

Bitá Esmaeli, M.D., MStJ, began her life in the US in 1978. After finishing high school at Lausanne Collegiate School and studying biology at Rhodes College, her postgraduate studies were at the University of California – Santa Barbara, the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan and the University of Toronto. She is an international leader in oculoplastic surgery and orbital oncology and is a professor and surgeon at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She maintains a busy practice, trains doctors, leads international collaborative research programs, lectures widely throughout the world, and organizes courses on ophthalmic cancers. A proud mother, she lives with her son Brett, who is currently a master's student at Rice University and will soon begin his PhD in computer science at Trinity College in Cambridge University as a Gates Scholar.

Invested in Dallas in 2015, Bitá became interested in the Order of St John through friends in Houston. She has worked assiduously and creatively with the St John group in Houston, making presentations on the SJEHG's work, and helping create the Houston Observership, which brings an SJEHG clinician for a six-week observer experience at the Texas Medical Center in Houston.