

HERE TO STAY

*A Brief History of the American Board of
Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
in Celebration of its Twentieth Anniversary
September 2006*



T. SUSAN HILL
ROBERT L. SIMONS, M.D.

 Thieme

Anyone who practices facial plastic surgery should order a copy of *HERE TO STAY*, the compelling history of the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ABFPRS), published in part to celebrate the organization's 20th anniversary in September 2006. Since the inception of the ABFPRS, the authors T. Susan Hill and Robert L. Simons, M.D., have played a major role in the success of the board, and they clearly had access to a wealth of primary sources when they set out to tell the inside story behind the ABFPRS's formation and its remarkable development over the past two decades. The resultant book reads like a memoir, rich in detail and photographic documentation.

HERE TO STAY opens at the time when facial plastic surgery became a fully recognized subspecialty within otolaryngology. Then, facial plastic surgeons had every hope to achieve subspecialty recognition through the American Board of Otolaryngology (ABOto), under the aegis of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Instead, they found themselves blocked at every turn by a competing medical specialty (plastic surgery), which carried on a systematic crusade against facial plastic surgery in hospital credentials committees, the media, state medical boards and legislatures, the ABMS, the American Medical Association (AMA), and the U.S. Congress.

Hill and Simons chronicle the ABFPRS story by charting the dedicated leadership of the organization through its successive presidencies. The doctors who assumed the early leadership roles in the ABFPRS exhibited the kind of backbone that has characterized the specialty's determination to be recognized, even when recognition was seen as a splintering factor within the governing organizations of the parent specialty of otolaryngology. As the book highlights in succeeding chapters, those early perceptions were recast and the charismatic leaders of the ABFPRS were able to turn adversaries into advocates.

The grand story that unfolds illuminates the efforts of surgeons in otolaryngology's largest

subspecialty to achieve the almost impossible goal of establishing a certifying body outside the sponsorship of the ABMS. The board they created, the ABFPRS, has earned the respect of organized medicine throughout the United States and is recognized internationally as the only certifying organization for examining exclusively in the area of facial plastic surgery.

Readers would benefit from the lessons divulged in this brief history of the ABFPRS.

Each of the six chapters of *HERE TO STAY* is dedicated to the term of an ABFPRS president and highlights the controversies and issues that confronted the organization as it developed into an ABMS equivalent board.

John J. Conley, M.D., who is mentioned in the book as one of the earliest and most respected supporters of the ABFPRS, was impressed with the way facial plastic surgeons had taken control of their destiny. He praised the ABFPRS leadership for "the insight, the gumption, the perseverance, and the courage to make [the board] a reality."

Knowledge of the past should help to teach us how to be better stewards of the future. It doesn't always work that way. For those facial plastic surgeons who want to get involved and make a difference in their specialty's future, learn the history of the ABFPRS by reading this fascinating story.

You can purchase your copy by completing the enclosed order form, visit www.abfprs.org to order from our secure on-line site, or email the ABFPRS at meharp@abfprs.org. Copies can also be purchased through Thieme Medical Publishing Company.