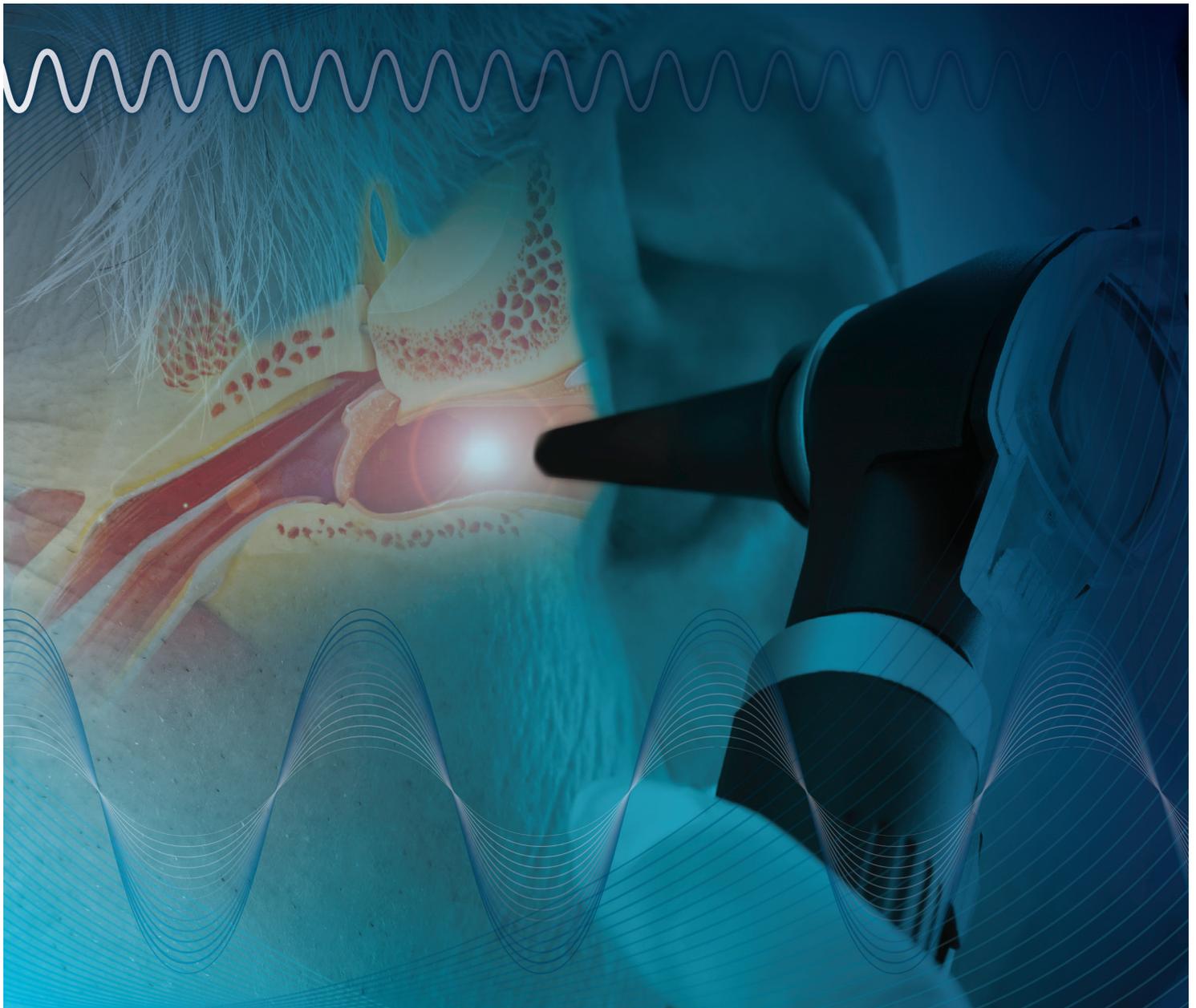




A Biannual Publication of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Otolaryngology
and the Augusta University Division of Communications and Marketing

The OTO OBSERVER

The Newsletter of the Department of Otolaryngology



 Otolaryngology
Head and Neck Surgery
AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Winter 2017

