

# M.D. NEWS

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**Center for Facial  
Appearances**

# Center for Facial Appearances

By Steve Luker

*Tropos kai Ergo.* It means “form and function” in Greek. The ancient Greeks’ admiration for these two qualities is evident in their architecture, their love of sport, and perhaps most noticeably, in their art. From busts of Aphrodite to bronzes of Apollo, the concept of strength and health, holistically combined with physical beauty, epitomizes the Greeks’ vision of the ideal individual.

It is these same ideals that doctors John McCann and Richard Anderson bring to the Center for Facial Appearances. A stroll through their Salt Lake City offices quickly confirms this passion for form and function. “If you come and see our practice,” Dr. McCann observed, “you see that [it] looks like an art museum. There is so much artwork, including bronzes and paintings and so forth on the wall, that sets this off as sort of an unusual place.” Such pieces include an athletically-sculpted bronze of Hermes, the ancient wing-footed messenger of the Greek Gods. Aside from patients coming in to receive the best oculofacial plastic care in the country, Dr. McCann observed, “some people come to our practice just to look at the artwork.”

The art, largely the collection of Dr. Anderson, reflects the aesthetic eye and passion for functionality that only an ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon can have. Dr. Anderson said of his collection and his profession, “I would hope that anybody who is doing aesthetic surgery has an aesthetic eye and appreciation for beauty and art and some of the finer things in life.”

Nowhere is the ideal of excellence in form and function more evident than in the procedures they perform. The Center for Facial Appearances specializes in the treatment of eyelid and facial disease (ensuring proper function for their patients) and aesthetic plastics (the creation of more perfect form). Doctors McCann and Anderson recently allowed *M.D. News* to observe the inner workings of their practice, and discussed the formation of the center as well as the function of their practice.

## FORMATION OF THE CENTER FOR FACIAL APPEARANCES

The Center for Facial Appearances was founded by Dr. Richard Anderson. Upon graduating from the University of Iowa Medical School, Dr. Anderson served in several fellowships and academic posts in Iowa, New York and California. Dr. Anderson moved to Salt Lake City in 1984 to become a professor and Chief of the Division of Ophthalmic Plastic and Facial Cosmetic Surgery at the University of Utah. In 1999 he became medical director of Oculoplastic Surgery, Inc. and created the Center for Facial Appearances. Over that span Dr. Anderson has published over 300 scientific papers, 100 book chapters and two books in his field, as well as perennially being named as one of the “Best Doctors in America” and has been named the best oculoplastic surgeon in America.

Dr. Anderson is joined in the practice by his partner Dr. John McCann. Dr. McCann received the degrees of MD and PhD from the University of Iowa. He did residency at University of California, San Francisco and a fellowship at the







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University of Utah. Dr. McCann was a professor at University of California, Los Angeles for nine years where he served as director of the Orbital Disease Center, was head of ophthalmology at one of UCLA's affiliated hospitals, and founded the Aesthetic Center at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Like Dr. Anderson, Dr. McCann has many scientific publications and book chapters to his credit. Dr. Anderson said of his partner, "Dr. McCann had a lot to do with finding the gene for cystic fibrosis back during his medical school days. So I was aware of his career at an early stage and was delighted to recruit him as a fellow and even more delighted that he decided to come back and make Utah his permanent home and join me at the Center for Facial Appearances." Like Dr. Anderson, Dr. McCann has also been named as one of the "Best Doctors in America."

In addition to Drs. Anderson and McCann, the center also sees a steady stream of the world's brightest physicians clamoring for a highly coveted fellowship position each year. Dr. McCann said, "What I think is unique is that we continue to have a training program where we train physicians who come here to do a fellowship ... We are known as the No. 1 training program in the country for both the American fellowship and the international fellowship." This aspect of the center ensures a fresh approach in looking at old problems within the practice as well as ensuring that the future of

the oculofacial surgery field is in capable hands for years to come. "Between the two of us," Dr. McCann added, "we've trained a lot of the doctors that are in the field around the world."

One aspect of the practice that is enhanced by the presence of the fellows is research. In addition to the significant academic background of Dr. Anderson and Dr. McCann, these Fellows bring an influence that keeps the center progressive in its approach to problems by refining and improving procedures and keeping the practice under constant scrutiny. Dr. McCann stated, "If you don't sit back and look at your results objectively we don't know how you can improve them. We continue to make things better for our patients." As a result of this objective look at their practice and procedures, the center continues to publish several articles each year. "We are certainly the most published practice in the field in America and we continue to do this. I think between us and the practice we have published 10 papers this year so we continue to work hard on those things," Dr. McCann said. "I think by publishing our papers we not only make things better for our patients but also for patients all around the world."

Perhaps the most significant *formation* aspect of the center is the synergy that exists between Dr. Anderson and Dr. McCann. Dr. Anderson explains, "There are some things that I think Dr. McCann does better than I do and I think there are some things



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that I do better than he does. We do a lot of cases together where he does the part he does best and enjoys the most and I do that part that I do best.” These two doctors have found a way to work in concert with each others’ skills to create the best functional and cosmetic result for their patients.

Like any great work of art, a successful and progressive practice must not only be formed around a core of highly skilled, nationally renowned doctors, but also offer a certain *functionality* that includes the best care and the latest procedures.

## FUNCTION OF THE CENTER FOR FACIAL APPEARANCES

The Center for Facial Appearances takes advantage of its extensive research by employing cutting-edge procedures in both aesthetic and medical procedures. “As far as cosmetic surgery goes,” Dr. McCann explained, “things have evolved a lot over the last decade. The major change we see is that patients want procedures done with little or no recovery such as Botox injections, filler injections, non-invasive therapies like pulse-light therapy and peels.” The center offers these procedures, as well as improved techniques on upper, mid-face and lower facial surgeries, with a super-specialty in eyelids. “For example,” McCann said, “for our forehead procedures, we have improved recovery time by making the incisions smaller, using a technique called the endoscopic forehead technique.”

Though it has achieved excellence in aesthetics and form, the center has particular interest in the function of the body in treating disease. Dr. McCann stated: “We continue to see a lot of growth in the treatment of disease in our aging population, and as that segment of the population grows so does that part of our

practice. So we are very interested in improving the techniques used for the treatment of disease. In fact,” he continued, “in the last 10 years I have worked a lot on developing new techniques to take care of people who have Graves’ disease . . . Because of my reputation recently for that area we see patients not just from Utah but all over Wyoming and Montana, Eastern Colorado and really all over the United States to take care of those sorts of problems.” Dr. Anderson devised many surgical procedures to help patients with skin cancer, aging changes of the eyelids, and blepharospasm. He was a pioneer in developing Botox in 1983 for abnormalities of the eyelid and Botox use has exploded into treatment for many other disorders such as migraine headaches, excessive sweating of the hands and armpits, as well as the treatment of wrinkles.

Thus, as their reputation for performing these procedures grows, so does their practice. In order to be more accessible to the patient population in Utah, the Center for Facial Appearances will be opening a new clinic at the south end of the Salt Lake Valley, in South Jordan. Dr. Anderson concluded: “If that makes it easier for patients and referring doctors to have our expertise available to them then we want to make that available.”

Of course, with his love of art, he may just need more wall space. ■

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