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PhD in Medical Sciences
2017-2018

INVITATION to the Public defence of

Assaf Zeltzer

To obtain the academic degree of '**DOCTOR IN MEDICAL SCIENCES**'

Maximizing safety and predictability in lymphedema surgery: past, present and future perspectives.

Wednesday 5 September 2018

Auditorium **Piet Brouwer** 17:00

Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

How to reach the campus Jette:

<http://www.vub.ac.be/english/infoabout/campuses>

Summary of the dissertation

Lymphedema is a chronic progressive invalidating condition with which many patients are confronted. Besides the conservative treatment, which is the baseline, surgery for lymphedema exists already over 100 years and microsurgical techniques over five decades. An overview of the lymphedema pathology, the current diagnosis and treatment is given.

Two major issues in lymphedema surgery are: the low predictability with the existing lymphatic bypass techniques and a big concern with potential donor-site morbidity with the lymph node transfers that emerged a few decades ago. This work addresses these two issues by clarifying the normal anatomy for the groin region, thus augmenting safety in the groin lymph node flap harvesting and by augmenting predictability in lympho-venous bypass surgery of the upper limb.

Emerging technologies and tissue engineering are the near future in lymphedema treatment and surgery.

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Zeltzer graduated in 2003 at the medical school at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). From 2003 to 2006 he worked as a specialist in training at the General Surgery department of the Center Hospitalier Jolimont (under supervision of the University of Antwerp). In addition, he followed a two-year course in microsurgery at the UCL (Université Catholique de Louvain). Between 2006 and 2007 he did a Fellowship Aesthetic Surgery, Microsurgery and Hand Surgery, at the SOS hand in Lille (Lille, France). From 2007 to 2011 he was active at the department of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery at the University Hospital of Ghent (Belgium). In June 2011 he received the recognition 'Plastic Surgery' (RIZIV 1-19461-43-210), and was appointed "Fellow of the Collegium Chirurgicum Plasticum". From July to September 2011, he was Fellow Aesthetic Surgery at the Coupure Center in Ghent (Belgium), and followed other plastic and aesthetic surgery fellowships abroad.

Since 1 January 2012, he is a full staff member for the Department of Plastic Surgery at the University Hospital in Brussels (VUB) and has expertise in the following fields: Lymphedema surgery (lymph node transplants, lympho-venous bypass, debulking), General microsurgery (limbs), Breast surgery (aesthetic and reconstructive), Facial surgery (aesthetic and reconstructive) and Surgery of the silhouette (liposculpturing, abdominoplasty, post-bariatric surgery)

Dr. Zeltzer is author and co-author of several scientific publications in both aesthetic and reconstructive plastic surgical journals, and is authors of several book chapters. He is further co-founder of the European center for Lymphatic Surgery at the University Hospital Brussels, and is acting secretary-general and president of the Surgical Section of the Belgian Society of Lymphology (BeSL).