Note from Chief and Program Director

Seth R. Thaller, MD, DMD, FACS

This annual newsletter provides me with a unique opportunity to update our friends, community physicians, and alumni about what's newsworthy and our accomplishments during the previous year. This period can be characterized by two distinct words: profound loss and continued expansion. This last year, we experienced the profound sense of bereavement. Dr. D. Ralph Millard who made unparalleled contributions to our specialty as a whole and the Plastic Surgery Program at the University of Miami passed away. His legacy will be preserved forever in the many residents, students, fellows, and colleagues who were fortunate to have been touched by his brilliance in both the clinical setting and the operating room. Also, Dr. Thomas Zaydon, Sr. who was a stalwart contributor to our local plastic surgery community also passed away this year. He will be forever remembered by family, friends, and colleagues. Lastly, Dr. Jack Norman retired from active clinical practice.

This year was characterized by further rapid expansion of our division within the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine campus. Previously, we reported that we have now become a three year independent plastic surgery residency which will ultimately be composed of a total of nine residents. Our first group entered UM/JMH this past June. We also recruited an outstanding second group last year and will be commencing this July. We began our interviews for the next contingent in February. For the first time the current residents will provide significant involvement into the group that will actually be their junior residents. To further our residents experience with private practice and cosmetic surgery, we instituted a community rotation. This allows them to participate with a number of our community based voluntary faculty. Thus far the residents have found this an exceptionally beneficial encounter. In addition, further resident involvement is in cosmetic surgery developed through regular rotations with Dr. Jim Stuzin.

Our hand fellowship attained ACGME accreditation due to the teamwork within the University environment and the leadership of Dr. Zubin Panthaki. We will continue to recruit outstanding hand fellows and provide them the prospect of earning a CAQ. Our basic science laboratory in collaboration with the leadership of Dr. Sharon Elliot continues to make significant strides in evaluating the potential clinical benefits of Vitamin D and estrogen on aging and wound healing. Other academic achievements are exemplified by publications in numerous peer reviewed journals and the upcoming publication of three books from our division. In addition, this year, our full-time faculty have made a number of presentations at major national and international plastic surgery meetings. These have continued to add to the prestige of our program.

Clinically, the program has been distinguished by brisk growth. We have augmented our full-time staff with the recruitment of three new members. Each possesses a unique training and talents that will round out our already exceptional clinical expertise especially in the areas of hand and upper extremity, reconstructive microsurgery, burn reconstruction and aesthetic surgery. With our new faculty we have also been able to enhance our capacity to provide our clinical knowledge to additional demographics. We are now seeing patients at new sites including Doral, Kendall, Hialeah, and Broward County Veteran's Clinic. In addition, the division under the
direction of Dr. Chris Salgado has introduced two new and innovative multi-disciplinary clinics: hernia and transgender. Dr. Haaris Mir has increased our footprint at the Miami VAH and our hand experience by developing a second Friday AM clinic and PM operating day. Dr. Morad Askari is also in the process of using his experience from The Mayo Clinic. He is introducing a multi-specialty brachial plexus clinic. These recently added venues will also augment clinical material for teaching our plastic surgery residents. As medical school faculty members we maintain our obligation to UM students. We held our annual suture course, which was immediately filled with interested first and second year students who were given their first opportunity to learn the art of suturing under direct plastic surgery faculty supervision. Medical school students also have numerous opportunities to participate in a vast array of plastic surgery educational venues and research. We have increased our fundraising efforts. We held our third annual dinner at the James Beard award winning Worth Avenue, Palm Beach Restaurant "Renato’s". Our hostess Ms. Arlene Desiderio provided us with a spectacular venue and wonderful food to help make this a successful event. This year, we also initiated a full-day fresh cadaver course and retreat at the fantastic Anspach Palm Beach laboratory with an unrestricted educational grant from Synthes Anspach Corporation. We hope to include this as a regular adjunct to our training program. This educational activity was greatly aided by the outstanding instruction of Drs. Donald Wood-Smith from New York, Michael Patipa, and Jim Stuzin. This lab was augmented by additional cadaver lab sessions directed separately by Dr. Wrood Kassira and Dr. James Stuzin. These are further enhancements to our already robust educational program for our residents.

In summary, the division and medical center continue to experience a promising future and continued development. Challenges endure within our current political and economic environment. However; in my opinion, we have been able to effectively face these encounters and can now resume our current encouraging path.

**Plastic Surgery Faculty**

Left to right (Back Row): John C. Oeltjen, M.D., PhD, Zubin J. Panthaki, M.D., Haaris S. Mir, M.D., Christopher J. Salgado, M.D.

Left to right (front row): Morad Askari, M.D., Wrood M. Kassira, M.D., Seth R. Thaller, M.D.
The Hand Surgery Section of the Division of Plastic Surgery has undergone a period of exceptional growth in the last year with the addition of two new hand fellowship trained, CAQ eligible faculty members: Drs. Haaris Mir and Morad Askari. This brings the total number of plastic surgery faculty providing hand surgery services to five: Drs. Zubin Panthaki, Christopher Salgado, John Oeltjen, Haaris Mir, Morad Askari, and Wrood Kassira.

Our voluntary faculty also contribute greatly to the quality of our fellowship, with active participation of Drs. Harris Gellman, Jesse Basadre, and Felix Freshwater.

