, travel and poker.
INCOMING RESIDENTS JULY 2009

ARTHUR DESROSIERS is from California by way of Newport, Rhode Island. After graduating cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1999, he attended Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, graduating in 2003. He will complete his General Surgery training at Rutger’s/UMDNJ in New Brunswick, NJ in June 2009. During his research year, Arthur completed a Craniofacial Fellowship at UCLA. For the past 2 consecutive years, Operation Smile has awarded Arthur a prestigious Regan Fellowship, and he has traveled to Peru and Thailand on cleft lip/palate missions. In his spare time, Arthur enjoys photography traveling, and surfing.

PIOTR SKOWRONSKI was born in Poland and raised in Montreal, Canada. He emigrated to South Carolina in 1992. Piotr graduated magna cum laude from College of Charleston, SC with a degree in molecular biology with a minor in chemistry. He researched bone tissue engineering at the Medical University of South Carolina, SC and graduated from the School of Medicine, University of Southern Carolina, SC. Piotr is completing his General Surgery training at Medical College of Georgia, GA.

MICHAEL LAKE was born in Karlsruhe, Germany. His father was career military. He lived in many foreign locations. His father retired in Fayetteville, NC where Michael graduated high school and went to work for the Goodyear Tire Co. During his employment with Goodyear, Michael earned his graduate degree at Methodist University in Fayette, NC. He graduated from East Carolina University School of Medicine. After obtaining his medical degree he completed training in general surgery at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Tx. After residency training, Dr. Lake was assigned as a staff general surgeon at Womack Army Medical Center where he held the position of Chief, Breast Health Clinic and Chief, General Surgery. He was also deployed and served with the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq from February 2007 to September 2007. He is currently Board Certified in General Surgery.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following for passing the American Board of Plastic Surgery Written and/or Oral Exams:

- Dr. Jason Altman
- Dr. Gerald Conner
- Dr. Michelle DeSouza
- Dr. Jonathan Fisher
- Dr. Jeffrey Hammoudeh
- Dr. Lawrence Iteld
- Dr. Ricardo Jimenez-Lee
- Dr. Kerry Latham
- Dr. Cassidy Mitchell
- Dr. John Oeltjen

PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENT CLINIC UPDATE

We are continuing to schedule and perform a variety of minor surgery procedures on an ever increasing basis. The clinic continues to attract an expanding quantity of patients requiring both reconstructive and aesthetic surgery.

Dr. Rapperport and Dr. James are in regular attendance at the Wednesday clinic, thereby allowing immediate “second opinions”, as well as, surgical assistance, monitoring, and close clinical supervision.

Alan Rapperport, M.D. is a Clinical Voluntary Associate Professor at the University of Miami-Division of Plastic Surgery. His duties extend to resident and student teaching. Dr. Rapperport continues to be a world class competition swimmer. He also enjoys wood & metal work as well as ocean skin diving.

Peter James, M.D. continues to actively pursue his trumpet playing hobby, performing regularly with the Greater Miami Symphonic Band concerts at Gusman Hall, as well as other music activities in Orlando and Sarasota, Florida. His son, Lee recently joined an oncology group in New York City.

Rotating surgical residents, visiting foreign medical student observers and UM Miller School of Medicine students are always welcome and are included in appropriate clinic teaching activities.

We also have a tremendous resource in our ARNP, Henry Villarreal who assists in evaluation and scheduling our JMH patients.
The University of Miami Division of Plastic Surgery has partnered with Medi-Share and with a PSEF Smile Train grant has had the opportunity to participate in 3 surgical mission trips to Port Au Prince, Haiti. This is one of our surgeons impression:

**DENIZ DAYICIOGLU, M.D.: HAITI 2008 SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE …**

A 45 year old female patient complaining of a cleft lip. She presented with an un-repaired cleft lip. She had lived with this her entire life. Maybe today she could be made whole again…One day after surgery she was elated. She was only one out of more than 70 plastic surgery patients that were treated in the 3 trips to Port Au Prince, Haiti. I feel very lucky; I was able to help treat her condition.

A Plastic surgeon’s dream came true in Haiti. It was such a joy to be able to be a part of the team. Humble people, patients and families in this beautiful part of the world. Haiti with such a remote, different culture with different sounds and bright colors, but with a tremendous need for specialized surgery. Coming from Turkey it has been a great privilege to experience another foreign country.