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

DEAR READERS,



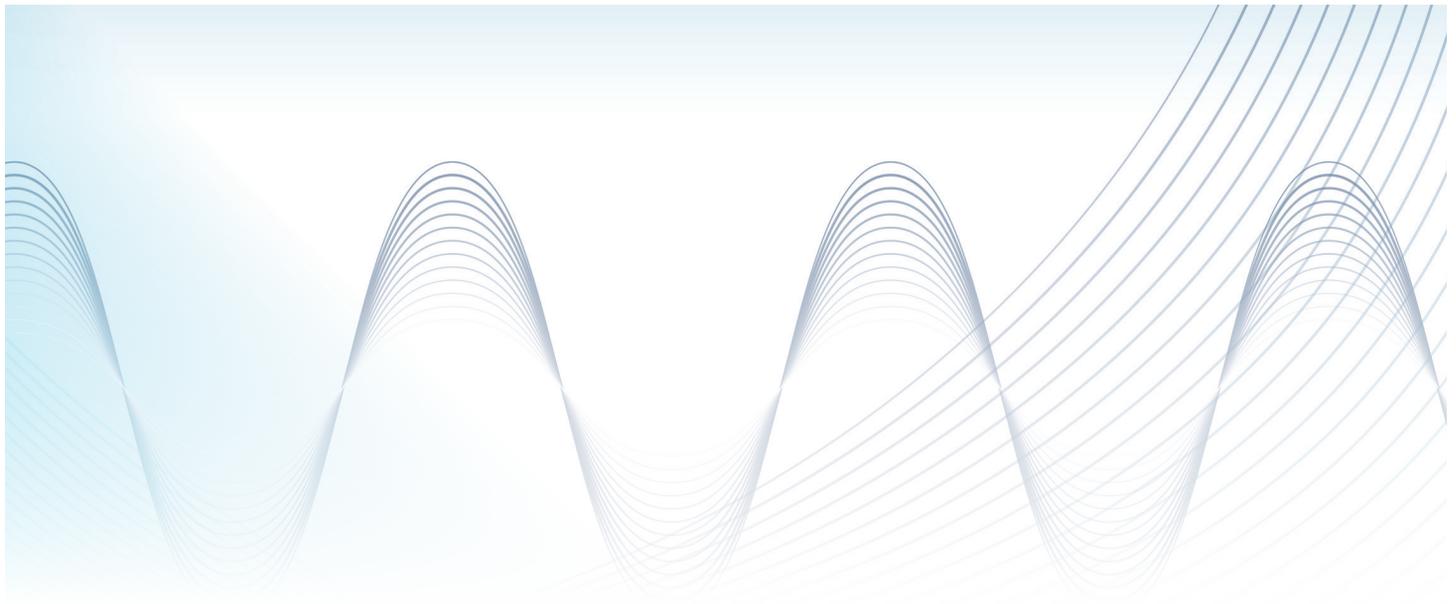
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We began this academic year with a strategic planning retreat in order to reaffirm our goals and focus our energy in needed areas and improve the quality of great care we already provide to our patients. Strategic planning retreats are re-energizing as they create excitement to already established routines and bring out new goals and objectives. But nothing was more exciting than having our residency program complement expand by one resident every other year. In addition, we received full accreditation without any citations. I would like to thank all our faculty members, residents/fellows and staff, since all contributed to accomplish this, especially our Program Director, Michael Groves. To top that off, we had three new residents start this summer, all matched in the top eight spots of our rank list. This reaffirms the magnitude of the quality of resident education we offer. I hope all our alumni will be proud of this as much as we are and feel confident of the quality of residency training they received at Augusta University's Medical College of Georgia.

We are in the process of making changes to our end of the year Porubsky Symposium and graduation event to allow focus on our alumni, get them involved and honor their accomplishments. For that we are changing our event's name to "Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event." More to come in the near future. I hope our alumni will be excited about their alma mater and return to see the new Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skountakis".

Professor and Chairman, Department of
Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Edward S. Porubsky, MD Distinguished
Chair in Otolaryngology
skountakis@augusta.edu



IN THIS ISSUE

WINTER 2017

The Oto Observer is produced biannually by the Medical College of Georgia Department of Otolaryngology and the Augusta University Division of Communications and Marketing. Please direct comments or questions to marketing@augusta.edu.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS _____	4
Faculty Honors Welcome Mohammad Seyyedi Consultant of the Year Changes in Audiology	
CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT _____	6
Case Report	
ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS _____	8
2016 Porubsky Symposium Presence at National Meetings Visiting Professor Series	
RESIDENT & ALUMNI NEWS _____	9
Hail and Farewell Dr. Murray Grossan- '48 MCG Alumnus	
RESEARCH _____	10
Selected Publications	
TEAM REFERRAL/ CONVENIENT LOCATIONS _____	11

FACULTY HONORS



Dr. J. Ken Byrd was an invited speaker at the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology-HNS Fall Meeting, presented a poster at the North American Skull Base Society Meeting, and was a panelist at the 7th World Congress for Endoscopic Surgery of the Skull Base and Brain.



