



# NESPS Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons  
April 2005

## From the President...



The 2004 Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons was held on January 19-22, 2005 in beautiful Naples, Florida. While the Board has frequently considered the possibilities of holding a meeting outside the Northeast, we have until this meeting never been so adventurous as to move our meeting to such a distant location. We have

on a regular basis gone to Bermuda, and this tradition will continue with a Bermuda meeting in 2007. But Bermuda aside, and a couple of visits to Montreal and Quebec City, we have held all our meetings in the Northeast until this year. Because the National meeting of the ASPS was in Philadelphia in October of 2004, the Board chose to vacate this time frame and a Northeastern location, and move to Naples, Florida in January.

The meeting was successful on many levels. Educationally, the panels of our local experts were particularly valuable, thorough, and well-received, covering topics of Lower Eyelid Surgery, Breast Reconstruction, Digital Imaging, and Orbital Trauma. **Thomas Baker** presented the Courtiss Memorial lecture, covering his marvelous and illustrious evolution as a master at Rhytidectomy surgery. The annual resident competition featured four entries each for clinical and basic science work, producing a winner in the clinical category, **Michael A. Howard** of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, and two winners (a tie) in the scientific category, **Katherine Au** of Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA and **Vu Nguyen** of the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, a newly created Presidents' Award named in honor of all the former NESPS Presidents, was awarded for the best paper presented at the Annual Meeting by an active member of our society. This year's winner was **Babak J. Mehrara**, also from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The social events were all held at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, which hosted the meeting. All were well attended, including the Welcome reception, an informal barbecue, and the President's Award Dinner.

Two hands-on Digital Technology seminars organized by **Dick Dabb** and a very popular and successful golf tournament rounded out the activities.

In the exit survey, 90% of the attendees liked the location and format sufficiently to recommend a return to this same venue in the future.

While Naples will be a hard act to follow, our next meeting is scheduled for November 3-5, 2005 at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington DC. This will be our third Washington meeting and promises to be a good one. **Scott Spear**, the current President of the ASPS, who gave the Keynote Address at the Naples meeting, will present the Courtiss Memorial Lecture, a natural choice as he was a good friend of **Gene Courtiss** and is based in Washington. Plans are in progress for the inauguration of a newly instituted lectureship in Reconstructive Surgery as well as the keynote address. The welcome reception will be held at the elegant Cosmos Club and the Presidential dinner will be at the beautiful Sequoia Restaurant on the Potomac. All in all it should be a great weekend in our nation's capital.

Finally, I am pleased to report that our society is on sound financial ground. Under the guidance of our former Treasurer, **David Leitner**, and our newly elected Treasurer, **Lou Bucky**, both our General Fund and the Second Decade Fund are stable and enabling us to meet our membership's needs. The officers, board members and executive staff look forward to seeing as many of you and our plastic surgical residents in training as possible in Washington.

*Ken Marshall, MD, FACS*

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## The Historian's Report 2000-2004

The Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons (NESPS) has enjoyed a productive half decade that was marked by several milestone events. **Eugene Courtiss** a founder and the first president of NESPS, passed away on July 11, 2000. The society went through a period of introspection during the subsequent years. The second decade fund had matured and a decision was required about how to utilize the funds. This issue brought about a discussion of the mission of the society and whether it should be affirmed or altered. During this time there was a concomitant period of increasing chaos in the practice arena regarding reimbursement, competing specialties, ethics, malpractice, etc. How did these critical issues impact on the membership and how should the society respond, if at all? These and other topics were under continuous discussion as the society continued to evolve. Throughout this period the organization was managed with the assistance of **Catherine B. Foss**, Executive Director, and her capable staff in Hanover, NH.

