

**ASSOCIATION OF RICE ALUMNI  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Thomas M. Biggs, M.D. Phone 713-650-0800 Fax 713-650-8448  
Address 1315 St. Joseph Parkway  
City/State/Zip Houston, Texas 77002-8231 Rice Class Year(s) 1952-54  
Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions Baylor College of Medicine, M.D. 1958  
Occupation/Professional Field Plastic Surgery  
Current Title/Position Cronin, Brauer & Biggs Clinic Assn; Clinical Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine

The Distinguished Alumni Award is designed to recognize Rice alumni who have advanced the interest and standards of excellence of Rice University through distinctive professional or volunteer careers. The following criteria will be considered:

- a) advancement of the value of one's profession; exceptional expertise and dedication
- b) significant professional innovations or research findings
- c) significant voluntary contributions of energy, time, creativity, and skills for the advancement of the community welfare, the arts, education, social or government service

Please attach a curriculum vita or other biographical information for the above nominee, describing his or her professional achievements, honors and awards, publications/inventions/innovations, and professional/civic activities, boards or affiliations. In addition to the curriculum vita, please provide a short letter of recommendation describing the merits of the nominee. Consider the following question in support of the above criteria: **What qualities or achievements make this person a truly outstanding leader in his or her profession, and a role model for current Rice students?**

Please note that incomplete nomination forms cannot be considered.

Nominated by Catharine Savage Brosman Phone 713-795-5979 Fax —  
Address 2001 Holcombe Blvd., Suite 1705  
City/State/Zip Houston, Texas 77030

Please list two other people (i.e., colleague, classmate) whom you have asked to write a letter of support to further validate your nomination.

- 1) Name Bruce Cunningham, M.D. Relationship Colleague of Dr. Biggs  
Address Mayo Mail Code 122, 420 Delaware St., Phone 612-625-1188  
Minneapolis, MN 55455
- 2) Name Bryan C. Mendelson, M.D. Relationship Colleague of Dr. Biggs  
Address 109 Mathoura Rd., Tourak, Victoria 3142 Phone (03) 9826-0977  
Australia

Please return nomination material to:

Lauren Linn  
Assistant Director  
Office of Alumni Affairs – MS 520  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston TX 77251-1892

or fax to: 713-348-5210

3) Gaith Shubailat, M.D. (Colleague of Dr. Biggs)  
P.O. Box 5180  
Amman, Jordan 11183  
9626-4644 900 (Ph.)

**THOMAS M. BIGGS, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

**Curriculum Vitae**

<b>BIRTHDATE</b>	March 11, 1933
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
1948-1951	Mirabeau B. Lamar High School Houston, Texas
1951-1952	Yale University
1952-1954	Rice University
1954-1958	Baylor College of Medicine Houston, Texas M.D. Degree
<b>INTERNSHIP</b>	
1958-1959	University of Wisconsin Hospital Madison, Wisconsin
<b>RESIDENCY</b>	
1959-1962	Baylor Affiliated Hospitals Houston, Texas General Surgery
1962-1964	Baylor Affiliated Hospitals Houston, Texas Plastic Surgery
<b>MILITARY</b>	
1964-1966	Captain, United States Air Force Chief of Plastic Surgery Travis AFB, California
<b>BOARD CERTIFICATION</b>	
1967	American Board of Plastic Surgery
1978	Recertified

**PRIVATE PRACTICE****1966-1988**

Cronin, Brauer & Biggs Clinic Association  
An Association of Plastic Surgeons  
Houston, Texas

**1988-Present**

Biggs & Collins  
A Professional Association  
Houston, Texas

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Clinical Professor  
Division of Plastic Surgery  
Baylor College of Medicine

**HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS**

St. Joseph Hospital  
Emeritus

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

American Association of Plastic Surgery  
American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery  
Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons  
Houston Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American College of Surgeons  
Texas Surgical Society  
Harris County Medical Society  
American Medical Association  
Texas Medical Association

**LICENSURE****1958**

State of Texas (C-6863)

