

Southeastern Mourns the Loss of Two Leading Physicians

James H. Hendrix, Jr.
1920-2008

Founding Member and Past-President of the Southeastern, James H. (Jimmy) Hendrix, Jr. passed away in Nashville on October 20, 2008. He trained generations of plastic surgeons from programs in Jackson, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee. A native of Newbern, Tennessee, he obtained his medical degree (Alpha Omega Alpha) and a portion of his general surgery training at The University of Tennessee in Memphis, leading subsequently to his plastic surgery residency with Dr. Blocker in Galveston, Texas. After practicing back in Memphis with Milton and Lorenzo Adams, Dr. Hendrix relocated to Jackson in 1953, as the first plastic surgeon ever in the state of Mississippi.

When the University of Mississippi opened its four-year medical school in 1955, he became their first chairman of plastic surgery. Eventually, he relocated back to Memphis to reinvigorate the program there in 1972, where he remained the chairman until 1978, and actively taught residents until his retirement in 1991.

In addition to being a Founding Member of SESPRS, and President of this Society in 1969, he was the recipient of the Pickrell Award in 1988. Dr. Hendrix served as Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the American Society of Plastic

and Reconstructive Surgeons. He was a Founding Member of the Plastic Surgery Research Council, and served terms as Chairman and Secretary, hosting the second meeting in Jackson in 1956. He was elected a Fellow of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons in 1958, and was Historian of AAPS from 1966-1969. He was Chairman of the Residency Review Committee, and was an examiner for The American Board of Plastic Surgery for many years, serving also as a Director. Of all his accomplishments, he was perhaps proudest of the 45 years he worked with the Mississippi and Tennessee Crippled Children's Services.

Everyone has a favorite story about his chief. Mine has to be the time when we were in the operating room and my junior resident asked, "Boss, what do I do if I finish my training, open my office, and someone comes in with a problem I've never seen before?" After pausing to place another stitch, Dr. Hendrix looked over his famous black-rimmed half-glasses and answered, "Son, that's why it's called practice!"

Ron Johnson

John D. Franklin, M.D.
1942-2008

John Franklin died on September 16, 2008 in an automobile accident in Chattanooga, Tn.

John was well known nationally and internationally in the field of Microsurgical Reconstruction and was a major contributor to the development of that subspecialty. John was born in Louisville, Ky., and earned his Doctrine of Medicine from the University of Tennessee in Memphis in 1966

He completed his post-doctoral training at Vanderbilt University in both general surgery and plastic surgery, with additional training at St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia in 1979. He remained on the plastic surgical faculty with J.B. Lynch at Vanderbilt until 1982, when he joined the Department of Plastic Surgery at the Chattanooga Unit-Erlanger, University of Tennessee.

He rose to be professor of Plastic Surgery and Chairman of the Department from 1988 through 1995. He then founded the Specialists in Plastic Surgery in Chattanooga in 1996 and located his practice there.

James Madden

Extended, No Penalty Reservation Period for January 15-18, 2009, 25th Atlanta Breast Symposium

What--you haven't registered yet for the 2nd Oculoplastic Meeting and the 25th Annual Breast Symposium in Atlanta, January 15-18, 2009? To make it easier for you, for this year only, **we have waived the usual increase in the registration fee for those who register after the December 9 deadline.** There's still space available, so send in your registration today and the regular lower fee structure will still apply!

Abstract Deadline (January 30) for June Meeting in Puerto Rico Draws Near...

Will your abstract be your ticket to paradise?

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Society is slated to take place June 6-10, 2009 at the Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Hotel, a magnificent resort in Puerto Rico positioned along a beautiful one-mile stretch of pristine beach. So place the dates on your 2009 calendar, and **remember that the deadline for abstracts of January 30, 2009 will be here before you know it.** So start working on your abstract today! Another point to remember...abstracts are only accepted online and instructions are on the SESPRS website. We strongly encourage members to go to www.sesprs.org to submit your abstracts for the meeting, whether member papers, or resident prize abstracts.



Walt Erhardt, Editor

Winter 2009

Message From the President

After receiving my "official" copy of the last SESPRS newsletter in the mail, I was appalled at the number of typographical errors that slipped through my final proof of the document. It reminded me of a story related by the late humorist Lewis Grizzard who at one time was a sports writer for the *Athens Daily News*. In penning a story about the All Northeast Georgia female basketball player of the year, he wrote, "she hit 75 percent of her shots for the entire season." Well, you guessed it, somehow in the course of production the "o" of "shots" was changed to an "i" and it ended up reading "she hit 75 percent of her sh*ts for the entire season." He never lived that one down especially after a reader wrote in wanting to know what happened to the other 25 percent of them. Thus, proof reading is essential and I take full responsibility for any errors in the last newsletter and promise to do better with this one.