**UM/JMH PLASTIC SURGERY OF THE HAND FELLOWSHIP**

Our hand fellowship program applied for, and received full ACGME accreditation last year for hand surgery training. This now qualifies our fellows to apply for the Certificate of Added Qualification in Hand Surgery. This makes us one of only 15 plastic surgery programs in the country which offers this added qualification. In addition, it makes our hand fellowship much more desirable for potential recruits. This is evidenced by the quality of our recent and future fellows:

Dr. Jose Baez Lorenzo is our current hand surgery fellow. He completed his general surgery training from SUNY Downstate and plans to make hand surgery an integral part of his practice upon graduation.

Dr. Ali Soltani will be our next hand surgery fellow. He comes to us having completed his plastic surgery residency at USC medical center. He is an AOA scholar and has outstanding references and credentials.

**MIAMI VA HAND SURGERY SERVICE**

The hand surgery service at the Miami VA Hospital has had significant growth under the auspices of plastic surgery for the past five 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 within the new environment. Approximately 400 cases are done per year. A variety of clinical cases 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 developed at the West Palm Beach VAH.

**JACKSON SOUTH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL HAND SERVICE**

The hand service has a faculty presence four days a week at Jackson South. With the recent renovation of their operating rooms and infrastructure, we hope to continue to provide academic and clinical excellence in hand surgery services to the South Miami, Kendall and Pinecrest area.

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HOSPITAL HAND SERVICE**

Last year the Division of Plastic Surgery, Section of Hand Surgery, assumed a leadership role at the University of Miami Hospital, leading a combined orthopedic and plastic surgery hand service providing care to patients at the University of Miami’s flagship hospital. We have greatly expanded the use of the ambulatory operating rooms and plan to continue to maximize our opportunities for growth. The University of Miami Hospital has the potential to become a center of excellence for hand surgery and a referral center for the Southeast and the Caribbean basin.

**MIAMI CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC HAND SERVICE**

From humble beginnings five years ago in the Brain Institute of Miami Children’s Hospital; UM’s Pediatric Hand Surgery Service at MCH is now a mature program and resource for pediatric hand services. Our monthly clinic receives referrals from community pediatricians, geographic MCH staff and community plastic surgeons. Majority of cases involve pediatric hand fractures and congenital deformities which complement our hand fellowship experience in adult hand surgery very well. Our goal is to eventually increase our faculty availability and continue to expand the presence.
Plastic Surgery NEW FACULTY

Wrood W. Kassira, M.D.
A graduate from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, she was accepted into the highly competitive Medical Scholars Program gaining early admission to the University of Miami School of Medicine where she went on to receive her medical doctorate. She earned numerous accolades, including Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, Alan Teitler Award for “constancy in unselfish service” and Iron Arrow. Immediately following graduation, Dr. Kassira completed a highly demanding residency in General Surgery followed by a residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami. She also became experienced with breast cancer reconstruction, including both implant based and autologous forms of breast reconstruction. After residency, Dr. Kassira then pursued an additional year of aesthetic surgery fellowship training at the prestigious New York Eye & Ear Infirmary under the expertise of Dr. Donald Wood-Smith, an innovator in plastic surgery.

Dr. Kassira remains abreast of the latest developments in the field of plastic surgery and as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Plastic, Aesthetic & Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Kassira enjoys training medical students, surgical interns, and plastic surgery residents. Dr. Kassira staffs the Resident Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Clinic at Jackson Memorial Hospital where she provides high quality patient care and educates future plastic surgeons.

Dr. Kassira’s interests include facial rejuvenation, facelift, blepharoplasty, rhinoplasty, autologous fat grafting, breast reduction, breast augmentation, body contouring, abdominoplasty, post-bariatric surgery, post-trauma reconstruction, oncologic reconstruction, reconstruction of Mohs defects, microvascular surgery, and the broad spectrum of breast reconstruction, including both prosthetic and autologous-based reconstruction.

Haaris Mir, M.D.
Dr. Mir received his medical education from Dow Medical College in Karachi, Pakistan in 2001. He completed a 5-year General Surgery residency in 2007 at Temple University in Philadelphia and was Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery in 2008. Dr. Mir went on to complete a fellowship in Hand and Microsurgery at the renowned Christine M. Kleinert Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, where the first hand transplant was performed in North America. Following his Hand Surgery training Dr. Mir completed a one-year Burn and Reconstructive fellowship in 2009 at Indiana University and a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery fellowship at Indiana University in 2011.

Dr. Mir’s interest’s span the entire spectrum of plastic surgery with primary interests in Hand Surgery including congenital hand deformities, chronic wrist pain, burned hands, cosmetic and reconstructive breast surgery, reconstructive and cosmetic surgery of the trunk and body, reconstructive burn surgery, burn scar contracture releases and reconstructive Surgery after massive weight loss. His background and training bring a unique experience and focus to his future plastic surgery practice. He has seamlessly joined the busy JMH burn service to provide significant Plastic Surgery input especially of burnt upper extremities.

