



Good Day!

It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to update the Pitt Plastic Surgery family about our recent activities of the last three months in our third quarter Futrell Society Newsletter.

All of you remember what the July 1 start of the academic year was like with the start of our first year residents, the excitement of the busy trauma season and the start of a new academic year. The new group of residents are performing as you can imagine extraordinarily well. The summer went by quickly and with many accomplishments.

We started the Alumni Lecture Series with a talk from S. Alex Rottgers, Class of 2014. He talked to us about building an academic practice out of residency, as well as jejunal reconstruction of the esophagus and pediatric patients. It was so wonderful to see him. We are so proud of his accomplishments.

I am ecstatic to announce that Justine Kim, Integrated Resident, Class of 2023, has joined the faculty at University of Pittsburgh Department of Plastic Surgery effective September 1, 2024. Prior to joining the faculty, she completed fellowship training with the UPMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Join me in welcoming Dr. Kim!



Justine S. Kim

Pitt was well received at this year's ASPS "The Meeting" in San Diego. We had the usual large cohort of Pitt presentations. In addition our own Francesco Egro with the accomplishments of his lab, received the paper of the year for *PRS Global Open* on his work on burn patients and microsurgery.



Spotlight on Alumni! In this quarter we feature Peter C. Johnson, Graduating Class of 1989.

1. What are you doing with yourself now?

I retired from the CEO role at Cell X Technologies in 2021 but continue to serve as its Chair. I also serve on two additional for profit and three non-profit boards. Until this spring, Karen and I ran 40 acre Lark Farm, where I farmed barley that led to the creation of *Oxford Oaks Distillery* and its associated *Verdigris Restaurant* in Oxford, NC, for which I make all of their artistic woods (steak boards, charcuterie boards, coasters, menu stand) from the original 100 year old yellow pine beams of the building. I run a full woodworking shop and teach R/C balsa aircraft building on Monday afternoons. Finally, I run a digital art company featuring historical, abstract and cartoon art.

<https://oxfordoaksdistillery.com/>

<https://www.verdigris.com/>

<https://www.scintellix.com/>

Our three children have prospered, and one just eloped! The other two are planning weddings imminently. Karen and I just celebrated our 39th anniversary by hiking in the Lake District in England and earlier this year, cycling in Provence. We love to host and especially to reconnect with our Plastic Surgery colleagues in our home.

2. Can you tell us a Futrell story from your resident experience?

Now, you must all brace yourselves for this. In the first month of my first residency year, I was the “Futrell Resident.” At the initiation party, the Senior Residents whispered to me that I was a “dead man.” So I went with some trepidation into that first surgery, a male to female gender reassignment surgery.

Later in the procedure when I had witnessed the spectacular anatomic reshuffling, including the creation of the neo organ, Bill, in his usual fact-oriented, appropriately aggressive manner requested that the OR nurse go to the Men’s locker room, find his white coat, bring the largest condom she could find in his coat pocket, flash it and drop it on the table. He then opened it and stuffed it as full of Balsam of Peru as was available, tied it off and used it to provide an internal compression dressing for the neo organ. After he left me to sew up and to doubly ensure that it would not migrate, I met him in the locker room and asked him “Why did you have to supply that condom at that moment? “Because” he told me “There are never any available when I need them. The nurses all steal them from Central Supply beforehand.” I came away educated, thought highly of the OR nurse who braved the Men’s locker room and immediately established in my mind that Bill was indeed the “Get it done” guy.

3. Do you have a resident moment that you would like to share that you may find entertaining?

Yes. In my first year of residency, one of our many famous grads was taking Neil Jones’s micro and hand fellowship.

This new grad was hilarious out of the OR but could get testy within. So one day when we were doing a complex hand procedure for which I was retracting, he asked for some music in the room. As there was the usual white noise in the room, the low radio was not completely discernible. Suddenly, George Harrison came on with his new song “Got My Mind Set On You.” This must have occurred at a frustrating moment in the surgery because the Fellow suddenly became angry, threw a hemostat at the wall and declared: “I can’t believe this! Here’s a guy who only a short time ago was singing “My Sweet Lord” and now he’s singing “Watch Out I Might Sit On You!”

Disgusted, he scowled though the rest of the operation...

4. **What did the Pitt residency education mean to you as you look closely?**

Well, the world. Surrounded by the best of the best.

Learned technical excellence, judgment, accountability and most importantly and enduringly a capacity for decision making that made Plastic Surgery a motif for plasticity in one's own career. It gave me the freedom to take risks on new careers while always looking back with respect on that allowance for new channels that the profession preaches.

And no better place than Pitt for that, given the support I received to find my own way, one which has been ever rewarding.

5. **If you could have dinner with anyone past or present, who would it be and why?**

Abe Lincoln. Massive integrity and astonishing guts. No theater, though ;).



Peter C. Johnson

Our culture of learning, camaraderie, outstanding performance, and excellent leadership has not changed. Keep us posted on your accomplishments. Remember, we have a program where you can subscribe to our weekly Grand Rounds lectures for \$1800 per year.

As always stay well.



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