

## The Sixth Annual Meeting of the European Plastic Surgery Research Council Abstracts

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It is a great honor to present the abstracts from the Sixth Annual Meeting of the European Plastic Surgery Research Council (EPSRC) as a supplement to *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*. This wonderful collaboration between the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, and the EPSRC is a testament to the tight-knit, innovative, global plastic surgery community. These abstracts are the foundations upon which the future of our specialty will be built; some are the harbingers for the newest ideas, most exciting procedures, and coolest technologies that will rock our field in the years to come. I urge you to read these abstracts to learn about what plastic surgery looks like around the world, and discover techniques, practices, and research ideas that you may not have known existed.

Although the ASPS begins with “American,” our society is truly global, committed to building bridges between plastic and reconstructive surgeons world over and to helping improve and grow the specialty for all. ASPS has working relationships with many partner societies all over the world; the society boasts an open-access international peer-reviewed journal, *PRS Global Open* ([www.prsgo.com](http://www.prsgo.com)), which disseminates literature for free to anyone with an Internet connection; and its flagship journal, which you are currently reading, is the official organ of the EPSRC as well as the Plastic Surgery Research Council. These global and research-oriented initiatives readily display the commitment of the ASPS to advancing plastic surgery, all the way from the research laboratories of Europe to your hometown clinic. The *PRS* family of products, which proudly includes *PRS*, *PRS Global Open*, our new learning app called “The Clinical Masters of Plastic Surgery,” and abstract supplements such as the EPSRC Supplement

before you today, are the best worldwide vehicle to spread, learn, and live plastic surgery.

With the ideals of sharing plastic and reconstructive surgical research to the furthest corners of the earth in order to advance our field, the ASPS and the leaders of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* will be publishing these EPSRC abstracts on *PRS-Journal.com* for free for at least 3 months. We do this to jumpstart, it is hoped, the global research engine and give all plastic surgeons and researchers world over a chance to join the collaborative, investigative process that will enhance our field for the future. We invite all who are interested, plastic surgeon or not, to read, share, and discuss these abstracts through the month of August and beyond, courtesy of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

We also encourage all abstract authors to continue the research process. You’ve already done the hard work of data gathering, study design, and initial interpretation. Complete the cycle: write the full-fledged manuscript based on your abstract and submit it for peer review to *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* or *PRS Global Open* via [prs.edmgr.com](http://prs.edmgr.com). Of course, you are by no means obligated to submit to a *PRS* journal; we want you to submit to the journal that best suits your needs. But we would welcome your submission and enter it into a rapid, unbiased, and constructive peer review process within a few business days.

This wonderful council meeting, its abstract presentations, and this supplement could not be possible without the leadership and tenacity of the EPSRC leaders, especially General Secretary Lucian P. Jiga, President Lars Steinstraesser, Treasurer Ion Zegrea, and Captain 2014 Lorenz Larcher. In addition, we applaud and greatly value the leadership of the ASPS, especially ASPS President Robert X. Murphy, Plastic Surgery Foundation President Kevin Chung, and Executive Vice

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President Michael Costelloe. It is of no surprise to you that I must, again, praise our publishers, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, represented by Elizabeth Durzy, and our Editorial Office staff, represented by Managing Editor Aaron Weinstein. These teams continually make the *PRS* family of products among the finest biomedical publications in the entire world.

The EPSRC meeting abstracts share the benefit of all other *PRS* articles, including:

- Peer review of all content. The EPSRC Scientific Program Committee has reviewed all of the abstracts, and only those meeting their reviewers' criteria are published here.
- Broad global readership through both print and Web, and online databases such as OVID.
- Publication in print, online, and iPad formats. Abstracts will be available on the *Journal's* Web site ([www.PRSJournal.com](http://www.PRSJournal.com)) and in the August issue of our *PRS* app for the iPad.

None of the materials contained in this supplement are considered to be practice guidelines or best medicine protocols. They are merely the authors' collective experience and expertise in the prescribed area.

As plastic surgery continues to grow, it is my hope that our field grows closer, with more research and collaboration in an ever-shrinking world. The collaboration of surgeons across boundaries of institutions and nations will aid in this effort; supplements such as the abstracts of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the European Plastic Surgery Research Council are on the front line of this noble pursuit. So please, read, share, and discuss. I'm very excited about what this supplement could mean for the advancement of excellent research being conducted in laboratories around Europe and the entire world, and how it could evolve and grow into new practices in your clinic.

I am eager to experience this abstract supplement in print, online, and on the iPad, and I am even more excited for more future cooperation and shared discoveries between the European Plastic Surgery Research Council and its official organ, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.

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