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Dr. M. Felix Freshwater graduated with a B.S. (magna cum laude) from Brooklyn College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was a Salk Scholar at Yale University School of Medicine and served on the editorial board of The Journal of the History of Medicine & Allied Sciences. Dr. Freshwater completed residencies and fellowships at: Yale New Haven Hospital; Johns Hopkins, where he held a Weinberger Fellowship from the National Institutes of Health in the Division of Plastic Surgery, the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital under Ralph Millard; and Jewish Hospital in Louisville, KY.

Dr. Freshwater is a Voluntary Professor of Surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Although board certified plastic surgeon, he limits his practice to diseases and surgery of the hand and to reconstructive plastic surgery. He is best known for popularizing the use of leeches in microsurgery and for performing the world's first successful forequarter reattachment.