Dr. Michael Groves was elected to serve on the Curriculum Oversight Committee of the Medical College of Georgia Faculty Senate at Augusta University.



Dr. Stil Kountakis was the graduation speaker for West Virginia University and was a visiting professor at Venizeleio Hospital in Crete.



Dr. Gregory Postma was an examiner for the American Board of Otolaryngology oral exam, a visiting professor at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and an invited speaker at the European Laryngological Society Meeting in Genoa, Italy, the 11th Annual Advanced Practices in Voice and Dysphagia in Las Vegas, and the 9th Manchester Phonosurgery & Neurolaryngology Course at the University of Manchester in Manchester, UK. He was also invited to serve as a member of the Scientific Committee of the European Laryngological Society.



Dr. Drew Prosser was awarded a CORE grant from the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology for his research on "Characterizing xenograft models of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis".



Dr. David Terris was elected vice-chair of the Otolaryngology Resident Review Committee, elected inaugural chair of the new Endocrine Surgery Section of the American Head & Neck Society and received a presidential citation from the AHNS. He was visiting professor at the Institut Gustave-Roussy in Paris and the Rabin Medical Center in Israel and an invited speaker at the Ohio Society of Otolaryngology annual meeting and the NC/SC Society of Otolaryngology annual meeting.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME MOHAMMAD SEYYEDI



Mohammad Seyyedi, MD

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Mohammad Seyyedi has joined the department as assistant professor of otology/neurotology. Seyyedi earned his medical degree at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences and completed his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. He completed a research fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary at Harvard University under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Nadol. He then completed two fellowships in otology/neurotology at the Paparella Ear, Head & Neck Institute at the University of Minnesota and the Christiana Care Health System in Wilmington, Delaware, under the direction of Dr. Michael Teixido.

Seyyedi specializes in the management of disorders of the ear and temporal bone including hearing loss/deafness, vestibular and balance disorders, vestibular migraine, bone-anchored hearing aid implants and cochlear implants.

CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Waleed F. Mourad was the unanimous selection for the Department of Otolaryngology Consultant of the Year for 2016. Mourad is an associate professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology and co-leader of the Head and Neck Multidisciplinary Program at the Georgia Cancer Center at Augusta University. He trained extensively in brachytherapy procedures for head and neck cancers and intraoperative radiation therapy programs (IORT), and started a comprehensive radiation oncology program at Augusta University for head and neck tumors including brachytherapy and IORT to treat locally advanced tumors, recurrent tumors and previously irradiated patients. We are extremely grateful for the care that Dr. Mourad provides our patients.



Waleed Mourad, MD

CHANGES IN AUDIOLOGY



Sarah King, AuD

There have been several changes in our Audiology division. Dr. Sarah King was promoted to director of audiology. She is excited about this new position and is working diligently to increase patient volume, throughput and satisfaction.

We recruited Dr. Laura Barber as our third audiologist. Barber comes from Aiken, South Carolina, and brings great experience with her. She specializes in vestibular/balance evaluations, diagnostic hearing evaluations, tinnitus evaluation and management, and evaluations and fittings for hearing protection, hearing aids and assistive listening devices.



Laura Barber, AuD

We are increasing our audiology volumes by offering hearing screening to all patients we see in our clinic. Hearing screening is also performed at the Georgia Cancer Center and West Wheeler Clinic. We also plan to start hearing screening in the Internal Medicine and Family Practice clinics. And, finally, we installed a third audiobooth to accommodate our increasing patient load and are currently recruiting for a fourth audiologist.

CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT

ADENOID CYSTIC CARCINOMA OF THE NASOPHARYNX: AN INTERESTING CASE

- CAMILO REYES-GELVES, MD, J. KENNETH BYRD, MD

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

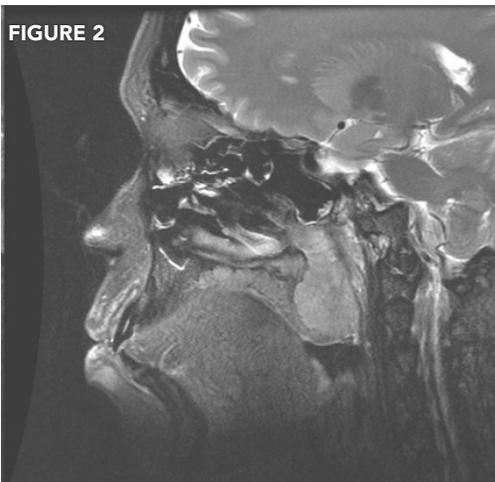
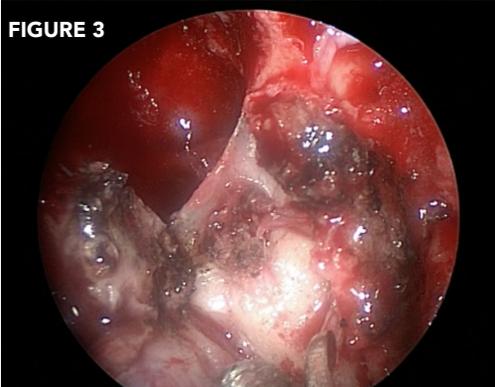


FIGURE 3



Case Presentation – A 46-year-old female presented to a local otolaryngologist with complaints of left ear fullness and decreased hearing. Her otolaryngologist noted fluid in the middle ear space on the left side only. She had no history of otitis media or significant allergies. Nasal endoscopy was performed, which revealed a large, smooth, submucosal mass of the left nasopharynx obstructing the Eustachian tube. A biopsy was performed under anesthesia, which was described as a “basaloid neoplasm” by the pathologist. She was referred to the Head and Neck Multidisciplinary Tumor Board at Augusta University for further evaluation and management.

Figures 1 and 2 are axial and sagittal MRI images demonstrating an enhancing, submucosal tumor 3 x 3 x 4 cm in size, medial to the internal carotid artery and abutting the medial pterygoid muscle, with erosion of the floor of the sphenoid sinus. Enhancement of the descending palatine and vidian nerves was noted on imaging. The head and neck pathologist reviewed the outside biopsy, and the diagnosis of adenoid cystic carcinoma, cribriform pattern, stage T3N0M0 was made.

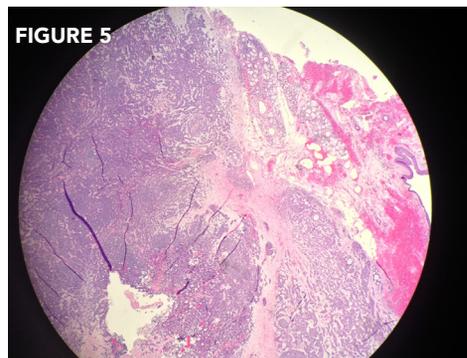
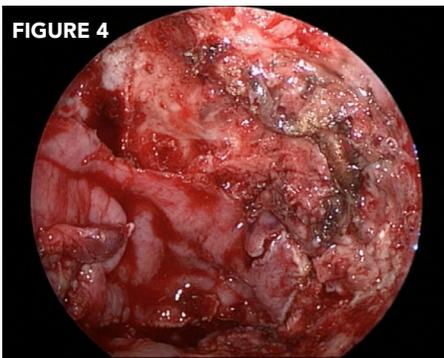
The patient was taken to the operating room in November 2015 for endoscopic resection. A right-sided nasoseptal flap was raised due to planned sacrifice of the left nasoseptal artery during the transpterygoid approach. Wide bilateral sphenoidotomies and a small posterior septectomy were made to allow for visualization and four-handed dissection by two surgeons. A left-sided medial maxillectomy was performed prior to entering the pterygopalatine fossa, where the descending palatine and vidian nerves (Figure 3) were biopsied by frozen section. The pterygoid plates were drilled to allow for entrance into the infratemporal fossa, and the vidian canal and sphenoid floor were drilled posteriorly to the cartilage of the foramen lacerum.

After bone removal was adequate, tumor debulking was performed to facilitate manipulation. The tumor was removed with a margin of prevertebral musculature off the lower clivus posteriorly, and dissection was taken laterally through the palatal musculature to the medial pterygoid muscle. After V3 was identified in the infratemporal fossa, the internal carotid artery was localized with a Doppler probe. Using these landmarks, the tumor was dissected free laterally and superiorly. Transorally, the soft palate was elevated into the nasopharynx, allowing resection of the involved portions. The nasoseptal flap was rotated over the defect and secured with nasal packing (Figure 4).