**Glenn Jelks** led the NESPS as president in 2000. The events of that year were marked by the emergence of the NESPS Newsletter edited by **Tom Davis**. The Newsletter is a biannual publication which updates the membership on the important issues of the society. Dr. Jelks used the summer issue to present the plans for the upcoming meeting in Montréal, Quebec, Canada. Other proceedings of note were the introduction of the NESPS website ([www.nesps.org](http://www.nesps.org)), and the remarkable success of **Henry Spinelli's** membership recruitment drive. At the interim board meeting there was discussion about how to spend the proceeds of the Second Decade Fund. It was decided that the money would be used to provide funding for annual meeting speakers, with the total amount not to exceed 5% of the fund's value in any given year. **Mark S. Granick**, By-laws Committee Chairman, oversaw a number of bylaws changes which were approved by the membership. These changes were meant to modernize the By-laws and make them more consistent with the ASPS.

Dr. Courtiss's passing in the summer of 2000 after a long bout with melanoma, struck a chord within the NESPS. Dr. Courtiss was born and bred in New England and practiced in Newton, MA throughout his career. He was internationally known for aesthetic surgery and was active in many professional societies including the NESPS as a founder and first president. He also served as president of the Massachusetts Society of Plastic Surgeons, the New England Society of Plastic Surgeons, and the Aesthetic Society. He served on the American Board of Plastic Surgeons and was eventually elected as chairman. Dr. Courtiss participated in many PSEF Symposia and received the Distinguished Service Award from both the PSEF and the Aesthetic Society. He was survived by his wife Barbie, who still attends many of our national meetings.

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## The Historian's Report - Continued

The Seventeenth Annual meeting was held in Montreal in September 2000. The program chairman, **Charles Thorne** put together a mixed session including instructional courses, panels, and free papers. **Christopher Godek** of the University of Pennsylvania was awarded the outstanding resident presentation for a paper entitled: *The Use of Preadipocytes for Soft Tissue Augmentation*. The membership decided at the business meeting to create a named lectureship for future annual meetings in honor of **Eugene Courtiss**. **David Leitner** directed the social arrangements which included for the banquet in the Marche Bonsecours.

The Eighteenth Annual meeting was held October 2001 in Philadelphia, the site of the first annual meeting and is home of **Scott Bartlett**, President. **Gil Gradinger** was honored as the first Eugene Courtiss Lecturer. The meeting was a blend of aesthetic and reconstructive sessions made up of panels, instructional courses, invited talks and papers. **Louis Bucky** was the program chairman and used a novel mix of sessions to keep members involved and interested. For the first time, 2 resident awards were given for best presentation of basic science work (**Jian-Wei Xu**), and clinical work (**G. William Austen, Jr.**) both from Harvard. **Brien Murphy** put together an outstanding social program including a trip to the Barnes Museum, and the banquet at the Union League.

**Robert M. Davis**, President, hosted the Nineteenth Annual Meeting in Bermuda in October 2002. **Don Mackay** was the program chairman and **Tom Davis** was in charge of local arrangements. **J. William Little** was kind enough to volunteer his services and expertise to put on a free half-day symposium on Sculptural Rejuvenation of the Head, Neck, and Facial Features. **James May**, who wrote a moving obituary about Dr. Courtiss for the Newsletter and delivered the second Courtiss Lecture. The resident award winners were **Constance M. Chen** for Clinical Research and **Stephen M. Warren** for Basic Science.

The Twentieth Annual Meeting occurred in Baltimore in October of 2003 during **Henry Spinelli's** term as president. For the first time there was a strong presence of the ASPS at the meeting. ASPS President **James Wells** was the keynote speaker and put on a forum for political and economic issues. **Robert Goldwyn** presented the Courtiss Lecture. **Robert Silich** as program chairman designed a well-balanced format mixing panels with papers. **Maurice Nahabedian**, local arrangements chairman, arranged the Presidential Dinner at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel and a fascinating dinner at the Baltimore Aquarium. Winners of the resident awards were **Suhail Kanchwala** for Clinical Research and **Jorge A. Conejero** for Basic Science.

