

HONORS AND AWARDS

Winter 2023



Dr. Diana Bigler received the MCG Exemplary Teaching Award to recognize faculty and residents who have made a significant contribution in undergraduate and graduate medical education at MCG in the past year.



Dr. Sarah Hodge has become a Fellow Member of the American Neurotology Society. In order to accomplish this, Dr. Hodge completed a two-year Otology/Neurotology fellowship at the prestigious House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, and then successfully passed the Neurotology sub certification examination given by the American Board of Otolaryngology-HNS.



Dr. Heather Koehn received the MCG Exemplary Teaching Award to recognize faculty and residents who have made a significant contribution in undergraduate and graduate medical education at MCG in the past year. Dr. Heather Koehn and our pediatric otolaryngology division were featured in two news segments about the [important of vocal health](#) and [her work with cleft palate](#) for Children's Hospital of Georgia.



Dr. Stil Kountakis received the Hellenic Rhinologic Society's "Honoris Causa" award in recognition of his distinguished career and outstanding contributions to Rhinology in Athens, November 18, 2022. He was the Guest of Honor at the 20th Panhellenic Congress of Rhinology and Facial Plastic Surgery, November 18-20, 2022, Athens, Greece.



Dr. Gregory Postma was a visiting professor and invited keynote speaker at the 6th Congress of the European Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Society on October 31, 2022 in Milan Italy, where he presented "Stop Using Large ETTs! A Plea for Sanity in Airway Management" along with "Optimal Treatment of Zenker's Diverticulum and CP Muscle Dysfunction," and "TNE in Neuromuscular Diseases." Dr. Postma was also invited to the International Medical Student Conference in Novi Sad, Serbia where he gave three lectures on "Introduction to ENT," "Airway Management," and "Management of Dysphagia" in November 2022.



Brian Shirley, DNP, CPNP successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on November 18, 2022, earning his Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Tatarian J, Byrd K, Male HJ, Lin TL. Central nervous system involvement in adult acute myeloid leukemia patients. *Leuk Res.* 2022 Jul;118:106882. doi: 10.1016/j.leukres.2022.106882. Epub 2022 Jun 2. PMID: 35667128.

Devarakonda AK, Falco JJ, Kountakis SE, Reyes C. Topical nasal medication distribution: A cadaver-based simulated quantitative method. *Int Forum Allergy Rhinol.* 2022 Nov 21. doi: 10.1002/alr.23105. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36409548.

Orabi NA, Behnke J, Reyes C, Ramadan HH, Makary CA. Effect of absorbable nasal packing saturated with ciprofloxacin and dexamethasone following endoscopic sinus surgery: A prospective cohort study. *Int Forum Allergy Rhinol.* 2022 Nov 22. doi: 10.1002/alr.23114. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36413477.

Howell RJ, Ekbohm D, Kasperbauer J, Tabangin M, Altaye M, Wahab S, Belafsky P, Postma G; Prospective outcomes of cricopharyngeal hypertonicity (POUCH) collaborative. Cricopharyngeus muscle dysfunction and hypopharyngeal diverticula (e.g., Zenker): A multicenter study. *Laryngoscope.* 2022 Sep 14. doi: 10.1002/lary.30387. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36102298.

Kamal AN, Dhar SI, Bock JM, Clarke JO, Lechien JR, Allen J, Belafsky PC, Blumin JH, Chan WW, Fass R, Fischella PM, Marohn M, O'Rourke AK, Postma G, Savarino EV, Vaezi MF, Carroll TL, Akst LM. Best practices in treatment of laryngopharyngeal reflux disease: A multidisciplinary modified delphi study. *Dig Dis Sci.* 2022 Aug 22. doi: 10.1007/s10620-022-07672-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35995882.

Smith DH, Falco JJ, Devarakonda AK, Holmes TW, Shirley B, Prosser JD. Cystic fibrosis exacerbations treated with medical therapy with and without concurrent sinus surgery. *Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol.* 2022 Oct;161:111249. doi: 10.1016/j.ijporl.2022.111249. Epub 2022 Jul 30. PMID: 35932623.

Swift WM, Churnin IT, Hamdi OA, Strumpf AM, Koehn HA, Cottler PS, Daniero JJ. A simple and reproducible in vivo rabbit phonation model for glottic insufficiency. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2022 Jun 28;1945998221107813. doi: 10.1177/01945998221107813. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35763368.

OTO OBSERVER

THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES THREE NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome three new faculty members joining the Department of Otolaryngology. Christopher M. Johnson, MD joined on August 8, 2022, Daniel D. Sharbel, MD joined on August 10, 2022 and Sarah B. Hodge, MD on September 1, 2022.

Dr. Johnson earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS and his medical degree at Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA. He completed his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA followed by a fellowship in Laryngology at the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, GA.



Christopher M. Johnson, MD



Sarah E. Hodge, MD

Dr. Hodge attended University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Professional Studies and Spanish. Dr. Hodge went on to earn her medical degree from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, during which she served as Fundraiser Commissioner for the Loyola Division of Chicago's Community Health Clinic. She completed her residency training at the University of North Carolina. After residency, Dr. Hodge went on to complete her fellowship training in Neurotology at the House Ear Clinic.

Dr. Sharbel attended University of Georgia, Athens, GA where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology and went on to earn his medical degree at University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine, Memphis, TN. Dr. Sharbel completed his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, GA followed by a fellowship in Head and Neck, Microvascular Reconstruction and Cranial Base Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



Daniel D. Sharbel, MD

These new providers may be reached at 706-721-6100. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call 706-721-4400 for adults and 706-721-5500 for pediatrics. Referrals may be faxed to 706-721-0112.