In my first trip in May and in the second trip in December to Port Au Prince, I saw many good things. Hand surgery and severe burn patients who had never been treated. Patients with severe contractures that never had the chance to return to functionality were operated on. The return trip in December 2008 allowed us the opportunity to see the results of the first trip’s surgeries. Had the chance to do cleft lip and palate surgeries on patients that did not have the chance to have surgeries due to extreme conditions. Worked with anesthesiologists, nurses, medical students who were there for this aim with such a great enthusiasm. We worked with local Haitian doctors that also took charge of the patients’ aftercare. I worked with people that helped to organize plastic surgery patients all around Haiti to be there at the same time...It’s been my pleasure to be able to work with people that have volunteered to be there. I think the goal is accomplished since both the surgeons and patients families are satisfied with the results. Thanks to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Thaller to let me be a part of it.

I owe a debt of gratitude to our attendings, staff, and students who gave their valuable time and shared their knowledge. Thank you for allowing me to experience this wonderful opportunity, sharing the resources and this beautiful friendship with me.

*Part of our Surgical Team at DE PAIX in Port Au Prince*
In 1967 I decided (along with my associate, Dr. Howard Gordon) that there needed to be a forum for the teaching of cosmetic surgery since none existed at that time. After conferring with Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, we decided to formulate a teaching symposium based on a small faculty, limited subject matter, lectures and live surgery. We had no idea if this would be successful since in 1967 hardly anyone knew of Drs. Thomas Baker and Howard Gordon. The first symposium had 35 registrants and we met in the board room of Cedars Medical Center. Of course, there was no video and only 35 mm color transparencies were used for teaching purposes. Having been to several meetings of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and listening to short papers with multiple subjects being covered, not only were there very few presentations on cosmetic surgery, it was impossible to learn something that you could take home and employ in your practice. Since there was no television available for transmission from the operating room in 1967, we had the carpenters build wooden steps around the operating table and we invited the attendees to come to the operating room and watch surgery live.

The reasoning behind the planning of this type of symposium was based on what children call “show and tell”. We reversed the expression and called it “tell and show”. The visiting faculty was asked to present their work in morning lecture sessions and then go to the operating room in the afternoon and demonstrate the surgery live.

At the second meeting of the Baker Gordon Symposium in 1968, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery held its initial meeting immediately following the Baker Gordon Symposium. This also was the first year that we had live television and it was in black and white. Looking back on some of the original films, it was very poorly transmitted and in no way compares with high density television that is currently available. Attendance at the second meeting had double to 75 people and there were no exhibits even though we had exhibitors ask if they could present their products. It was decided at that time the meeting would be strictly for educational purposes.

This same formula of live surgical demonstrations following the lectures by the visiting faculty has continued throughout the past 42 symposia. When I look back on what the symposium meant to us as the originators, I am tremendously rewarded. Not only have I learned a great deal from the faculty members but the symposium has helped to elevate aesthetic surgery to a recognized sub-specialty of plastic and reconstructive surgery. Each of the physicians who have participated in these teaching endeavors has added prestige to the entire field.

At the 19th symposium the meeting was moved to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Miami where we could accommodate 500 attendees rather than the limited space for 200 at Cedars Medical Center.

At the 25th symposium, the live surgery was moved to Mercy Hospital and has remained there during the subsequent years.

In 1966, the 30th Baker Gordon Symposium was officially endorsed by the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

At the 33rd symposium in 1999, sponsorship was obtained by the University of Miami School of Medicine thanks to the help of Dr. Seth R. Thaller who had recently become the Chief and Professor of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Dr. Thaller has made his residents and fellows available to attend all symposia since that date.

The symposium has grown in size from 35 individuals to 500 since it moved to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. It is always over-subscribed and consideration has been given to moving to a larger facility. However, the size of the meeting is very conducive to interaction with the visiting registrants. There have now been over 14,000 registrants. There have been over 275 operating procedures shown on closed circuit television. All of the recordings, videotapes and compact discs have been given to educational foundation and they are marketed through the educational foundation of the ASAPS.

The 22nd symposium was the year that Dr. James Stuzin joined me in my private practice here in Miami. As Dr. Gordon had taken a two year sabbatical and living in Paris. The symposium was now in the hands of Baker and Stuzin. It is interesting to note that Dr. Stuzin was only 12 years at the time of the 1st symposium. He has continued to work diligently with me in the planning of the current symposium and has been the guiding force in the past several symposia and will do so in the future.

Did all of this come about because of destiny? I think William Jennings Brian said it better than anyone, “destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved”.

The question has often been asked will the symposium continue indefinitely. I say that imagination has no boundaries. We continue to expand our thinking, investigation and teaching of aesthetic surgery. It is anticipated that the Baker Gordon Symposium will go indefinitely.
JAMES M. STUZIN, M.D.

