ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW & EDITORIAL
by Robert J. Havlik, MD

Dr. Hugo Obwegeser is Recognized for Converse Lecture & ASMS Lifetime Achievement Award

As the 2008 Annual Meeting drew to a close in Chicago, the Obama presidency began with his speech in Grant Park. The beautiful weather that we had enjoyed during our meeting in Chicago rapidly gave way to 2008 early winter. The winds of change are upon the country.

Plastic surgery has long been a specialty that draws strength from and relies upon the excellence of its training, its core values, and the diversity of its skills. These qualities have allowed the specialty to remain “flexible” and able to adapt to change. These traits were evident at the Annual Meeting. They have also been responsible for the long tradition of innovation and the rapid integration of new techniques into mainstream practice, which in turn have been critical components of plastic surgery’s success.

The 2008 meeting led off with the ASPS & ASMS sponsored pre-conference symposium the “Functional and Aesthetic Reconstruction of the Craniofacial Skeleton Symposium” organized by Dr. Mimis Cohen. As has been the pattern for the past several years, the symposium was very well attended and led to a healthy dialogue amongst participants. The quality of the program was excellent, and the symposium received very strong reviews.

Dr. Andrew Wexler’s Presidential Address was a high point of the Annual Meeting. You will find the address printed in its entirety in this issue of Dr. Hugo Obwegeser (center); with symposium co-chairs Dr. Cohen (left); and Dr. Pravin Patel (right)

“ARTISTS IN FACIAL RESTORATION “
Annual Meeting Presidential Address
Dr. Andrew Wexler

I really wanted to speak this afternoon on the sub prime mortgage crisis, the Wall Street bailout and Joe the plumber, but I didn’t want to cover esoteric subjects that nobody had been talking about. I choose instead to talk about Family Values. The family values shared by the sister and brother organizations, which help make up the ASPS.

On the door of my office is a quote from Dr. Gasper Tagliacozzi a founding father of plastic surgery. In 1597, he wrote “We restore and repair that which nature has given but fortune has taken away not so much that it please the eye of the beholder but that it buoy the spirit of the afflicted.” Each of us were trained first as physicians, then as surgeons, and then as plastic surgeons; every one of us were trained to be a healer through our words, through our touch, through our empathy and understanding of the suffering of others. What a privilege to be given the skills to touch other people in this way to change the lives of others for the better. What a thrill it is to really make a difference in the lives of those around us. Those are the values that motivated most of us to become doctors.

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What drove us to be plastic surgeons? Was it the first time we saw the refreshed face of a facelift or was it the time we saw the face of a mother who first gazes upon her child’s repaired cleft? As plastic surgeons we still see ourselves as the healers who restore the lives of others. Our annual opening ceremonies reflect this with our Patients of Courage program, the images of women reconstructed, and children made whole.

The question is, when we look in the mirror is the image we see the same image that we project to others? In current pop culture we are Dr. Nip and Dr. Tuck and Dr. 90210. On Grey’s Anatomy, the popular TV show, the plastic surgeon is creative and skilled, but arrogant, egotistical and morally deficient.

In my life there are two recurrent scenarios that underscore our image. The first scenario we all share. You meet a women at a social function when she discovers you are a plastic surgeon she begins pulling at her face in an unnatural manner and discussing the shape of her breasts. In Los Angeles where I live it is so much easier to say you are an unemployed screenwriter and avoid the whole conversation.

The second scenario, I practice full time in the hospital for Kaiser Permanente; I have thousands of patient visits a year for a full range of plastic surgical problems. Every week a patient will say to me “I didn’t know Kaiser had plastic surgeons”; as if plastic surgeons would be out of place in the largest most comprehensive health care system in the county. Have we really disappeared from ERs and hospitals so completely that we are seen as somewhere outside the practice of medicine as a whole, and only as a form of boutique medical “providers”; surgical desert but not main course healers.

As ASMS President I sit on the reconstructive council expertly chaired by our ASPS President Dr. Rick D’Amico. At the table sit the leaders of all the sister societies dedicated to preserving the reconstructive and academic core of plastic surgery; hand surgeons, micro surgeons, burn surgeons, cleft surgeons, researchers. For me it is the most stimulating meeting of the year for...
ASMS MEMBER TREATS SEVERE EQUINE INJURY by Stephen A. Chidyllo, MD

Elaine Ferri was a horse trainer with extensive experience, when one day, everything changed. While trying to teach a three year old filly to accept a halter, the horse slipped away and kicked out as she broke free, striking Ferri in the face. The trainer sustained several facial injuries with multiple fractures. Her initial stabilization and care provided by Dr. Stephen Chidyllo of Los Angeles was key to her recovery.

