

Office Coordinator: Lynsey Registered Nurse; Gina Romer,

DR. KIM AT SGK PLASTIC SURGERY APPROACHES HER PRACTICE FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

any of us have entertained the thought of plastic surgery, commonly aspiring to have a flatter

tummy or larger, fuller breasts. Discussing these options with a plastic surgeon can be daunting; for a woman who may be self conscious of her body, the idea of pursuing these aspirations through surgery can be overwhelming. As one of the few female plastic surgeons in the Houston area, Dr. Sugene Kim offers something that many other surgeons simply cannot: a woman's perspective.

"I always wanted to be a surgeon," Dr. Kim shares, offering a friendly smile. She began her journey toward a career in pediatric surgery but soon realized her love of recreating and enhancing not only her patient's physical appearance but their self esteem.

After graduating from Yale University and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, she completed her internship and residency at Georgetown University and her plastic surgery residency at Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center. Dr. Kim then came to Houston to complete her fellowship in microsurgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she focused on advanced techniques in breast reconstruction. As a co-founder of The Institute of Advanced Breast Reconstruction, she pioneered DIEP Flap procedures at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital, Houston Northwest Medical Center and North Cypress Medical Center.

"You cannot even begin to comprehend the emotional impact of losing your breasts if you're not a woman," Practice Manager Dawn Bilyeu explains. Dr. Kim adds, "I feel blessed to be in a position to be able to help them overcome their cancer care and restore their femininity."

An important part of patient care for Dr. Kim is being approachable. "I give my patients my phone number and email address because I want them to know they can talk to me." Patients can expect her to respond at her earliest available opportunity—day or night, weekends included.

When SGK Plastic Surgery opened in 2008, Dr. Kim's goal was to provide the best care possible, both in terms of service and results, and she's done exactly that. Not only

does Dr. Kim possess outstanding credentials, she is double board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and by the American Board of Surgery. With her most important attributes being her character and personality, Patient Care Coordinator Lynsey Hedrick describes Dr. Kim as down to earth, relatable and extremely understanding, "It comes naturally to her to make others feel comfortable and watching our patients' transformation is extremely rewarding."

Each one of the SGK ladies will tell you that getting up in the morning and going to work is not just a job. They describe it as a family atmosphere, where they all share a passion for each and every one of their unique patients. Registered Nurse Lauren Wooley believes that, in addition to providing exceptional results and an individualized plan of care for each patient, Dr. Kim's bedside manner is unparalleled. "That type of bedside manner is not something doctors learn in school. Whether we are seeing a patient for a cosmetic procedure or a patient who needs reconstruction, our staff, including Dr. Kim, works together to ensure each of them has a pleasant and memorable experience."

Dr. Kim values the importance of building relationships; she and her staff desire to exceed each patient's expectations while forming long term relationships. "I want my patients to feel like they can come back to me any time. I never want anyone to feel that I've done their surgery and now our relationship is over."

"Educating our patients and keeping an open line of communication at all times lets our patients know that we have a sincere interest in them as individuals. That feeling makes them comfortable with us while we guide them through their treatment plan and beyond," says Gina Romer, Patient Care Coordinator and Licensed Aesthetician.

With many factors involved in the decision to have plastic surgery, Front Office Coordinator Christie Bissmeyer encourages patients to be confident in the choice they make. "I tell prospective patients to see another surgeon if they want to, as I am confident that they will find out that Dr. Kim's personality and her impeccable skill will stand apart from other surgeons and their practices. We have an amazing

In keeping with the continued growth of her practice, Dr. Kim and her staff are eagerly preparing for some exciting changes. In the spring of 2012, SGK Plastic Surgery will see the addition of an on-site accredited operating room where select surgeries will be performed. This expanded facility, in combination with SGK's satellite office in Katy, will allow Dr. Kim to continue to provide the latest medical advances and technologies for her patients across the greater Houston area.

As a woman and a mother, Dr. Kim feels honored to be able to help women restore their bodies after childbirth and turn back the hands of time with nonsurgical and surgical procedures. From her perspective, the most rewarding part of her profession is seeing her patients reach their aesthetic goals while rebuilding their self image.

"Whether I'm improving something the patient already has or restoring something they have lost, I want each patient to be provided with the utmost level of care and service. Seeing post-operative patients so happy is such a positive feeling. I'm very lucky to have a job that I love and to have the support of a wonderful staff, who all truly care about our patients."



about Dr. Sugene Kim and



MOMMY MAKEOVER