



# American Society for Peripheral Nerve

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## Leadership Profile



**Ivica Ducic, MD, PhD**  
**Professor, Plastic Surgery**  
**Director, Peripheral Nerve Surgery Institute**  
**Georgetown University Hospital, Washington DC**  
**President, American Society for Peripheral Nerve**

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[www.DrDucicPlasticSurgery.com](http://www.DrDucicPlasticSurgery.com)

In this spring 2011 ASPN Newsletter issue, we present Ivica Ducic, MD, PhD, 2011 President of the American Society for Peripheral Nerve. In pursue of his medical career, Ivan, as his friends call him, came from Croatia to Washington in 1991, after receiving his medical degree from University of Zagreb School of Medicine (Croatia, Europe). At the same institution he also received a PhD degree, concluding several years of neuroscience research at the Georgetown University Department of Pharmacology. Upon completing post-graduate training in plastic surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in 2002, Dr. Ducic entered a one-year peripheral nerve surgery fellowship at the Institute for Peripheral Nerve Surgery. He then joined the full-time faculty practice at Georgetown University Hospital's Department of Plastic Surgery in August 2003, where he holds the rank of Professor of Plastic Surgery and is a Director of Peripheral Nerve Surgery Institute.

As a board-certified plastic surgeon, Dr. Ducic's clinical and academic focus is mainly related to Peripheral Nerve Surgery for Chronic Migraine/Headache, Occipital Neuralgia, Upper or Lower Extremity Compression Neuropathies, Chronic Pain Following Surgery or Trauma, Peripheral Nerve Injury Following Surgery or Trauma, Peripheral Nerve Tumors, Nerve Reconstruction and Microsurgery. The long list of original clinical studies authored by Dr. Ducic, identifies significant contributions he made in the advanced care of patients with peripheral nerve problems, allowing many of us to provide better care to our patients. In many public appearances and lectures he continues to enthusiastically share his knowledge and teach other professionals about future directions in peripheral nerve surgery. This national recognition as an expert in peripheral nerve surgery makes not surprising fact that at least one third of his clinical practice includes patients coming from different parts of the country.

Dr. Ducic takes pride over the chosen profession and kind of the job he does. When asked about priorities as 2011 ASPN President, he stressed the importance of education, both patients and professionals, and the need for better communication between different medical providers treating patients with nerve injuries. Future of peripheral nerve surgery is depended as much on highly specialized interdisciplinary patient care, as is on research defining new options for nerve reconstruction. Dr. Ducic further added that this task requires all of us to prospectively think and act along those goals, thus enabling new progress. In addition, Ivan's opinion is that communication between our respective societies is more important than ever in accomplishing our common goals. He considers himself extremely privileged to be serving as 2011 President of the American Society for Peripheral Nerve and interacting with a wonderful group of highly energetic scientists and clinicians focused on treatment of patients with peripheral nerve problems.

Despite many accomplishments, Ivan remains modest and always appreciative. He considers important to acknowledge his former mentors, current partners and Georgetown University Hospital leadership for enabling him to establish peripheral nerve surgery in 2003. This is in addition to all ASPN leadership in the past that gave him a chance to become a "team" member and serve now as ASPN president. He also wanted to express his appreciation for an unconditional support from his wife Mariana, who despite her pediatric practice manages life of our two great boys (Daniel and Tony). Now at age 13 and 10, based on their school grades and opinions, I am coming to realize I was clueless at their age, a great feeling full of hope to have as a parent, he adds. Since both are on McLean travel soccer team, requiring every weekend (often distant) trips to their games, he said he feels like having two jobs; one is "regular" weekday, and the other is being a cab driver weekend job. He thinks both feel great and are for a good reason, especially since the boys, as a payback, promised him a red turbo sports car when they become famous one day. Ivan said he will patiently wait... He travels every summer to Croatia to enjoy Dalmatian coast with his family and still manages to escape every fall for a few days to harvest grapes with his parents in their vineyard. He hopes to see us all in Las Vegas for an upcoming 2012 ASPN meeting.