

# WOMEN IN FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY COLUMN

## THE CHANGING FACE OF FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

By Theda C. Kontis, MD, Member,  
Women in Facial Plastic Surgery  
Committee

The stereotypes of both physician and patient are changing. In a field where traditionally female patients had surgery by male surgeons, now women are becoming facial plastic surgeons and men are becoming interested in having cosmetic surgery.

For the past two years, more women than men have applied to medical school. In fact, women comprised almost half of the medical school classes entering in 2004. More women are now entering specialties traditionally held by men. The mandatory reduction in resident work hours has made surgical residencies more appealing to women. Surgical subspecialties are chosen because they can allow an acceptable balance between social, family, and professional responsibilities.



In otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, approximately 10 percent of the AAO-HNS membership is women.

Facial plastic and reconstructive surgery is the third most popular subspecialty for women in otolaryngology, after pediatric otolaryngology and head and neck surgery.

Facial plastic surgery is a natural fit for women because they feel comfortable in a world of aesthetics, make-up, and skin care. In the last five years, 22 women have completed facial plastic surgery fellowships, and currently 15 percent of facial plastic surgery fellows are women. Clearly, women are becoming a presence in facial plastic surgery.

There are advantages to having women as facial plastic

surgeons. Queen Elizabeth II said, "It has been women who have breathed gentleness and care into the hard progress of mankind." Women can add kindness and sensitivity to the field. Female patients often relate better to a woman physician, and patients believe women can be better listeners than men. Who better understands the aesthetic issues a woman faces than another woman? My cosmetic patients often ask me if I have tried Botox<sup>®</sup> Cosmetic or Restylane<sup>®</sup>, and want to know what skin care products I use. I suspect these questions are not frequently asked of my male colleagues.

However, as more women enter the field, new issues arise. For some women, their surgical practice is one of two full-time jobs. It has been estimated that professional women spend about 40 hours per week on childcare. A study by Jennifer Grandis, MD, See Role Models, page 16

## Fillers, Injectables and Lasers For Facial Rejuvenation

November 16, 2005

## Aesthetic Surgery Of The Aging Face

November 17-19, 2005

The Waldorf=Astoria Hotel, New York City

Course Chairman: Sherrell J. Aston, M.D.

Course Co-Chairman: Thomas D. Rees, M.D.

**FILLERS, INJECTABLES AND LASERS FOR FACIAL REJUVENATION** will be held on November 16, 2005 at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel in New York City. In addition to lectures and panel discussions, live demonstrations using the newest and state-of-the-art injectables and fillers will be offered.

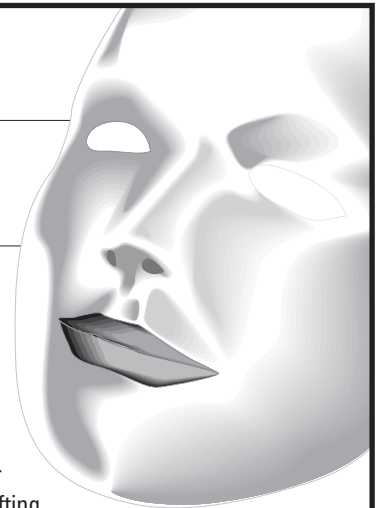
This course will immediately precede the **AESTHETIC SURGERY OF THE AGING FACE SYMPOSIUM**, which will be held on November 17-19, 2005 at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel. This comprehensive course, offered over three full days, will cover all aspects of facial aesthetic surgery including face lifting, mid face lifting, neck lifting, endoscopic brow lifting, blepharoplasty, otoplasty and facial bone sculpting. A full day of televised surgery will be presented.

THESE TWO COURSES CAN BE REGISTERED FOR SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER.

**FACULTY (In formation)** : Drs. Sherrell J. Aston, Daniel C. Baker, Thomas Baker, Fritz Barton, Lawrence Bass, Thomas Biggs, Fred Brandt, Jack Friedland, Roy Geronemus, Rod Hester, Glenn Jelks, Mark Jewell, Bruce Katz, Michael Kane, Arnold Klein, David Knize, Gregg Latrenta, Albert Lefkovits, J. William Little, Richard Lisman, Timothy Marten, Joseph McCarthy, Rhoda Narins, David Orentreich, Gerald Pitman, Lawrence Reed, Thomas D. Rees, Neil Sadick, John Siebert, James Stuzin, Charles Thorne, Jennifer Walden, Barry Zide.

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**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** Francine Leinhardt, Course Coordinator, Dept. of Plastic Surgery, Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, 210 East 64th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021 (212) 702-7728, Fax (212) 832-9126, Email: fleinhardt@earthlink.net



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