



With the new year 2015, a new chapter of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent - APSLD has been opened. After 3 successful meetings in 2010 (Beirut), 2012 (Cancun), and against all odds in 2014 (Beirut), the once utopic idea of creating such an association is now a reality.

The high quality of the scientific program and social events of APSLD meetings does not need further proof. Moreover, these meetings are not only the occasion to bring Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent together, but are instrumental in netting close ties with the many foreign friends that have participated.



Celebrating APSLD in Beirut
Oct. 25, 2014



Sam Hamra

Just as Lebanon is a young and dynamic country, many of its organizations share the assets of youth and excitement. So it is with plastic surgery. While this specialty had its origins during World War I mainly in Europe, the more impressive surge happened worldwide in North and South America as well as Europe beginning in the 1950's. With the well-developed medical schools that already existed in Lebanon, it was only natural that the enthusiasm for aesthetic surgery which found fertile ground in South America, the United States, and France would quickly reach Beirut. To develop without inhibition, plastic surgery flourishes best in affluent societies with that have adopted an avant-garde social awareness. It therefore was logical that plastic surgeons in Lebanon and plastic surgeons of Lebanese descent around the world would be included in the first generation of true aesthetic surgery devotees.

This association that includes all of these surgeons has great appeal. By holding symposia two things can be accomplished. The first is that each surgeon can bring to the collective group skills and techniques that were developed in their countries of origin. Therefore these unique meetings can serve to "cross pollinate" and spread the word quickly about refining procedures that have not yet been included in mainstream publications. The second and perhaps the more significant accomplishment is the renaissance of cultural ties among its members all of whom connect directly to Lebanon, the birthplace of their fathers and grandfathers and in fact the birthplace of their pride and honor. The mutual bond of plastic surgery transcends the frequent and persistent problems of religion and sectionalism and erases those barriers that hobble many great cultures. As Khalil Gibran wrote, "He who denies his heritage has no heritage".

This Newsletter is a forum for all Association members to share their knowledge as well as important information about their activities. You are all invited to send your contribution to batyeh@terra.net.lb

Manuela Elena Berrocal Revueltas

Titular Professor of Plastic Surgery
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Cartagena - Colombia, S.A.
Mail : manebe@une.net.co

Being able to participate on the IIIrd World Congress of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent in Beirut was truly a privilege, due to kind and generous invitation of Prof. Dr. Ricardo Baroudi, Dr. Bishara Atiyeh and Dr. Georges Ghanimé. It gave me the opportunity to discover and get to know a marvelous nation, which greatness is reflected on its people.

I was received by an incredible group of kind, generous and friendly Lebanese colleagues. With their hospitality and extensive knowledge they were able to inspire descendants and friends, even from the most remote parts of the planet, to join together to share personal and professional experiences. All the different details of the traditional and innovating techniques used in our profession, reflect the permanent creativity and artistic talent that relies deeply inside every plastic surgeon.

Lebanon's millenary history and cultural richness are clear evidence of the great spiritual strength and innovating character of its people. Such character has made it possible for them to heal and reinvent themselves throughout the centuries. The development of the IIIrd World Congress of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent in Beirut, under the dynamic and



enthusiastic leadership of surgeons such as doctors Bishara, Georges and Sami, was a perfect example of the vastness of this nation's soul and its overwhelming strength. Even in the most adverse and troubled situations, Lebanon was able to unite a great group of plastic surgeons to share small, great and priceless contributions in the surgical field. Each of these contributions now makes part of the bases and the essence of plastic surgery as a specialty, as a science, as an art and as the transformation force of dreams and lives.

Connecting the roots of the Nation's Descendants through a scientific event, facilitated the flow of an endless source of knowledge and culture. It definitely is a magnificent strategy to enjoy the present and construct a solid future, in which every upcoming generation of plastic surgeons will present new advances and great progress.

Congratulations for the organization of a Congress with such success, it was truly an enlightening experience!



The First Lebanese-Brazilian Plastic
Surgery Meeting
Beirut, Lebanon
August 26-29, 1999



The First World Congress of Plastic
Surgeons of Lebanese Descent
Beirut, Lebanon
October 14-17, 2010



The 2nd World Congress of Plastic
Surgeons of Lebanese Descent
Cancun, Mexico
October 10-13, 2012



The 3rd World Congress of Plastic
Surgeons of Lebanese Descent
Beirut, Lebanon
October 23-26, 2014

Thoughts and impressions about the 3rd World Congress of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent

After any of my trips, I try to make a summary about it. Here are some of the thoughts after my trip to LEBANON:

four elements are required to have a successful (world class) meeting like this.

1- The place: Outstanding country LEBANON, great city BEIRUT no doubts.

2- The people: Fabulous attendance, very high level faculty and great scientific program

3- The mood: Real friendship, a lot of passion ...LOVE, LOVE and LOVE.