Morad Askari, M.D.
Dr. Askari received his medical doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. Prior to his graduation, he spent a year as a research fellow in Tissue Engineering Center in Carnegie Mellon University. He completed a very competitive 6-year integrated residency program in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the University of Southern California - Los Angeles County Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. This training provided him with a comprehensive education in plastic surgery while training at one of the busiest trauma hospitals in the U.S: LA county Hospital, USC Burn Center and the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles while at the same time training on cosmetic surgery under some of the most widely known and well respected surgeons in Beverly Hills and Santa Monica. Following residency, Dr. Askari went on to complete a premier fellowship in Hand and Microvascular Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and subsequently joined the faculty at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Dr. Askari is the author of over 15 peer-reviewed scientific articles/book chapters and has given numerous presentations in several local and national meetings. As a Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Askari has special interest in reconstructive microsurgery, the wide spectrum of breast reconstructive procedures, maxillofacial trauma, oncological reconstruction, body contouring operations, and aesthetic surgery of the breast and the face. As a Hand Surgeon, he focuses on all traumatic and non-traumatic bony and soft tissue problems of the hand, arthritis, and arthroscopy. He has a special interest in brachial plexus reconstruction and peripheral nerve problems and reconstruction of the paralyzed face and has initiated interdisciplinary clinics to manage these challenging cases.
Plastic Surgery Residents

SENIOR RESIDENTS

ChiChi Berhane, M.D.

ChiChi’s professional interests are craniofacial and reconstruction surgery. After graduating from plastic surgery residency he will be starting a craniofacial fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta Ga. He will be looking forward to returning to NC to start a private practice. In his spare time, ChiChi enjoys playing soccer, basketball, golf, and attending church.

Benjamin J. Cousins, M.D.

Ben is in his second and final year of plastic surgery training. He continues to have a strong interest in breast reconstruction, aesthetic surgery as well as the treatment and management of traumatic extremity injuries. Upon completion of his training in June, he will join the Department of Orthopaedic surgery for a one year hand fellowship under the direction of Dr. Pat Owens. Upon completion of his hand fellowship, Ben looks forward to joining a practice either in the South Florida/Miami area, Las Vegas or in Tennessee.

Tarik Husain, M.D.

Tarik’s professional interests are in extremity reconstruction, hand, and aesthetic surgery. Tarik is board certified in orthopaedic surgery, and obtained sports medicine subspecialty certification. He will be continuing his training at UT Southwestern, Dallas by doing a hand/microsurgery fellowship upon completion of his Plastic Surgery residency.

PLASTIC SURGERY 1ST GROUP OF 3 year residents

Urmen Desai, M.D.

Urmen has been extremely productive in his first year as a Plastic Surgery resident. Early in the year, Urmen passed both his written and oral boards. In November, he attended the Advanced Cadaveric Craniofacial Trauma course in New Orleans, Louisiana. Additionally, he submitted his research on his technique for the surgical treatment of silicone injections to the lips to the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery meeting in Vancouver. He also hopes to travel to Haiti later this year with the division for the annual Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate reconstruction program. He continues to plan to prepare his application for fellowship programs in Craniofacial Surgery.

Ari Hoschander, M.D.

Ari is in his 1st year of his Plastic Surgery 3 year residency. Ari has published many peer-reviewed articles as well as textbook chapters in basic science, General Surgery and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Ari continues to research and publish articles of interest while training as a resident in the Division of Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery. Ari plans to pursue a practice with a combination of general, aesthetic and reconstructive plastic surgery upon his completion of the three-year residency.

Jason Edens, M.D.

Jason has been recently promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Army Medical Corps. He has enjoyed the beginning of his training in Plastic Surgery in Miami. Jason has been amazed at the diversity of patients and procedures that the program offers. He also appreciates 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.
Incoming Class of July 2012

Thersia (thu ay see uh) Knapik, M.D.
Thersia was born and raised in Moscow, Idaho. She received her B.S. degree in Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she also completed her Doctorate of Medicine degree. She will complete her surgical internship and residency in New England at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center before joining the University of Miami, Division of Plastic Surgery, for additional residency training. She is interested in student and resident education as well as local and national politics. Medically her true passion is complicated problems that require short and long term planning. In her free time you are likely to find her doing anything active and challenging or spending time with friends and pets.

Rizal Lim, M.D.
Rizal was born in Malaysia to a surgeon and an orthodontist. His family immigrated to the US in 1982 in search of further medical and dental training. Rizal feels that his family background helped shape him into the person he is today.

Rizal attended public school from 1st through 12th grades. He went on to attend Miami University, in Oxford Ohio, where he studied biologic sciences with a focus on Zoology. While at Miami University, he participated in a Howard Hughes Summer Research program, and studied the effects of temperature on reptilian locomotive speed. This led to his senior thesis that eventually resulted in publication.

He went on to attend Medical College of Ohio, now renamed University of Toledo College of Medicine. Rizal was awarded the Medical College of Ohio Presidential Scholarship which included full paid tuition. He graduated from medical school 15th in his class of 150, as well as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. While choosing a subspecialty during his clerkships, Rizal took interest in Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, but chose the longer training route upon advice from his mentors and applied for General Surgery.

In June 2005, Rizal moved to Boston from the Midwest to start his General Surgery training at Boston University Medical Center. After his second year of training Rizal took an optional 2 year research sabbatical. There he performed basic science research on postoperative intra-abdominal fibrosis (adhesions) that resulted in three first authored peer review manuscripts and several abstracts and presentations. Upon returning to the clinical track, his exposure to surgical subspecialties sparked interest in Thoracic, Vascular, and Colo-rectal surgery. However, staying true to his original passion, Rizal pursued a residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Rizal expresses great enthusiasm to begin his Plastics training at University of Miami/JMH. During this time he would like to master as much of the breadth of Plastic Surgery as possible. His penchant for children has sparked an interest on congenital and developmental anomalies. Currently he has no specific subspecialty in mind. Rizal hopes that his basic science research experience will enable him to become an academically productive member in the residency program. To quote his father, he hopes that his work is “excellent of the sake of excellence,” or as Rizal likes to say, “If you’re going to do it, make it sexy.”