**ADDRESS**

1315 St. Joseph Parkway, Suite 900  
Houston, Texas 77002-8231  
(713) 650-0800

## **ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICES**

<b>1979-1981</b>	Treasurer Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons
<b>1980-1981</b>	President Houston Society of Plastic Surgeons
<b>1982-1983</b>	President Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons
<b>1986-1987</b>	Member-At-Large, Board of Directors American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1988-1989</b>	Chairman, Scientific Research Committee American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1992</b>	Scientific Program Chairman, XI Congress of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1992-1994</b>	Course Director International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1992-1996</b>	Scientific Program Committee International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1996-1997</b>	Visiting Professor International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1997</b>	Chairman, Nominating Committee International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1997-1999</b>	Chairman, National Secretaries International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>1998-2000</b>	Chairman, Finance Committee International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>2000-2002</b>	Traveling Professor The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>2000</b>	Professor of Postgraduate Education in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>2000-2002</b>	President-Elect International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>2001</b>	Co-Editor Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

<b>2002-</b>	Editor-in-Chief Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>2002-2004</b>	President International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
<b>2004-</b>	ISAPS Representative American Society of Plastic Surgeons International Committee

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

<b>2005</b>	2005 Distinguished Houston Plastic Surgeon
<b>2007</b>	"Homage" for a Lifetime of Contribution to Plastic Surgery in Brazil
<b>2008</b>	Honorary member Jordanian Society of Plastic Surgery
<b>2009</b>	Honorary member Florida Society of Plastic Surgery
<b>2009</b>	Honorary member Belgian Society of Plastic Surgery
<b>2009</b>	Honorary member Brazilian Society of Plastic Surgery

**Catharine Savage Brosman, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of French Emerita, Tulane University**  
**Honorary Research Professor, University of Sheffield (UK)**  
**2001 Holcombe Blvd. # 1705**  
**Houston, TX 77030**  
**cbrosman@tulane.edu**

11 January 2010

Lauren Linn, Assistant Director  
Office of Alumni Affairs—MS 520  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Dear Ms. Linn:

This letter constitutes my nomination of Thomas M. Biggs, M.D., for a Rice Distinguished Alumnus Award. The nomination is supported by three letters from very eminent physicians in his field. While only two additional letters of support are requested, in this case a third is appropriate. You will note that my doctorate is a Ph.D.; my field is French literature. It therefore seemed suitable to have endorsements from three figures in medicine. All are distinguished internationally. None is connected to Rice; but they are all well placed to assess Dr. Biggs's qualifications, since they are members of the national and international circles of plastic surgery to which, as his curriculum vitae shows, he has contributed enormously.

The reasons for which this nomination comes from me, rather than a medical colleague, are worth setting out. I am an alumna of Rice (B.A. 1955, plus graduate degrees). I was a classmate and friend of Dr. Biggs during the two years he spent at Rice, and we have remained friends. I have followed his career with interest over the decades. Moreover, I was myself honored by a Distinguished Alumna Award (2000) and know others who have been so honored—for instance, E. I. B. (Brad) Thompson, M.D.; thus I am well acquainted with the award. Finally, unlike the three other supporters, I am retired and thus have time for this matter.

Dr. Biggs's lengthy curriculum vitae and the recommenders' statements scarcely need further emphasis. I can, however, usefully call your attention and that of your committee members to the following aspects of his career, including his human qualities.

1. Dr. Biggs has performed, by his own count, some 30,000 surgical operations. Although many were for cleft lip and other facial deformity, cleft palate, and burns (starting with his service at Travis Air Force Base), his chief area is reconstructive breast surgery. Lest it be supposed that this is merely trading on others' vanity, I shall point out that breast reconstruction and implant surgery have immense social importance. Thousands of women who have partial or whole mastectomies dread the consequences; to eliminate this dread and restore their appearance is an important contribution to their welfare. For some other women, the improvement in general appearance afforded by reconstructive surgery is of great significance in their lives.