Founded by Dr. Thomas Baker and Dr. Howard Gordon, the Baker Gordon Symposium was the first live surgery symposium focusing solely on cosmetic surgery. Over the ensuing 43 years, the Baker Gordon Symposium has evolved into one of the largest plastic surgery meetings in the world, bringing the best of the best in plastic surgery to Miami. Over 10,000 attendees from both the United States and over 50 foreign countries have participated in this educational endeavor.

In 1983 the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation joined as a co-sponsor of this meeting. Beginning with Dr. Thaller’s tenure as Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami, the Baker Gordon Symposium also became co-sponsored by the University of Miami School of Medicine. Under Dr. Thaller’s guidance, both residents and faculty from the University of Miami Division of Plastic Surgery have participated in the symposium, allowing for an interactive relationship between our visiting faculty and the University of Miami.

RESEARCH LAB UPDATE

DAVID J. PINCUS, M.D.

Status of the lab 1/6/09

Currently, there are many developments in the Plastic Surgery Basic Science laboratory. We have a close collaboration with Drs. Sharon Elliott and Marilyn Glassberg. We are looking into our hypothesis that the wound healing effects of topical estrogen will overcome the inhibitory effects of tamoxifen in the wound. We feel that this study will be relevant to diabetic women who are prescribed tamoxifen and also have wounds from surgery or diabetic complications.

UM MEDICAL STUDENT NEWS

The paradigm “School gets in the way of education” is often used to describe the learning process. The promise of medical education is that it understands such a saying. Through training provided by the latter years of medical school, students are allowed to see what medicine is truly about. It is very important for students to be exposed to medicine beyond what is afforded by simple power points and textbooks. While it is crucial to learn of the biochemical pathways involved in atherosclerosis, it is just as important to learn of medicine through hands on training: experiencing and understanding the essence of each individual field and what it has to offer. This knowledge provides us, medical students, with the foundation on making one of the most challenging decisions of our life: our career.

In the pursuit of such, the University of Miami Plastic Surgery Division understands this philosophy to its entirety. Through the wide array of opportunities offered from research to the suturing workshops, we are able to learn about plastic surgery, a widely known field but rarely understood. The guest lecture opportunities provided by Dr. Thaller have broadened our horizons in learning of the newest procedures in plastic surgery that we would not have otherwise been exposed to. Furthermore, the surgical trips to Haiti have really provided us with a clear view of the role plastic surgery plays in medicine, and the life changing impact it has on patients, which often times is the most important. Through the mentoring of the plastics fellows, we have gotten to know them and the joy they receive from their job and their field. From talking to medical students at other universities, it is difficult finding divisions like we have at University of Miami. They are so involved in making sure students receive a complete education beyond the lecture hall. We are grateful for such opportunity and are thankful to be learning from such esteemed physicians from a great department.

Kavita Desai, Kenneth Fan, Raja Mohan
CASSIDY MITCHELL, M.D.: graduated from the University of Miami in June, 2008 and relocated back to Lincoln, Nebraska with his wife Melanie and their sons Rowen and Chase. Cassidy joined Bryan LGH Physicians Network, a multi-specialty group. He is the only plastic surgeon within the group. His practice includes general reconstructive surgery, as well as hand and cosmetic surgery.

AL ALY, M.D.: I am married and have two kids; a boy and a girl. I live and practice in Iowa and I am fortunate enough to have an international presence in the field of post massive weight loss body contouring. I was awarded the Lockwood Award by ASAPS in 2008. I have been appointed as section editor for the Aesthetic Surgery Journal's Body Contouring section. I have published the most widely read book on Body Contouring After Massive Weight Loss in the world. I plan to move at least part of my practice to Southern California to be closer to family.

JEFFREY HAMMOUDEH, M.D.: An update for you, as you may know, I am full time at Childrens Hospital LA with as Assist. Prof. appointment from USC. I am the director of The Jaw Deformity Center.

MICHELLE DESOUZA, M.D.: I have just completed my aesthetic surgery fellowship in Charlotte, NC. Presently, I am taking this time between jobs to travel to India and China.

HILTON BECKER, M.D.: continues his work on the new Spectra Becker Adjustable Gel Breast Implant and conducts presentations worldwide.

CHARLES RADLAUER, M.D.: received a law degree from St. Thomas School of Law in 2000 (magna cum laude). I am currently teaching graduate level courses dealing with the interface between law and medicine.

FMA Speaker Newsletter by Dr. Alan Pillersdorf: In an effort to provide an exciting and productive program and in order to ensure the meeting is valuable we have made every effort to ensure the program is condensed but not diluted. To further this goal, the FMA has enlisted many innovative technical capabilities. The next meeting will be held in our backyard, Boca Raton on July 24-26, 2009.

