

RESIDENCY PROGRAM UPDATE - J. DREW PROSSER, MD

Our new group of residents have jumped right in and are already making an impact both on patient care and research/quality improvement projects. Our program has been well represented at regional and national meetings this year. Residents have given podium and poster presentations at the American Rhinologic Society, American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, and the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology meetings. They have set a high bar for the group that follows.



George Davies (PGY3) and Lindsey Megow (PGY5) presenting a poster along with Dr. Heather Koehn at the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology in Vail, CO.

Speaking of resident selection, we were excited to return to in-person interviews this year after doing 2 years of virtual only interviews! After multiple long discussions, and review of the literature surrounding virtual vs in-person interviews, we felt that the in-person interview offers the applicants the best opportunity to learn everything they can about the program where they will train and make an informed decision. Further in-person interviews also give the faculty the opportunity to get to know the applicants in a more natural setting, and demonstrate important aspects of the training environment such as faculty-resident interaction, general department/institutional culture etc. The data is clear that because of virtual interviews, both applicants and programs ranked and matched home students or those who had rotated in-person at higher rates. This adversely disadvantaged those applicants from large medical school classes with multiple applicants or those students without a home Otolaryngology program. Virtual interviews were not all negative, as they did offer a cost savings to the applicants. As we returned to in-person interviews, this was not to be overlooked and our program actively sought our methods to decrease the travel costs to applicants (including residents hosting candidates at their homes, exploring travel grants, etc.) associated with in-person interviews. These are challenges that I hope were overcome to offer the best opportunities for all applicants. We are glad to have completed an exciting in-person interview season.

ANNUAL RHINOLOGY-SKULL BASE SURGERY FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT AAO-HNS MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS

- STIL KOUNTAKIS, MD, PHD



We attended another successful annual meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS in Philadelphia, PA in September and enjoyed meeting our national-international colleagues, but one of the highlights was the annual dinner of MCG Rhinology - Skull Base Surgery Fellowship alumni. This is now a great tradition that gives us the opportunity to reminisce and for some of us, revalidate our careers in academic medicine. This year the event took place at the private room of the McCormick & Schmick's Seafood-Philadelphia restaurant, where we were able to enjoy comradery and friendship, have great food and taste exquisite wine. We relaxed and remembered every funny story from years past, especially about those who were not able to attend the dinner!