2. In all his dealings with patients, Dr. Bigg's first aim (as he has emphasized in speeches) is establishing *trust* between surgeon and patient. Two representative cases can be cited. In one recent instance, a couple came to him with their small boy whose hand had been badly burnt. A pediatrician had treated the child, but they wanted Dr. Biggs to see him also. Coincidentally each parent, as a child, had been treated by him—the woman, from Central America, for a bilateral cleft lip; the man, whose family had recently arrived from Cuba, for a facial fracture. Remembering what they had been told about the surgeries, and knowing the results—two handsome, unscarred people—they had come back to the doctor whose opinion would mean the most to them.

In the other case, in 1967 Dr. Biggs operated on a Texas woman whose gratitude was enormous. When her husband was badly injured and burned in a plane crash in a remote area of Wyoming, Dr. Biggs was informed immediately. Knowing that proper care could not be given there, Dr. Biggs sent, on a jet he chartered, an anesthesiologist and an intensive care nurse to bring the man back to Houston; an ambulance took him directly from the plane to the operating room. The man subsequently underwent fifty-five operations, all at Dr. Biggs's hands, and though his appearance and health were never restored entirely, he has been able to lead a good life. The trust that he showed in his physician is reciprocated; he manages his doctor's investments. These examples illustrate the admiration and trust inspired by this exceptional physician.

3. Dr. Biggs's numerous publications (some fifty peer-reviewed chapters and articles) indicate continuing research and innovation and successful dissemination of results. Dr. Bruce Cunningham calls him an "innovative thinker" and notes that several early papers by Dr. Biggs are still cited. Note that one of his articles was honored as the best journal article on aesthetic surgery published in 2000.

4. His activity in professional societies and at surgical meetings in Texas, the United States, and internationally has been continuous. He has served frequently as an elected or appointed officer. His activity led to the presidency of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery; in this capacity he was responsible for the Houston meeting of the society (2004). His election signified both recognition by others for previous achievements and an opportunity to advance research and clinical practice further, on a wide scale. Similarly, his appointment as editor of the journal *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery* indicated the esteem in which he is held. This is the oldest journal in the field; its subscribers number about seven thousand. Dr. Bryan Mendelson observes that the standing of the journal rose considerably after Dr. Biggs assumed the editorship.

5. The number of clinical demonstrations and speeches he has given here and abroad, in more than fifty countries, indicates how widely he is viewed as an outstanding representative of his field. This is a matter not of collecting passport stamps, but of helping to train doctors elsewhere and inspire them to perform at the highest level. He is clearly an inspirational speaker without peer. Dr. Mendelson notes his "natural flair and passion for teaching"; Dr. Cunningham calls him "a dedicated and inspiring surgical educator"; Dr. Gaith Shubailat uses the term "visionary." "His ability to communicate is phenomenal," writes Dr. Cunningham, who was present on three occasions when the audience gave him a standing ovation. Once when Dr. Biggs and his wife were in New Orleans for a convention, I dined with them and met two visiting Russian doctors to whom he had been both mentor and inspiration; they spoke of him in the highest terms.

6. His presidency and other international activities have contributed to a favorable image of American surgeons abroad. Dr. Mendelson notes that, in dealings with foreigners, Dr. Biggs belies the usual American type by putting "all men as equals irrespective of their country of origin or financial status. . . . Dr. Biggs is an extraordinary example of the American who is accepted as being truly international . . ." Dr. Shubailat calls him "a special ambassador" and praises, along with his skill in medicine, his deep interest in the lives of those he meets abroad.

