

WOMEN IN FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

CHOOSING AN ACADEMIC PRACTICE

By Deborah Watson, MD, Member, Women in Facial Plastic Surgery Committee

Choosing an academic career in facial plastic surgery versus planning to be in a private practice is an important decision to make during fellowship, or as early as during your residency training years. The guidance and direction from a fellowship preceptor, faculty members, or clinicians in the community can be invaluable. Speak and spend time with those individuals who have careers and lifestyles you admire.

Once you have made the decision to pursue an academic career, find out which academic institutions around the country are looking to hire another faculty member with expertise in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. You may hear about vacancies through the grapevine from your program director or from journal ads. In many cases, you should take the initiative and directly contact particular institutions. Programs may have retiring faculty, may be looking to expand, or may be seeking a general otolaryngologist and be comfortable with the idea of building your facial plastic surgery practice concurrently.

During the negotiation process for your contract, it is imperative that you and your program director agree on the tone for your practice, establish your future direction, commit to dedicated time for research, and agree on which facilities you will be serving. For instance, it should be made clear if you are joining the faculty as a general otolaryngologist with the plan to build a facial plastic surgical practice, or coming on as a dedicated facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon. You should discuss future goals and be certain that your program chair supports these goals such as developing a particular clinical program that you have in mind.

The optimal time to initiate your research program is during the first year of your academic appointment. Have a good idea about what you would be interested in pursuing—whether it involves basic science or clinical medicine. Your program chair can help you get in touch with research mentors, offer possible collaborators, give ideas regarding funding sources, or at least point you in the right direction. Sometimes, you can negotiate some start-up funds into your contract. The AAFPRS and the AAO-HNS also offer research grants that should be considered.

Starting your research program takes time and effort; therefore, start early and remain determined. You and your program chair must decide on committed time for your research; this is crucial. This may be easier if you have a joint-VA appointment. Many institutions service a VA hospital and their departmental faculty have part-time appointments with the VA system. If you can negotiate having such a part-

time VA appointment, you would be eligible to apply for VA mentored research grants, and secure protected research time for yourself. It is a very effective and successful way to meet these goals while still being able to develop your university-based practice.

Other factors that are considered for academic promotion are teaching and university service. Most of us thoroughly enjoy teaching our residents and medical students in clinic, the OR, and in didactic sessions, so this typically is not an area of difficulty. Establish a lecture series or teaching conference with your residents once you have joined the faculty. This ensures that you have regular didactic or group sessions that will cover a myriad of facial plastic and reconstructive surgical topics. Regarding university service, your program chair will likely recommend membership on particular committees to help you become more acquainted with their school of medicine, the policies of the university and hospital, and allow you to make a difference in implementing new policies.

Having an academic career offers a balance among our goals for teaching, having a university-based private practice, and conducting research. How well this balance is achieved is dependent on the individual. ■

ABFPRS CERTIFIES 15 NEW SURGEONS; 689 DIPLOMATES

At the September 19 meeting, the ABFPRS Board of Directors determined that the following 15 surgeons had met all of the requirements to become ABFPRS diplomates. The action brings the total number of surgeons certified by the ABFPRS to 689.

Alan Howard Brill, MD	Mitchell David Kaye, MD
Patrick J. Byrne, MD	Kun Z. Kim, MD
Andres Michel Gantous, MD	Simon David Kirby, MD
Alexander Mark Gorup, MD	Gregory Paul Pisarski, MD
Rick D. Gross, MD	Antonio Riera March, MD
Jenifer L. Henderson, MD	Daryoush David Saadat, MD
Daniel Frank Jannetto, MD	Catherine P. Winslow, MD
Derek Anthony Jones, MD	

Applications for the next certification cycle are due January 15, 2004. Applications are available on-line only at www.abfprs.org.

For more information, contact Laurie Wirth, managing director, ABFPRS, 115C South St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone: (703) 549-3223; fax: (703) 549-3357; e-mail: application@abfprs.org.