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Preface

Auricular Surgery: Aesthetic and Reconstructive



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It was once told to me by a mentor that the main job of an ear is to sit on the side of the head and not draw attention to itself. This concept is in contrast to the surgical goals of other aesthetic procedures, in which the surgeon's hope is to create an eye-catching beautiful facial feature. One rarely comments about the ears when describing another's attractiveness. When it comes to auricular surgery, we simply want a structure that blends well into the patient's appearance without drawing undue attention to itself.

However, this otherwise apparently simple goal can present quite an arduous task for the facial plastic surgeon, often calling upon an array of surgical talents. Both aesthetic and reconstructive ear surgery can require the skills of artistic carving, advanced flap reconstruction techniques, basic engineering, millimeter judgments, and even knowing how and when to use prosthetics.

My goal in editing this edition of the *Facial Plastic Surgery Clinics of North America* was to pro-

vide a broad exposure to auricular surgery from some of the leaders in our field. Each author has taken considerable time and care to share his particular expertise in the field of auricular surgery. The issue begins with Dr. Becker's excellent article on auricular analysis, because a thorough preoperative assessment of the auricle lays the foundation for later surgical success. Drs. Stucker and Adamson were kind enough to share their years of personal experience in the area of otoplasty, writing in detail about their particular techniques. Dr. Nuara rounds out the aesthetic section with a review of the last several years of otoplasty literature, focusing on some of the nuances of the operation.

The articles on ear reconstruction begin with Dr. Sclafani, followed by Dr. Quatela's contribution on microtia repair using autologous cartilage. To explore alternatives of microtia reconstruction, Dr. Romo shares his expertise in the area of alloplastic microtia reconstruction. We end with an

interesting article involving the use of auricular prosthetics. I hope the reader will enjoy learning more about the field of anaplastology.

I would like to publicly thank all the authors for the time they took out of their busy schedules

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