Dr. Biggs thus stands out as unusually caring, energetic, productive, devoted to his profession, and successful in advancing it here and abroad. He is not only eminent in surgery; he is, as Dr. Mendelson states in his letter, a "natural leader of men, having high moral calibre . . . [a] visionary leader." This natural leadership, supported by the highest ethical standards, has led Dr. Biggs to consider the international surgical scene as he would his own practice—an area for concern for others and application of the highest surgical standards, for the greater good of other practicing physicians and their patients. He is eminently worthy of a Rice Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Yours sincerely,

*Catharine Savage Brosman*



# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*Twin Cities Campus*

*Division of Plastic and  
Reconstructive Surgery*

*Department of Surgery  
Medical School*

*Mayo Mail Code 122  
420 Delaware Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

*Office: 612-625-1188  
Fax: 612-624-4441*

Tuesday, December 01, 2009

Catharine Brosman, Ph.D.  
Tulane University  
6823 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Dr. Brosman,

This is a letter of strong, unqualified and enthusiastic support for the proposal of Dr. Thomas Biggs to be awarded the honor of receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award of Rice University. I have had close working collaborations with Tom in my role as a Professor of Plastic Surgery, Past President of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and on the international scene as Treasurer of the International Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. In running a Division of Plastic Surgery with its associated training program, and serving as President of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, I have observed many of the leaders in our specialty. In this connection, I have observed Tom to be an outstanding example of the highest standards of my profession; as an innovative thinker who shares his work in published literature, as a dedicated and inspiring surgical educator, and as an international champion of the specialty.

Tom became a Plastic Surgeon when the specialty was very young, and rapidly became one of its signal thought leaders. He was one of the pioneers of the new breast implant technology which revolutionized and expanded the field rapidly over the following decades. Tom was tireless in his scientific work on the subject, and several of his more than fifty peer reviewed papers and chapters are still cited in discussions and other publications. Tom has achieved such recognition that in 2002 he was elected the Editor of *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*, one of the two premier international journals in the field. This relationship has further enhanced his international standing and has reinforced his natural interest in building bridges across the field.

Tom is at heart an inspirational speaker. His ability to communicate is phenomenal, and has allowed him to touch thousands of Plastic Surgeons and the public with the message of healing and making a patient whole again. This has led to the recognition of his teaching abilities, and his recruitment by many national and international societies and medical corporations as a speaker. He was the director of one of the early Plastic Surgery training programs in Texas, and learned lessons from academic practice. He has been visiting professor many times, and is frequently invited to speak at international and domestic meetings. His heart felt love for the field and personal warmth has really come through in his presentations, and I have personally been present on three occasions where the auditorium rose at the end of his speech with a standing ovation.

Tom has been a crusader for bringing the technology and advances in American surgical technique to the international medical scene. His hard work was rewarded with more

opportunities to work as the President of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. This was an opportunity that he fulfilled wonderfully culminating in a hugely successful meeting in 2004. He continues to travel much of the year giving invited speeches and running educational meetings throughout the world. He has almost become the international face of the specialty, quite an accomplishment and recognition of his unique skills of communication and inspiration. Any Rice University student could find inspiration in his career achievements, particularly since most of their working life will be engaged in international activity.

In summary, Thomas Biggs has distinguished himself as a figurehead of international Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. His personal drive, intellectual power and evangelistic skill as an educator has fulfilled the promise of a full and outstanding career after his University education. He is truly a Distinguished Alumni of Rice University, and should be recognized as such.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Cunningham".

Bruce L. Cunningham, M.D., M.S.  
Professor of Surgery  
Director, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

BRYAN C MENDELSON

FRCS, FRACS, FACS, DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY  
DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF PLASTIC SURGERY  
109 MATHOURA ROAD TOORAK, VICTORIA 3142 AUSTRALIA  
TELEPHONE (03) 9826 0977 FACSIMILE (03) 9826 6342  
info@bmenelson.com.au

November 30, 2009

Catharine Savage Brosman (Ph.D.)  
2001 Holcombe Blvd. #s 1705 (office) & 601 (residence)  
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Catharine,

It is a great honour to be given the opportunity to write in support of my colleague, Dr Thomas Biggs for this award.

My background is that I am an Australian Plastic Surgeon with a strong International connection.

Following medical school training at Monash University Melbourne, Australia I continued with seven years Post-graduate Surgical Training in the United States. The first six years were in general and plastic surgery at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. This was followed with a Fellowship at The Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery, New York University in New York.

