

For Joan\*, 59, the decision to have cosmetic surgery wasn't made in haste. The Etters woman deliberated for countless months about which procedures to seriously consider... and whether to undergo them at all.

When her husband saw a local news feature about Dr. John Stratis, a Mechanicsburg cosmetic surgeon board-certified by both The American Board of Surgery and The American Board of Plastic Surgery, he quickly suggested Joan meet with the physician.

During her consultation with Stratis, Joan was pleased to discover that, in order to offer more options to his patients, he was merging his practice with that of Dr. Scott Gayner as of January 1, 2007. Gayner, board-certified by The American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, would concentrate on facial cosmetic surgery, allowing Stratis to focus on body procedures.

Their unique dual specialist practice, Stratis-Gayner Plastic Surgery, would be the first of its kind in the state... and Joan would be the first patient on which they would operate concurrently, a revolutionary method of carrying out multiple surgical procedures.

"I was very impressed with both of them," Joan avers today. "I have faith and confidence in these two physicians."

#### Making Pennsylvania History

Traditionally, individuals like Joan who undergo simultaneous plastic surgery procedures are attended to by one surgeon, a time-consuming process that can have the doctor working on their feet for six to eight hours or more. And, statistically, patient risk can increase during longer operations due to extended exposure to anesthesia.

However, if two surgeons were to operate on a patient simultaneously, the benefits would be sizeable – limited surgeon fatigue, less patient risk, fewer days of recovery, dual consultations, and potentially significant patient savings.

As veteran cosmetic surgeons with strong desires to concentrate on their subspecialties and provide the most efficient cosmetic surgery options to their clients, Stratis and Gayner made the calculated decision to merge their successful practices into one and offer the consequential advantages to their patients.

Ironically, they found there are few such combination practices operating in America. In fact, Stratis and Gayner's practice is unique throughout the state, including large metropolitan areas such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

By joining forces, each surgeon will be able to concentrate on his specialty area.

For Stratis, that means concentrating on body-related procedures. A longtime painter and sculptor, he brings his keen artist's eye and more than 18 years of experience to every consultation and operation.

Similarly, Gayner will focus on facial plastic surgery. Throughout his earlier life, he enjoyed building model cars and working with his hands; that attention to detail and love of the tactile has been key to his performing life-transforming cosmetic procedures.

Not surprisingly, both physicians are energized by their highly innovative, client-focused organization.

"New cosmetic surgery techniques are being developed at an amazing rate," says Gayner. "By combining our areas of expertise under one roof, we can stay current on the latest improvements in our respective fields."

Stratis agrees, concluding that: "You can't be an expert in



## Stratis-Gayner Plastic Surgery

### *Partnership yields unique patient benefits*

everything. If you're trying to do it all, you're not going to be able to keep up."

Amanda\*, 66, of Camp Hill, sees the merger as dynamic progression of the way cosmetic surgeons will treat patients years down the road. As a patient of both physicians, she observes: "It's nice to be able to go to one office. I think this is a stepping stone to something big."

#### Cosmetic Surgery – Gaining Momentum

Joan and Amanda's interest in elective cosmetic surgery fits plastic surgery trends as reported by the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS).

In the year 2004 alone, 2.1 million cosmetic surgical procedures and 9.3 million nonsurgical procedures were performed. Leading the top cosmetic choices among all Americans in 2005 were liposuction, eyelid surgery, breast augmentation, botox injections, laser hair removal, abdominoplasty, and rhinoplasty. Though women accounted for 10.5 million of the 2005 cosmetic patients, men accounted for nearly 1 million procedures.

"There are a lot of things men can do, particularly [in the] upper face," states Gayner. "Men in their 50s and 60s [can choose] eyelid surgery. It will make them look younger, but not different."

Stratis concurs, explaining that many males are contemplating liposuction and botox treatments to feel and look more youthful.

But whether they are working with men or women, there's one certainty: both Stratis and Gayner are sure they've taken a step in the right direction.

"It's exciting to have someone to work with again," notes Stratis, referring to his years as a sole practitioner. "[And it's] nice to offer something new and different to the public."

Gayner echoes his colleague's sentiments. "It's wonderful to be in an office where we're all thinking the same thing."

And what is their secret to maintaining the momentum of this ground-breaking partnership? For Stratis and Gayner, the answer is simple: "Keep the customer happy."

\* name has been changed