**Charles Thorne**, initiated his presidential year with a review of the NESPS mission statement in the first Newsletter of 2004. This theme was present at the interim board meeting during discussions regarding possible additional uses for the Second Decade Fund surplus. The society's goal is to provide a forum for continuing education and social interaction. This goal was achieved by the annual meeting. Rather than expand the focus of the organization, the board reaffirmed the NESPS mission and committed the entire fund surplus to enhancing future annual meetings. Program chair for this year's meeting was **Geoff Gurtner**. **Steven Colen** was the local arrangements chair and was responsible for making the golf outing arrangements.

The NESPS has maintained its mission of education and camaraderie via the annual meeting. The organization has weathered the loss of Dr. Courtiss, a founder of NESPS, and has named an annual lectureship in his honor. The Courtiss Memorial Lecture is now funded by the proceeds of the Second Decade Fund. The organization is strong and vibrant.

Mark S. Granick  
Historian (2000-2004)

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## Highlights of the 21st Annual Meeting

When **Scott Spear** served as President of the Society in 1999, he convened a strategic planning session to consider the future direction of our Society. One of the questions discussed was the possibility of planning our annual meeting in distant locations at a time other than the fall, our traditional time. With the ASPS meeting in Philadelphia in October, the Board decided to test the foundation of our Society by organizing a meeting in January in Naples, Florida.

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons was held January 19-22, 2005 at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club in Naples, Florida. This successful venture was directed by President **Charles H. Thorne** and Program Chairman **Geoffrey Gurtner**.

Two Digital Technology Seminars were presented Thursday afternoon and again on Saturday afternoon. In addition, an ASPS Advocacy Seminar was also included Saturday.

Forty-six excellent scientific papers were selected by the Scientific Program Committee from 114 abstracts submitted. In addition to the papers five panels included:

- Lower Eyelids: What Works and What Does Not
- Breast Reconstruction-Current Controversies
- Digital Imaging
- Orbital Trauma
- Brow Lifting

It is interesting to note that five past Presidents of the Society were panel members and included: **James W. May, Jr., Joel J. Feldman, Glenn W. Jelks, Scott Spear, and Henry M. Spinelli**.

**R. Barrett Noone**, ABPS Executive Director, provided an update on the American Board of Plastic Surgery and the recent experience with the certificate renewal process. The keynote address was provided by past President **Scott Spear**,

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# The 22nd Annual Meeting

November 3-5, 2005 • Ritz Carlton • Washington, DC



## Meeting Highlights

### 5th Gene Courtiss Memorial Lecture

*Scott Spear, MD*

*President of the American Society of Plastic Surgery*

### A Special Lecture on Reconstructive Surgery

**Welcome Reception at the Cosmos Club**

**President's Reception and Award Dinner**

*The Sequoia Restaurant (on the Potomac)*

## Don't forget to submit an abstract for the 22nd Annual Meeting in Washington, DC!

The abstract submission form includes  
all the instructions you will need.

To submit an abstract, please visit [www.nesps.org](http://www.nesps.org)

**Deadline: April 15, 2005**

For meeting questions, contact the NESPS Executive Office at 603-643-2325  
or email [nesps@sover.net](mailto:nesps@sover.net)