Over the years I have been actively involved in the Academia of Plastic Surgery having published over 50 Scientific Papers and textbook chapters. I have been a guest Faculty invited to present at the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Congress for nine consecutive years. In addition I have been Invited Professor for the aesthetic plastic surgery Society Meetings of France (twice), Japan (twice), Brazil (twice), Britain, and Canada. I have presented for many years at the biennial Congresses of ISAPS (The International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery) and I am an ISAPS Professor, based on having presented at ten or more ISAPS Instructional Courses.

From the Leadership perspective, I was on the Board of the Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery for eight years (2000 – 2008). I have been on the ISAPS Board of Directors since 2000 commencing as Chairman of National Secretaries, then President Elect, President 2006 – 2008 and currently Immediate Past President of ISAPS.

I mention this background as it pertains to an understanding of the International aspects of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

I first became aware of Dr Biggs through his early reputation in breast implant surgery which I knew of in my residency training days. Subsequently, I had the good fortune to be closely affiliated with Dr Biggs through the Board of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. At that time, Dr Biggs was President Elect of ISAPS and he became President of ISAPS during 2002 – 2004. It was at his inauguration speech as President that I became aware of his extraordinary statesman like qualities with views that I had not heard expressed before.

I realise that Tom is a natural leader of men, having a high moral calibre and a clear conviction as to what is right, but at the same time, not hiding behind the traditional facades associated with established positions.

He is a leader who had the courage to lead by saying what he means. He is an unusual American who truly put all men as equals irrespective of their country of origin or financial status. He is impressed more by the calibre of the person than by their reputation in their own country or even internationally.

During his term as President and continuing since, his influence has had a profound effect on the strength of the International Society, largely because through the strength of his position and the genuineness of his beliefs, that Plastic Surgeons from all nations, small as well as large, feel to be equals in an organisation which has traditionally been American dominated.

Dr Biggs exemplifies the quintessential but rare, American visionary leader whose strength derives from the power of his beliefs, rather than from an assumed air of confidence from being a leader in his own and powerful country.

After being President, Dr Biggs assumed the Position of Editor-in-Chief of the ISAPS Journal, *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*. Almost single handedly he has brought this Journal from being in perilous danger of extinction to one of rapid ascendancy. This success has been due to his contact with people around the world and his natural ability to inspire them to submit their ideas to writing and have them published in *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*. Dr Biggs has a natural flair and passion for teaching of younger Plastic Surgeons. This has resulted in him being invited to be in different congresses around the world, almost continuously and on account of the quality of his teaching he is usually requested to return. Whenever he travels he bares the message that every Plastic Surgeon is an equal and has an opportunity to share.

In summary, Dr Biggs' achievements are not textbook scientific milestones following on from a good formal education. He has gone beyond this and with a clear vision has become someone unique. At a time when being a successful American abroad is unfortunately associated skepticism, Dr Biggs is an extraordinary example of the visionary American who is accepted as being truly International and coming from the USA, his service has been to his Profession and to his Country.

I do not know whether these outstanding characteristics of Dr Biggs are due to his education at Rice University, or would have developed because of his unique attributes. Regardless, he exemplifies the type of person that any institution would be proud to show as an example of the type of person we would all like to become and for our graduates to become like.

Rice is indeed fortunate that Dr Biggs was educated at its University and I am most privileged to have learnt from his example in leadership.

Yours sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan C. Mendelson', with a large, sweeping initial 'B'.