Tuan Anh Tran, M.D. Through His Eyes
Tuan was born and raised in Vietnam several years after the Vietnam War. He lived through its aftermath. This was the first imprint of human suffering, extreme poverty, stricken illness, and bodily deformity on my sub-conscious, propelling me to pursue medicine in general and plastic surgery as the ultimate career. My family escaped from Vietnam in 1988 as the last wave of the “boat people” to Thailand. We stayed in Thailand’s refugee camp for the next two years. Again, I was affected in many ways how I see human sickness and excessive hunger plaguing our very own lives. My mother almost died from dysentery, and obstetrical sepsis. Fortunately, she was saved by two international doctors from Australia and England. We came to the states in 1990 and began our assimilation to this great society. Inspired by my mother, who toiled to get her medical degree, I decided to study diligently to pursue a career in medicine. I attended UC Berkeley and double majored in Molecular Cell Biology and Political Economy of Industrial Societies. The latter major compelled me to obtain an additional degree in MBA while learning to become a medical doctor. I completed the MD/MBA program from Tufts University in 2007. I pursued General Surgery residency program at Loma Linda University. During my training, I realized the destructive nature of surgery and found the complementary nature in plastic and reconstructive surgery. I don’t know what I want to focus in Plastic surgery, but I know it will take me back to my root; where I can help the less fortunate. I’m making a commitment to spend at least one month out of a year to give back to the people of less developed countries.
Jose Baez-Lorenzo, M.D.

Jose was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He attended the University of Florida and graduated with a B.S. in Nutritional Sciences. He then attended and graduated medical school from Universidad Central del Caribe Medical School in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Jose’s surgical training includes completion of his General Surgery residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He enjoys spending time with family, outdoor sports and the beach.

An Alumni FEATURED STORY

Michael Lake, M.D.

LTC Michael T. Lake, M.D. FACS graduated from Plastic Surgery residency in June 2011. He was transferred to Ft. Bragg, NC where he was appointed as Chief, Plastic Surgery Womack Army Medical Center, Ft. Bragg, NC. Womack Army Medical Center is the busiest surgical department in the Department of Defense. It performs over 850 cases per month. As Chief of Plastic Surgery, he will be responsible for overseeing the budget of the department and administrative function of 2 other Plastic Surgeons. One being the retired Chairman of Duke Plastic Surgery, Dr. Donald Serafin. Upon transfer to Ft. Bragg, Dr. Lake was immediately deployed to Iraq. The mission assigned was to support and advise the Combat Support Hospitals during the largest drawdown in military history. The overall goal was to ensure that as American troops withdrew from northern Iraq south to Kuwait, no military personnel would ever be outside of surgical treatment during the golden hour post injury. In addition, the Department of State was scheduled to assume control of 4 combat support hospitals in the Iraqi theatre. He also played an integral role in training and preparing the Department of State physicians in providing surgical support for battle field trauma. He conducted many courses in Advanced Trauma Life Support for the incoming civilian personnel. He also provided training on damage control surgery, medical evacuations systems, mass casualty exercises, and operating in austere environments based on his experience in previous deployments. Being the highest ranking and most experienced surgeon in theatre, Dr. Lake was appointed as Iraqi Theatre Consultant and Subject Matter Expert in General and Plastic Surgery. This entailed fielding consults from other providers and surgeons as well. Dr. Lake returned from Iraq in December 2010 and is now back at Womack Army Medical Center providing excellent care in plastic surgery to America’s finest. Mike hopes to use his training at UM/JMH to provide quality reconstructive and cosmetic surgery for the military community. Dr. Lake’s military commitment ends in 2 years at which time he plans to return to Miami to practice.
2011 Piotr Skowronski, M.D. Piotr recently married and is in private practice performing cosmetic and reconstructive procedures. His special interest is in breast surgery.

2011- Arthur E. Desrosiers III, M.D. Arthur completed his plastic surgery residency in June 2011 and then began a Craniofacial Plastic Surgery Fellowship with S. Anthony Wolfe, M.D., F.A.C.S., at Miami Children's Hospital, Miami, FL. Dr. Desrosiers is currently working on multiple clinical research. Since graduating from his plastic surgery residency, Dr. Desrosiers has published two (2) peer-reviewed journal articles, including one on the “Use of dermal fat graft for augmentation of the labia majora” this was notable in that this was the first published case report of cosmetic augmentation of the labia majora (NB: collaboration with Chris Salgado, M.D.). In addition, Dr. Desrosiers travels extensively performing plastic surgery on mission trips in developing countries. In February, Dr. Desrosiers will travel to Ecuador to perform craniofacial plastic surgery in Quito, and in March, Dr. Desrosiers will travel to India to perform free cleft lip and palate surgeries. Dr. Desrosiers is on the Speaker's Bureau for Operation Smile International. In his spare time, Dr Desrosiers volunteers as a recruiter and alumni event coordinator for his alma maters, Dartmouth College and Columbia University.

