
M. Eisenmann-Klein · C. Neuhann-Lorenz (Eds.)
Innovations in Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery

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Innovations in Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery

With 551 Figures in 1192 Parts

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Preface

Plastic Surgery is the most coveted field among medical students all over the world.

Cynics might conclude that this is due to the attraction of aesthetic surgery, but they are wrong.

Students realize very early, that plastic surgery has much more to offer: we treat babies and old patients, from head to toe, with a variety of sophisticated techniques, with the challenge of microsurgery topping the list. Creativity is an integral part of our daily work.

We use these techniques to make individuals regain their physical integrity, we are the quality-of-life speciality.

On our way to competence in this field we need great examples, we need heroes. And we are lucky to have so many of them.

No other field in medicine is as much internationally oriented as plastic surgery: in IPRAS 96 national plastic surgery societies are represented. One of the main objectives of IPRAS is to increase the number of training sites and subsequently the number of fully and well trained plastic surgeons worldwide.

With pride I can say, that plastic surgery is also the field with the highest number of physicians involved in humanitarian missions. These missions not only provide free treatment for patients in need, they also serve the purpose of promoting the training of young plastic surgeons in developing countries.

Most of the contributors of this book have been and still are involved in these missions. They are dedicated to teaching.

Rather than inviting them to contribute a chapter to a textbook, we asked them to share their greatest contribution to the future of plastic surgery with us. We were thrilled when we first saw their articles.

Share our enthusiasm and be up front with techniques which are likely to represent tomorrow's state-of-the-art in plastic surgery.

Marita Eisenmann-Klein

Preface

“It is now Monday and we are in the second week of creation” *Peter Sloterdijk* just recently stated in his prize award speech for innovative publication management. Nanotechnology, biotechnology and gene technology are revolutionizing our scientific world as much as our every day life – comparable only to the changes at the turning towards the industrial age at the end of the 19th century.

Plastic Surgery, one of the youngest mono-specialties in medicine, historically has been innovative to a drastic extent by introducing and adding the treatment of external appearance of mankind into medical sciences of healing patients of exclusively functional diseases. As the quality of results is more obvious in plastic surgery than in other medical fields the search for constant perfection together with lesser traumatic techniques is inherent in our daily work.

This book intends to allow an up to date overview of the latest consented techniques in Plastic and Aesthetic surgery. The inspiring spark was the 14th quadrennial International Congress of the International Confederation for Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery (IPRAS) 2007 Berlin, Germany. Plastic Surgeons from all over the world exchanged their expert knowledge, innovative ideas and experience.

From all representative sections of our fascinating specialty we are grateful to have been able to include altogether 58 contributions from autografting and allografts like face transplantation to xenografts, from microsurgical techniques to laser technology, from stem cell research to bodylifting refinements. The different chapters are not separated by indication such as reconstructive or aesthetic as every single technique or therapy in Plastic Surgery by definition will never be reconstructive without respect to the aesthetic outcome and vice versa. Chapter organisation has been introduced according to different techniques or anatomical units.

Science and progress cannot exist without innovative ideas and their creators, but all innovations are based on the experience and established knowledge of our predecessors. Many promising new findings will not survive forever or be rejected after a while or even innovated by the original authors or others. Many old techniques on the other hand have never been neglected: the ever-cited Indian Flap e.g. The coexistence of both: old and new – is the secret of good science.

Johann Wolfgang v. Goethe:

„Wir ehren froh mit immer gleichem Mute
Das Altertum und jedes neue Gute.“

„With the same cheerful courage we value
every good thing, both old and new“

(translated from the German)

Constance Neuhaan-Lorenz

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