4- Things to remember: Great friends, good colleagues, unforgettable food, and one of the greatest cities in the world BEIRUT will remain in my heart forever.

I want to thank all of you, for the wonderful meeting of the Lebanese Society held in Beirut, and for the great opportunity you gave me, to share my professional and humane experiences with an excellent group of colleagues in your marvelous country. Prof. Ricardo Baroudi was right when he told me that Lebanon is marvelous. I agree.

I am sorry for the short time I spent there but I will remember for ever your valuable friendship, your warmest hospitality and the generosity of all your people, that made the Lebanese Meeting unforgettable. Please, receive all of you my congratulations .



Arturo Ramirez-Montañana



Manuela Elena Berrocal R.

Your actions spoke much louder than any words of praise I could ever come up with. What a wonderful gathering you have created there. Echoing much of what my colleagues have praised you there already I could only add that instead of a scientific meeting you have created a fellowship, friendship, high caliber rigor and to me and many I am sure a spiritual and physical home from home. Heartily grateful. My compliments to you, to all attendees and everyone who contributed in making this socio-scientific phenomenon a great success



Ali Ghanem

This was really a fantastic meeting. I should add: like it always is. Hope I will continue to have the honor to be always part of it wherever you decide to organize. Despite the situation, it was a big success; evidence that everybody believes in you.



Nicolas Chami

Thank you all for this unforgettable meeting, and congratulations for the Organizing Committee. It was a great pleasure to see you all and be part of the big family that you have gathered together once again merging science and social activity in a unique and perfect way as you always do. I am looking forward to the upcoming meeting in São Paulo, and I am confident that it will be a successful meeting.



Marwan Abboud

All the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd World Congress of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent photos are available on the following link of our page <http://1drv.ms/1yyuyag>



APSLD helping train Lebanese Plastic Surgery Residents in São Paulo

With the initiative of Dr Romeu Fadul and the approval of Dr Roberto Padilha, Director of Research Institute at the Sirio Libanês Hospital in São Paulo a scientific partnership between Brazil and Lebanon has been established in the form of hands on dissection courses and clinical observer programs to train Lebanese Plastic Surgery Residents and Fellows. This partnership is extended to Plastic Surgery Departments in all Universities in Lebanon. Dr Nazareth Papazian, Plastic Surgery resident at the American University of Beirut, will be the first to travel to Brazil in March 2015; he will have the opportunity to have an observer fellowship with Drs. Fadul, Naccache, Nahas, and Daoud.

For information you are requested to contact Dr. B. Atiyeh (batiyeh@terra.net.lb) or Dr. S. Saad (samsadmd@gmail.com)

Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent - Contact Survey

This survey is designed to create a database of all plastic surgeons of Lebanese descent. Kindly take a minute to fill in your details in order to keep us all connected. To fill-out the brief survey click on the following link: <http://1drv.ms/1zZm0hU>

'Like' our official Facebook page to keep in touch with the latest news, photos, and to connect with others

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Plastic-Surgeons-of-Lebanese-Descent-APSLD/350753135094707>



Cleft Care in the Outreach Setting - A Life changing Experience of a Lebanese Plastic Surgery Resident

“You will get depressed when you get back to your daily routine and environment”, said Usama Hamdan, founder of Global Smile Foundation and veteran in cleft care for underserved populations. Barely did I know that this sentence would be my baptism into a world, which few people are lucky enough to experience.

As I boarded the plane in Beirut International Airport for a two-day flight to Guatemala, all I could feel was the enthusiasm of working with world authorities in cleft surgery. The surgical experience and skills that I would gain from this trip were my only objective. I had no idea that the trip would change my life, priorities, and the way I think.

I met the Global Smile Foundation team in Miami International Airport nearly a day into my trip. I was tired and sleepy. I was greeted with an open heart, in a loving environment. I never felt like the “Lebanese outsider” among American team members of different origins. We left Miami Airport the same day and headed for Guatemala City to take an 8-hour bus from there to “Atitlan”, not knowing that I will be staying in “the closest place to

heaven on earth” as described by several people.

The next day, our mission started. We went to the hospital to be greeted by a group of Guatemalans of Mayan origins, some of whom have traveled on foot for two days to reach the place where their lives will be changed. I directly noticed that these people were still living the virgin life, with no means of technology, mostly farmers and people who reap what they grow.

The team, consisting of surgeons, OR nurses, PACU staff, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, photographers, administrators, speech therapists and an Orthodontist immediately started screening the patients in a systematic manner and efficiency just like a well-oiled machine. Although I did not speak Spanish, I could feel the gratitude of the patients and their families from the way they looked at us, smiled at us, and trusted us with their babies to handle and take care of. By the end of the day, every member was exhausted, but we set the schedule for the upcoming week. We were to operate for 5 days (from Monday until Friday). During these 5 days, we did 14

primary cleft lips, 7 revision cleft lips below 12 years of age and 3 above 12, 3 frenulectomies, 2 macrostomia repairs, and 1 cleft lip rhinoplasty. A total of 32 dental procedures were also performed.

