



## Anaplastology: Looking Ahead

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Reconstructive surgery is a progressive field based on the premise of restoring normal form and function to body parts disfigured by trauma, disease, or developmental differences. In our practice, reconstructive surgeons face the limitations of technical skill, understanding of anatomy and physiology, availability of tissue types, and synthetic or biologic materials to replace missing parts. A core stimulus for advancement is the possibility of discovering and creating solutions to address these limitations and provide optimal functional results to our patients.

This drive is not particular to reconstructive surgery, but is shared by the variety of disciplines involved in the field of Anaplastology. We address the same issues from our respective views and strive for the same endpoint of success. For there to be meaningful advancements, collaboration is the only reasonable option.

The head and neck have the most complex anatomy and physiology in the human body, and are therefore the most challenging to recreate. Reconstructive perfection in these regions lie beyond any one

profession. Surgical techniques exist for the use of various pedicled and free tissue transfers to reconstruct the mandible, maxilla, esophagus, voice, and other relevant anatomic areas. Despite significantly advanced techniques and skill the recreation is not flawless leading to the need for continued advancement in allotransplantation. Until this method, which is still in its infancy, there remains a significant need for the continued advancement in the custom design of materials and rehabilitative prostheses for the head and neck and limbs. This need requires ongoing interdisciplinary dialogue between all specialties. The future will hold continued collaboration and likely a combination of methods and materials for ideal results.

By providing a free access forum, the Journal of Anaplastology provides scholars and students worldwide the opportunity to publish and pool resources with academic, research, and funding sources. These collaborations will expand the boundaries of our respective professions allowing the more complex issues of aesthetic and functional reconstruction to be addressed and solutions found in a more multidisciplinary and global manner.

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**Received** September 16, 2013; **Accepted** September 17, 2013; **Published** September 20, 2013

**Citation:** Salgado CJ, Dalke KA (2013) Anaplastology: Looking Ahead. Anaplastology 2: e110. doi: [10.4172/2161-1173.1000e110](http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2161-1173.1000e110)

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