

## Sun, Science, Fun, Friends, and Family Highlight 53rd Annual SESPRS Meeting

The SESPRS 2010 annual scientific meeting was held at the beautiful Breakers Resort in Palm Beach, and by the number of members who came to the meeting and actually stayed until the end, the meeting was clearly a resounding success. The meeting was blessed with wonderful weather, albeit warm, which made the setting at the Breakers even more delightful. The scientific sessions were interesting, thought provoking, timely, and educational. Dr. Bernie Dunlap was our keynote speaker this year and challenged us with his thoughts on the meaning of life and the pursuit of happiness. As with all of his talks, he inspired us to introspect and to consider whether we are living a fulfilled life. Dr. Dunlap was followed by one of the most inspiring sessions we have had at the Southeastern. Our members were introduced to life as an active duty military plastic surgeon serving on the front lines of battle in both Afghanistan and Iraq. We learned of the challenges of surgery in the desert, caring for injuries that have no easy solution, and the care of chronic wounds that require long term plastic surgery expertise. The pictures were graphic, and brought us up close and personal to a war that is raging in the Middle East, with injuries that are devastating and life altering. Scientific Program Chair, Dr. Byron Barber summed this session up best when he said, "If after listening to CDR Anand Kumar, CAPT Robert Hersh, and COL Barry Martin, the three military plastic surgeons, your patriotic core was not reignited, then you must have been asleep. It was awesome."

There were so many highlights of the meeting that it is hard to say one session was better than another. The panel on face and limb transplantation by the world's leaders in the field, Dr. Marie Siemionow, Dr. Andy Lee, Dr. Linda Cendales, and Dr. Gerald Brandacher, showed the audience the incredible progress that is being made in the field of tissue allotransplantation. Their work in this most complex area of plastic surgery demonstrates the exciting future of plastic surgery. Other panels this year focused on breast surgery, including the work of Dr. Daniel Del Vecchio discussing his work with high volume autologous fat grafting to the breast, and our own members, Drs. Codner, Losken and Carlson, presenting some of their exciting work in reconstructive breast surgery. Dr. Codner presented a 15 year look back at breast implant surgery with important data mined from his practice. Dr. John McCraw and his panel of experts "wowed" the audience with incredible cases that challenged our thought processes and hopefully gave us information that will make us all better surgeons upon return to our practices. Dr. Neal Risemann spoke on prevention of DVT and PE and presented lessons from malpractice litigation. Always scary, but always educational.

On Wednesday, the last day of the meeting, an international panel of experts on facial rejuvenation presented their work on eyelid surgery, non operative surgery of the face, brow lift and facelift surgery. It was a scholarly panel that demonstrated both new and traditional approaches to facial surgery. For the first time, the SESPRS sponsored a teaching course on facial rejuvenation. It was taught by Dr. Tim Marten from San Francisco and was so well received, it sold out. The winner of the Glancy award this year was Dr. Yvonne Pierpont, for her paper on "Stem and Stem-Like Cells and Their Products Accelerate Experimental Wound Healing". This was the first time that the award has gone to the University of South Florida. Congratulations USF! Finally, a Special Achievement Award was given this year to Dr. Andy Moore for his tireless work with SOS, Surgery on Sunday, a program that provides free surgery for the indigent in Kentucky. His program has gained national attention on ABC television and CNN. He is a most deserving recipient of the award. Kudos to Dr. Moore, he is one of our own!

The opportunity to reunite with old friends and meet new ones was fostered by the social events so much a part of the Southeastern experience. The welcoming reception set the stage, but the "Beach Party" theme dinner with music by "The Drifters", gave everyone that "nostalgic summertime feeling", while the traditional dinner dance provided additional time to reconnect with family and friends. Outgoing President Jim Moore summed it up well. "No doubt, the Southeastern is my favorite meeting. I learn more and feel more energized when I return. It's such a great way to reconnect with old friends and have some R & R with family". If you didn't experience the Southeastern Annual Meeting this year, make sure that you plan on attending next year's meeting at the Naples Grand Beach Resort, Naples, FL, June 3-8, 2011. Then you too, can find out what the "Southeastern Experience" is all about!