2008 - Cassidy Mitchell, M.D. Cass has joined a multi-specialty group in Lincoln, Nebraska. Cassidy, his wife Melanie, as well as their 2 boys Rowen and Chase, have welcomed the newest member to their family, Logan Robert born on June 5, 2011.

2006 - Jeffrey Hammoudeh, M.D. Jeff is still working as a full time academic pediatric craniofacial surgeon at USC/CHLA. He recently had a son, Aydin Najar Hammoudeh.

Past Residents Board Updates:

Certified as Diplomates by the American Board of Plastic Surgery
Erick Martell, M.D.  ■  Michelle DeSouza, M.D.  ■  Michael Lofgren, M.D.

Passed Written Exam:
Piotr Skowronski, M.D.

Congratulations!!!

Voluntary Faculty Spotlight

M. Felix Freshwater, M.D.

Calendar year 2011 has been both busy and interesting. In addition to sharing insights and office space with Buster Mullin, he continued with his teaching responsibilities at UM. This included organizing workshops on the evaluating the hand patient, digital imaging and upper extremity flaps and fractures. His son, David, compiled and corrected Calder Library's pre-existing bibliography of Ralph Millard and, hopefully, by the time this is read, the final version has been released on-line. In addition, he found the time to have 24 publications appear in various peer-reviewed journals ranging from different continents.

Onelio Garcia, M.D.

This has been an exceptionally busy academic year. Highlights included 2 chapters soon to be released. Served as moderator and presenter at SESPRS 2011 Annual Scientific meeting. Served as Board of Director Council of State Societies, Membership Representative Southeast ASPS, Patient Safety Committee ASAPS, and Board of Trustees FSPS.
New and Innovative Programs within the Division of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgery

University of Miami Hernia Center

1-855-U-HERNIA

Co-Directors: Drs. Christopher J. Salgado, Fahim Habeeb, Jose Martinez

Team Members: Drs. Morad Askari, Haaris Mir, Danny Sleeman

The University of Miami has recently launched a Comprehensive Hernia Team. It is dedicated to the care of simple and complex hernia reconstruction including patients with enteral fistulas and wounds.

We are now seeing patients at the University of Miami Hospital and Clinics building on Friday afternoons using a multi-disciplinary approach to the care of our patients with both general surgery and Plastic surgery presence. On average, we are now seeing approximately 5 new patients a week from southeast Florida, specifically for their hernia care needs. All surgeries and in-patient care have been conducted at the University of Miami Hospital.

In addition, through an unrestricted educational grant from Covidien, Inc., we have conducted the first University of Miami Hernia Course at the Rosenstiel Medical Building and UM Anatomy Labs. Attendees were present from multiple sites for both Didactics and Laboratory which contained fresh cadaver instruction and live animal hernia reconstruction. This concentrated on components separation techniques (open and laparoscopic).

Future plans for 2012 include the continued growth to include increased patient referrals and surgery. We plan another Hernia Course which will be CME eligible.

University of Miami Center for Aesthetic and Corrective Genital Surgery:

Co-Directors: Christopher J. Salgado, Christopher Estes (ob/gyn), Clara Alvarez-Villalba (psychiatry)

Team Members: Jennifer Glueck (Endocrine), Bruce Kava (Urology)

The University of Miami Center for Aesthetic and Corrective Genital Surgery Team was initiated this past year to serve the increasing population of patients who desire aesthetic and restorative surgery of their genitalia. Our comprehensive team also focuses on the care of the transgender patients. This includes all services for Male to Female and Female to Male sexual reassignment (both top, bottom, and facial surgery). We conform to the Harry Benjamin Standard’s of Care for Sexual Reassignment Surgery. Currently we are the only University Affiliated Gender Reassignment multidisciplinary team in the southeastern United States. Commonly patients are evaluated in a multidisciplinary fashion. This approach has allowed us to efficiently concentrate our evaluation and care of these patients, many of whom travel from out of state, in a streamlined fashion and limiting their expenses.

Our comprehensive approach to genital surgery and sexual reassignment care at the University of Miami is the first of its kind for the Miami area. Our plan is to continue growth and expansion of services.

University of Miami Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Clinic

Through a collaborative effort between Division of Orthopaedic Hand surgery and Division of Plastic Surgery, a monthly multidisciplinary Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Clinic was initiated at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Through this clinic, we aim to provide comprehensive treatment to patients with partial or total brachial plexus injury as well patients with major peripheral nerve injury in the upper and lower extremities. Patients will be offered a spectrum of treatment modalities. These range from nerve transfer or grafting, tendon transfers, free or pedicled functional muscle transfer, arthrodesis, and pre- and post-operative rehabilitation.

If you have any patients that may benefit from evaluation in this clinic, contact our schedulers at (305) 326-6590 or (305) 243-4500. Please specify that the patient needs to be seen in BPPN Clinic.
Program Highlights

UM/JMH Burn Center and Dr. Haaris Mir’s involvement

The burn center located in the Ryder Trauma Center remains the leading burn center in South Florida. We have recently formed a close relationship with the trauma burn surgeons. We offer our expertise in reconstructing acutely burned patients and those with burn deformities. One aspect that we are focusing on is patients with burned hands especially after industrial and work accidents. Our goal is to return them to work as soon as possible.

We continue our work with therapist at University of Miami Hospital where patients after being treated for their burn scar contracture releases are splinted, stretched, and mobilized post-operatively. We remain optimistic that we will continue to have successful functional outcomes for these patients.

