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**LEWIS J. OBI, M.D.**

OBI PLASTIC SURGERY AND THE  
CELL SURGICAL NETWORK OF FLORIDA

## Plastic Surgeon on the Forefront of Stem Cell Uses

*By Lewis Obi*

Interest in the use of stem cells in plastic surgery procedures has been increasing rapidly, reflecting the widespread acknowledgment of the tremendous potential of stem cell fat transfer. Due to FDA restrictions and the need for an Institutional Review Board guidelines, very few plastic surgeons in the U.S. have integrated advanced techniques of fat grafting. As a result of his diverse and in depth background, Dr Lewis Obi is perhaps at the forefront of private practice plastic surgeons who are exploring this area. Six years ago, Dr Obi was asked to write a chapter in the first book ever to be published on the use of stem cells in aesthetic procedures which was released by Springer Publications in 2014.

In 2017, Dr Obi has taken scientific capabilities to the next level with adult stem cell expansion, 3D Bioprinting and incorporating the vast field of regenerative medicine. The second annual Cell Surgical Network of Florida symposium in Jacksonville hosted an international faculty of stem cell scientist from Korea, Sweden, Germany and the U.S. The 2-3 February symposium and live workshop, conducted at Memorial Hospital of Jacksonville and the Lewis Obi Plastic Surgery Clinic, was a huge success. The live workshop demonstrated the production of stromal vascular fraction and PRP which were used for bioprinting a live nose all within a span of three hours. This was the first time the procedure has been performed in a private setting at a live symposium. Faculty members included Dr Hee Young Lee of Seoul, Dr Paul Gatenholm of Sweden and the Jacksonville CSN team of Dr Lewis Obi, Dr David Heekin and Dr Orlando Florete.

More than 100 were in attendance at the lectures and 50 at the workshop. This was followed by the fourth annual symposium of Cell Surgical Network in Beverly Hills between 2-4 June where Dr. Obi and Dr Lee were also speaking. Co-founders of the California Stem Cell Center, Dr Elliot Lander and Dr Mark Berman hosted this very important international stem cell symposium.

This year, Dr Lewis Obi's Jacksonville team began adipose derived stem cell therapy (SVF) for spinal cord conditions as well as degenerative diseases. Orthopaedic, pain management and plastic surgery indications have been treated at the Obi Plastic Surgery Clinic for more than four years. Dr Obi was one of the early clinical pioneers of Palomar's SlimLipo body sculpting laser platform. This led to the OPERA LIFT: combination of the use of stem cell/PRP volumetric face lift and SlimLipo neck tightening (ObiPalomarExternalRejuvenationalAesthetics) – a completely non-surgical procedure.

Last summer Dr Obi visited the clinic and labs of Dr Hee Young Lee MD, PhD. Dr Lee established Medikan years ago and they manufacture equipment and supplies for the generation/storage of stem cells. Dr Obi has adopted this technology for his stem cell research centre in Jacksonville and plans to conduct another 3D Bioprinting workshop next year. Both Dr Paul Gatenholm of Chalmers University and Dr Hector Martinez of Cellink will be faculty members of the symposium entitled: 3D Bioprinting/Stem Cells for Healing on the Battle and Football Fields.