Having recently returned from the site visit at the Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Resort and Spa in Puerto Rico, the site of the SESPRS 2009 Annual Meeting, I have this to offer. If you didn't like Atlantis, you'll love Puerto Rico; if you liked Atlantis, you'll love Puerto Rico. There's something there for everyone and it will certainly be worth the trip. More details will be forthcoming but

go ahead and mark your calendars for June 6-10. You won't regret it.

While in Puerto Rico, I met with the President of the Puerto Rico Society of Plastic Surgeons, Natalio Debs. As you recall, at the 2008 business meeting in Boca Raton, the membership approved a bylaws change that allowed plastic surgeons of the Caribbean nations to seek membership in the Southeastern. The vast majority of these surgeons trained in the United States and they welcome the opportunity to participate in our premier regional society. Their application process will be identical to that of those living and practicing in the southeastern United States. Natalio promises a strong turnout by the membership of his organization, and we look forward to their program participation.

With the winter months upon us, attention always turns toward Atlanta where the 25th Annual Breast Symposium sponsored by the Southeastern will be held. This year marks a change in venue to the Hotel Intercontinental in Buckhead, across the street from the Hyatt where the symposium was held for quite a few years. The Intercontinental is a newer and more luxurious facility and



should add immeasurably to the symposium experience. In addition, the 2nd Annual Oculoplastic Symposium will immediately precede the Breast Symposium as it did last year and is also a Southeastern-sponsored program. After the tremendous success

of the inaugural event in 2008, the symposium for 2009 looks to be even better. If you haven't already made your plans to attend these wonderful educational opportunities, it's not too late to register.

In closing, I hope all of you have had a wonderful holiday season and I wish each of you a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year. I'll see you in Atlanta and Puerto Rico.

Jim Wade
SESPRS President

Breast Symposium: 25 Years of Educational Excellence

The **SESPRS Annual Breast Surgery Symposium**, which will take place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, January 16-18, 2009, can truly be called: "a meeting 25 years in the making..." for this year's program will hold true to its "roots", namely breast reconstruction and the TRAM flap.

The first TRAM flap was performed by Dr. Carl Hartrampf, September 9th, 1980 at St. Joseph Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. This was the culmination of years of thoughtful planning, collaboration with colleagues, and an extensive background in general, thoracic and hand surgery. Those colleagues exposed to the development of the flap realized the significance of Dr. Hartrampf's technique and discussed how it could best be shared. It was Dr. John Hartley who conceived of the idea of a live surgery Breast Symposium based on this new technique of breast reconstruction: the TRAM FLAP.

And so, in January of 1985, under the SESPRES Presidency of Dr. Andy Walker, the 1st SESPRES Breast Surgery Symposium took place. The program was solely based on the TRAM Flap and Dr. Hartrampf performed a unilateral breast reconstruction with a pedicled TRAM flap "live" from St. Joseph Hospital. "I had no idea what to expect from the first symposium", remembers Dr. Hartrampf, "I simply left this up to John Hartley." And, with Dr. Hartley as the program director and Dr. Paul Black as moderator in the auditorium during the live surgery, the program was a success. The surgery went off without a hitch, the patient did well, and the attendees were able to see and interact with Dr. Hartrampf via the "live" video feed.

Discussing that first Symposium, Dr. Hartrampf said, "After that first Symposium, John Hartley told me we were going to

do it again, and we would do a bilateral reconstruction. This gave me some hesitation, but we did it", and that 2nd Symposium was also a great success. From these beginnings 25 years ago, the SESPRES Breast Surgery Symposium has continued to add to the educational programming offered by adding faculty and expanding the scope of topics presented.

The 3rd Symposium was jointly chaired by Drs. Frank Elliott and Phil Beegle with Dr. Elliott taking over as Program Chair the next year. It would be a position where he would admirably serve until 2003. When asked about his recollections regarding these earlier Symposia, Dr. Elliott responded that, "Dr. Hartrampf continued to provide input and encouragement for us to push the envelope with both more procedures and more faculty."

Another contributor to the development of the SESPRES Breast Symposium at this time was Dr. John Bostwick, then Chair of Plastic Surgery at Emory and a renowned breast reconstruction surgeon in his own right. Meeting with both Drs. Hartrampf and Bostwick each March or April to discuss the next year's Symposium, Dr. Elliott remembers, "Carl would facilitate the evolution of the meeting encouraging us to do more and bigger surgery, and John, through his national and international contacts, would provide input about content and faculty." This would serve to be a winning combination over the years.

