“Our 50th Golden Anniversary”

by Seth R. Thaller, Chief and Professor

Every year, we have an opportunity to update our alumni, colleagues, as well as our friends in the community on the happenings on our Miller School of Medicine campus with The UM Division of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgery. In spite of persistent fiscal challenges, the Division continues to not only thrive but continues to expand. I would like to reflect on the remarkable achievements that our division has completed. This year takes on even greater significance, our fiftieth anniversary. The preeminent position which the division enjoys within our medical campus is acknowledgment of the contributions of our predecessors. Dr. Gil Snyder laid the foundation as our first Division chief. This was followed by decades of renown for under the guidance and direction of Dr. D. Ralph Millard. Many of our graduates continue making significant contributions to our specialty at a variety of levels. Through our half century, everyone associated with our program has worked towards the goal of fostering excellence in patient care, clinical and basic science research, and teaching and training of our residents, fellows, and medical school students.

The Division’s foundation has always rested securely on the quality of our residents and the clinical and didactic training they experienced at our affiliated institutions. Through this diverse and rich environment on a large urban medical campus, each resident is provided with an exceptional opportunity to develop the skills necessary to graduate as an independent practicing plastic surgeon in either a private or academic practice environment. This experience is further enhanced by the commitment and dedication of our Voluntary faculty. They participate in every aspect of our training experience. At the end of each academic year, we hold a retreat and evaluate how to further improve our program. The educational backbone centers on weekly grand rounds and didactic sessions, quarterly research meetings and monthly journal clubs. This has been enhanced by outstanding visiting professors such as, Drs. Tim Martin, Ian Jackson and Pat Maxwell; hosting the ASMS Basic Course and the Challenges of providing Cleft Care in the underdeveloped world. The highlight of this meeting was the 1st Dr. Bernard Sarnat commemorative lectureship. Presented by Dr. Henry Kawamoto on the benefits of overseas mission on plastic surgery residents’ education. Co-hosting the annual Baker and Gordon meeting and participation in the quarterly Miami Plastic Surgery Meetings further enriches the educational experience. One of our parameters of success is determined by our outstanding pass rate on The American Board of Plastic Surgery. Further examples are related to our academic achievements with presentations, book chapters, and peer reviewed publications.

Our publications have run the gamut from transgender surgery to more traditional maxillofacial trauma evaluation and management. This scholarly environment has encompassed both our resident staff and interested medical school students. Many who have participated with our full time faculty and published on such topics as The First Plastic Surgeon, Inferior Pedicle Breast Reduction: A Retrospective Review of Technical Modifications Influencing Patient Safety. Our faculty have presented at our national meetings. Dr. Christopher Salgado presented Cosmetic Vaginal Surgery: Labiaplasty at The ASPS meeting in New Orleans and Dr. Thaller presented Outpatient Upper Lid Blepharoplasty at the ASMS Pre-Conference symposium and VIPS roundtable on Surgical Mission trips. Our senior resident Jason Edens presented a paper on Malignant Pediatric Parotid Tumors at the
“Our 50th Golden Anniversary” CONTINUED

annual Florida Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery meeting in West Palm Beach. The division also published two books this year with 2 additional in press: The Essentials of Plastic Surgery and Aesthetic and Re-constructive Breast Surgery, Solving Complications and Avoiding Unfavor-able Results. In the future, Drs. Thaller and Mimis Cohen will see publication of their book on Post Bariatric Aesthetic Surgery to be published by the summer of 2013. This overall academic milieu has encouraged one of our current residents Ari Horschander to collate and become an editor of a Plastic Surgery textbook entitled “Operative Procedures in Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery”. It is to be published by Informa. We have also enabled participation of medical students interested in our specialty. As they participate, they develop an understanding of our expansive literature. Last year, five of our UM medical school students placed in top notch integrated programs. Further enrichments to our resident’s education is pursued in the laboratory. Dr. Felix Freshwater directs an upper extremity dissection lab delineating the complex anatomy and development of skills in flap coverage. Drs. Thaller and Kassira initiated a cadaver lab: Tricks of the Trade in Cosmetic Surgery at the Anspach Lab in West Palm Beach. We had the opportunity of having Dr. Donald Wood Smith of New York to direct the residents and Voluntary and full-time faculty through an extensive array of facial cosmetic procedures in the fresh cadaver lab. Drs. Jim Stuzin and Michael Patipa supplanted the educational experience. Our basic science research lab: Gender & Aging in collaboration with Dr. Sharon Elliot continues to examine the effects of Vitamin D on wound healing and aging. This year we have initiated a new direction by evaluating the use of fat stem cells in cleft palate repair. Our current Research Fellow Dr. Bassan Allan has continued to make tremendous strides in this ongoing research project. Next year Dr. Jun Tashiro, a current UM General Surgery resident will continue these investigations.