We were doing a total of 6 cases a day divided in two operating rooms, barely having time to eat. Nevertheless, we were happy, and the positive energy was just contagious. No one complained and everyone was happy in what they were doing despite the lack of supplies from the hospital and the fact that the team had to ship all the needs from the US starting from monitors, to sutures and other material that would be of help in the perioperative phase. I was also amazed to find out that they had also accounted for gifts and clothing for the patients to be given as donations.

We ploughed through the week without even feeling tired or overwhelmed. In addition, during the last day, we gathered all the patients for follow up and a group picture. As we were saying our farewell, a small girl approached me and handed me a piece of paper with a simple drawing on it, along with a letter written in Spanish on

its back. I can still remember her tears running down her cheeks when she hugged me goodbye. I later knew about the contents of the letter, and the beautiful yet simple words she wrote...

You may ask why to delve into so much trouble to travel across the world to operate, and not expect anything in return. My answer is and will always be "self satisfaction". These missions have changed my life... They showed me that we are oriented towards working for goals that give us immediate satisfaction, whereas our aim should be sustained happiness. I believe that true happiness is earned by giving happiness to others. We are giving smiles to people who were never able to look at themselves in the mirror, people who were never accepted by their parents and peers and were cast out of society. Now that I am back to my routine, I always remind myself: "A beautiful smile is simply priceless".

Elias Zgheib, MD
Chief Resident, Division of Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgery
American University of Beirut





Lebanese Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery - LSPRAS

The Lebanese Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery – LSPRAS was established in 1966 as the Scientific Society of the Lebanese Order of Physicians representing the newly emerging specialty then by 6 founding members: Drs. Philippe Antipas, Samir Shehadi, Najdat Bacha, Fawzi Abou Jamra, Robert Daoud and Edmond Massoud. Half a century later, and despite the chronically difficult situation in Lebanon since 1975, LSPRAS has steadily grown to presently 90 members and has gained international recognition. Several of its members have held and still hold key positions in the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery – ISAPS, the International Confederation for Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery – IPRAS and the Euro-Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters – MBC.

LSPRAS aims at organizing local and international conferences to maintain the high academic and scientific level of all its members and to keep them updated regarding technical developments and surgical innovations. The society is extremely vigilant as to the professional and ethical conduct of its members and is active in promoting public information and developing Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Lebanon. It has been specifically instrumental in denouncing fraudulent practices, unethical publicity, and commercial “beauty and healthcare” institutions.

With the establishment of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent – APSLD in 2010, the Lebanese Society of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery has moved a big step forward by bringing together world renowned Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese as well as none Lebanese descent as evidenced by the high level participation in its 3 World congresses already organized.

Honoring LSPRAS Past Presidents

Georges Ghanimé, present LSPRAS President, has honored LSPRAS past president on Oct. 25, 2014 during the 3rd World Congress of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent Gala Dinner.

Michel Rubeiz unfortunately could not participate because of health reasons. He was visited in his home and presented with the commemorative trophy.



Edmond Masoud



Paul Riscalla



Elie Harb



Michel Rubeiz



Souheil Hejeily



Nabih Sader



Bishara Atiyeh



Nabil Hokayem

19th MBC Meeting 10th International Humanitarian Conference to be Organized in Beirut



At the 18th meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters – MBC held on Nov. 16-20, 2014 in Turin, Italy, the MBC General Assembly has unanimously voted to accept the invitation of Prf. Georges Ghanimé, LSPRAS President and MBC National Representative to hold the 19th MBC meeting and the 10th International Humanitarian Conference in Beirut in 2016.

LSPRAS is proud to organize this important event in Beirut in conjunction with its National Lebanese Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Conference. This event will be with the participation of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of Lebanese Descent – APSLD, the International Association for Humanitarian Medicine – IAHM, the European Burns Association – EBA and the Société Française de Brûlologie – SFB.



18th MBC Meeting, Turin, Italy. From left to right: B. Atiyeh, MBC President, M. Cherian, Director WHO Emergency & Essential Surgical Care Program, S.W.A. Gunn, IAHM President, M. Masellis, MBC General Director, M. Stella, MBC General Secretary

**IVth WORLD CONGRESS
OF PLASTIC SURGEONS
OF LEBANESE DESCENT**

**In Association with the
Lebanese Society of Plastic
Reconstructive and Aesthetic
Surgery – LSPRAS**

**April 2017
SÃO PAULO - BRAZIL**

ASSOCIATION OF PLASTIC SURGEONS OF LEBANESE DESCENT