Final pathology demonstrated a mixed cribriform and solid pattern with high-grade features and necrosis (Figure 5). The distal vidian nerve was

positive for perineural invasion, but a more proximal sample at the foramen lacerum was negative. She was treated with postoperative intensity-modulated radiotherapy and is currently alive without evidence of disease at nine months post-treatment.

Discussion – Adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC) accounts for 3 to 5 percent of all head and neck malignancies, arising most frequently in minor salivary glands. It is the third most common sinonasal malignancy overall, following



squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma. Within the sinonasal tract, 47-60 percent arise from the maxillary sinus and 25-30 percent from the nasal cavity.^{1,2} ACC of the nasopharynx is very rare, making up less than 0.5 percent of nasopharyngeal cancers and with fewer than 100 cases reported in the literature.³

Histologically, cribriform (most common) and tubular patterns exhibit low-grade features, and the solid, high-grade pattern confers a worse prognosis. Perineural invasion is common in adenoid cystic carcinoma and should be assessed preoperatively by thin-section, contrasted MRI. Approximately 60 percent of skull base ACC have been reported to exhibit perineural spread.⁴ Nevertheless, the role of perineural spread on survival is still debated, as some studies have demonstrated that perineural invasion is not associated with outcome.^{5,6} When possible, however, large nerves in the area should be biopsied and cleared by frozen section extradurally to theoretically prevent spread to the central nervous system.

Surgery followed by postoperative radiation is the treatment of choice for adenoid cystic carcinoma of the skull base. Complete resection with negative margins, when possible, is associated with better outcome. A recent meta-analysis of skull base ACC concluded that positive or close tumor margins and tumor located in the ethmoid or sphenoid sinuses were significant predictors of poor outcome.⁶ Surgical approach, endoscopic vs. open, must be selected according to patient tumor location

in relation to neurovascular structures. Although no study has directly compared approaches, the endoscopic approach to the anterior cranial base appears to produce acceptable oncologic outcomes in appropriately selected patients.⁷ Intensity-modulated radiotherapy is the most frequently used modality postoperatively, although there may be a role for stereotactic radiosurgery or proton radiation in some cases.⁸ There is no clear benefit to chemotherapy in

the treatment of ACC, as in other salivary malignancies. Regional lymphatic metastases are rare, and therefore, elective neck dissection is not warranted. However, hematogenous spread can be seen in up to 30-40 percent of cases to the lungs and long bones and may occur even after 10 years. With aggressive, multidisciplinary treatment, five- and 10-year overall survival may be as high as 78 percent and 50 percent, respectively, although a significant number of these patients will be alive with disease.⁹ Local recurrences and isolated metastases may be re-resected endoscopically and/or treated with stereotactic radiosurgery.

In this patient, early diagnosis allowed for complete endoscopic resection with negative margins. As in other sinonasal and nasopharyngeal tumors, symptoms may be vague and lead to advanced stage at the time of diagnosis. In this case, the referring otolaryngologist performed nasopharyngoscopy due to the unilateral middle ear effusion, leading to diagnosis of the tumor. The correct diagnosis of ACC by the pathologist, rather than nasopharyngeal carcinoma, was particularly important in selecting appropriate treatment for this patient. Undifferentiated nasopharyngeal carcinoma, which may look similar to the solid pattern of ACC in a limited biopsy, is primarily treated with radiation or concurrent chemoradiation, which is not an effective treatment for adenoid cystic carcinoma.

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ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

2016 PORUBSKY SYMPOSIUM AND RESIDENT GRADUATION



Ted Teknos, MD

Our Porubsky graduation symposium was extremely successful. Our guest of honor was Dr. Ted Teknos, professor and chairman of otolaryngology at The Ohio State University. He is known worldwide in the circle of head and neck surgery. All lectures were immensely interesting, and the research presented was outstanding.

Our graduation reception and dinner was hosted at West Lake Country Club for the first time, and everyone was extremely pleased. Not only was the food excellent, but we also spent precious time with the families of graduating residents. There were fun outdoor activities such as cornhole and a putting contest on the practice green. Talking about golf, the Postma clan won the annual Porubsky golf event. Congratulations to everyone!



**2016 Resident Graduates:
Drs. Jamie Segel, Lauren White, Mickey Fisher**



DEPARTMENTAL PRESENCE AT NATIONAL MEETINGS

Everyone in the department has been busy with academic projects and manuscript preparations. We participated in the 2016 Triological Society Combined Sections Meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, where six faculty, one fellow and one resident provided five oral presentations and one panel discussion. Topics included obstructive sleep apnea in the pediatric population, chronic sinusitis and gastroesophageal reflux disease and the multidisciplinary management of the head and neck cancer patient.