We completed a superb, resident recruit-
Dr. John C. Oeltjen:

Our medical Center creates a unique environment for the plastic and reconstructive surgery practice in South Florida. From motorized vehicle and boating accidents to often neglected and extensive malignancies, the patients presenting for reconstruction offer a broad & challenging surgical experience.

Paying attention to the re-establishment of function and form, my practice focuses on providing reconstructive support for our colleagues in Surgical Oncology, Orthopedic Surgical Oncology, Gynecologic Oncology, Colorectal Surgery, Orthopedic Trauma Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, and Trauma Surgery services.

Surgical Oncology remains a primary focus with a specialization in breast reconstruction for breast cancer patients at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Patients are referred from the surrounding communities, the Caribbean, and South America. In my practice we offer the full range of breast reconstruction from perforator free flaps to implant based reconstruction. With growing experience and implementation of state of the art techniques, we have continued to expand the indications for immediate reconstruction. Our service remains committed to decreasing the psychological impact of a mastectomy. Additionally in collaboration with Surgical Oncology and Radiation oncology, we are steadily enrolling patients in an IRB approved prospective trial on nipple sparing mastectomies.

Our reconstructive experience extends beyond the breast, this includes: lower extremity salvage with local and free flaps to abdominal wall reconstruction, complex facial fracture repairs. The past year has also included continued collaboration with the Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Division, in the reconstruction of mandibular osteoradionecrosis using a combination of soft tissue free flap transfers with bone grafting and bone morphogenetic protein (BMP).

Dr. Haaris Mir:

Over the past year Dr. Mir’s practice has grown substantially. He continues to provide assistance to the Burn surgeons with difficult wound as well as post burn contracture releases of the Head and neck and Upper extremities.

The Veterans Affairs hand Clinic on Fridays has also experienced exponential growth; it has been a great experience for the Plastic Surgery residents and the Hand Fellow.

At UMH and Jackson Memorial, his practice continues to grow focusing on complex chest wall, breast and lower extremity reconstruction. He anticipates further growth and expansion in the coming year as well as a more extensive working relationship with the UM/JMH Burn service.

Dr. Wrood Kassira:

Dr. Kassira has been expanding the reach of the Division of Plastic, Aesthetic & Reconstructive Surgery throughout South Florida, providing prosthetic and autologous breast reconstruction, post-trauma reconstruction, oncologic reconstruction, reconstruction of Mohs defects, and microvascular surgery.

Dr. Kassira initiated a program at the Broward VA Outpatient Clinic. Dr. Kassira continues to staff the Resident Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Clinic at Jackson Memorial Hospital and educates medical students, surgical interns, and plastic surgery residents. Along with Dr. Thaller, Dr. Kassira assumed the role of medical student plastic surgery clinical clerkship director. She has enjoyed the past year and looks forward to an even more productive year in 2013.
Current Plastic Surgery Residents and Hand Surgery Fellow:

Ari Hoschander, MD:

Ari is currently in his second year of his plastic surgery residency. He has previously published many peer-reviewed articles as well as textbook chapters in basic science, General Surgery and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He has been very productive over the last year and a half, publishing many more chapters, as well as compiling and editing a new textbook on plastic surgery, titled “Operative Procedures in Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery,” scheduled for publication in May, 2013. After completion of his residency, Ari plans to pursue a practice with a combination of reconstructive and aesthetic surgery.

Urmen Desai, MD:

Urmen has been extremely productive in his second year as a Plastic Surgery resident. Urmen completed four textbook chapters, and has taken on three research projects with division faculty. Midway during his first year as a resident, Urmen travelled to Haiti with the division for the quarterly mission. He plans on returning again later this year. Urmen also served as a lecturer for the ASMS Course: Challenges Delivering Cleft Surgery in the Underdeveloped World. He plans to prepare his application for fellowship programs in Craniofacial Surgery.

