

Viva Las Vegas!

Presidential Address

by Robert Leonard, M.D.

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As Henry VIII said to his six wives, "I'm not going to keep you long..."

This field certainly is one of the most rapidly growing areas of medical practice today. The membership of our organization has grown from approximately 250 in 1993, about 425 in 1994, to 843 today with 70 percent of members United States residents and 30 percent non-United States residents, and we continue to credential new members monthly. As you all can see in this room today, there continues to be great interest in hair restoration surgery.

I feel that the major factor for this growth in the United States, at least, seems to be that even a threat of healthcare reform has sent physicians seeking means to continue to earn income that will **not** be affected by third party payers. I receive calls on a nearly weekly basis from physicians seeking to learn how to do hair transplants.

Another cause of increased interest in hair restoration surgery could be that the general public, particularly the male population, is "coming out of the closet" in seeking cosmetic surgery. This **once** social stigma is slowly, but surely diminishing in public opinion.

A third reason of increased interest in this field is greater public, and, therefore, physician awareness generated through advertising by hair restoration physicians and "facilities".

One concern that I have, however, is whether our field may be growing **too** rapidly. By that, I mean are physicians attending didactic conferences like ours and others as their only "quote, unquote, training" in medical hair restoration then returning home and holding themselves to the public as



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Highlights It was a three ring circus.

O'Tar T. Norwood, M.D.

Because of the volume of material the *forum* will cover the meeting in the next two issues .

1. Accusations of falsifying results.
2. The "tight organization" orchestrated by Jim Vogel.
3. Lasers overall appear to be losing acceptance, except for Walter Unger, who still believes they will play a role in the future. This may be partly because of Walter's longer experience with them and perhaps better technique.
4. Megasessions. I am not sure which way we are going. Rassman certainly still holds the record and continues to demonstrate excellent results at each meeting. Judging from the hallway conversations I think the numbers may be rising, contrary to my

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