



Dear Pitt Alumni,

The last quarter of our academic year was extremely exciting. In April, we were blessed with a very inspiring and emotional talk by Ryan Shazier, former linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who was paralyzed during a game that ended his amazing career. It was called a Walking Miracle; it was an inspirational talk on how faith and perseverance got him through this. Tremendously impactful to all of us.

In addition, you can remember from the old days, we kept the tradition going by taking The George Manstein, MD Award - Overall Frist Place at the Robert H. Ivy Pennsylvania Plastic Surgery Society annual meeting, and we, once again, brought back “The Cup” from the Ohio Valley Society of Plastic Surgeons (OVSPS) Annual Meeting held Louisville.

The clinical services are very busy. As you know, Peter Rubin is President of the American Society of Plastic Surgery and keeps us up to date, communicating of news of importance. We finished the year with the traditional Final Grand Rounds which is always met with mixed emotions. It is a rite of passage for the residents to know that they completed their plastic surgery training, but it is also very sad for us to know that soon they will depart and become a part of this amazing alumni family. With that, please join me in congratulating the graduating class of 2022 and welcome them to *Futrell Society*.

Residents:

Elizabeth Ann Bailey

Ian Chow

Lucas Alexander Dvoracek

Isaac James

Mehmet Uluer

Fellows:

Mohin Bhadkamkar

Linden Head

John Smetona

Cleo Yi

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The new Independent and Integrated Residents started July, 1 2022. Their “Me Talks” are taking place on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am – 9:00am EDT.



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*Spotlight on Alumni!* In this quarter we are spotlighting Kodi K. Azari, Class of 2003.

**1) What are you doing now?**

I am a full professor at UCLA in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, with an appointment in Plastic Surgery. I primarily work in the Ortho Department; I also have an appointment in the Division of Transplantation because of our exceptionally large composite tissue transplant service. My practice is solely hand surgery, which is made up of residents, fellows and med students.

**2) What do you with your free time?**

I spend much of my time outdoors; I live in a beautiful part of Los Angeles, not too far from Malibu. I am an avid cyclist, both road and mountain biking. I try to swim two miles two to three times per week, and I enjoy skiing. My children are ages 11 and 14 and they are involved in many of our activities.

**3) Can you give me a Dr. Futrell story from residency?**

Well, like everyone, I have a lot of funny stories cause we all know how quirky he can be! I was with him on one of his lowest days professionally. I do not want to go into it, but I walked into his office unknowingly what had transpired. All he did was talk to me on how he could try and help promote my career and support my efforts. The discussion was all about me. This speaks volumes to his commitment to Pitt Plastic Surgery and his trainees; his loyalty and devotion is what makes him so special.

**4) Can you give us resident story that stands out?**

It involves you, actually! I was one of the first residents to rotate with you as a PGY-2 after you changed from having a one-year fellowship to residents rotating on your service. I was quite young, and a tad intimidated being in a Level-1 trauma that was so busy. I was on the service for a few days, and you told me, "Kodi, take the bullet. If you have to go to OR, get the trauma surgeons to cover you and take care of it. If you need me, call me." I went through a number of surgeries, including a gunshot wound to the hand, that I took the attendings through. I was very excited.

**5) What is your five-year plan?**

I would like to continue to grow our composite tissue transplant service. From a philanthropic standpoint, I would like to raise enough money to create a unified hand center at UCLA. That would be one of my goals.

6) **If you could have dinner with anyone, now or in the past, who would it be?**

Clearly it would be my father. I was a very young man when he passed. I would love to share time with him now as an adult and give him the opportunity to see what I have accomplished. He would be very proud. He played a tremendous role in my development and character.



Kodi Azari and son

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We are finalizing the details of our weekly Plastic Surgery Grand Rounds subscription. It is a tax deductible contribution, a gift to us and great value to you regarding CME credits. I think you will find it very rewarding. Final details coming soon.

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Finally, I cannot thank those enough who have supported the residency program throughout the year. It is our lifeline. We cannot do it without you. We are going to come up with innovative ways to give you value for your contributions. As always at \$1200, or \$100 a month, you get you a personalized Pitt fleece.

Please stay connected.

Fondly,



Guy M. Stofman, MD  
Clinical Professor, Department of Plastic Surgery  
Chief of Plastic Surgery, UPMC Mercy  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
President, *Futrell Society*  
Class of '91

Attachment: *Residents Corner*