Jason Edens, MD:

He is currently a Major in the United States Army Medical Corps. He has enjoyed his training in Plastic Surgery in Miami. Jason has been amazed at the diversity of patients and procedures that the program offers. He also enjoys being in the Miami area with its wide variety of activities. His career plans include serving the military as a Plastic Surgeon, focusing on trauma and burn reconstruction in soldiers injured during the current conflicts. Following fulfillment of his military obligation, he plans to return to Oklahoma and go into private practice. Jason is recently engaged and a marriage next year is planned.

Tuan Tran, MD:

Returning from Haiti, Tran is inspired more than ever to pursue a career in global plastic surgery. Because his upbringing and personal experiences are similar to those of many Haitian patients, he reconnected with his roots and calling to medicine. Coming to Miami, he likes the city greatly for its vibrant and diverse culture; he also likes the residency program for the diversity and strength of its staff. At this time, Tuan is interested in all aspects of plastic and reconstructive surgeries with the goal of being efficient in procedures to better serve his global health objectives. Upon completion of his three-year residency, Tran wants to practice general and plastic surgery for 2 months out of the year in developing countries. Beyond that, he plans to practice general plastic/reconstructive surgery along with aesthetic and hand surgeries.

Rizal Lim, MD:

Rizal Lim comes from a first generation American family and grew up in southwest Ohio. He was drawn into a Plastic Surgery career by his family’s surgical background. Rizal attended college at Miami University in Oxford Ohio, graduating cum laude. Rizal went on to medical school at Medical College of Ohio where he was awarded the MCO Presidential Scholarship. After completion of his medical training, Rizal went on to train in General Surgery at Boston University and Boston City Hospital. While there, he spent two additional years completing a surgical research fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. James Becker. He generated three first author...
and one second author basic science publications as well as multiple presentations. Now Rizal is a first year resident at University of Miami. For the future, Rizal is considering further training in Craniofacial Surgery.

Anselm Wong, MD:

Anselm is in his first year of training and is excited to be learning everything there is to learn about plastic surgery. He is enjoying the wide variety of procedures that the program offers. And even though he has already completed a fellowship in hand surgery, he appreciates the opportunity to learn more about the field from different perspectives. Despite missing the New England seasons and seeing snow, he is enjoying the sunshine and activities that Miami offers. Anselm’s future career plans are to pursue a practice divided between plastic and hand surgery, preferably returning to the Northeast area.

Rebecca C. Bachusz MD

Rebecca C. Bachusz MD was raised in Sault Ste. Marie, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She was recruited to play basketball for Lake Superior State University, where she played on scholarship for four years and earned her Bachelors in Science. As captain her senior year, her team won the conference title and competed in the national championship tournament.

With many family ties to Detroit, Michigan, Rebecca continued her education at Wayne State University School of Medicine earning her MD. Enjoying caring for a diverse urban population, with much opportunity for complex trauma and pathology, Rebecca entered her General Surgery residency at Detroit Medical Center. Rebecca’s interests in Plastic Surgery remain focused on trauma reconstruction, hand, and oncologic reconstruction. She is extremely excited to start her training in Miami, with the diverse clinical opportunities it has to offer. In her free time Rebecca enjoys traveling, and is looking forward to the opportunity to participate in international surgical projects. She also enjoys yoga, cycling, and is learning how to surf.

Bryan Curtis, C Maj MIL US USAF MEDCOM LRMC:

Bryan grew up in Chesapeake, Virginia and graduated from the University of Virginia. He was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant. He went on to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to complete his medical degree. From there, he went to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base/Wright-State University in Dayton, Ohio for his residency in General Surgery. As a resident, Bryan received awards for teaching, was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He traveled to Ambato, Ecuador with Volunteers in Medical Missions as the team’s sole surgeon. Following completion of residency training, he was assigned to Yokota Air Base, Japan as the Chief of General Surgery. While in Japan, Bryan coordinated the first three U.S. Air Force plastic surgery missions to the Western Pacific, initiating a program that is still actively serving the region. In 2010, he was board certified in General Surgery. Also in 2010, he was sent to South Korea in support of Operation Korea Live Fire. Shortly after returning to Japan, he was active in the recovery efforts following the massive earthquake and tsunami of 2011. He is assigned to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. Bryan is currently deployed to Afghanistan as a General Surgeon for the 966th Forward Surgical Team. In his free time, Bryan enjoys traveling with his wife, exercising, snowboarding, and trying new recipes.

