

Careers committed to providing the highest quality medical care

John A. Attwood, MD



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It was Dr. Jean Labelle who inspired me to move toward plastic surgery. He was the most enthusiastic and inspiring surgeon that I had ever worked with, and his commitment to plastic surgery was evident – whether it be 3 o'clock in the afternoon doing a hand case or 4 o'clock in the morning putting a facial fracture back together.

I spent two months working with Dr. Labelle and from that point on, I really felt certain plastic surgery was the field I wanted to go into.

It is a very gratifying profession and the most fulfilling component is direct patient care. Being able to take an anxious patient with a particular problem and help them go through what sometimes is a complicated and staged series of reconstructive procedures is very satisfying.

R. Brannon Claytor, MD



R. Brannon Claytor

My inspiration to specialize in plastic surgery was the opportunity to have a positive impact on patients and the

opportunity to help patients achieve a better functional result following a devastating injury or cancer operation.

The most fulfilling part of this work has been getting to know the patients, as well as their family members, and sharing their joy as they see the results following surgery.

David G. Fitz, MD

I thought I wanted to be a pediatrician. In medical school during the clinical rotations when one is trying to figure out the rest of professional life, it can be like a college tour – sometimes one impression



David G. Fitz

can greatly influence decisions.

I knew I enjoyed surgery – having worked in the Sears Surgical Lab at Boston City Hospital for a year before medical school – but wanted to keep an open mind. Pediatrics did not seem like a good fit, nor did my second choice – family medicine.

I decided on general surgery during my surgery rotation, and came to Portland for training. In my second year of surgery residency, I had the pleasure of working with Jean Labelle, Bob Waterhouse and Dick Flaherty during my plastic surgery rotation. That sealed it.

I was fascinated by hand and microsurgery, and saw an unusual opportunity to use individual creativity and artistic judgment for reconstructive issues.

This is something that no other field in medicine touches, and it provides a reward unlike any other specialty. There is nothing like completing the repair of a cleft lip and being with the parents when they first see their baby in the recovery room.

Richard C. Flaherty, MD

Growing up, I always knew I want to be a physician. My role model was my uncle, who was an internist and who practiced until he retired at the age of 76.

I went to Boston College, majored in biology and pre-med tract. I then attended Georgetown University, where my initial interest was internal medicine but decided to head more into a surgical field as I got more exposure to surgery.

After starting a surgical residency at Maine Medical Center – and obtaining an orthopaedic residency that I was to have started at Tufts University following two years at Maine Medical Center – I had a rotation in



Richard C. Flaherty

plastic surgery with Dr. Jean Labelle. I enjoyed that rotation so much I decided on a five-year general surgical course, and then attended the University of Rochester for a two-year plastic surgical course, including a head and neck cancer fellowship.

I have enjoyed my time in plastic surgery and believe I made the right choice. I enjoy interacting with my patients and the wide variety of things I do – including reconstructive procedures, skin cancer removals with reconstruction, surgery of the hand and multiple different cosmetic procedures.

Thomas E. Vaughan, MD



Thomas E. Vaughan

What initially drew me to plastic surgery was the sheer variety and scope of the cases.

From my earliest point in medical training, I felt confident I would be pursuing a surgical career. The variety of plastic surgery cases and the complexity of the anatomy and physiology with which we need to be familiar make this an interesting and stimulating speciality. My fascination for this work continues to this day.

The most satisfying and fulfilling aspect of my work is that which I think virtually every physician feels – the personal relationships that we have with the patients and the trust they place in us.

Many patients come to us in a distressed state. Being able to use my skill and training to improve their lives, either from a functional or cosmetic point of view, and to experience the trust they place in us is extremely satisfying.

On a very basic level the

patient/physician relationship is one based on trust. When I feel the patient has confidence in me that I am going to do the best I can to give them the best possible outcome on a very personal level, it continues to be the most fulfilling aspect of my career.

Therese K. White, MD



Thomas E. Vaughan

When I entered medical school I was interested in a surgical career. I thought I would enjoy the technical aspects of

surgery and applied anatomy.

When I was a general surgery resident at Maine Medical Center, for the first time I was exposed to plastic and reconstructive surgery and was instantly drawn to it for a number of reasons.

First, the variety of procedures allowed us to work on all areas of the body's anatomy, all age groups and a variety of problems – from minor to life-threatening.

With this exposure, I was confident that I could be challenged and enjoy a long career. My then-mentors are now my partners at Plastic and Hand. They were and are excellent teachers.

All of the physicians at Plastic and Hand were devoted to their careers and enjoyed the work they were doing. With their encouragement, I chose to pursue a fellowship and now am very grateful to be practicing with excellent colleagues in my home town.

I enjoy the technical aspects of my surgical practice. Each case has its own challenges but what is most rewarding is knowing that the work I have been trained to do has a positive impact on the patients.

The relationships that develop during patient care definitely bring meaning to the technical aspects.