Welcome to the new Department of Otolaryngology at the Medical College of Georgia. We are pleased to introduce our members, share some news, and invite your participation in our teaching programs.

It gives us particular pride to enumerate some of the dramatic changes taking place in Augusta, made possible by the visionary leaders of the institution (Don Snell, Hospital President; Dan Rahn, MCG President; and David Stern, Dean, School of Medicine). The Health System is witnessing a far-reaching metamorphosis made possible in part by the recruitment of ambitious leaders and clinician-scientists from every region of the country. Universities such as Harvard, Duke, and Yale have provided the ingredients for a reinvigorated enterprise-wide approach to academic medicine.

In this issue of the MCG OTO Observer, we highlight some of the fruits of our own intense recruiting efforts this past fall, a number of honors bestowed upon our faculty members, and our expectations for the coming academic year.

We look forward to working with our colleagues across Georgia and the nation to advance the practice of Otolaryngology, provide the finest in resident instruction and maximize our research endeavors.

David J. Terris, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Porubsky Professor and Chairman

New Phone Numbers and Web Site Address

Please make note that our contact numbers have changed:

- Appointments: (706) 721-4400
- Academic Office: (706) 721-6100
- Fax: (706) 721-0112

To learn more about recent events in the department, visit our website at www.mcg.edu/otolaryngology
Fred Klippert Honored

By Kenneth W. Brace

Dr. Frederick N. Klippert, assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology and head of the Section of Otolaryngology at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, has been honored for his teaching with the Gerald S. Gussack Memorial Award from the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. The award honors an outstanding teacher of otolaryngology/head and neck surgery who has taught for at least 10 years in Georgia.

“Fred has been a tireless teacher of the residents of MCG for more than 12 years,” Dr. David J. Terris, chairman of the MCG Department of Otolaryngology, said in nominating Dr. Klippert for the award. “As a relative newcomer to Georgia, I have been impressed with the degree of influence he has, not only on the residents’ training, but their personal development as well.” Dr. Klippert is a 1966 graduate of Ohio State University College of Medicine and completed his otolaryngology residency at the University of Michigan Medical Center. He is a charter member and former president of the Walter P. Work Society.

Dr. Klippert’s teaching award will be presented during the July 24-27 annual meeting of the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at the Cloister Resort at Sea Island, Georgia.

MCG on the Air and In Print

By Kenneth W. Brace

A number of members of our Department have found themselves featured on radio, television or in newspapers.

Dr. Alan Johnson performed his 50th Cochlear Implant (see story this issue), and this was published as a press release from MCG. Additionally, Dr. Alan Johnson and Dr. Gloria Garner were featured on the WGAC morning radio show on May 5, 2003 to discuss cochlear implants.

Dr. Christine Gourin and Dr. David Terris appeared together on the WGAC morning radio show with Keith Beckum on April 21, 2003 to discuss the newly founded Head and Neck Tumor Board.

Nurse Barbara Carter’s stewardship of the MCG Department of Otolaryngology’s participation in the Oral Cancer Awareness Week (see story this issue) was highlighted in the Augusta Chronicle on April 10, 2003.

Dr. Mitchell Austin was on the evening news of WRDW on November 26, 2002 for his novel approach utilizing the Harmonic Scalpel for a child with laryngomalacia. He also contributed to a story that came out on February 24, 2003 in the Augusta Chronicle on pediatric otolaryngology issues.

On November 8, 2002, Dr. Terris appeared in a WRDW television spotlight of his patient who underwent endoscopic stapling of a Zenker’s diverticulum.

Staff Highlights

By Kenneth W. Brace

Barbara P. Carter, RNC, joined us in December 2002 as the Otolaryngology Practice Site Coordinator. She received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of South Carolina at Aiken. She is actively involved in the Pi Lambda Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society where she also served as Vice President for one term. She comes with greater than 10 years of supervisory nursing experience. She lives in Williston, SC with her husband and has two college-age daughters. Her interests include church choir, ensemble, handbells, travel, reading and the beach.

Congratulations, Mary Alice! Mary Alice Hunter, Patient Care Assistant in the Otolaryngology Practice Site, recently received the Department of Otolaryngology Distinguished Service Award for her idea to improve clinical operations.
Beverly Hills Meets Augusta
By Kenneth W. Brace

A Beverly Hills-trained facial plastic surgeon will join the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia in July. **Dr. Achih Chen**, Fellow at the UCLA-affiliated Lasky Clinic in Beverly Hills, has been named the Director of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology after completion of a nationwide search.

“Dr. Chen is a rising star in the field of facial plastic surgery,” said Dr. David Terris, Chairman of Otolaryngology. “He has a track record of success not only as a talented plastic surgeon, but also as a highly-published academician. The skills and talents he brings from his experience treating celebrity patients at the world-famous Lasky Clinic will benefit not only the Medical College of Georgia, but the citizens of Georgia and South Carolina, as well.”