Renee Gasgarth, MD

Renee Gasgarth, MD was born and raised in Florida. After graduating from Harvard University with a degree in Psychology, she spent a year working as the customer relationship manager at her family’s Ford dealership in Port Charlotte, Florida. She realized her true passion was for medicine and matriculated to Emory University School of Medicine.

Currently she is completing her fifth and final year of general surgery at Emory. She looks forward to training at the University of Miami and pursuing a career in oncologic reconstruction. In her free time, she enjoys dancing and listening to live music.
Graduating Class 2012 Update:

Benjamin Cousins, MD:

Ben is working hard and enjoying his Hand Fellowship under the leadership of Dr. Patrick Owens and the University of Miami Department of Orthopaedics. He passed the American Board of Plastic Surgery written exam this past fall. Ben along with Tarik will begin practice in Miami along with Jose Garr, Ramiro Perez and Ricky Castrellon.

Tarik Husain, MD:

Upon graduation from the University of Miami Plastic Surgery program in June 2012 Tarik has pursued further training in a plastic/hand/microsurgery fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern. He will be eligible for the SOTH (Surgery of the Hand) certificate upon completion of this fellowship. He has also had publications in the American Journal of Surgery and the Journal of Craniofacial Surgery since graduation. He has won first place in a research competition sponsored by the American College of Surgeons, on his study on “Outcomes of Gustilo Grade IIIB and C lower extremity injuries treated with pedicled flap and free tissue transfer.” He has successfully passed his written board examination for plastic surgery and plans to take his oral board examination upon completion of his fellowship. He is returning back to Miami in the summer of 2013 to enter private practice to pursue a career in both plastic and hand surgery.

ChiChi Berhane, MD:

ChiChi is currently pursuing a Craniofacial fellowship at Emory University. He has enjoyed the new clinical experiences he has encountered. He plans on returning home to North Carolina where he completes his educational year.

Incoming Hand Fellow 2013-2014

Laura Tharp, MD:

Laura is originally from a small town in south GA (Fitzgerald) she graduated from Univ. of Georgia with a BS in Exercise Physiology. She completed her MD degree from Mercer University School of Medicine; she will graduate June 2013 from the Medical University of South Carolina’s Orthopaedic residency program. Laura’s husband, Freeman, is the Director of Business Engineering for Life Cycle Engineering in Charleston, SC and has a BS in Management Information Systems from Georgia Southern University and an MBA from the Citadel. They have been married for 3 years/no kids. Laura is also a classically trained pianist and competitive skeet and sporting clay shooter who is obsessed with college football!
Past Resident updates:

Anil P Punjabi, MD, DDS:
Certified, American Board of Plastic Surgery, American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Associate Clinical Professor, Loma Linda University
Director, Terracina Surgical Arts, Inc
(A Joint Commission Accredited Ambulatory Surgery Center)

Dominic Heffel, MD:
Dominic finished at Hopkins at the end of June and felt this was truly an excellent experience. He operated with Paul Manson a few times and went out to pizza with him. He is quite fun to be around. Dominic was in on 200 plus perforator and free flaps. He has recently moved to South Carolina and is now employed by the hospital where Dr. Conner (Skip), a former UM resident, works. They hope to start a perforator breast reconstruction program.

Christopher Dress, MD:
Chris is a board certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon as well as a board certified general surgeon. A veteran of 17 years in the U.S. Air Force, he has separated from active duty service to enter full time private practice in reconstructive and cosmetic plastic surgery. Dr. Dress attended medical school at the University of Tennessee, Memphis College of Medicine. His residency in general surgery occurred at Keesler Medical Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. He then completed his next residency in plastic surgery at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital in 2005. Dr. Dress’ areas of subspecialty expertise lie in microsurgical reconstruction and post bariatric surgery body contouring.

Kerry Latham, MD, MAJ MIL US:
Kerry is currently serving as the Director of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Craniofacial team and Co-Director of the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Craniofacial Team. She also participates in general reconstruction including extremity and breast reconstruction. Kerry is happy to report that her practice is 100% reconstructive and is very much enjoying her job. Kerry is also glad to be back home in the DC area. She is now a Lt Col in the Air Force and planning on being career. Kerry recently served on the faculty of the ASMS Basic course held in Miami.

