

## Targeting surgeon decisions for facial soft tissue surgery

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The muscles of facial expression are responsible for animated facial behaviors that are important form of non-verbal (animated) communication. Proper functioning of these muscles also impacts facial esthetics during different animations and expressions. In patients with congenital and/or acquired facial disabilities, such as patients born with cleft lip and palate (CL/P), both the non-verbal communication and functional esthetics may be affected, and these factors often are ignored as outcomes of surgical rehabilitative procedures. Even after the primary or initial lip repair in patients with CL/P, many remain with an obvious and severe facial disability that requires additional lip revision surgery. Generally, both the treatment planning for these surgeries and outcome assessments have been based on subjective assessments of the disability made both by the surgeon in conjunction with patient/parents. In this regard, our research group has demonstrated the utility of a unique set of quantitative and dynamic measures for objective evaluation of facial soft tissue disability, as well as a systematic evaluation approach using both objective measures and subjective assessments to be used by surgeons. The focus of this presentation will be on research using the newly-developed, novel measurement technique to target individual patient surgical needs and the impact on surgeons' treatment planning decisions for surgery.

### Biography

Carroll Ann Trotman received her dental degree from the University of Dundee, Scotland; a certificate in Orthodontics and MA (Oral Biology) degree from Columbia University, NY; and a MS (Clinical Research) from the University of Michigan. She has also completed Fellowships in Craniofacial Anomalies and Clinical Research and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. She has had an active research program throughout her career and her currently NIDCR-funded research efforts are focused on the outcomes of cleft lip surgery. She has published extensively, served on several NIDCR panels and study sections, and is a recipient of numerous awards and honors.

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