## Welcome to Our New Members

**Nolis S. Arkoulakis, MD**

Edison, NJ

**Gregory A. Baum, MD**

Liverpool, NY

**Loren J. Borud, MD**

Boston, MA

**C. Coleman Brown, MD**

Chevy Chase, MD

**Wilfred Brown, MD**

Middlebury, CT

**Raymond Chang, MD**

Hershey, PA

**Stephen R. Colen, MD**

New York, NY

**Daniel Driscoll, MD**

Newton, MA

**Gregory A. Greco, MD**

Monmouth Beach, NJ

**Sarah Weiland Holland, MD**

New York, NY

**Ron Israeli, MD, FACS**

Great Neck, NY

**Michael Kutka, MD**

Newburyport, MA

**Anthony LaBruna, MD**

New York, NY

**Ann Letourneau, MD**

Port Jefferson, NY

**Shirley M Madhere, MD**

New York, NY

**Reza Miraliakbari, MD**

Hershey, PA

**Laurence Rheingold, MD, FACS**

Hyannis, MA

**Norman M. Rowe, MD, MHA**

New York, NY

**Ali Sajjadian, MD**

Pittsburgh, PA

**Davinder J. Singh, MD**

Philadelphia, PA

**Tzvi Small, MD**

Ridgewood, NJ

**Jeffrey D. Smith, MD**

Chelmsford, MA

**Michael S. Suzman, MD**

White Plains, NY

**Mia Talmor, MD**

New York, NY

**John M. Taylor, MD**

Long Branch, NJ

**Adam M. Tobias, MD**

Boston, MA

**Hakan Marc Usal, MD**

Pearl River, NY

**Jennifer Walden, MD**

New York, NY

**Richard Mark Winters, MD**

Hackensack, NJ

**June Wu, MD**

New York, NY

**George P. Zavitsanos, MD**

Fort Washington, PA

## Resident's Award Winners at the 21st Annual Meeting

### Best Paper by a Resident in Clinical Research



**Michael A. Howard**

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
for

*Free Tissue Transfer in the Elderly: Incidence of  
Peri-Operative Complications Following  
Microsurgical Reconstruction of 211  
Septuagenarians and Octogenarians*

### Best Papers by a Resident in Basic Research



**Vu T. Nguyen**

University of Pittsburgh  
for

*Allopeptide-Pulsed Dendritic Cells and  
Composite Tissue Allograft Survival*

&

**Katherine Au**

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center  
for

*The Demonstration of Gap Junction  
Intercellular Communications between Mast  
Cells and Fibroblasts in Rat Granulation Tissue*

## The Residents' Corner

Albany Medical College  
Albany, New York

The Division of Plastic Surgery has been significantly augmented with the addition of **Jerry Chao**. Jerry completed his plastic surgery training with **Tom Mustoe** at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago and completed the Orthopedic Hand and Microsurgery Fellowship at Columbia University. He has been a welcome addition.

Our current complement of residents include **Jeffrey LaGrasso**, the Independent Model Senior resident; **Susan Gannon**, the Integrated Model Senior Resident; **Nikesh Patel**, the PGY-5; **Joseph Thornton**, the PGY-4; **L. Shayne Webb**, the PGY-3; Benjamin Shalet, MD, the PGY-2; and **Adrian Pryzbala**, the PGY-1. **Joseph Wolf** will replace Dr. LaGrasso in the lone Independent position in July 2005. We have had two successful interview days and look forward to the Match results.

**Salman Ashruf**, who graduated in June 2004, is mid-way through a Breast and Aesthetic Fellowship with **Luis Vasconez** at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham. Dr. LaGrasso will pursue further training in Craniofacial Surgery with **John Reinisch** at Los Angeles Children's Hospital (USC). Dr. Gannon will enter private practice in Albany, NY.

We have completed our Site Visit by the RRC for Plastic Surgery in January 2005. We look forward to a satisfactory report.

*James G. Hoehn  
Head, Division of Plastic Surgery  
Training Program Director*

## Who Were Those Guys?

For those of you who were with us at the Presidential Awards Dinner in Naples, Florida last month, you may not have been aware of the stature of our guest musicians for the evening. Even if you are not a jazz fan, some of these names may be familiar to you.

The bass player, **Earl May (left)**, began his career in 1949 in New York City as a protégé of the legendary Charles Mingus. In 1951, Earl joined the Billy Taylor Trio, appearing regularly in such clubs as the Hickory House, Birdland and the Downbeat Club. During this period Earl also worked with Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, and recorded the classic "Lush Life" with John Coltrane.



The Earl May Quartet became the epitome of great music in the New York club scene. Over the years Earl has performed or recorded with Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Foster, Cab Calloway, Tommy Flanagan, Doc Cheatham, Charles Brown, John Hendricks, and Phyllis Hyman to name a few. He is currently featured with the Barry Harris Trio.