Bryan C. Mendelson

**Bryan Mendelson FRCSE, FRACS, FACS**  
**Immediate Past President - International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery**  
**Chairman - ISAPS Journal Operations Committee**

109 Mathoura Road  
TOORAK VICTORIA  
AUSTRALIA 3142  
Tel: +61 3 9826 0977

**Gaith Shubailat, MBBS, FRCS, FACS**

**American Board of Plastic Surgery**  
**American Society of Plastic Surgeons** 

## ***Aesthetic Surgery Clinic***

November 25, 2009

### **In support of nomination of Thomas M Biggs, M.D., F.A.C.S. for Rice Distinguished Alumnus Award**


I turned 70 last week. Supported by an army scholarship, I graduated from London University in 1962 with my first medical degree. In 1968 I became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1973 I completed training in Plastic Surgery at Georgetown University and was Board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Supported by **King Hussein "the builder"**, I was a member of a driven team that established the **King Hussein Medical Center**, one of the finest in the Middle East, in which I served as Chief of Surgical Department and Chief of Plastic Surgery. Generously funded by **Empress Farah and the Shah of Persia**, we built the 170 beds **Farah Royal Rehabilitation and Burns Center** of which I became first director. In 1973 I established a **post general surgical fellowship training program** in plastic surgery, the only one in Jordan that has board certified 30 plastic surgeons so far. Having retired with the rank of Major General in 1984 to the private sector I established Amman Surgical Hospital where I practice my specialty. I helped found the **Jordanian Boards of Medical Specialties and served as its president for 8 years**. As the son of a political family, I was privileged to serve under **King Hussein "the peacemaker"** as **Senator in the Upper House of Parliament** where in 1994 I voted in favor of the historic **Jordan-Israeli peace treaty**. Serving as member of the **Board of trustees of King Hussein University** for 10 years, we established the newest of 22 state universities and built it in the deprived southern part of the kingdom with a student body of 8000.

Throughout my life I was blessed with coming across some visionary leaders in their fields. One such professional is Thomas M. Biggs with whom I worked closely for 10 years. I believe that Dr. Biggs has the following qualities that make him worthy of nomination for the Rice Distinguished Alumnus Award:

### **The Professional**

Board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Biggs is Clinical Professor of Plastic Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and visiting Professor of the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. He served as President of the Houston Society of Plastic Surgeons, the Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons and President of the International

**Gaith Shubailat, MBBS, FRCS, FACS**

*American Board of Plastic Surgery*  
*American Society of Plastic Surgeons* 

## ***Aesthetic Surgery Clinic***

Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, ISAPS, and has been an examiner for the American Board of Plastic Surgeons. He is a life member of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons.

### **The Educator**

Dr. Biggs is the Editor-in-Chief of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, official journal of ISAPS. He is the author of 50 publications in medical journals, several book chapters and more than 150 papers in various meetings. He lectured, operated and directed international meetings and teaching workshops in 54 countries. He was honored by his peers to deliver the Ohmori Lecture at ISAPS 2008 meeting in Melbourne. He received the most respected award, Homage, by the Brazilian Society of Plastic Surgery, the title of Grandfather to residency in Guadalajara, Mexico and the Most Distinguished Surgeon award by the Houston Society of Plastic Reconstructive (third given in 60 years). He was a pioneer co researcher with another great Texan, Professor Thomas D Cronin in the development of breast implants that has helped hundreds of thousands of women afflicted with breast cancer to overcome their physical and psychological mutilation back to the normality of family and professional life.

### **The Ethical**

Dr. Biggs is a most reputable professional and honest human being. He is a true believer who adheres to the highest moral principles and abhors racism and discrimination in all its forms.

### **The 'No borders' Talent**

Texas had produced many respected reputable statesmen and ambassadors among who was Secretary of State James Baker who served his country with honor. Tom Biggs told me he never traveled outside the Lone Star state for his first 18 years. Armed with his conviction "**the bonds that unite us are greater than borders and boundaries that separate us**", he traveled the continents bringing men of talent and profession together from across political conflicts; Arabs and Israelis, Turks and Greeks, Pakistanis and Indians, Americans and Chinese to mention a few. To achieve that, he used his skills in medicine, his deep interest in the lives, economies and traditions of different races, religions and cultures. He is a special ambassador who carries the respect of people he touches and evokes the greatness and ideals of his country, the United States of America. In many ways he met with more success than career diplomats did. He sees the best in people of different cultures, listens to their problems and shares their dreams with respect and dignity.



**Gaith F. Shubailat , MBBS, FRCS, FACS**