

# Abdominal Pedicle Flaps To The Hand And Forearm



**John C. Kelleher  
M.D., F.A.C.S.**

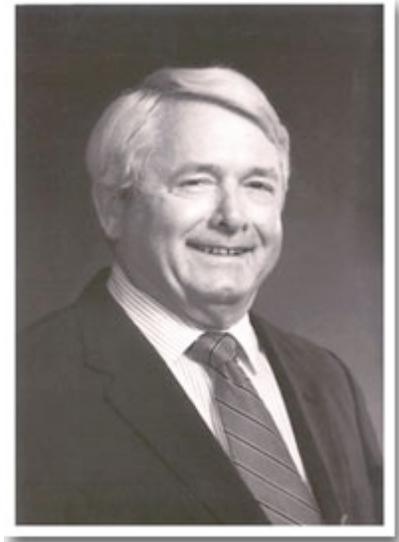


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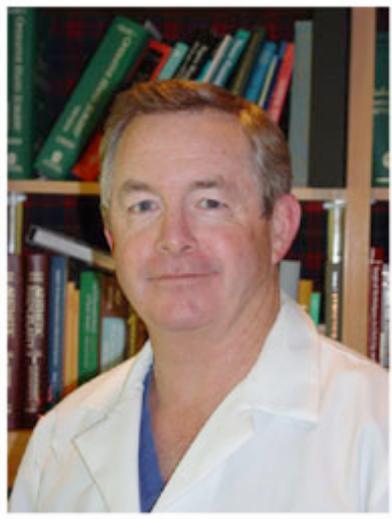
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**John C. Kelleher, Sr., M.D.** died at age 84 on August 18, 2003 after a brief illness. His wife Rosemary and nine children survive him. He was born on September 7, 1918 in Youngstown, Ohio and grew up in Lorain, Ohio. He was a graduate of the University of Notre Dame in 1940 where he was a member of the varsity football team. He is remembered for kicking a field goal to beat Purdue University 3-0 in 1939. He completed his medical education at Jefferson Medical College, graduating in 1944. He then served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during WW II. During his wartime experience, he became interested in plastic surgery. He trained in plastic surgery under Dr. Walter Coakley in New York and completed additional hand surgery training under Dr. Sterling Bunnell in San Francisco.



He entered private practice in 1950 in Toledo, Ohio where he was the area's first plastic surgeon. He remained in practice until 1995, realizing many accomplishments and accolades along the way. Among them were founding the region's first cleft palate clinic, the first burn unit, the first hand rehabilitation unit and the residency program in plastic surgery. Locally he was active in the Toledo Academy of Medicine serving as president in 1974. Nationally he was active in the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, and was president of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons in 1986.

He had a real passion for his work, enjoying and excelling in virtually all facets of plastic surgery. He thrived on teaching residents and students, spending unending hours in teaching both in conferences and in the operating room. He was a perfectionist, which is what led him to refining the techniques to improve soft tissue coverage of the hand with the abdominal flap. Late in his career he became disturbed by many of the early free flaps to the hand and upper extremity that were being presented at meetings and in print. They were too bulky and thick and did not incorporate proper attention to resulting scars and other details required for optimum form and function. While these free flaps avoided multiple stages of surgery, he felt the end result was often inferior.



It was for this reason that he spent over a year after retirement going back and reviewing his cases and thousands of photographs to produce a monograph depicting the principles of the procedure. The rights for this publication were given to [Interplast](#) to reproduce digitally. A benefit of this medium is the worldwide availability to surgeons everywhere, including those in developing countries, where the ability to do free flaps is often limited. His greatest hope was that this material would be of help to those surgeons dealing with difficult soft tissue coverage problems of the upper extremity.

His initial drafts were extensively edited and revised by his son, John C. Kelleher, Jr., M.D., a plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Amarillo, Texas. Interplast is greatly indebted to the Kellehers for making it possible to deliver this valuable information to surgeons around the world.