

# NYCOMS NEWS

The New York Center for Orthognathic and Maxillofacial Surgery

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Winter 2002

## Surgeons

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Stephanie J. Drew, DMD  
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## Office Locations

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41 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021

## Our New Manhattan Location

The New York Center for Orthognathic and Maxillofacial Surgery is pleased to announce that we have moved our New York City location to 41 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street. This facility currently houses **Manhattan Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates, P.C.** and is state of the art with consultation suites and it's own certified operating room. This setting will nicely complement our attending status at The New York Presbyterian Hospital. While Dr. Stephen Sachs will be available to see all varieties of reconstructive jaw cases, Dr. Stephanie Drew will be available as well. She will bring her special expertise in ***distraction osteogenesis***. To arrange a consultation for your New York City based patients, please call our Lake Success office at (516) 775-1818.

## Bone Grafting 101

Contemporary oral and maxillofacial surgery permits total rehabilitation of the oral facial complex. Hard and soft tissue is complemented by osseointegrated dental implants enabling restoration of the functional units of the mouth and jaws. At the foundation of this goal is the ability to reconstruct missing segments of bone with various grafting procedures. While there are various bone substitutes available, the gold standard remains the patient's own or autogeneous bone. There are several sites from which bone can be harvested for jaw reconstruction. Due to its large volume and general lack of significant morbidity, the hip or ileum is the most frequent site when larger volumes of bone are required. Occasionally, bone can be taken from the skull, tibia, or rib. A favored site is to take the bone from the jaw itself. Truly borrowing from Peter to pay Paul. This bone is well suited for smaller defects and has the advantage of being intramembraneous in its origin.

Regardless of the site, grafted bone is always replaced by local bone forming elements. Therefore, the survival of the graft is dependent on the vascularity of the placement site and the viability of the cells in the graft itself. All living grafts have the ability to induce bone formation and conduct the host through the grafted site. At times various other materials can be mixed with autogeneous grafts to expand their volume or increase their bone forming properties, i.e.; platelet rich plasma (PRP). This can be artificial, alloplastic, or from human, homologous or animal sources, xenografts. One favored material is Bio-Oss, a xenograft of hydroxy appetite prepared from a bovine source. The choice of bone and bone expanders is determined by the specific reconstructive requirements.

At NYCOMS, we have a vast expanse in performing a wide range of grafting procedures. We are credentialed to harvest bone from the hip, skull or rib and are comfortable harvesting considerable volumes of bone from the jaws in the setting of our in-office operating facility. We would be pleased to review and/or demonstrate these techniques to you in our conference room or operating room.

## **A WORD FROM OUR PATIENT...**

I had my surgery 2 years ago as of December 14, 2001. Looking back on my experience I cannot believe the amazing job that was done by the NYCOMS team. I had my jaw reconstructed during my senior year of high school; and it was the biggest gift my parents could have given me in a lifetime!

As my surgery date grew near, I became extremely nervous. Nonetheless, I knew that I was in the best of hands. The NYCOMS team prepared my family and I well for surgery.

It was a great challenge to have my jaws wired shut for 8 weeks. However, the end result, was life altering for the best! I have met the 2-year post surgical mark, and honestly, I look in the mirror every day and cannot believe what a difference this surgery has made, not only on my appearance, but also on my self-esteem. I am amazed at my smile, the way I feel about myself, and the 100 percent confidence I have now. It is a self-esteem booster like nothing else! If you are considering having this surgery, go for it! I know, easier said than done. I agree.

If you are reading this and considering having the surgery, I know you're probably terrified. I was. My parents and surgeons got me through these times. They are very understanding and will be able to answer all of your questions, from how to eat to pictures of what you're going to look like in the end...its quite impressive! I know it is a big step, and a hard one to make at that, but just know you are in the hands of people who care about you. The results are well worth it!

-Jennifer Bruckman

*\*If anyone wants to talk to me via email, feel free to contact me at [Pejjen@aol.com](mailto:Pejjen@aol.com) I am more than willing to help you out!*

## **Upcoming NYCOMS Events Spring 2002 Round Table**

If you are a patient who is planning to have surgery this spring or summer, please let the front desk know if you are interested in attending the Spring Round Table Discussion. This is a pre-surgical discussion with our patients and those involved in their surgery, such as an anesthesiologist, nurses on the recovery floor, and a nutritionist. Please ask Sandra Parker, the Surgical Coordinator, or Kristen Drakos, the Administrator, for more information. The dates of the **Spring 2002** Round Table discussion are going to be scheduled in April and June. Patients with upcoming surgery dates will be notified with invitations. If you are considering surgery and would like to attend, please tell us.

## **Staff News**

**Jennifer DePace**, Surgical Assistant, recently took and passed the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Anesthesia Assistants Program exam. This is a test on the surgical and sterilization techniques of the use of anesthesia in the office.

We are pleased to announce that **Dana-Jeanne Downer**, the Financial Administrator in our Lake Success office will be receiving her Master's degree in Healthcare Administration this Spring. Dana has been an asset to the NYCOMS team for 7 years. She continuously demonstrates her professionalism and dedication to our patients.

**For further information on our office, procedures, staff, and surgeons, please visit our website at [www.nycoms.com](http://www.nycoms.com).**

## **NYCOMS EMAIL CHAT ROOM**

We are in the process of setting up a "chat room" on the Internet for patients who are interested in having jaw surgery. This will allow pre-surgical candidates to communicate with our post-surgical patients. We anticipate this site to be up and running Spring or Summer, 2002. If you are interested in participating, please email Kelly Morgano at [ktmorgano@nycoms.com](mailto:ktmorgano@nycoms.com), with your email address and date of your surgery.

## **FROM OUR PATIENTS' POINT OF VIEW:**

If you are interested in submitting an essay about your surgical experience with our team for our newsletter, please send it to our office:

**2001 Marcus Avenue, Suite N-10, Lake Success, NY 11042, and ATTENTION: Kelly Morgano**  
*(All entries must be received no later than Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002, to be considered for the spring issue)*

## \$\$ The Financial Corner \$\$

Dana –Jeanne Downer  
Karen Zacharevitz  
*Financial Administrators*

Help us to help you by educating yourself about your insurance plan. Find it what it covers, what is required to obtain approval for surgery, and their methods of reimbursing patients. Often, it is not covered 100%, so the patient is responsible for some of the fee. Please call the office at any time to speak with Dana or Karen, or email them when visiting our website at [www.nycoms.com](http://www.nycoms.com).

### **REMEMBER:**

The insurance company works for **YOU**, the patient, and ***not*** the doctors who are taking care of you. Know your rights and responsibilities by carefully reviewing your policy. We are here to help and guide you, but protect yourself by staying aware of any changes and updates in your insurance policy.

### **Financial Department Email Addresses:**

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## Office Locations and Phone Numbers

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**Email us by visiting our website at [www.nycoms.com](http://www.nycoms.com).**