Jeffrey Hammoudeh, MD:
Jeff is full time academic pediatric/craniofacial surgeon at USC.
Dr. Kawamoto is transitioning his practice over to Dr. Mark Urata. That is very exciting. We have moved into his office in Santa Monica. Jeff’s son is the most important person in his life....Jeff, his wife and son still live in sunny southern California

AI Aly, MD:
After finishing his training, Al joined the faculty at the University of Iowa, which happens to be the birth place of bariatric surgery. Because of a fairly isolated group of massive weight loss patients that existed in Iowa, he developed surgical techniques that addressed the difficult problems that these patients present with. This all occurred prior to the popularity of bariatric surgery. He then started teaching these techniques at national meetings and eventually, due to the demand for knowledge, published the first textbook dedicated to body contouring after massive weight loss, which is considered by many to be the bible of this new subspecialty of plastic surgery. Al has lectured or performed live surgery demonstrations in over 25 countries. He was recruited to move to the University of California at Irvine, where he is the Vice-Chairman of plastic surgery.

On the national plastic surgery scene Al has always been interested in the education of plastic surgeons and have been fortunate enough to contribute to that arena through a variety of endeavors. These include editing the first online plastic surgery textbook at E-medicine, becoming the chief editor of the Plastic Surgery Education Network (PSEN), the largest online education resource for plastic surgeons in the world, chaired and co-chaired the Santa Fe Breast & Body Contouring Symposium, and has been appointed to be the Co-Chair of Education of the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. Al has also been fortunate enough to win the Lockwood Award, given by ASAPS for major contributions in the field of body contouring.

Michael Lofgren, MD:
Michael has officially passed the American Board of Plastic Surgery exams. He became a new member of the ASPS. He and his wife had their first child, Bergen Lofgren, born July 18th.
JMH Resident Clinic

On Wednesdays, you can find the plastic surgery residents busy seeing patients at the Jackson Memorial Hospital Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery staff clinic located in ACC West. For years, the residents have provided quality medical care under the close supervision of the faculty of the University of Miami, Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery. The clinic remains busy. Residents are able to care for many patients with a wide range of reconstructive problems, from facial fractures, to breast cancer reconstruction, skin cancer defects, lower extremity wounds, breast reductions and abdominal wall reconstruction. Drs. Wrood Kassira, Morad Askari and Haaris Mir supervise the Resident Clinic, along with Drs. Peter James, Alan Rapperport and Jay Ellenby. They have graciously done so for several years and we are indebted to their assistance. In addition, the cosmetic practice continues to flourish. A patient interested in cosmetic surgery is seen in consultation and an individualized plan tailored is designed. Patients are offered surgery in a hospital setting at affordable prices. The clinic continues to be invaluable resource. This allows residents to establish a diagnosis, formulate a treatment plan, utilize ICD-9 and CPT coding, become skilled in the postoperative management of a myriad of procedures. They are able to observe long-term results, all under the direct supervision of our dedicated faculty. This clinic facilitates the transition from being a resident to becoming an independent practitioner once residency is completed.

A side note on Dr. Rapperport: US Masters Swimming in Lake Lure, NC 1 mile open water National Champion on August 2012. 78 yrs old 35:42 time.
The Hand Fellowship program at Jackson Memorial Hospital / University of Miami - Division of Plastic Surgery has an illustrious history. For the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the plastic surgery program at University of Miami, I have been asked to write a brief history of the hand fellowship program.

The Plastic Surgery fellowship was initiated under the directorship of Dr. Milton Armstrong in 2000. Our first fellow was Dr. Rajeev Venugopal, who hailed from Jamaica. The fellowship at the time had strong emphasis on microsurgery. Over the years, our fellowship program has trained fellows from around the world including Jamaica, Israel, Puerto Rico, Ireland, Canada, Turkey and the United States. Fellows have come with diverse backgrounds including general surgery, orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery. Our fellows now practice all over the world and are involved in a variety of practice venues including: academics, research, private practice and with industry.

