



## **EBCFPRS Incoming Presidential Address**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great honour that I accept the election to serve as President of the European Board for Certification in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (EBCFPRS). Founding the Board and the subsequent inauguration of the European Exam and Certification process have been – in my eyes – the greatest achievements in European Facial Plastic Surgery over the past decades. It was noted with the greatest pride that both the late Claus Walter and Tony Bull have shared this appreciation in personal conversations. Both concurred that support for, and investment in, the young generation best benefits the development of Facial Plastic Surgery in Europe.

Board Certification in Facial Plastic Surgery is of great significance. The examination process – regarded by and large among the most comprehensive globally – assures the highest level of knowledge by surgeons passing this important benchmark. The subsequent process of Certification involves submission and peer review of substantial surgical experience over a two-year period and further contributes to rising standards of surgical competency. Moreover, the increasing recognition of EBCFPRS Board Certification by governments and national medical boards in Europe underlines the significance of EBCFPRS. An important example is The Netherlands where EBCFPRS Certification is becoming a regulatory prerogative to practice our surgical subspecialty. Given the precedence in the United States and the development in Holland, we may expect this trend to further spread across Europe in the foreseeable future.

For the term of three years, my priorities are clearly defined:

1. Protect and develop the examination and certification process in Europe. With the recent discontinuation of the long – term funding plan by the EAFPS, important challenges lie ahead. Our Board will work hard and lobby to keep the exam and certification process as affordable as possible, especially for the young generation of facial plastic surgeons.
2. Enhance the perception of the Certification process through public relations measures – modest in appearance and professional by peer review of content.
3. Increase awareness of the need for our young generation of surgeons to have excellent training centres and sufficiently funded fellowship stipends.

Please allow me to acknowledge the individuals and their boards who have contributed significantly to the success of the European Board for Certification of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: Peter Adamson, MD and the administrative staff of the American Board for Certification in Facial Plastic Surgery (ABCFPRS.org) as well as the International Board for Certification in Facial Plastic Surgery (IBCFPRS.org); Past EAFPS President Abel – Jan Tasman for the integrity of his leadership and the support of the examination and fellowship stipends during his Presidency. Julian Rowe – Jones for his pioneering work as EAFPS Fellowship Director; and, of course, Past EBCFPRS President Santdeep Paun for his inaugurating work.

I am grateful to work with a Board of highly competent Directors. These outstanding individuals strongly represent the values essential for the credibility and success of EBCFPRS: Altruism, competency, integrity, and clinical excellence:

**Santdeep Paun, MD: Immediate Past-President**

**Julian Rowe – Jones, MD: Secretary**

**Abel – Jan Tasman, M.D.: Treasurer**

**Dirk – Jan Menger, M.D.: Chair of Credentialing**

**Özcan Cakmak, M.D.: Co – Chair of Credentialing**

**Frank Datema, M.D.: Co – Chair of Credentialing**

**Anil Joshi, M.D.: Co – Chair of Examination Process**

**Eduardo Morera, M.D.: Co – Chair of Data Management**

**Haneen Sadick, M.D., Co – Chair of Data Management**

**Peter Adamson, MD: Senior Advisor**

**Bill Truswell: Senior Advisor**

**Laurie Wirth: Advisor**

The Board receives its increasing significance from the growing number of European Board-Certified Surgeons. Today, more than 80 colleagues have been certified, augmenting their recognition among peers and patients alike. If you are not yet Board Certified, please consider joining the strong and growing group of European Board-Certified Facial Plastic Surgeons soon. As representatives of EBCFPRS, we are gladly available to facilitate the process for you.

Thank you for your trust in our Board.



Holger G. Gassner, M.D.

President, European Board for Certification in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Regensburg, Germany, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019