

Joseph (Gruslawsky) Gruss

I have enjoyed hearing all the stories from school - so I will try and give you a synopsis of what I've been up to since matriculating in 1962 [if I can remember that far back!]

After Matriculating I went to medical school at Wits from 1963 to 69 and then completed my intern year in 1970 at the JHB general hospital. I was then a general practitioner in Kempton Park for 7 months and after I had saved enough to pay off my schooling debts I went to Europe and travelled around for 6 months until my money ran out.

I arrived in London at the beginning of 1972 and started my surgical training. In July 1973 I moved to Toronto to complete my General and Plastic Surgery training at the University of Toronto, after which I spent 18 months doing postgraduate specialty training in Head and Neck Oncological and Craniofacial surgery [at that time a very new surgical subspecialty].

I then went back to Toronto where, in January 1979, I started as a full time faculty member in the dept. of Surgery at the Univ of Toronto. I practiced there until the end of 1990 when I was recruited by the Univ of Washington (Seattle) to help develop a multidisciplinary Craniofacial center at the University and the Seattle Children's Hospital. I am still here and am still a full time faculty member of the University.

I practice as a Craniofacial Plastic Surgeon reconstructing and rebuilding heads and faces working 80% on children and 20% on adults. I am a Professor in the Dept. of Surgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine and hold an Endowed Chair and Professorship in Craniofacial surgery at the Children's Hospital and the University of Washington.

Whilst working I am very active in clinical care, surgery, teaching and research and travel regularly to Africa with other members of our team to help set up multidisciplinary Cleft and Craniofacial centers there. We run these mainly out of Ghana, Nigeria and Ethiopia and have satellite centers in Tanzania, Ivory Coast and elsewhere.



On the personal side I am still married to my wife Eve [who I met as an Intern] and we are coming up for 40 years in 2014. I have one daughter Jennie who is an Interior Designer in Seattle. My wife is very dedicated to Animal Rescue and we have 4 rescue dogs and a cat.

Joe with his wife, Eva,
and daughter Jennie

I try to stay active and play as much golf as work will allow [Eve says I'm addicted to golf – which is not a bad thing to be addicted to if it wasn't for the expense and time needed!] I also try to enjoy the outdoors around Seattle and still ski (downhill), hike and kayak whenever I can.

Best regards to all,
Joe

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