

# Plastic Surgery

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

## PSN'S SURGEON SPOTLIGHT

**Editor's note:** The bulk of PSN's pages are devoted to specific elements of our mission statement – to keep members informed of the social, political and economic trends and educational opportunities that affect the specialty of plastic surgery.

PSN is pleased to take liberties with the "social" aspect of its mission statement by presenting a good-natured look at the lives of notable members who we believe are making significant contributions to the specialty.



Steven Teitelbaum, MD

IN THIS ISSUE, we present to you Steven Teitelbaum, MD, Santa Monica, Calif. A graduate of the University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine, Dr. Teitelbaum completed his general surgery residency at Harvard Medical School and plastic surgery training at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He entered private practice in 1995 and soon developed a keen interest in legislative issues affecting the specialty on national, state and local levels. Dr. Teitelbaum serves as a member of the ASPS/ASAPS Breast Implant Task Force, co-chair of the California Society of Plastic Surgeons legislative committee and secretary of the Los Angeles Society of Plastic Surgeons Board of Directors. A bit of an activist outside of the medical arena as well, Dr. Teitelbaum once took on the phone company to block "11-digit dialing" in Los Angeles. More significantly, as president of the American Jewish Congress for the Pacific Southwest, he organized a campaign to boycott the famed Cannes Film Festival in France in response to an increase in anti-Semitic incidents in that country; he was subsequently invited to discuss the issue with the French government, which led to legislation to battle the problem. Dr. Teitelbaum also found time to take on the following questions from PSN:

**An operation I no longer perform is...** Hopefully, it's soon going to be saline breast augmentation because silicone-gel augmentation is a far better procedure.

**My single biggest contribution to plastic surgery has been...** My involvement in political issues, such as opposing the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery bid for equivalency in California. In the future, I hope my thoughts on reducing breast augmentation reoperation rates and deformities become more widely known.

**I couldn't operate without...** My scrub tech. I've done every case with her for years, and that consistently improves quality and makes operating more pleasurable. I couldn't imagine operating daily with a constantly changing staff.

**The worst thing about being a plastic surgeon is...** When you just want to be a doctor, you are treated like a business. But if you try to run your practice like a business, then everyone expects you to just be a doctor.

**The last book I read was...** *Freakonomics*, which I recommend to everyone.

**My all-time favorite movie is...** *The Godfather*.

**The biggest surprise I ever had in the O.R. was...** During a secondary augmentation, I saw a horrible-looking chest wall mass. As I cut into it to biopsy it, I could see little gauze filaments; it was a 10-year-old 4x4.



Dr. Teitelbaum examines a patient.



Dr. Teitelbaum is an avid mountain biker (right) and enjoys sailing (above).

**The best part of next weekend will be...** Sailing my new boat.

**My favorite medium for patient photography is...** Digital SLR with perfectly standardized technique.

**The piece of software I couldn't live without...** Inform Solutions' patient tracking and data collection software.



**I seriously collect...** Black and white photography.

**The funniest tattoo I have ever seen is...** A man pushing a lawnmower across "you-know-where" with the corresponding path shaved clean. [PSN](#)