

Into a global future with our members to serve the people

Kwang Seog Kim

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Chonnam National University Medical School, Gwangju, Korea



WITH MEMBERS, WITH PEOPLE

The low-cost and high-efficiency Korean healthcare system is capable of providing high levels of healthcare services to the people—the consumers of healthcare—at a low cost. However, this can only be maintained through the sacrifices of medical personnel. Moreover, distortions of the healthcare system have caused fierce competition to emerge, leading to the collapse of specialties. The current healthcare environment requires special patience and efforts from the members of the Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (KSPRS) more than ever in order to solve the urgent problems facing us and to respond to future changes in the healthcare environment. “United we stand, divided we fall!” [1]. Efforts should be made to promote harmony among members, since unity among our members is a source of strength that can overcome external difficulties.

The KSPRS was founded in 1966, and plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery (PRAS) was recognized as a specialty by the Korean government in 1973. The certifying examination for the specialty was first administered in 1975, and the number of full members of the KSPRS is now 2,500 [2,3]. It has been 53 years since the foundation of the KSPRS, meaning that the KSPRS is now embarking on its second half-century. As a society, it has achieved respectable standing by continuously improving institutions and training competent specialists through substantial education initiatives; as such, its achievements have received international recognition in recent years. Although there are many facets to PRAS, Koreans frequently perceive PRAS as a field that handles only double eyelid surgery, aug-

mentation rhinoplasty, facial contouring surgery, breast augmentation surgery, and abdominoplasty, and does not have any distinct subspecialties. For this reason, to develop further, the KSPRS must strengthen its relationship with the public and improve the accuracy of perceptions of PRAS among the Korean population.

TOWARD THE WORLD, TOWARD THE FUTURE

In 2011, the KSPRS changed its annual meeting to an international congress, which has been officially named PRS Korea since 2015. English was adopted as the official language of PRS Korea in 2016, after extensive preparations that were required since English is not an official language of Korea. When English-language sessions were introduced to the annual meeting of the KSPRS, many members expressed their discomfort. Nonetheless, the members of the KSPRS are currently adapting to conducting presentations and discussions in English at the annual meeting of the KSPRS, and they recognize that using English as the official language facilitates communication between the KSPRS and foreign societies. PRS Korea 2018 was held at the Grand Intercontinental Parnas Convention in Seoul, Korea on November 9 to 11, 2018 and 130 invited foreign speakers gave presentations (Fig. 1). The future of the KSPRS is bright because the internationalization of PRS Korea is making progress, although it is still in its beginning stages.

At PRS Korea 2018, the KSPRS signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Canadian Society of Plastic Sur-

Fig. 1. PRS Korea 2018 in Seoul



geons for cooperation (Fig. 2). In fact, the KSPRS previously signed MOUs with the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the Japan Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and the Taiwan Society of Plastic Surgery, and has expanded its exchanges with those organizations. However, the KSPRS should enhance cooperative relationships and promote common development through personal exchanges and information interchange by signing MOUs with more PRAS societies around the world. The KSPRS should provide more opportunities for the members of foreign PRAS societies to participate in the congresses hosted by the KSPRS such as PRS Korea, and should work towards establishing a system in which plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic (PRA) surgeons from all over the world can cooperate to achieve their common goal of human health and happiness.

The official journal of the KSPRS was published in Korean under the title *Journal of the Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons* between 1974 and 2011; since 2012, when its title was changed to *Archives of Plastic Surgery* (*Arch Plast Surg*, *APS*), it has been published in English [3]. *APS* allows researchers from anywhere in the world to submit papers through its English-language online submission system, and it is indexed in prominent databases such as Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), CrossRef, DOAJ, EBSCO, EMBASE, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Google Scholar, KoMIC, KoreaMed, PubMed, PubMed Central (PMC), and Scopus, making the papers of the journal easy to search [4]. *APS* is among the most-cited surgical journals currently published in Asian countries. According to the information provided by the Scimago Journal & Country Ranking, its H-index was 20 between 2013 and 2017, and its scientific journal ranking (SJR) was 0.449 (sixth place), 0.717 (second place), 0.722 (second place), 0.747 (first place), and 0.582 (fifth place) in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,

Fig. 2. MOU signing ceremony between KSPRS and CSPS

MOU, memorandum of understanding; KSPRS, Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons; CSPS, Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.



and 2017, respectively [5]. For *APS*, over 300 reviewers from 40 countries currently screen the papers, and the acceptance rate in 2018 was 43%. *APS* does not have an official impact factor (IF), since it is not indexed in SCIE. However, according to an investigation into data from Scopus and Web of Science by the editorial committee of *APS*, its estimated IF is about 1.46 [6,7]. Recently, *APS* applied to be indexed in SCIE and is now under screening. It is expected to be indexed in SCIE in the near future. Becoming indexed in SCIE will facilitate further quantitative and qualitative improvements, accelerating the growth of *APS* into a core international journal in the field of PRAS.

The KSPRS has recently been making efforts to internationalize itself as a society. The reason for doing so is that its ultimate goal is to contribute to human health by developing as an organization through active exchanges with foreign PRAS societies and PRA surgeons, as well as working toward the development of PRAS. The KSPRS should go into a global future with our members to serve the people.

NOTES

Conflict of interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

ORCID

Kwang Seog Kim <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6766-4640>

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Correspondence: Kwang Seog Kim
Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Chonnam National University Medical School,
42 Jebong-ro, Dong-gu, Gwangju 61469, Korea
Tel: +82-62-220-6354 (6352), Fax: +82-62-220-6357, E-mail: pskim@chonnam.ac.kr
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