A 1995 graduate of the University of Iowa College of Medicine, Dr. Chen is a recipient of the McCabe Research Award. He was recruited to the prestigious residency program in Otolaryngology at the University of Iowa, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in research during his residency. He has 14 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and is co-author of three book chapters.

Dr. Chen moves to Augusta with his wife, Dr. Mary Chen, a fellow graduate of the University of Iowa College of Medicine, and currently a faculty member in the Department of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

Sinus Program Gets a New Leader
By Kenneth W. Brace

**Dr. Stilianos Kountakis** was recruited to join the faculty at MCG effective July 1, 2003 as Professor and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology and as the Director of Rhinology/Sinus Surgery. Dr. Kountakis received his medical degree from the University of Texas-Houston Medical School and served his residencies in general surgery and in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the University of Texas affiliated hospitals. He subsequently received his Ph.D. in Medicine from the University of Crete Medical School. Dr. Kountakis has served on the faculty at the University of Texas-Houston Medical School and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville where he was the Director of Rhinology-Sinus Surgery.

Dr. Kountakis’ research interests include clinical, physiological, genetic and immune parameters of chronic rhinosinusitis and medical-surgical outcomes. He has focused on the presence of cysteinyl leukotrienes in chronic hyperplastic sinusitis.

Dr. Kountakis serves on the editorial board or is a reviewer of four major journals in the field of Otolaryngology. He is a 2002 recipient of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery’s Service Honor Award. He was selected as a Daiichi Scholar of the Academy, which is a Clinical Scholars Program in Evidence-Based Medical Research and he has served as a Guest Examiner for the oral examination of the American Board of Otolaryngology. Dr. Kountakis serves on the Board of Directors of the American Rhinologic Society.

Record Number of MCG Students Match into Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery
By Christine G. Gourin, M.D.

A record number of medical students from the class of 2003 at the Medical College of Georgia are pursuing careers in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Nine students successfully matched in Otolaryngology this year at programs all over the country.

“2003 saw an extraordinary number of MCG students both applying to and matching in Otolaryngology”, said Frederick N. Klippert, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology and the coordinator for resident recruitment at MCG. “These numbers speak strongly to the positive influence of both our faculty and residents on student career choice”. Some of the institutions that successfully recruited our students include the University of Virginia, the University of Utah and Emory University. Congratulations to our future colleagues!
Major Renovations Under Way

By Kenneth W. Brace

The Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery recently embarked on a major renovation of its academic space. The remodeling will involve the construction of a new departmental library and conference room and additional faculty office space for the expanding program. Facilities Management, in coordination with Cleveland Construction Co. and 2KM Architects, has been working hard to bring our vision to reality. One of the greatest challenges faced by the team was to develop a departmental footprint that transverses three buildings (the Children’s Medical Center, the Ambulatory Care Center, and the Specialized Care Center). The first phase of the renovation, the Library and Conference Room, will be complete in July. The entire project will be finished by the end of 2003.

Visiting Professor Program Revitalized

By Alan Johnson, M.D.

The visiting professor program has been re-invigorated, with regional and national speakers addressing a variety of topics, ranging from endoscopic otology to laryngeal preservation surgery.

In April, J. David Osguthorpe, M.D., Professor of Otolaryngology at the Medical University of South Carolina, delivered a comprehensive lecture on Allergic Rhinosinusitis (see photograph). The coming academic year will feature the Management of Vascular Skin Lesions and topics in the fields of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Thyroid Surgery.

Grand Rounds are held in the Otolaryngology Conference Room on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Category 1 CME is available, and catered dinner is provided. For details call (706) 721-6100.

50th Cochlear Implant Performed

By Gloria Garner, Au.D.

In April, Dr. Alan Johnson performed his 50th cochlear implant surgery. This milestone will be celebrated with a reception for all cochlear implantees and their families.

We have implanted patients as young as 15 months and adults well into their senior years. It has been gratifying to be a part of the remarkable journey with our patients as they move out of a world of silence and into the hearing world again (or for the very first time!).

Establishment of the Georgia Sinus and Allergy Center

The Department of Otolaryngology and the Division of Rhinology of the Department are planning the creation of a new center dedicated to all patients suffering from allergy and sinus problems. The purpose of the center will be to dramatically improve the medical care of sinus and allergy patients among the citizens of the State of Georgia and our market area. This endeavor will integrate the knowledge of specialists with basic and applied research and state-of-the-art technology to deliver active training opportunities to physicians, nurses, and other caregivers who impact dramatically on the positive outcomes of patient care. Additionally, tools will evolve to enhance patient education in the understanding and management of their disease process.

Oral Screening Program Successful

By Barbara Carter, R.N.

On Friday, April 11, 2003, in honor of National Oral Cancer Week, the Department of Otolaryngology sponsored a free screening clinic. This was advertised in the local newspaper as well as within the MCG system. Many people took advantage of this free screening and we intend to make this an annual event.
Departmental Research Activities

By Christine G. Gourin, M.D.

Current research projects in the department focus on a variety of clinical and basic science areas of otolaryngology:

- Systemic connexin levels and the development of sensorineural hearing loss in childhood
- Use of the harmonic scalpel for supraglottoplasty in pediatric patients with laryngomalacia
- The effect of tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy in obese children with sleep apnea on body mass index (BMI)
- The effect of alcohol consumption on sensorineural hearing
- The efficacy of endoscopic thyroid surgery in an experimental model
- The use of surgical robots in various experimental models

The Department of Otolaryngology is actively recruiting patients for several national and institutional clinical trials:

- The Department participated in a Phase III multicenter, randomized, double-blind placebo-controlled study to assess the efficacy and safety of cevimeline in the treatment of xerostomia secondary to radiation therapy for cancer in the head and neck region. (Protocol Number 2011A-PRT004)
- The Department is currently participating in a multicenter clinical trial sponsored by the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG), which is investigating the utility of lymphatic mapping and sentinel node lymphadenectomy for patients with T1 or T2 clinically N0 oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma. (Protocol Number Z0360)
- An institutional clinical trial within the Department of Otolaryngology assessing the efficacy of endoscopic neck surgery for resection of enlarged lymph nodes, benign cervical cysts, and submandibular gland resection is currently recruiting patients.
- An institutional Phase III randomized, blinded, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine the efficacy of novel agents in chemoprevention of oral premalignant lesions is recruiting patients.
- Future areas of clinical trial development in the Department will focus on surgical applications of robotic technology and early detection of head and neck squamous cell cancer.

Resident Research:

Residents participating in research rotations for 2003-2004 have selected projects focusing on otologic surgery in an experimental model.

R. Tyson Deal, M.D. and Charles Mixson, M.D. will be studying the outcome of AlloDerm myringoplasty and fasciaform tympanoplasty, respectively, in a chinchilla model.

Presentation and Publication List

Presentations:

Porubsky, EA, Gourin, CG. Surgical management of acquired tracheocele. Presented at the annual meeting of the AAOHNS in September 2002.

Wood B, and Austin MB. Sagittal sinus thrombosis as a complication of otitis media. Presented at the annual meeting of the AAOHNS in September 2002.


Publications:


Picture from the Archives

In 1990, the Otolaryngology "Cut Throats" were the MCG Intramural Basketball Champions. This year’s Cut Throat squad made the playoffs. Word on the street is that Dr. Ed Porubsky, Professor Emeritus, still has a mean jump shot.
As July of 2003 approaches, it is time to hail the incoming PGY-1’s and congratulate them, as they complete their internship in Surgery. On behalf of the Department of Otolaryngology, we welcome Drs. Lana Jackson and David Walters as they commence their Otolaryngology training. Dr. Jackson is originally from Meridian, Mississippi. While serving our country in the Air National Guard, Dr. Jackson received her undergraduate education at the University of Mississippi. Subsequently, she obtained dual degrees (M.D., Pharm.D.), also from the University of Mississippi.

Dr. Walters is from Dallas, Texas. He received his undergraduate degree from Baylor University. After he graduated, he worked in computer programming and software development before deciding to pursue a career in medicine. He subsequently matriculated at Texas Tech medical school. Along with his wife, Kristi and his two children, Alli and Grayson, Dr. Walters relocated to Augusta, Georgia in July of 2002. We look forward to having Dr. Jackson and Dr. Walters on the Otolaryngology service.

To make room for these incoming residents, we will need to offer congratulations and farewell to our current chief residents, Drs. Scott Caveney and Allen Butler. Dr. Caveney is originally from Wheeling, West Virginia. He earned three degrees from West Virginia University; he received a B.A. in biology and then completed the M.D./Ph.D. program in 1998. Following completion of residency at MCG, he and his wife Caroline will be moving to Marietta, GA to join the practice of two former MCG graduates, Drs. Michael Vick and David Parks.

Dr. Butler grew up in Orlando, Florida. He attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia for his undergraduate education. He enrolled in the Medical College of Georgia for medical school and remained in Augusta for his Otolaryngology residency. Upon completion of this training, Dr. Butler will enter private practice. He and his wife, Dr. Heather Butler, a pediatrician, will be joining Dr. Richard Hebert and Dr. Charice Hebert (MCG alumni in Otolaryngology and Pediatrics, respectively) in their ENT/Pediatric practice. Dr. Butler, his wife and two children Madeline and Reed will be moving to Eunice, Louisiana in July.

As part of the American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Foundation 2002 Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, a reception for the MCG Department of Otolaryngology was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2002. The event was attended by over 40 current and previous faculty, residents, other Augusta area Otolaryngologists, and their spouses.

To share your news with the other alumni, please send updates to Donna Black at donnab@mcg.edu or call 706-721-6100.
Medical College of Georgia
Department of Otolaryngology/
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Two positions are available at the Medical College of Georgia in the newly designated Department of Otolaryngology

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To apply and to receive additional information about the generous support associated with these opportunities, please send a curriculum vitae by October 1, 2003 to:

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