Discussing the history of the SESPRES Breast Symposium, Dr. Elliott related the challenges dealing with the technical aspects of putting on a program built around "live" surgery. Yet many of those challenges were the result of advancing technologies, and by embracing those challenges, not only did the attendees

see the surgery better, but they were able to see more surgery as well, as more rooms of surgery were able to be "beamed" from St. Joseph's. As one would expect of someone so involved with the Symposium throughout the years, Dr. Elliott has many recollections and has made many contributions. Of these, Dr. Elliott seems most proud of the Foreign Scholars Program which the Southeastern Board adopted in 1996. As a result of this program, two to four young international plastic surgeons are sponsored by the Society to come to the United States to attend the meeting. Additionally, between 1996 and 1999, they would also spend some time at Emory with Dr. Bostwick. Since 1999, under the sponsorship of Dr. Luis Vasconez, these foreign plastic surgeons have had the opportunity to spend the week following the meeting with Dr. Vasconez at University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Now 25 years since inception, broader in scope and with yet another acclaimed faculty, this Southeastern Symposium continues to fulfill the two tenets set forth at that first symposium. One, to present a program exclusively dedicated to plastic surgery of the breast, and two, to create a program that embraces the reconstructive aspects of breast surgery. Plan to be in Atlanta!

SESPRS
2009
Annual Meeting

June 6-10, 2009

Wyndham Rio Mar
Beach Hotel
Puerto Rico

Southeastern Set to Announce 2009 Research Grant Competition

Each Southeastern member will soon be receiving the announcement of the Southeastern's 2009 Research Grant Award competition. Over the years, the competition has grown to become a major opportunity for support of truly worthwhile research initiatives in the plastic surgery field. Thanks to consistent support, the annual award has increased from \$5,000 to the current level of \$10,000 per year.

An applicant for this research grant award must be a member of the Southeastern. To be considered, the research must be related to plastic surgery, have a clinical application, and must be completed within 12 months of receipt of the award. The recipient will be accorded time for a presentation of the results of the research at the 2010 Southeastern Annual Scientific Meeting at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Research Grant Committee is chaired and administered under the steadfast efforts and support of Dr. Scott Levin. Specifics for submission format and protocols will be included in the mailing. The deadline for receipt of applications this year will be April 3, 2009.

Southeastern's 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting at Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Hotel, June 6-10, 2009

Even though the chill is still in the air, Southeastern members need to begin directing their thinking and planning toward warm, accommodating places and a balmy venue. The 2009 Southeastern Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the delightful and beautiful Wyndham Rio Mar Beach Hotel, June 6-10, 2009. You'll soon be receiving the initial program promotional mailing. Many of you have already submitted abstracts for possible inclusion on the official meeting program, including the annual Glancy Award competition for the best resident paper presentation--remember the deadline for submitting abstracts is January 30, 2009.

Dr. James Grotting, the current Vice President of the Southeastern, and this year's program Chair has assembled a top-notch program that is bound to keep our members glued to their seats to learn more and gain insights into improvements in techniques and outcomes. Headlining the scientific program will be the annual 2009 Upchurch Lecture to be presented by Dr. Gustavo Colon, who will be introducing us to his original homeland. We are really looking forward to our colleagues from Puerto Rico and around the Caribbean joining us for the meeting this year.

Dr. John McCraw will deliver our Jurkiewicz Lecture this year. And our keynote

speaker will be Lincoln Hall, traveling all the way from Australia to relate his incredible fight for survival after being left in the "Death Zone" on the cornices of Mt. Everest, May 25, 2006. His latest book, *Dead Lucky*, details the heroic events surrounding his near death experience on that expedition.

Be on the alert for the first Wyndham Rio Mar registration package, which will be arriving soon and reserve your place at the Wyndham Rio Mar for this terrific educational program. Also, start thinking about saving your spot on the incomparable mile-long stretch of Caribbean beach at the Wyndham.

REMINDER--HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2009 SOUTHEASTERN DUES?

Southeastern 2009 dues notices were sent out in September. Have you paid your dues? Follow-up notices have been sent out recently to all those who have not yet responded by paying their dues. Please be mindful of the fact that the Southeastern Bylaws mandate any member who has not paid his/her dues by the February 28, 2009 deadline, will automatically have Southeastern membership privileges suspended. Avoid the loss of your Southeastern benefits, including reduced fees for the Southeastern Annual Scientific Meeting and annual Breast Symposium. Make sure your dues are current--you can pay online through www.sesprs.org, or by mailing your payment to the Society offices at: 6400 Goldsboro Road, Suite 450, Bethesda, MD 20817.