Cleft Clinic Update

The South Florida Cleft Clinic at The Mailman Center continues to provide outstanding comprehensive interdisciplinary diagnosis and management to children with cleft lip and palate. The clinic originated in the 1960’s with the pioneering and visionary efforts of Dr. D. Ralph Millard. This was then followed with the further expansion and development of the clinic under the leadership and inspiration of Dr. Ron Hahn until his untimely death in 2000. A number of outstanding medical directors have helped steer the course of the clinic since then. The last leadership was held by Dr. Randi Sperling. She recently left the University of Miami for a private pediatric practice in Broward County. Currently Dr. Stephanie Sacharow is at the helm from our Genetics Division.

Our multi-disciplinary clinic provides care to the children of both Dade County and all of South Florida as well as international referrals. This year we are planning a walkathon “Plastic Surgery Cleft Lip and Palate 5k Strides for Smiles” to raise awareness and educate the public of this common facial anomaly as well as develop resources for further patient education, library, and adjunctive patient care needs.

University of Miami Wound Care Center

Dr. Haaris Mir has joined Dr. Christopher Salgado and the complement of physicians serving key roles in wound care at UMH.

Oeltjen’s Plastic Surgery Service

Whether involving limb salvage from sail boating or golf cart accidents in the Caribbean or coverage of nearly 50% of the skull after extirpation of a neglected scalp skin cancer on a veteran of the Korean War, the practice of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery in South Florida provides unique opportunities in medical care. This is the continued theme of my reconstructive practice at the University of Miami Medical Center.

Paying attention to form and function, my practice for the past year has focused on providing reconstructive support for our colleagues in Surgical Oncology, Orthopedic 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. In my practice we continue to offer the full range of breast reconstruction from deep inferior epigastric artery perforator free flaps to implant based reconstruction. The past year has also seen growth of immediate implant reconstruction in patients whom will be receiving radiation, in the hopes of helping them to keep a sense of femininity despite a grueling treatment course. Referred patients come from the surrounding communities to the Caribbean and South America.

Beyond the breast, my collaboration with the other multiple services highlighted above provides opportunities to participate in reconstruction on nearly every part of the human body. This includes experiences ranging from lower extremity reconstructions with both local flaps and free flap salvage of the lower limb to complex facial fracture repairs. Additionally, working with the worldwide expert in the reconstruction of osteoradionecrotic mandibles, Dr. Robert Marx, Chief of the Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Division, continues to offer a number of interesting and technically challenging primary and secondary head and neck reconstructions while improving upon the resident exposure to head and neck reconstructive cases.

Finally, as stressed in the teaching model of the reconstructive ladder, Plastic Surgery is more than microsurgery and flaps. Local tissue rearrangements dependent upon an in depth knowledge of circulation patterns, skin grafts, acellular dermal matrix application, and basic wound healing principles, along with comprehensive pre- and post-operative care are all important to my everyday practice and serve as the pillars of the resident educational experience.
Society Updates

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 board eligible plastic surgeon in South Florida. Our growing membership and continued corporate sponsorship has allowed us to carry on the tradition of years past, of putting on quality dinner meetings at spectacular local venues, with highly regarded guest speakers. Our meetings regularly attract attendance by 40 to 60 members and guests, with an excellent mixture of community surgeons with faculty, residents and students from the University of Miami and the Cleveland Clinic.

Under the leadership of President Alan Serure, M.D., Vice-President John Oeltjen, M.D., and immediate Past President Pat Pazmino, M.D., we have had an eventful half-year. Our first meeting was held in September at Capital Grille on Brickell. A collaboration with the University of Miami, and sponsored by Medicis, it featured a glimpse into the future with a revealing talk by Dr. Mary McGrath on off-shore surgery and medical tourism. In November, the society enjoyed a memorable night at The Forge in Miami Beach. Members enjoyed a fascinating discussion by Dr. Gustavo Colon on the history of medicine in New Orleans. In December 2011, Dr. Jason Pozner shared his experience in revision breast augmentation, including with use of acellular dermal matrices.

We are now looking forward to an equally exciting remainder of the 2011-2012 academic year. Our next meeting was held on February 8th, again at The Forge. Dr. Maurice Nahabedian presented a discussion on complicated breast reconstruction. As always, we welcome all University of Miami alumni to attend our society meetings, as well as any new comers to the local plastic surgery community. From our members, we invite any suggestions for meeting venues, guest speakers and topics for discussion. 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.

Palm Beach County Society of Plastic Surgeons

The Palm Beach County Society of Plastic Surgeons remains a very viable, collegial group that meets four times a year and allows a forum for the county Plastic Surgeons to discuss interesting topics and present cases in a non-confrontational manner. The group also invites throughout the year guests to add ideas and present information. This year we had a very lively group meeting with the Palm Beach County of Dermatologists and an annual visit from Dr. Seth R. Thaller, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami. Our county Medical Society is lead by our President Alan Pillersdorf, M.D., a tireless worker for organized medicine who has served as Speaker of the Florida Medical Association and was elected now Secretary. Dr. Pillersdorf also is Secretary/Treasurer of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and is a Governor. Our Vice President is Dr. Lawrence Korpeck who is a leader in innovative Facial and Aesthetic Breast Surgery, Medical Director of the Aesthetic Surgical and Med Spa and has practiced in Boca Raton for the past 25 years. Our Treasurer is Tim Abou-Sayed M.D., who has become involved in the Palm Beach County Medical Society of Young Physicians, and is active at 8 local hospitals, and has been accepted and attending the prestigious Kellogg School of Business, Northwest University where is doing a 2 year executive Masters in Business degree. Our immediate Past-President Fred Barr, M.D., a University of Miami Plastic Surgery graduate continues to have an active plastic surgical practice specializing in minimally invasive procedures.
The 46th Annual Baker Gordon Symposium on Cosmetic Surgery

