

# Ivan Turpin, MD

## Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

### *Tell us about your practice.*

I've been on staff at St. Joseph Hospital for 30 years and here in the Providence Building since it opened. Although I have privileges elsewhere, this is primarily where I do my cases. My practice is about 40/60 reconstructive and cosmetic work. I'm also a clinical professor at UC Irvine and active with its Plastic Surgery Residency Program, training residents in cosmetic surgery. Four years ago I gained Linda Zeineh, MD, as a partner in my practice. We take pride in having great support staff. I've had the same office manager for 27 years and the same insurance person for about 20 years. They are pleasant and professional and go out of their way to be sure patients are well informed and their insurance issues are resolved.

As I've gotten older I'm winding down, but I still enjoy being active and since I'm in good health I'll continue working. I love what I do and I'm passionate about Plastic Surgery. We've come a long way during my time in practice, with much lower complication rates and excellent results. I find it's especially



rewarding to do restorative work for breast cancer patients, who are a large part of my patient population.

### *How is medicine changing?*

My specialty continues to see exciting advances. Stem cell research and tissue regeneration are very promising. For example, in recent years the use of acellular dermal matrix in the breast at the time of reconstruction following mastectomy has been a tremendous reconstructive advancement with improved shape and contour.

Medicine has become too expensive, but I hope healthcare reform won't result in a loss of funding for research that would stifle innovation, as has happened in Europe. It may come to rationing, such as is common in Canada, where procedures like hip replacements and cataract surgeries are limited. That's going to take some getting used to. Adopting an electronic medical record (EMR) integrated among providers isn't going to be easy, either. EMR sounds good but it will cost doctors a lot to purchase and support at a time when their reimbursement rates are going down.

### *What's life like outside of your practice?*

I love the outdoors. I used to enjoy whitewater canoeing in Canada but I grew too old and the water is too cold. I also used to raise birds of prey, but it's very time consuming when you have a busy practice. Now I'm interested in wildlife photography and try to get out and hike on the weekends. Next year I'd like to make an excursion into Vancouver, Canada, and British Columbia to look for grizzlies.

I've been married to my wife, Darlene, for 42 years. Our son, who is 28 and recently married, is an aerospace engineer at the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona, working on top-secret defense-based projects.

*Dr. Turpin received his medical degree at the University of Utah and completed his internship at UCLA Harbor General Hospital. While there as a resident in general surgery he was drafted into the U.S. Navy to serve in the Vietnam war. As a medical officer he spent a year with the fleet and a year on shore duty at El Toro Marine Base, treating marines and Vietnamese refugees. He enjoyed the people he met and recalls being impressed with the competency of the U.S. military. He went on to complete his residency and boards, then completed residency training at UCI in plastic surgery and earned his second board certification.*



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A PUBLICATION FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER AND CHIEF OF STAFF

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