

A LEAP of Faith

By Jeannie Erwin

Making a difference can look like many things. Sometimes it is the simple things: a smile, kind word and a listening ear. Other times, making a difference can take a trip around the world and a near miracle. Fortunately, Craig Hobar, M.D., FACS, specializes in both, and everything in between. As a founding member of the Dallas Plastic Surgery Institute, which is affiliated with Baylor University Medical Centers and located in the Pyramid Buildings, Dr. Hobar approaches everything he does with a strong commitment and unyielding desire to make a significant difference in the lives he feels so privileged to touch. "I feel very blessed to have the practice that I do. Plastic surgery is about improving quality of life. How many other specialties are defined by people who seek medical care out of desire and not out of need?"

In his practice, Dr. Hobar finds his work is gratifying on so many different levels. He enjoys the unique challenge that each individual case presents. He also enjoys seeing the emotional changes that take place in response to the

One such case was Li Ying Wang from rural China, who was born with hypertelorism, which are eyes separated by a cleft; encephalocele, the outpouching of the brain; as well as four segments of a nose separated by a wide cleft, and a cleft lip and palate, a surgery unlike any he had previously done. The Leap Landmark fund brought Li Wang to the U.S. and funded her successful operation.



The team travels to remote villages in central India, Belize, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Laos, where there is a tremendous need. Families come from great distances, having heard of LEAP and wanting hope for their child.

physical ones. Oftentimes, a patient can be bothered by a small cosmetic or physical defect that has worn away their self-confidence and a simple procedure can create a significant improvement in how they perceive themselves. "It does not always take a dramatic surgery to get a dramatic effect."

INTEGRITY OF CARE

Every case is approached with the utmost care. Realizing that every moment is significant in his encounters with patients is something he takes very seriously. "I must be convinced that a procedure is safe, effective and beneficial to my patient before I will perform it." The surgeries, which are performed at the well-known Dallas Day Surgery Center, commonly include facelifts, breast augmentation, rhinoplasties, tummy tucks, liposuction and breast lifts. Among his favorite procedures are full-support facelifts sometimes associated with facial sculpting if bony support is inadequate. Though simpler to perform, Dr. Hobar is not a proponent of the heavily touted "fast facelifts," as they do not address the crucial issue of complete rejuvenation. According to Dr. Hobar, "The key to a natural, long-lasting result in facial rejuvenation is to tighten the supporting structures that have been loosened with time and allow the skin to redrape naturally. There is no need for a pulled or unnatural look." In breast augmentation as well, the goal is to create a naturally appearing breast. His technique, performed endoscopically, avoids scarring and