

Plastic Surgery Institute Celebrates Milestone

This year the Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery at NYU Medical Center reached a milestone—its 50th anniversary. Led by Joseph McCarthy, M.D., the Lawrence D. Bell Professor of Plastic Surgery, the institute is the largest facility of its kind in the country, and each year treats at least 3,000 patients with cranial or facial abnormalities.

Throughout the year, grateful patients, faculty, and longtime supporters of the institute have gathered to celebrate its special anniversary. In early April, the National Foundation for Facial Reconstruction, which has supported the institute for its entire 50 years, hosted a benefit dinner at the Rainbow Room. The gala raised \$1.4 million for the treatment of children in need of reconstructive treatment. This fall, two special events related to the institute's anniversary are planned. One will involve the many residents and fellows who have trained at the institute. The other will involve former patients, who will meet for a luncheon at the Union League, a private club in Manhattan. Among the attendees will be the first patient who received a distraction, a procedure to mold new bone, which was pioneered by Dr. McCarthy.

Since opening its doors a half century ago, the institute has been revolutionizing the treatment of craniofacial deformities. "You want children to feel good about themselves," says Dr. McCarthy, who became the institute's Director in 1981. "We take care of every child who comes to us, in one way or another—that's our policy."

The institute has brought a smile to thousands of young people over the years, and undoubtedly its good work will continue over the next 50 years.