We have had a hand fellow every year since the inception of the program. In fact one year we had two! In 2009, upon the departure of Dr. Milton Armstrong from the University, I was asked by the Chief of Plastic Surgery to take over as Section Chief and Hand Fellowship Director. Concurrently with assuming this responsibility, Jackson Memorial Hospital announced that all unaccredited fellowship programs would have to be shut down unless accreditation could be achieved. These fiscal constraints necessitated application to make our program an ACGME accredited hand fellowship program. In 2010, after successful application, the fellowship program at the University of Miami became only the 14th hand fellowship program in the United States to be accredited in plastic surgery.

The Hand fellowship of Jackson Memorial Hospital and the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami has the following strengths:

The breadth and complexity of our elective hand surgery volume is excellent. This derives from our unique combination of clinical care at the Miami VA and the private practice of hand surgery experience between our Jackson-South office and our University of Miami office with Drs. Haaris Mir, Morad Askari and Zubin Panthaki. On call hand surgery practice covers trauma and emergencies at three regional hospitals. This helps round out both the residents and fellows experience.

Our major trauma experience is supplemented with a two month rotation at Jackson Memorial Hospital on the orthopedic service with Dr. Askari supervising. This provides additional exposure to traumatic hand surgery repair and reconstruction as well as complicated hand and forearm infections and soft tissue defects.

We expect that our fellowship will continue to recruit and train excellent future hand surgeons who will represent our program well in the future.
The Burn Center

The Burn Center at the Ryder Trauma Center in Jackson Memorial Hospital remains the only American Burn Association (ABA) verified burn center in South Florida. Over the past year, we have teamed up with the Burn surgery service providing Plastic Surgery expertise for patients with complex burns as well as with other concomitant injuries. Treating acute extremity and facial burns with underlying fractures can be particularly challenging. The idea of having a single consultant with expertise in fracture fixation and burn care greatly helps in decision making and ultimately patient care. It is my hope that we will continue to develop our relationship and learn from each other’s expertise. This will not only lead to improved patient care and outcomes but will be excellent an learning opportunity for General Surgery and future Plastic Surgery residents rotating through the service.

Update on our Basic Science Research Lab

We have begun several exciting research projects with significant promise and wide clinical applicability. We are hoping to unravel the mechanisms by which stem cells may exert a variety of functions in a number of disease processes such as keloid formation, aberrant wound healing and cleft palate repair augmentation. Additionally, our lab continues to focus on disparities in disease among our aging patients with now more particular interest in the physiologic differences amongst aging stem cells. Our goal remains to establish molecular developments that can quickly and safely translate into improved patient care.

THE FOLLOWING RESIDENTS PASSED THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PLASTIC SURGERY EXAMS:

Writtens:
Michael Lake, MD, Benjamin Cousins, MD, Tarik Husain, MD,
Arthur Desrosiers, MD
Orals:
Wrood Kassira, MD, Mari Rebane, MD
This past year the division initiated a new fundraising event: "Miles for Smiles". This first event was successful beyond our initial expectations with almost 400 runners participating. The Funds are being used for development of a patient Cleft Reference Library on the 1st floor of the Mailman Center for Child Development in close proximity to the clinic. Also funds were used to initiate the 1st Dr. Ron Haun Commemorative lecture. We were fortunate to have Dr. Ian Jackson present his experience and challenges raising a child with a facial deformity, his son David.
Hold the date:
The next Division of Plastic Surgery “Miles for Smiles” 5 K will be held June 9, 2013

Spreading Smiles:
On November 13, 2012 we held our 4th annual fundraising event at Renato’s, the culinary award winning restaurant in Palm Beach. The superb luncheon and silent auction raised funds for education, patient care and research in cleft lip & palate.

Left to right, Arlene Desiderio our host, Samantha Viveros a grateful patient, and Dr. Thaller
The UM/JMH Division of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive surgery returned once again to the Bernard Mevs Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The initial trip took place in April 2012 which was once again led by Dr. Seth Thaller and Dr. Vincent DeGennaro. Residents who participated included Chichi Berhane, MD (PRS2012) and myself as well as second year medical student Kriya Gishen (M’15).

