



A Ton of Talent

plus

A Dash of Destiny

equals

| By: VERONICA NEVAREZ |

A Recipe for Success!





When two doctors embarked on their own journey to helping others, they knew for certain that this was their calling. What they didn't know is how their lives would collide, by sheer fate, to make the deepest impact not only in our community, but around the world. Enter Dr. Frank Agullo and Dr. Humberto Palladino. When viewing their curriculum vitae, one can't help but feel overwhelmingly impressed with the long list of top-notch credentials and awards. As nationally recognized surgeons with specialties in plastic and general surgery, the bar is set high. What isn't apparent, is that they had choices about where they would make their individual mark and that's what makes their story remarkable. How so? Quite simply, out of sheer adoration of El Paso, these award-winning surgeons chose our beautiful Sun City to make a WORLD of difference!

Both doctors are of Latino descent, but from different ethnic backgrounds. This would become a common link in the decisions they would eventually make with respect to the place they would one day call home. Dr. Agullo, born in Puerto Rico, made his way to El Paso as a first year medical resident working in the ICU at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in the early 2000's. He recounts meeting Dr. Palladino in 2003, arranged by a simple email that would lead to a first meeting and the beginning of not only a professional relationship, but a lasting friendship. Dr. Palladino, who would be completing his general surgery training at Texas Tech, recalls arriving to El Paso on a Sunday and Dr. Agullo being the very first person he'd meet that day.

This encounter would mark not only the early beginnings of a solid partnership, but would later serve as the glue that keeps this team together. What's more, their team would also come to include the doctors' wives, Pamela Agullo and Alina Palladino.

Today, they pride themselves as a husband and wife collaboration of smarts, know-how, and the little things that come with genuine friendship. In fact, when Dr. Agullo picked up and moved to Rochester, MN to attend the prestigious Mayo Clinic to complete his plastic surgery training, Dr. Palladino would soon follow. Together the two would eventually graduate from the Mayo Clinic as full-fledged general and plastic surgeons, and the rest is history.

As Dr. Palladino explains, returning to El Paso was very much a "lottery," since each had a listing of cities where they could best put their skills into practice and both had actually placed El Paso on the list. Not surprisingly, the doctors name friendliness and approachability of the people of our city, similarities in language and culture, as well as safety, as their top reasons for choosing to live and work here. They also recognized a need for improving the quality of life here, as well as for improving a patient's self-image as a result of their work. Interestingly, Dr.



in their quest for improving overall quality of life. From performing surgeries in places like Vietnam, Peru, and our neighboring Mexico, their benevolent acts have enabled a sheer transformation in children suffering from facial cleft lip and palate deformities. Their selfless missions have become life changing as those suffering from such congenital defects experience a newfound freedom from the hindering effects on self-image that accompany such conditions. These acts of caring for the underserved continue to this day, since missions are planned yearly through SMILE Network International, which is an organization that works to coordinate efforts around the world. Both doctors also credit Dr. William Miller from the Rotary Club of El Paso as having been instrumental in these humanitarian contributions, especially right across our border in Juárez where, in one instance, as many as 63 surgeries were performed in one straight week.



Agullo tells of having once had a negative view of plastic surgery until he realized the many benefits of cosmetic surgeries on children suffering from facial deformities. He explains, "That's how I got interested in plastic surgery, because I saw what a difference the plastic surgeons were making in these kids' lives."

This leads us to the noteworthy, humanitarian efforts displayed by Dr. Agullo and Dr. Palladino

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Today, these Board Certified surgeons own and operate Southwest Plastic Surgery in conjunction with their talented wives. Pamela Agullo, Marketing and Hair Transplant Lead

Tech, and Alina Palladino, Marketing and Public Relations, help their husbands run a booming practice and are the epitome of team playing as they thrive in delivering the best in cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery in our area. Dr. Agullo also currently serves as Clinical Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery and Dr. Palladino serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery, both at the Texas Tech Department of Surgery. When they're not teaching, they're offering the most advanced techniques in plastic surgery available in El Paso. From SERI internal biosilk bras and corsets, which improve the results of breast augmentation and tummy tuck procedures, to the latest in buttock augmentation techniques like Brazilian Butt Lifts and Buttock Implants, these surgeons are offering the latest and greatest in cosmetic plastic surgery.

The future looks even brighter when looking at current research into stem cell technologies for the advancement of cosmetic plastic surgery. Tissue Perfusion, Platelet Rich Plasma, and Adipose Derived Stem Cell techniques are on the forefront of what these doctors are offering for those looking for what's trending in preventative aging procedures. As Dr. Palladino asserts, "We may not make you live longer, but we make you live better." So, for anyone looking for the best and most qualified plastic surgeons in town, you won't have to travel far. We're privileged to have two brilliant practitioners available right here in our backyards! And so it goes ... things really do happen for a reason and lucky for us, the whole team at Southwest Plastic Surgery was destined to make El Paso a powerful ingredient in their winning recipe for success.



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