The 46th Annual Baker Gordon Symposium on Cosmetic Surgery was held on February 9th through the 11th, an educational meeting which is jointly sponsored by the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. The theme for this year’s meeting was defining the essential technical elements for artistic contouring of the breast, body and nose, distilling and clarifying the commonality between different technical procedures to produce consistent results in aesthetic surgery. The keynote speaker for this year’s meeting was Dr. Ivo Pitanguy, who shared his 50 year experience in body contouring surgery, with the title of his lecture “Keeping the Dignity of the Body During the Aging Process”. Such esteemed faculty as Jack Gunter, Dean Toriumi and Rod Rohrich presented an update on open rhinoplasty techniques. Drs. Simeon Wall and Osvaldo Saldanha presented new approaches to performing liposuction, and there was a session on gluteal augmentation using autologous volumetric enhancement, as well as gluteal implants. One day at the meeting was devoted to breast surgery, featuring Dr. Scott Spear and Dr. Daniel DeVecchio, and including combining breast augmentation with autologous fat grafting, as well as approaches to small volume breast reduction/mastopexy.

A Few Words from our Para-Medical Aesthetician, Helen Gonzalez on Skin Care and Skin Care Products

Ever wonder why the Division of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgery has an Aesthetician?

Well, it's a natural match. Plastic Surgeons realized the benefits of skin care for their patients. They noticed improvement in their skin color with reduction of hyper-pigmentation (freckles, age spots and sun spots). End result with the aesthetician's assistance, was that the patients skin would have a more youthful glow and this certainly complemented the Plastic Surgeon's work.

Though a facelift a patient can achieve a better look as far as improvement in loose skin and jowling, an aesthetician through peels and microdermabraison treatments, can gently exfoliate dead skin and stimulate collagen thereby accelerating the normal cycle of the production of new skin cells.

Just as the metabolism starts to slow down with age and we start to notice changes in our body weight and energy, the metabolism of our skin also slows down. The later can be part of the reason for the skin looking dull and lifeless with an increase in the depth of fine lines and wrinkles. Facials, peels and microdermabraison treatments can stimulate and increase new skin cell turnover bringing back a smoother skin with less hyper-pigmentation and fine lines.

Our aesthetician services also include our hydration masque which helps plump up the dermal layers by adding moisture back into the skin. Adding to our services is our cosmeceutical line of skin care products which include a wide variety of anti-oxidants such as Vitamin C, E, K, Caffeine, Niacine and Copper Peptide. Copper Peptides are beneficial for the skin and provide essential assistance with replacing new skin cells. Our prescription strength products, Hydroquinone and Tretinoin achieve best results with hyper pigmentation. Some of our sun block products are endorsed by the Skin Care Foundation. Lastly, everyone should always make an effort to wear sun block; being the first reason our skin ages is the hereditary factor and the second is sun exposure.
Basic Science Research Lab

The Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami maintains a translational science laboratory that is dedicated to advancing scientific knowledge to the patients’ bedside. Our affiliation with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine provides the laboratory with an unparalleled breadth of available resources and research collaborations. Such partnership allows us to develop cutting edge and innovative ideas that will enhance the clinical practice of plastic surgery.

Our laboratory for Skin Rejuvenation and Gender Differences in Wound Healing continues to evolve and develop new approaches to research. The primary focus of the laboratory has been the determination of various mechanisms in wound healing and skin aging. Previous experiments from our lab have clearly delineated the positive effects of certain steroid hormones in a non-invasive human model. We plan to utilize novel techniques for further examination of various additional formulations, which can potentially be used as anti-aging agents.

Continued innovation in the field of basic science research is vital to the advancement of clinical medicine. We intend to remain as a cutting edge research laboratory and plan to extend our studies to evaluate the potential role of stem cells in healing wounds, a field with great promise for future clinical application. In an effort to continue our promising dynamic research, we welcome individuals within the university or industry to partner with us.

Plastic Surgery Resident Clinic: Continued Progress

Dr. Peter James and Dr. Alan Rapperport, along with Dr. Wrood Kassira, Dr. Haaris Mir and Dr. Morad Askari, continue to supervise the resident clinic. This clinic continues to be an invaluable source for surgical cases, resident education, and clinical experience. This setting with experienced faculty oversight, allows the residents to see new patients, assess their long term follow-ups, and develop thoughtful treatment plans. The Plastic Surgery outpatient clinic, with its own minor surgical operating room, improves surgical skills, and enhances the resident’s transition to independent judgement. In addition, there are plans to develop a comprehensive aesthetic resident clinic, to further complement their training experience.
A Medical Student’s Perspective

Michael DeFazio, Yash Avashia, and Kenneth Fan

At the University of Miami, plastic and reconstructive surgery manifests a rich heritage that underlies a tradition of excellence and innovation. In addition to a traditional commitment to excellence in resident education and research—in its provision of the highest quality of surgical patient care—the Division of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgery has expanded its mission to serve as a guiding resource for medical students who wish to learn about, explore, or even pursue a career in plastic surgery. Functioning as a beacon of enlightenment in the pursuit of life-long learning, teaching, leadership, and research, perhaps one of the division’s most prominent contributions to the field of plastic surgery is its inspiration of future generations of plastic surgeons through the provision of limitless opportunities for clinical, academic, and scholarly enrichment.