Recently, in December 2012, the Division traveled again to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Not only were we able to screen new patients with craniofacial anomalies, but we were also fortunate to see the follow ups. In a few cases, we were able to operate on the same patient for either cleft lip or cleft palate reconstruction. In addition, this trip was varied, we focused on treating cleft lip and palate anomalies, but we also addressed children and adults requiring burn reconstruction as well as congenital hand anomalies. In their first cleft mission, first year plastic surgery resident Tuan Tran, MD and plastic surgery resident Travis Greathouse, MD joined us from Lehigh Valley Medical Center. Upon immediate arrival into Port-au-Prince, we screened 45 patients, posted 35 cases and were able to perform 35 procedures on 31 patients in the three operating days allotted to our team. Case load included 14 cleft lip repairs (1 midline Tessier ’0, 4 bilateral, 8 unilateral, 1 microform), 7 cleft palate repairs, 9 burn reconstruction procedures to the face and upper extremity, 1 congenital hand reconstruction (clinodactyly), and 4 cases of the integument. Despite these impressive numbers, we were more pleased with the fact that of the 35 cases performed, we returned back to Miami without any complications.

The division continues to be dedicated to the people of Port-au-Prince & Haiti and the Bernard Mevs Hospital. We look forward to our further missions in the next academic year to a community who continues to depend on our persistent dedication.

Urmen Desai, MD MPH
Second Year Plastic Surgery Resident
“Plastic Surgery Resident Events” KLS Workshop

Faculty at ASMS Basic and Cleft Course held in Miami January 25-27, 2013.

Residents and Fellow Graduation Dinner held at Smith & Wollensky on June 23, 2012

Visiting Professors 2012-2013

Dr. Ian Jackson December 2012

Maria Siemionow, MD: March 20, 2013
Larry H. Hollier, Jr. MD, FACS: ASMS Visiting Professor June 12, 2013
Plastic Surgery Residents and Fellow Welcoming Party held at Four Fillies Farm on October 21, 2012

UM Plastic Surgery Participation in UHealth Marlins Stadium
University of Miami Hernia Center:

After one year of collaborative efforts between the Laparoscopic, Trauma and Plastic Surgery Division the UM Hernia Center is continuing to see patients at UMHC weekly. Referrals have been consistent and increasing monthly. Services include both simple and complex hernia reconstruction using autologous tissue, biologic implants and minimally invasive techniques. The procedures are commonly performed by both the general surgeon and plastic surgeon often combining tissue rearrangement of the abdomen to enhance the cosmetic appearance as well.

University of Miami Center for Aesthetic and Corrective Genital Surgery including Transgender Care:

The Transgender surgery care of this effort has significantly expanded where we are the only University program in the US that performs both Male to Female and Female to Male top and bottom surgery, including feminization of the face. The top surgery in the FtM patient which is composed of bilateral mastectomy is often combined with a hysterectomy and bilateral oophorectomy. Phallus reconstruction is performed with a radial forearm flap occasionally adding cadaver bone to the reconstruction. Recently we have also performed phalloplasty for a Peruvian teen after a traumatic incident as well, sponsored by the International Kids Fund.

The Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons

The Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons is in the midst of another exciting year. Our membership continues to grow as we strive to reach our ultimate goal of participation by every board certified or eligible plastic surgeon in South Florida. Our growing membership and ongoing corporate sponsorship has allowed us to carry on our educational tradition of meetings with highly regarded visiting speakers. Meetings regularly attract attendance by 40 to 60 members and guests, with an excellent mixture of community and academic surgeons.

Under the leadership of President Max Polo, M.D., Vice-president Martin Newman, M.D., and immediate past President John Oeltjen, M.D., Ph.D. we have had an eventful half-year. Our first meeting was held in September at Prime 112 on Ocean Drive and Dr. Hilton Becker discussed the spectrum implant and breast surgery. In October, the society enjoyed a wonderful night at The Forge in Miami Beach. The meeting was sponsored by LifeCell and Dr. G Patrick Maxwell discussed his case-based revisionary experience – the differences in ADMs. In November, in collaboration with the University of Miami, the meeting was held in Morton’s in Coral Gables and Dr. Ian Jackson presented on the management of vascular malformations.