We also participated in the North American Skull Base Society Annual Meeting where two faculty, one fellow and one resident provided three oral presentations and two lectures. We had a presence at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings where four faculty and two residents provided seven posters and four oral presentations, and at the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery and American Rhinologic Society Annual Meetings where four faculty provided one poster presentation, three instruction courses and one panel discussion.

We continue to lead in mentoring medical student research. We have hosted Dean's Summer Medical Student Research Fellows for 10 years now, and this summer, we mentored three additional students. All the abstracts will be submitted to national scientific meetings and congresses.

2017 Visiting Professor Series

February 7, 2017

Kathleen McKie, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Pulmonology
Department of Pediatrics, Augusta University
"Cystic Fibrosis Update and the Role of Sinus Surgery"

April 11, 2017

John Krouse, MD, PhD, MBA

Professor and Chairman
Department of Otolaryngology-HNS
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
"The Unified Airway"

May 2, 2017

D. Gregory Farwell, MD, FACS

Professor, Department of Otolaryngology-HNS
Director, Head & Neck Oncology and Microvascular
Surgery, UC Davis Health System, Sacramento,
California

"From Trauma to Transplants: Rethinking Reconstructive Surgery"

HAIL



Luke Edelmayer
Virginia Commonwealth University
PGY-1 Resident



Christopher Johnson
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University
PGY-1 Resident



Daniel Sharbel
University of Tennessee
PGY-1 Resident



Christopher Ito
University of South Florida
Rhinology-Skull Base Fellow



Mark Fritz
New York University
Laryngology Fellow



Seth Kay
Loyola University
Endocrine Surgery Fellow

FAREWELL



Chief Resident
Mickey Fisher will join a private practice in Tampa, Florida



Chief Resident
Jamie Segel will pursue a head & neck surgery fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri



Chief Resident
Lauren White will join a private practice in Augusta, Georgia



Rhinology Fellow
Camilo Reyes will pursue a head and neck surgery fellowship at Augusta University



Laryngology Fellow
Marsha Reuther will join a private practice in San Diego, California



Endocrine Surgery Fellow
Jonathan Dell will join a private practice in St. Paul, Minnesota

OTOLARYNGOLOGIST, AUTHOR AND ENTREPRENEUR SPEAKS AT GRAND ROUNDS

– DR. MURRAY GROSSAN, '48 MCG ALUMNUS

Dr. Murray Grossan, MCG Class of 1948, traveled across the country from Beverly Hills, California, to Augusta this past spring to present at the Department of Otolaryngology Grand Rounds. He shared insights in novel techniques in the medical management of patients with chronic sinusitis and his original thinking on drug-free therapies he has developed for tinnitus, empty nose syndrome and allergy.

Affiliated with Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Grossan is also the president of Hydro Med Inc., the company which markets and sells his ENT product inventions. He is the author of popular sinus books including *Free Yourself from Sinus and Allergy Problems*, as well as more than 30 medical articles. He is a regular contributor to the newsletter, "Bottom Line Health."

Grossan is a Lifetime Member of the MCG Alumni Association and a participant in the MCG Host Volunteer Program.



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OTOLARYNGOLOGY/HEAD & NECK SURGERY TEAM

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Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

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Otologist/Neurotologist: We are seeking an Assistant or Associate Professor who wishes to join a thriving academic Neurotology/Otology practice. Fellowship/Postdoctoral training required.

Head and Neck Surgeon: We are seeking an Assistant or Associate Professor who wishes to join a thriving academic head and neck surgery practice. Fellowship training required.

To apply and receive additional information about the support associated with these opportunities, please send a curriculum vitae to Dr. Stil Kountakis, skountakis@augusta.edu.

Fellowships:

- **Endocrine/Head and Neck Surgery**
Contact Dr. David Terris, dterris@augusta.edu
- **Rhinology/Skull Base Surgery**
Contact Dr. Stil Kountakis,
skountakis@augusta.edu
- **Laryngology**
Contact Dr. Gregory Postma,
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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Jan 19-21:
Triological Society Combined Sections Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana
triological.org

Mar 29-31:
Southern States Rhinology Symposium
Kiawah Island, South Carolina
southernstatesrhinology.org

Apr 26-30:
Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings
San Diego, California
Cosm.md

Jun 16-17:
Fifteenth Annual Porubsky Symposium and
Alumni Event
Augusta University Campus, Augusta, Georgia
augusta.edu/ce/medicalce/2017