However, Ferri was left with loss of her left eye and a significant facial deformity including orbital and nasal fractures. Worse yet, she had no health insurance to help her with the reconstruction. Through contacts within this community, Ferri reached ASMS member Stephen Chidyllo, MD, DDS. In conjunction with Dr. Barry Ellison, Dr. Chidyllo performed a surgery four years ago on a former University Medical Center that restored Ferri’s face. The surgery was accomplished with all expenses paid. Dr. Chidyllo reconstructed portions of the skull, the orbit, the nose, and the mucosal with the use of prosthetic implants. Both Dr. Chidyllo and Dr. Ellison provided their services without compensation. Dr. Angela Cinel, medical director of the New Jersey Sports Exposition Authority, who put Ferri in contact with Dr. Chidyllo, describes the result as “transform.” Elaine Ferri is deeply grateful to Dr. Chidyllo for restoring her face, and allowing her the chance to return to her career as a trainer and a normal person.

MAXILLOFACIAL NEWS
The American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, the oldest American organization representing maxillofacial surgeons, is devoted to stimulating interest, advancing knowledge, improving leadership and direction within the areas of maxillofacial and craniofacial surgery. Its members are dedicated to improving and promoting the highest level of patient care.

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Editor
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Manager
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Writers
Robert Havlik, MD • Arun Gosain, MD • Andrew Wexler, MD, MA, FACS

Subscription Rates
Second subscription (member): $15
Non-member: $35

First Class Postage is paid in Arlington Heights, IL

Postmaster
Send address changes to Maxillofacial News: American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, 444 East Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4864.

Phone: (800) 849-4860 or Email: asms@plasticsurgery.org

Maxillofacial News is published periodically for members of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, a non-profit organization. The subscription price is included in annual membership dues.

The views expressed in articles, editorials, letters and other communications published by ASMS are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editors of the Society. Comments and questions should be sent to Maxillofacial News Editor (see address above).
under the umbrella of ASPS all of these societies are working together to advance the science and care for our patients and champion the image of plastic surgery to our colleagues, our government and society as a whole. The council’s job is to maintain and promote the historic values of plastic surgery – the reconstructive core of who we are. Each of us on the council performs aesthetic procedures in our practice, so it is an important part of plastic surgery as a whole, and we cannot exist without it. When ASPS became ASMS we dropped the R because we wanted no difference perceived between the plastic surgeon and the reconstructive surgeon. We didn’t drop the R because we wanted it to go away. A dermatologist with minimal training may do a face-lift, but can he rebuild the facial structures? A gynecologist will do liposuction but can he fill the defect from a liposarcoma?

There are many specialties who can claim the mantle of cosmetic plastic surgeons but none can combine the skills of reconstruction and aesthetics that is inherent to the training of plastic surgeons...

We are the total package, the whole enchilada, and it is our speciality to survive each of us must promote that message to our colleagues in our hospitals and E.R.s, to our patients in our offices, and to the media and society as a whole.

For more than 60 years the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons has championed the core values of plastic surgical restoration of the craniofacial structures. Through education, advocacy and the fellowship of our members we strive to maintain the skills and reputation of plastic surgeons as the true artists in facial restoration. I use the word restoration because it represents the marriage of the aesthetic eye with the reconstructive hand. Beauty may be skin deep but ugly goes to bone. Restoring the lives of those with crippling facial deformity requires that we maintain the reconstructive core of our knowledge and ability. For more than 30 years, ASMS has taught the basic maxillofacial course to residents around the country. It is the oldest continuous course in plastic surgery and is attended by more than 100 residents a year. Our educational programs include the pre symposium at the annual meetings, the core resident course, our international scholarships, the visiting professors program, and our research grants. Our newest project is the Hyperguide our continually expanding online MOC and CME compatible educational program for plastic surgery of the head and neck. ASMS is an advocate for our patients and endeavors to raise the public awareness of our specialty. This year our organization has been an advocate for universal coverage for children with congenital deformities as well as orthodontic coverage for children with clefts. In June in cooperation with ASPS we launched our all terrain vehicle safety campaign to educate the public to the potential dangers of ATV’s and the plastic surgeons role in caring for those injured in ATV accidents.

Our ASMS membership includes leaders in the field of facial restoration and we are bound in the purpose of maintaining the historic core values of what it means to be plastic and reconstructive surgeons. A reconstructive surgeon attempts to bring the face back to the pre injury condition. An aesthetic surgeon attempts to improve upon the existing “normal.” As maxillofacial plastic surgeons we endeavor to do both and we welcome those of you who share our values to join our membership.

Last Year’s ASMS President Dr. Seth Thaller spoke of the importance of mentorship in building the next generation of plastic surgeons. My life in plastic surgery has been guided by the past presidents of ASMS whom I thank for their guidance and their example of dedication to the core values of plastic surgery. I add a special thank you to Dr. Henry Kawamoto for over 20 years my mentor and my friend. I also give thanks for my personal family values, the support of my parents, the love of my wife Geri, and the great joy I derive from my daughters Rebecca and Sarah.

In the spirit of our host city, I would ask all of you to vote early and vote often but most important vote your commitment to return to our roots as healers and — the creed expressed by Tagliacozzi “to buoy the spirit of the afflicted.”
Dr. Warren Schubert gives a year-end review of the success of the ASMS Bash Maxillofacial.

Dr. Andrew Wexler turns ASMS Presidential gavel over to Dr. Kevin Kelly.
ASMS CRANIO FELLOWSHIP
This program provides two scholarships annually to provide funding for graduates of cranio-maxillofacial fellowships in the United States and Canada to visit centers of excellence. Eligible candidates must currently be enrolled in a cranio-maxillofacial fellowship or within 5 years of completion of their training. The award recipients will receive $5,000 each for travel, to begin after the Annual Meeting or after fellowship training is complete. We encourage all fellows who are enrolled in cranio-maxillofacial fellowships to apply.

APPLICATION DUE DATE: July 31, 2009 for funding through December 31, 2010

ASPS/PSEF AND ASMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM
This program provides scholarships intended for plastic surgeons from abroad to come to the United States for three to six months study at top programs in cranio-maxillofacial surgery in the United States and Canada. The International Scholar program is jointly administered by the ASMS and the PSEF, providing approximately $8,000 in funding for each scholar. Applications will be available in early February 2009 through the ASMS website (www.maxface.org) and the PSEF website (www.plasticsurgery.org) for funding in 2010.

APPLICATION DUE DATE: July 31, 2009 for funding in 2010

ASMS RESIDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM
This program allows plastic surgery residents with a proven interest in cranio-maxillofacial surgery to attend the Annual ASPS/PSEF/ASMS Meeting and pre-meeting symposium dedicated to restorative surgery of the cranio-maxillofacial structures. Travel expenses and registration fees for the pre-meeting symposium are provided by the scholarship.

NOMINATIONS DUE DATE: July 1, 2009 for funding to attend Plastic Surgery 2009

ASMS VISITING PROFESSORS PROGRAM
This program sponsors travel expenses for 5 visiting professors annually to visit accredited plastic surgery training programs in North America. The visiting professors and their areas of expertise are outlined on the ASMS website or contact the ASMS Administrative Office for a brochure (1-800-849-4862).

ASMS RESEARCH GRANTS
Grants of up to $10,000 per year are offered for basic and clinical research in maxillofacial surgery, distributing $40,000 in research funds annually.

GRANT PROPOSAL DUE DATE: July 1, 2009 for funding through December 31, 2010
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ASMS UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 20 – 22, 2009
ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles and Techniques
University of Miami, The Miller School of Medicine
Miami, FL
Local Host: Seth Thaller, MD
Chairs: Warren Schubert, MD, Andrew Wexler, MD, and Pravin Patel, MD
Earn up to 19.5
AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

FEBRUARY 22, 2009
Refresher Course on Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery
University of Miami, The Miller School of Medicine
Miami, FL

JULY 10-12, 2009
Steven Mathes Reconstructive Symposium
The Ritz Carlton, Dallas, TX
Chairs: Gregory R.D. Evans, MD and Keith E. Brandt, MD
Jointly Sponsored by: ASMS, ASPS, AAHS, ASPN, and ASRM
held in conjunction with “Techniques in Flap Dissection with Cadaver Workshop”
at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
Chair: Michel Saint-Cyr, MD

JULY 31 – AUGUST 2, 2009
ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles and Techniques
University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA
Local Hosts: Joseph Serletti, MD and Scott P. Bartlett, MD
Chairs: Warren Schubert, MD, Andrew Wexler, MD, and Pravin Patel, MD

OCTOBER 22, 2009
ASPS/ASMS Pre-Conference Symposium
Seattle, WA
Jointly Sponsored by: ASPS & ASMS

OCTOBER 22 – 28, 2009
ASPS/PSEF & ASMS Annual Meeting
PLASTIC SURGERY 2009
The premier educational and networking experience is coming to the Northwest!
Washington State Convention & Trade Center
Seattle, WA

ASMS IS GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT THIS YEAR!

Biomet Microfixation
$10,000 ASMS International Scholar Program
$20,000 ASMS Resident Scholar Program
$20,000 ASMS Past Presidents/Resident Scholar Reception
$35,000 ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles & Techniques Course (Chicago, IL)

Dr. Douglas Ousterhout
$10,000 ASMS CRANIO Fellowship

KLS-Martin, L.P.
$20,000 ASMS Basic Course Videos
$35,000 ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles & Techniques Course (Palo Alto, CA)
$10,000 ASMS Presidential Reception
$5,000 ASPS/ASMS Pre-Conference Symposium

Medical Modeling
$2,500 ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles & Techniques Course (Palo Alto, CA)
$2,500 ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles & Techniques Course (Chicago, IL)

Permacol
$1,500 ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles & Techniques Course (Palo Alto, CA)

Porex Surgical
$6,000 ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles & Techniques Course (Palo Alto, CA)
$6,000 ASMS Basic Maxillofacial Principles & Techniques Course (Chicago, IL)

Stryker
$35,000 ASMS Visiting Professor Program

Synthes CMF
$38,000 ASMS Research Grant Awards
$2,000 ASMS Best Paper Awards
$5,000 ASMS Best Clinical Paper Award

World Craniofacial Foundation
$6,500 ASMS International Scholar Program