

Life-changing makeovers through dermatology

Dr. Raffaele Rauso's journey in Aesthetic Medicine

By: R.N. Sugitha Nadarajah



**Medical Cosmetic Surgeon
Dr. Raffaele Rauso**

While recalling his experiences during his volunteer work with the Italian humanitarian organization Emergenza Sorrisi, aesthetic surgeon Dr. Raffaele Rauso, says, "Throughout my career, I have operated on about 200 children with cleft lip, burns, and etc., during charity missions performed in Africa, Brazil, Paraguay, Jordan and other countries." In an exclu-

sive interview with JSD media team, the featured personality for this issue's Researcher in Spotlight further adds, "As with all medical doctors, I choose to study medicine to help people."

Emergenza Sorrisi—or 'Doctors for Smiling Children' as the organization calls itself—sends specialist doctors to over 20 countries worldwide to conduct surgeries on thousands of children with facial disfigurements, burns or war-related injuries, and Dr. Rauso is one of the dedicated surgeons who lend their expertise towards achieving its goals. According to the organization, the Emergenza Sorrisi doctors attended to the children's deformities, and the approximately 45-minute surgical procedure can bring back the children's smiles and give them a new way to live their lives.

Dr. Rauso's commitment in changing the lives of children affected by such defects was featured in an online interview with Eni, the Italian oil and gas company that collaborates with Emergenza Sorrisi. "Taking part in the Uganda mission was a great life experience, despite it being physically challenging for me," Dr. Rauso was quoted as saying. "Regardless, seeing the children who were scared at first and then happy at the end of the procedure, gave me the strength to go on. I didn't feel fatigue nor hunger, but only satisfaction," he added.

The Italian doctor, who is also the founder of aesthetic surgery network Chirurgia della Bellezza, first began his medical education in 2005 at the University of Naples, Italy, where he obtained a degree in



Dr. Rauso with a pediatric patient during an Emergenza Sorrisi charity mission (Image credit: Eni.com)



Dr. Rauso (sitting, left) and his plastic surgery medical team from Chirurgia della Bellezza (Image credit: Chirurgia della Bellezza)

Medicine and Surgery (cum laude). He then undertook surgical training in the field of reconstructive plastic surgery of the face, obtaining qualification as a specialist in Maxillofacial Surgery (cum laude) at the Maxillofacial Traumatology Department of the same university.

In 2011, he received a Master's degree in Aesthetics Surgery from University of Milan, Italy, with his thesis titled "Guidelines in Breast-Implants Infection". Dr. Rauso then did a post-graduate diploma in Microsurgery at Cardarelli Hospital in Naples before continuing with his PhD in Dermatology, Anatomy and Plastic Surgery at Sapienza University in Rome. Additionally, he also completed a Master in Breast Reconstruction from Sapienza University and a Master in Oral Implantology from Second University of Naples, thus giving him an advantage in the field of aesthetic surgery, where such qualifications are highly valued.

"After obtaining a medical license, I focused mainly in craniofacial surgery and then in breast surgery, which are my preferred fields. This was influenced by my personal attitude in approaching these areas," says the surgeon. "However, although I started with facial and breast reconstructive surgery, later on I focused on aesthetic plastic surgery, and nowadays I have a personal approach using reconstructive criteria applied in aesthetic surgery," adds Dr. Rauso. He further explains that the particular method he chose produces "natural and long lasting

results" compare to a "merely aesthetic approach".

According to the surgeon, the key challenge in aesthetic plastic surgery is represented by the personalized approach. "Nowadays, we often see people with standardized results—faces that looks like others and so on. It is challenging not only to understand the surgical approach but also to let other physicians understand the right approach," Dr. Rauso says. He asserts that his personal challenge is the search of a surgical approach that is least aggressive as possible and produces long-lasting results in aesthetic plastic surgery.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rauso has visiting experiences at some of the most qualified departments in craniofacial and plastic surgery, namely the Clinic of Maxillofacial, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Universitätsspital Basel (Switzerland); Craniofacial and Facial Plastic Surgery Institute, G.S.R. Institute in Hyderabad (India); Klinik Professor Sailer AG, Private Klinik Bethanien, Zurich (Switzerland); and Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Clinic, Villa Bella, Salò (Italy). Dr. Rauso is also affiliated with distinguished organizations within the European aesthetic-plastic and maxillofacial surgery field, including the European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery and the European Association for Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery.

"I am the elected president of the Italian Federation



Dr. Rauso performing a surgery (Image credit: Chirurgia della Bellezza)

of Aesthetic Medicine (FIME) and I am working with the Italian Ministry of the Health to standardize the learning course of physicians interested in this non-surgical aesthetic field that often is approached without competencies,” says Dr. Rauso. He adds, “I think that both patients and physicians will benefit from a well-defined educational program in aesthetic medicine: patients will receive only safe procedures, physicians will be sure they are doing right.”

When asked about his current project and goals, Dr. Rauso says that he is currently focusing on standardizing the techniques in aesthetic plastic surgery, aiming to obtain faster and safer results. “An easy example is the so-called “smart mastoplasty”, a technique that allows for a fast and safe breast surgery, with implants placed in a dual plane pocket, in only 30 minutes!” he describes.

“Dermatology research is a field which is continuously evolving, as are most of the specialties in medicine; however, I think that a big step has been taken in cosmetic dermatology, due to the big interests arose in last 20 years,” says Dr. Rauso. “I am sure that cosmetic dermatology, in next years, will have big evolution due to the big interest in this field and due to the large numbers of research that have been done and will be done,” he concludes. ■

Dr. Rauso is affiliated with Centro Polispecialistico Santa Apollonia and has private practices in Naples, Rome and Milan dedicated to plastic and aesthetic surgery of the face and techniques of body contouring. His correspondence to the Editor, “An Easy Supplement to Ear Surgery Post-Operative Dressing”, is published in this issue of JSD (pages 15–16).