

INTRODUCTION



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In recent years, penile reconstructive surgery has evolved to a great extent, thanks not only to the increasing knowledge and better understanding of the genital structure, but also to the availability of new biomaterials and cutting-edge biotechnologies.

Autologous grafts techniques have also advanced thanks to the innovative use of materials such as lingual and buccal tissue: the latter have contributed to an extraordinary degree to the success of the new reconstructive approaches.

It is for these reasons that the disciplines of Urology and Andrology, often by joint efforts, have progressively focused on scientific research and activities in the field of Urogenital reconstructive surgery.

Prestigious Scientific Societies such as European Society of Male Genital Surgery (ESMGS), European Association of Genito-Urinary Reconstructive Surgery (ESGURS), American Society of Genito-Urinary Reconstructive Surgery (ASGURS), Società Italiana di Chirurgia Genitale Maschile (SICGEM) and others, were established in the United States and in Europe, and have promoted this discipline by successfully organizing Symposia, Conferences and Live-Surgery Events that attracted great interest in the medical community.

Recently, extremely interesting papers were authored by the Heads of a number of centers of excellence in the area of Uroandrological Reconstructive Surgery, providing important insights into several topics of this discipline.

The idea of calling upon the leading experts in the field to collaborate in creating an *Atlas of Reconstructive Penile Surgery* to provide surgical technique guidance and a didactic tool arose precisely during one of the meetings held by ESGURS, whose Board is comprised of some of the greatest experts worldwide in this field.

This volume is thus intended for physicians focusing on advance their expertise in this area, and shall address current surgical principles and procedures in a field characterized by an ongoing evolution.

I am confident that in Italy it will be greatly appreciated by the 200 attendees of the Itinerant European School of Andrological Surgery. Thanks to the innovative training provided by the School in years 2004-2005, these medical professionals might prove to be the propelling force of the future evolution of urogenital reconstructive surgery. The extremely valuable contributions generously offered by most of the instructors of this School is now made available in a rich iconographic layout that will be an usefull mnemonic aid for surgeons.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for the selfless contributions of these outstanding Colleagues of mine – who are not only scientists, but first and foremost Masters in the art of Surgery.

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