Palm Beach Society of Plastic Surgeons: Our society continues to present a comprehensive educational program for our members. Current officers are Alan B. Pillersdorf-President, Lawrence Korvack-Vice President and Raphael Cabrera-Treasurer.

MIAMI SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Greetings from the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons! My name is Pat Pazmiño, M.D. and it has been my pleasure to serve as the Society's President for 2008-2009. The Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons has had an exciting year with a wonderful variety of speakers at great venues all across Miami.

We are fortunate to have a large number of UM alumni as members of the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons. As always, all UM alumni are welcome at our Society meetings. 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. To promote the activities of the Society and our membership, we are constructing our own website. Members may use this to learn about upcoming events. The website will also serve as a resource to help patients find qualified, board-certified plastic surgeons in South Florida. We invite you to visit us on the web at: www.miamisps.com

As we come to the end of the 2008-2009 year, we look forward to welcoming new members to our Society and to the events of the coming year.

Pat Pazmiño, M.D.
President
Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons
MAJ. (DR.) KERRY LATHAM recently returned from an eye-opening deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The major, the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron’s only plastic surgeon, served at the largest hospital in the war-torn nation from May-September, returning to Keesler Sept. 21. The only U.S. plastic surgeon in Afghanistan, Major Latham performed more than 350 surgeries and procedures during what she said was the busiest AEF (Air and Space Expeditionary Force) cycle.

“I mainly cared for traumatic wounds and burns (suffered by Coalition Forces),” she said. “I also did humanitarian work to ‘win the hearts and minds’ of the Afghan people. It probably would have taken me four years stateside to take care of the same number of cases I treated at Bagram. There’s no way I would see this much trauma in the U.S.”

Although Major Latham has been an Air Force member for 12 years, eight active duty and four in medical school, Keesler is her first permanent assignment after completing seven years of medical residency. She arrived here in July 2007. The Washington, D.C., native currently resides in Biloxi.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RALPH D. MILLARD, MD’S LUNCHEON MEETING

Dr. Ralph D. Millard, 90, was honored at a luncheon meeting on December 21, 2008. Dr. Millard served as the head of the University of Miami Division for 30 years.

In attendance were past Plastic Surgery residents as well as many Plastic Surgeons from Florida and around the country.

Dr. Millard told us often in the meeting “I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to train and work with and teach a number of fellow Plastic Surgeons”.

Dr. Millard’s son, Bond, was also in attendance at the meeting. The luncheon was a very fitting honor for a deserving colleague.
While most of us completed four years of medical school and six to nine years of postgraduate surgical training in plastic surgery, almost none of us received formal education on the management of a plastic surgery practice. Because of this, the division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami is blazing a new trail in resident education. A team has been assembled to teach and prepare the residents for their journey through the business world of plastic surgery. Whether a cosmetic surgeon, hand surgeon or reconstructive surgeon, the details of the process and the algorithm by which one should proceed is best be taught by people who have gone through the process and are living it everyday.

The program, entitled Practice Management Workshop, is scheduled in coordination with two Grand Rounds presentations. The first Grand Rounds is given in the fall at the one year mark from senior resident graduation. The topics of job acquisition and practice startup are covered. During this lecture, the junior residents are familiarized with what they will need to begin in 12 more months. The timing is such that they senior residents get their one year reminder to begin the process.

Many of the voluntary faculty members have been extremely generous in hosting the residents and sharing their personal advice and experience regarding the business of plastic surgery. The residents have also taken an active role. These sessions have become fun, educational and extremely useful for the residents.

As far as we know there are few to no programs in the United States that have this level of resident education related to the business of plastic surgery. We are hopeful that our practice management workshop will become a protocol and role model for other residency programs in the country, plastic surgery and otherwise.

Both the faculty and the residents thank Dr. Thaller for facilitating this course and being so interested in resident education.
FLORIDA SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS UPDATE

by Dr. Onelio Garcia and Dr. Randy Miller

The Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons (FSPS) continues to gain momentum in membership numbers, plastic surgeon advocacy and the very popular annual meeting.

The most recent FSPS annual meeting was held at the Breakers in Palm Beach. The faculty included local, national, and international speakers of the highest quality.

Finally, we would like to comment on the FSPS commitment to residency training in Plastic Surgery. Our program committee is already integrating this concept to include an update on resident education by all Florida plastic surgery program directors at the annual meeting. The resident research paper competition and lunch in with visiting professors have been well received and are considered highlights by the residents who have attended.
We would like to thank the following sponsors...

Palm Beach County Plastic Surgeons Society
Dedicated to Excellence