**Michael Garin (right)** was a co-creator of and starred in the off-Broadway hit *SONG OF SINGAPORE* winning both the Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk awards. He appears regularly at The Monkey Bar (2000 Bistro Award Winner for Best Singer/Instrumentalist) and is a Resident Composer and a member of the Adobe Theatre Company creating music and lyrics for their productions. His solo show is currently in pre-production for both New York and London engagements. He received a Jonathan Larson Foundation grant as well as a grant from the New York State Council for the Arts to write music and lyrics for their production of *A FISH STORY*. Michael sings in a multitude of languages and lives in New York City with his wife Ellen, two sons, and a Tarantula named "Fluffy."

Catherine Foss  
Executive Director

## Presidents' Award Winner

In addition to the traditional awards for the best clinical and research papers presented by a resident, a **new award** was added this year. **The Presidents' Award** honors the best paper presented by a non-resident member of the NESPS. Only former presidents of the NESPS in attendance at the meeting were entitled to vote for this prestigious new award. The winner received a plaque and free registration for the November 2005 meeting at the new Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC.



Dr. Mehrara receiving the award from Dr. Joseph McCarthy

This year's winner is **Babak J. Mehrara** from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for his presentation on *The Effect of Smoking on Complication Rate in Postmastectomy Tissue Expander/Implant Reconstruction*.

## Digital Photography Contest



Congratulations to **David Leber** who took this beautiful photograph while traveling in Antarctica. The prize for winning the Annual Meeting Digital Photography contest was a new digital camera donated by Canfield Clinical Systems.

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## Highlights of the 21st Annual Meeting - continued

who is the current President of the ASPS. Scott outlined his goals for his year as President of ASPS stressing coordination and cooperation with the various societies with the scope of plastic surgery. Scott complimented the Northeast Society on the continued quality and success of its annual meeting.

Thomas J. Baker was our fourth Courtiss Memorial Lecturer.

Tom was a close friend of Genes' and joined Gene as a founding member of ASAPS. Tom reviewed the history and the visiting professors associated with the well-known Baker-Gordon Symposium. Tom took pride in noting that the Baker-Gordon course shares the same roman numerals as the Superbowl. At the annual business meeting, Tom was elected to Honorary Member.

Overall, the Scientific Program was well-received, well-attended and stimulated superb discussions, one of the major attributes of our Society. All of this in spite of the wonderful weather enjoyed in Naples, Florida in January.

At the business meeting, sixteen active and thirteen candidate members were elected to membership. A bylaws addition was ratified by the membership for a new category of membership, Associate Member. Our associate membership will be the same as the ASPS Associate Membership. President Charlie Thorne officially transferred the Society's

gavel to incoming President Ken Marshall. Congratulations are due to Charlie for his excellent leadership and enthusiasm in organizing this meeting in a different time frame and outside of the Society's boundaries.

The social events, always an important feature of our meeting, included a welcome reception and indoor "beach barbecue". The Presidential Reception and Dinner Dance were held at the Hotel. Excellent entertainment was provided by Michael Garin and Earl May. At this dinner, the awards for Best Papers by a Resident, the Presidents' Award and the Digital Photography Award were given.

Contributing to the success of our meeting was the generous support of companies who provide exhibits at the meeting. The successful NESPS golf tournament held at the Naples Grande Golf Course was sponsored by INAMED, LifeCell and Mentor Corporation.

Plans are already in place for our 22nd Annual Meeting at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC November 3-5, 2005. Mark your calendar now and make plans to join us in celebrating 22 years of continuous excellent service to the plastic surgeons of the Northeast.

Thomas Davis  
Newsletter Editor



Members of the  
old and new Executive Committees

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## NESPS Newsletter

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**November 3-5, 2005**

**Ritz-Carlton Hotel**

**Washington, DC**

## 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**November 30 - December 2, 2006**

**Copley Plaza Hotel**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

## 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**October 3-7, 2007**

**Fairmont Southampton**

**Princess Hotel**

**Bermuda**



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