We are now looking forward to an equally exciting remainder of the 2012-2013 academic year. As always, we welcome all University of Miami alumni to attend our society meetings when in town. We invite any suggestions for meeting venues, guest speakers and topics. We hope to continue to provide opportunities for education and collegiality for the betterment of our members, our local community and our specialty. We are grateful to all of you for your interest and support.
UM Medical Students Update:
Our Plastic Surgery Mentors: Education, Opportunities, and Guidance

By: Yash Avashia, Kriya Gishen, Samantha Arzillo, Catherine Gordon

Plastic surgery is a field that has built its legacy through the dissemination of knowledge and technique by the mentoring new generations of surgeons. One can propose that the initial leg of this mentorship ladder begins at the level of medical school. Throughout the past years, medical students at the University of Miami have found great success in matching at many of the most competitive integrated plastic surgery residency programs throughout the United States. These graduates can attest to the resounding opinion that the faculty of this Division consists of a team of student-advocates who truly take the time to mentor medical students and allow them opportunities to enrich their interest in Plastic Surgery.

This year medical students at the University of Miami established a student organization called Students Interested in Plastic Surgery (SIPS). It provides medical students from all years with the opportunity to explore the field of plastic, reconstructive, and aesthetic surgery. Through SIPS, students can better cultivate and nurture their interests by interacting with the division’s faculty, staff, and residents. Group organizes shadowing opportunities for students in both the operating room and in weekly clinics. SIPS hosts lunchtime lectures with faculty and fellows as well as suturing and scrubbing in workshops. Additionally, this student interest group assists students in finding research opportunities, exploring the possibility of humanitarian missions, acquiring information about the residency application process and better understanding the road to becoming a plastic surgeon.

As a part of the Division’s long-standing commitment to medical student education, a 4-week plastic surgery rotation is now available for interested medical students to elect during their 8-week surgery clerkship. This allows students to observe and serve in both clinical and operative responsibilities of the plastic surgery service at JMH, UMH, and the Miami VA. Students receive a solid foundation to the dominant areas of plastic surgery. Students attend all weekly didactic sessions in addition to journal clubs and miscellaneous educational venues held by the Division. During the last week of their rotation, students are required to present their “favorite flap” at Grand Rounds. Throughout the rotation, students receive unparalleled operative time to develop and expand upon basic suturing skills.

The University of Miami Division of Plastic Surgery faculty strive to allow medical students autonomy and responsibility in research related activities, along with a healthy hands-on experience in the operating room. Residents guide students on post-operative monitoring and management. Both the faculty and residents instill a level of confidence in their students. There is truly a protected atmosphere of collegiality. As students, we never get a proper chance to thank our plastic surgery faculty and residents who have served as our mentors and advisors through the years... To them, Thank You!

UM Med Students Annual Suture Workshop December 5, 2012
Society Updates:

The 47th Annual Baker Gordon Educational Symposium is scheduled for February 14th through the 16th 2013, and is being co-sponsored by the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. This year’s symposium will focus on problem solving in reoperative breast augmentation, current approaches to facial rejuvenation, and an update on injectable fillers and neuromodulators. Live surgery will be performed by Drs. Neal Handel, Roger Khouri, Bill Adams and Sherrell Aston. Also scheduled to lecture and demonstrate their techniques through interactive videos are Drs. Timothy Marten, Patrick Tonnard, David Hidalgo and Jack Fisher. The keynote speaker for this year’s symposium is Dr. Brunno Ristow, who will share with us his 40 year perspective in facial rejuvenation.

Voluntary Faculty Updates:

Dr. Thomas Baker:

Tom was the Keynote speaker at the Florida State Plastic Surgery meeting in Boca Raton on Dec 8 on “The Evolution of Aesthetic Surgery Education”

Dr. Onelio Garcia:

Has had 3 publications and 3 presentations in 2012. Onelio continues to his commitment to and of ASPS, ASAPS, and FSPS committees.

M. Felix Freshwater, MD:

Had 20 new publications listed in PubMed in the last academic year and continued his service on the editorial boards of HAND and the Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery. He has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Hand Surgery, European volume effective January 2013.

Jackson Memorial Hospital Alamo and Courtyard Renovations
“A night out with DOCS”
FUNDRAISING RECEPTION
Friday, June 7th 2013
Location: TBA
To benefit Education and Research in Plastic Surgery

PLASTIC SURGERY ALUMNI DINNER
Saturday, June 8th 2013
Location:
University of Miami Hospital (Seminar Center)

PLASTIC SURGERY CLEFT LIP AND PALATE
5K MILES FOR SMILES
Sunday, June 9th 2013
Location: Aventura Mall
To benefit Cleft Lip and Palate Education in Research and Patient Care
Our Appreciation to the Following Sponsors: