Answering the Challenges of Facial Plastic Surgery
cutting edge / otolaryngology

Washington University Physician and Director of the Facial Plastic Surgery Center, Gregory Branham, MD
Facial Plastic Surgery Center: Answering the Challenges of the Future

Despite the downturn in the economy, demand for services from the Facial Plastic Surgery Center continues to increase for both cosmetic and reconstructive procedures.

This is consistent with a recent national survey by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS) which polled 2,700 member surgeons and found that 80 percent reported an increase in demand for non-invasive procedures over the past year. The most common reasons given were to delay the aging process and to postpone surgery. Other significant trends were an increase in couples having surgery and pre-wedding procedures in preparation for the big day. Procedures in men are also on the rise. According to the data, the main motivators for this upward trend in male facial plastic surgery include the desire to remain competitive in the workplace and to be attractive to their partners. While many individuals seem to be curtailing the purchase of big-ticket luxury items, they seem more willing than ever to invest in their appearance, particularly their facial appearance.

The shift in demand to less invasive procedures has led to a shift in the types of procedures that are performed in the office versus the operating room. Facial cosmetic surgery, including rhinoplasty and facial rejuvenation, has traditionally been performed on an outpatient basis; however there is increasing demand for outpatient surgery to be done in the office.

The Facial Plastic Surgery Center has risen to the challenge and has developed safe, effective surgical procedures that can be done in the office with minimal sedation including facelifts, blepharoplasties and some nasal surgeries. Larger or combination procedures continue to be done on an outpatient basis with an overnight stay at Barnes Jewish West County Hospital; this approach is tailored to the special needs of the cosmetic surgery patient.

We are proud to continue the tradition of training in facial plastic surgery that was started many years ago with the hiring of one of the first full-time academic facial plastic surgeons, J. Regan Thomas, MD, and to support subspecialty training in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. To continue this legacy, the department established a new fellowship program in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. The fellowship, which is accredited through AAFPRS, has trained three fellows to date: Arash Moradzadeh, MD, is currently in private practice in Beverly Hills, CA; Scott Walen, MD, FRCS, is on the faculty at St. Louis University; and our current fellow, Andrew Compton, MD, will be starting a private practice in East Lansing, MI.

The resident educational program has adapted to maintain relevance as well, and we currently have a senior and a junior resident rotate on the facial plastic surgery service. In addition to the cosmetic services we provide to patients at our west county office, we supervise the care of patients and training of residents in facial trauma and soft tissue reconstruction. These cases continue to be performed at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital South campus.

We are very pleased to welcome John Chi, MD, to our program, effective July 1st. Chi, a fellowship trained facial plastic surgeon, will provide the Facial Plastic Surgery Center with a wealth of clinical and teaching experience.

— Gregory Branham, MD, FACS
Professor, Otolaryngology

Gregory Branham, MD, professor and chief of facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, joined the Washington University faculty in 2004 after completing his fellowship in the Department of Otolaryngology at Washington University under the direction of J. Regan Thomas, MD, in 1990. Dr. Branham serves as the fellowship program director.

To learn more about educational opportunities in the Department of Otolaryngology, visit us at http://oto.wustl.edu.
First Annual Midwest Soft Tissue Skills Course
Rekindling a Tradition in Resident Education

On Saturday, March 10, 2012, residents and faculty from several otolaryngology programs came together to reinstate the Midwestern Universities Resident Education Collaborative, a hands-on workshop in facial plastic surgery education. The mission of this course was to enhance otolaryngology resident education through laboratory-based, practical skills training in the areas of trauma, reconstruction and aesthetic surgery of the face, head and neck. Attendants of this one-day course included residents and fellows from all levels of otolaryngology training. Faculty included course organizer Mark Checcone, MD, Gregory Branham, MD, and Scott Walen, MD, from Washington University, along with David Chang, MD, from University of Missouri-Columbia, and Michael Brenner, MD, from Southern Illinois University.

The course was organized as a two-part program. The morning session featured faculty presentations complemented by demonstrations on cadaveric dissections projected to the audience using three-dimensional video. The afternoon practical skills laboratory session allowed residents the opportunity to hone their surgical dexterities and practice the same procedures demonstrated by faculty.

The program was held at the Practical Anatomy and Surgical Education (PASE) Learning Center on the Saint Louis University campus and was supported by a grant from the Biomet Corporation. Both residents and faculty provided strong positive feedback on the course program, acknowledging the tremendous value of such programs in the enrichment of resident training.

One of the goals of future sessions will be the inclusion of additional Midwest otolaryngology training programs.

Save the Date: Ogura Lectureship & Resident Research Day

The 32nd Annual Ogura Lectureship will be held Friday, June 7th at the Eric P. Neuman Education Center on the Washington University Medical Center campus. The guest speaker for this special event will be Carol R. Bradford, MD, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology at University of Michigan Health System and Co-Director of the Head & Neck Oncology Program. The 27th Annual Resident Research Day will be another highlight of the Ogura Lectureship and will feature presentations of original research by otolaryngology alumni, residents and graduate students. For additional information, please contact:
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The Broad Spectrum of Care in Facial Plastic Surgery

I am pleased to have this opportunity to update everyone on what I have been doing since graduation. Several years ago, I established a private facial plastic surgery practice in Palo Alto, California. My practice focuses on all aspects of aesthetic facial plastic surgery, ranging from comprehensive surgical rejuvenation to in-office procedures. I see patients in a newly constructed building that also houses a suite of fully accredited operating rooms. Being a very technically driven field, plastic surgery has an ever-changing landscape of available tools, and I am fortunate to be located in the heart of Silicon Valley, next to Stanford University, and near many of the innovative companies that have shaped and continue to shape the field of cosmetic surgery.

In addition to my full-time practice, I have been active in the education of residents at Stanford University and serve as the appointed Otolaryngology Representative on the Association of the Adjunct Clinical Faculty at Stanford. I also instruct at a number of national facial plastic surgery courses. One course that I particularly look forward to each year is Advances in Rhinoplasty, which I co-direct with Greg Branham, MD, at the Practical Anatomy and Surgical Education facility in St. Louis. This event gives me the opportunity to return to St. Louis and see many friends and colleagues.

I finished my residency in otolaryngology at Washington University in 2005, and every time I visit, I am impressed at the explosive growth that has occurred in the department and the institution. These changes are not surprising given the number of leaders and innovators in the field that are there. I owe so much of the excellent training I received; it certainly prepared me well for my postgraduate training at the University of Michigan, where I completed my facial plastic surgery fellowship with Shan Baker, MD. Serving on the faculty at Washington University following my fellowship also prepared me well for the leadership and teaching opportunities I have encountered since moving to the Bay Area.

Outside of work, I participate in a number of community programs. One particularly rewarding activity is a tattoo removal program. This program helps former gang members who have chosen to reform their lives remove the visible signs and labels of former gang membership and integrate back into society. In the time that is left, I am busy trying to raise my 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter with Midwestern values, and keeping my husband (John Sunwoo, MD, residency graduate ‘03) from working too hard.

I will always have a special fondness for Washington University and the people who trained me so well in all aspects of patient care, education, leadership and scholarly endeavors. I frequently think of my former mentors, after whom I have strived to model myself professionally and ethically, and I am very grateful to have been able to spend a period of my life at Washington University.

— Jill Hessler, MD (residency graduate 2005)
Next Steps for 2012 Graduates

Residents

Joseph Bradley, MD
Next steps: I have accepted a one-year fellowship in laryngology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.
Highlights of residency: Forging relationships with faculty and staff who strive to be excellent clinicians and teachers. They truly comprise one of the greatest ENT departments in the nation.

Daniel Jensen, MD
Next steps: A one-year fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Highlights of residency: The highlight of my residency has been the opportunity to work with and learn from the amazing people we have among the faculty and residents of this department.

Zachary Kneass, MD, PhD
Next steps: I will be joining a general private practice, North County Ear Nose and Throat-Head and Neck Surgery, in San Diego, CA.
Highlights of residency: My most memorable moment was successfully establishing the airway on my first emergency airway call as a PGY-2.

Eric Slattery, MD
Next steps: I will start a two-year neurotology fellowship at the Michigan Ear Institute.
Highlights of residency: Working with such highly driven co-workers, learning surgery, conducting research and starting a family

Fellows

Andrew Compton, MD
Next steps: I will be starting a Facial Plastic Surgery Division in a private ENT group in East Lansing, MI.
Highlight of fellowship: The highlight of my fellowship has been working with Dr. Branham to acquire the confidence and tools to manage extremely complex surgical issues.

Maha Al Gilani, MD
Next steps: I have been accepted to the Master of Science in Clinical Investigation Program at Washington University.
Highlight of fellowship: The opportunity to work with such a hard working and fun group of residents. They are a shining example of team work.
Joel Goebel, MD, served visiting professorships at three international conferences earlier this year. Goebel travelled to Dubai, UAE in January and to Bradford, UK and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in February.

Richard Chole, MD, PhD, was awarded a Presidential Citation at the 146th Annual Meeting of the American Otological Society, in recognition of his “national leadership in education and research and his inspiring example of integrity, humility and generosity.”

Brian Nussenbaum, MD, was voted by residents to receive the Teacher of the Year Award for 2012 for the Department of Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery.

Jianxin Bao, PhD, Jeffery Lichtenhan, PhD, Nancy Murray, PhD, and Mark Warchol, PhD, recently received government grants to study such topics as age-related hearing loss, inner ear function, auditory training and cochlear regeneration.

Barbara Bohne, PhD, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Auditory Society. The award was presented at the 40th annual AAS Scientific and Technology Conference held March 7-9, 2013 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Bohne, pictured here with husband and researcher Gary Harding, MSE, was recognized for her lifelong contributions to our understanding of the effects of noise on inner ear tissues.

Ravi Uppaluri, MD, PhD, received a Window of Opportunity Award from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Oncology Research Program. This two-year Phase II clinical trial will test the effectiveness of the MEK inhibitor GSK1120212 in surgically resectable oral squamous cell cancer.

Selected Publications


The Department of Otolaryngology will host a joint meeting of the Midwest Auditory Research Conference (MARC) and the Midwest Auditory Neuroscience Symposium (MANS) on the Washington University Medical Center campus, July 17-19, 2014. The MARC-MANS meeting will span 2.5 days with sessions devoted to basic, clinical and translational hearing science. The spirit of the 2014 MARC-MANS is to provide an inexpensive and informal setting in which to disseminate recent progress in auditory research and to foster both regional and interdisciplinary collaborations. There is no cost associated with registration for the 2014 MARC-MANS and student participation is encouraged. John Guinan, Jr, PhD, and Christopher Shera, PhD, of Harvard Medical School will be the featured keynote speakers. To learn more, visit: http://marc-mans.wustl.edu, or contact:

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