

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

BY WENDY LEWIS

For four days, an impressive roster of facial plastic surgeons, plastic surgeons, dermatologists, and oculoplastic surgeons convened at California's Beverly Wilshire Hotel to present and debate facial techniques in dynamic panels, interactive workshops, and uberpopular live surgery sessions. The American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery's (AAFPRS) Facial Rejuvenation Meeting in Beverly Hills included a strong focus on advanced rejuvenation techniques, pearls for surgical and nonsurgical facial rejuvenation and avoidance and management of complications.

Many of the speakers noted a distinct shift away from the skeletal, tightly pulled appearance of facial plastic surgery that was popularized in the 1990s. There were many discussions on the best uses for dermal fillers. "Sculptra® Aesthetic (Galderma) has excellent longevity and results can last up to three years after three treatment sessions.

*Greenwich, CT facial plastic surgeon Neil Gordon, MD presented the one contrarian lecture of the conference: "The Illusion of Volume Loss," which was based on a chapter he wrote for Facial Plastics Clinics. **"The key point I define is there is no scientific evidence of facial fat loss but substantial evidence of specific facial soft tissue gravitational changes," he says. Dr. Gordon also presented his research from Yale University, which was the first to quantify skeletal aging effects on a single person over time. "Overall, an illusion of volume loss is created in aging because the 'container' (facial superficial soft tissue envelope) enlarges with the fat volume remaining constant," he explains. "A larger container holding the same volume appears as 'half empty'.** The only actual volume loss proven has been skeletal bone loss, which is in the same regions that respond best to volume injections. This occurs in the more extremes of aging and explains treatment limitations in the over 70 age group," Dr. Gordon says.*