As is true of most surgical subspecialties, exposure to the field of plastic surgery—from the perspective of a medical student at most institutions—is limited and often driven solely by a desire and self-motivation to explore the tremendous potential that exists within one of the most challenging, rapidly developing, and innovative surgical practices. It is at this stage of curiosity and unshackled enthusiasm where the influence of a dedicated faculty mentor, and a division committed to enhancing clinical exposure for young medical students, has the greatest potential to bridge the gap between interest and opportunity—ultimately fostering the development of successors in the long line of reconstructive specialists. At the University of Miami, Dr. Thaller and his dedicated faculty and resident-fellows have played an integral role in enriching the clinical, academic, and scholarly environment for all interested medical students. Student attendance and participation in weekly grand rounds, morbidity and mortality conferences, monthly journal clubs, and visiting professor lectures have served as an educational foundation—driving medical students to expand upon their knowledge and understanding of the principles surrounding human function and form.

Under the guidance of the division’s faculty and resident-fellows, medical students have been given significant autonomy and responsibility in not only implementing, but also managing, scientific endeavors. As a medical student, the Division of Plastic Surgery has generated an environment where opportunities for clinical, academic, and scholarly exposure are limited only by our potential and desire to be as productive as we wish. During the academic year of 2010-2011 alone, students have led and participated in numerous clinical investigations including: a collaborative effort between UM and UCLA to clarify misconceptions related to intraosseous venous malformations of the zygoma within the plastic surgery literature; the application of Root Cause Analysis and its potential utility in surgical error reduction; and the origin and evolution of the inferior pedicle breast reduction, including a retrospective review of our experience with this technique at the University of Miami. Other studies managed by students in the division include: an evidence-based review of orbital floor reconstruction; the use of online-communication platforms during extended disaster relief; and post-operative antibiotic prophylaxis for implant-based breast reconstruction with AlloDerm tissue matrix, among others.

Unique to the medical community at the University of Miami is a powerful and devout commitment to leadership in international outreach. The Division of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgery at UM bares no exception. Recognized in the plastic surgery community for his outstanding humanitarian efforts, Dr. Thaller has led a team of plastic surgeons, under the umbrella of Project Medishare, to Haiti four times a year. The tragic events of the January 2010 earthquake were no exception. Dr. Thaller organized rotating teams of plastic surgeons from across the United States to treat over 500 traumatic injuries. Cases were diverse, ranging from burns to microsurgery to wound care. Our experience was presented at the annual American Society of Plastic Surgery Conference hosted in Denver, Colorado back in September of 2011.

At this University, the graduating class of 2012 holds a special place within the heart of the division, as there are five highly astute individuals applying for a position within one of the nation’s most prestigious residency models—Integrated Plastic Surgery. This milestone represents the highest volume of applicants in the institution’s history and reflects the caliber of dedication and enthusiasm displayed by the division’s faculty, residents, and staff in not only mentoring, but also inspiring, the minds that will constitute the future of this evolving profession. Undoubtedly, the Division of Plastic, Aesthetic, and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Miami offers an unparalleled opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill that obligation. The invaluable experience provided by this division has further enhanced our understanding of, and commitment to, the service, safety, and quality care of our patients—reinforcing our overall commitment to the tradition of plastic surgery.
Fresh Cadaver Dissection Course Held at Anspach Laboratories on December 10, 2011 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
Resident Welcoming Party
October 9, 2011

Post-Bariatric Surgery Poster Presentation at the Miami Obesity Symposium on October 10, 2011

ASMS Basic Course January 2011
Facial Aesthetic Lab with Dr. Stuzin on September 9, 2011 held at Center of Excellence for Laparoscopic & Minimally Invasive Surgery, DeWitt Daughtry Department of Surgery - University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Residents Mock Oral Exams January 26, 2012

Resident on Resident Botox/Fillers Training
UM Medical Students Suture Workshop held in Rosenstiel Medical Science Building

Visiting Professor, Foad Nahai, M.D.
Emory University, February 8, 2012

MSPS Visiting Professor, Dr. Malcolm Paul
September 21, 2011

ASMS Visiting Professor,
Dr. Michael J. Yaremchuck
November 2, 2011
The Many Faces of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fundraising Campaign

The Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery is 1-year into its 3-year fundraising campaign to raise funds to support Resident’s Education and advance research. Thanks to the handful of alumni who have answered the call thus far. Contributions and pledges to the campaign can still be made by checks or credit cards. For additional information on how you can be a part of the “Campaign”, please contact Cory Witherspoon, Director of Development at (305) 243-4150.

- EDUCATION
- RESEARCH

Upcoming Campaign Activities

PLASTIC SURGERY FUNDRAISING RECEPTION

Wednesday, June 6th, 2012
Location: TBA

PLASTIC SURGERY CLEFT LIP AND PALATE 5K STRIDES FOR SMILES

Sunday, June 10th, 2012
Location: Aventura Mall
Our Appreciation To The Following For Their Sponsorship:

Palm Beach County Plastic Surgeons Society
Dedicated to Excellence