MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The excitement at the Medical College of Georgia Department of Otolaryngology continues. The biggest development this quarter has been the commitment from Xomed Medtronic to support a Rhinology Center of Excellence. This joint venture will take the form of the Georgia Sinus and Allergy Center and will include a state-of-the-art Sinus laboratory, beta-testing of novel techniques, and re-engineering of the office equipment. (Read more about this inside.) This relationship will clearly position the MCG Rhinology program to provide cutting edge education and clinical care now and in the future.

We have accelerated our recruitment activities on several fronts, successfully signing a Cosmetic Surgery assistant to support Dr. Achih Chen, and a Rhinology nurse and administrator to support the new Georgia Sinus and Allergy Center. Finally, we are pleased to announce that the second Rhinology fellow will be our own Dr. Chris McMains (currently completing his Chief Resident year), and the first Sleep fellow will be Dr. Kenny Pang.

The surgical and clinical volumes continue to grow rapidly, ensuring a robust resident operative experience. We look forward to fully integrating our new faculty members, and to the second phase of our recruitment strategy.

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

MCG Recognized as Industry Leader

The Medical College of Georgia has been named to the Solucient Top 100 Hospital list for 2003. MCG is one of 16 major teaching hospitals to make this year’s list, which includes the Mayo Clinic, Vanderbilt, University of Virginia and the University of Wisconsin.

Welcome of our Newest Team Members

Resident & Alumni Update

Phone Numbers and Web Site Address

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
Faculty Honored

Dr. Christine Gourin was recently granted membership in the prestigious American College of Surgeons. She is the sixth member of the department to attain active status.

Drs. Mitch Austin (Pediatric Otolaryngology) and David Terris have been named to the list of the Best Doctors in America 2003-2004.

Dr. Kountakis was honored for his 6 years of service as a member of the Program Advisory Committee of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. The Committee is responsible for organizing the morning session of the annual meeting of the Academy, including peer review of the scientific oral and poster presentations, as well as all the subcommittee presentations and miniseminars.

Dr. David Terris, Porubsky Professor and Chairman has been invited as Visiting Professor to the following programs: Philadelphia College of Otolaryngology, Medical College of Virginia and Loyola University.

Kountakis Gets First Hole-In-One
Saturday, September 13th is not a day that Dr. Stil Kountakis will soon forget. Stil carded the first ace of his career on the 168-yard, par 3, 8th hole at Westlake Country Club using a 6 iron. And who says 13 is unlucky. Congratulations, Stil.

MCG On the Air and In Print

Our Department has been well represented on radio, television and in the newspaper over the past few months.

Dr. Achih Chen, Director of Facial Plastic Surgery, was feature on the front page of the Lifestyle section of the Augusta Chronicle in July. The story focused on the experience of his first cosmetic patient at the Medical College of Georgia.

Additionally, Dr. Chen appeared on the WGAC morning radio show with Keith Beckum on August 11, 2003 to discuss aesthetic surgery and the aging face.

Dr. Stil Kountakis was featured in the Beeper in early July. The article highlighted his research interests, to include clinical, physiological, genetic and immune-basic science parameters of chronic rhinosinusitis and medical-surgical outcomes.

Staff Highlights

By Kenneth W. Brace

Congratulations to Joy Benson, LPN in the Otolaryngology Practice Site. She was awarded the Department of Otolaryngology Distinguished Service Award in June 2003 for her efforts in transforming an examination room dedicated to preoperative evaluations as a part of our Adopt-an-Exam-Room program.

Congratulations, Ms. Coleman. Ms. Annette Coleman, LPN in the ENT Practice Site, was presented the Department of Otolaryngology Distinguished Service Award for the month of April 2003. Ms. Coleman was recognized for her innovative ideas to improve the efficiency of our Head and Neck Tumor Board. The impact of her efforts at the weekly multi-disciplinary board is a true testimony to her desire to serve our patients and faculty.
Grand Rounds 2003-2004

The Grand Rounds Calendar for 2003-2004 features a highly distinguished group of Visiting Professors. Grand Rounds are held at 6:00 pm at the Medical College of Georgia and are open to all members of the Medical College as well as the community. Dinner is provided. For further information, please contact the Department of Otolaryngology at (706) 721-6100.

September 2, 2003  Marcelo Hochman, MD, Facial Surgery Center, Charleston, SC
“Contemporary Management of Vascular Birthmarks”

September 25, 2003  John Oates, FRCS, Queen’s Hospital, Staffordshire, England
“Stapes Surgery: Tips and Tricks of the Trade”
Robert Vincent, MD, Cause Otology Clinic, Colombiers, France
“Difficult Cases in Stapes Surgery”

October 7, 2003  Robert Sofferman, MD, Professor & Chairman, University of Vermont
“Surgical Management of Hyperparathyroidism”

November 4, 2003  Byron Bailey, MD, Professor & Chairman Emeritus, University of Texas
“Vertical Partial Laryngectomy: A 30-Year History”

December 2, 2003  James Reilly, MD, Associate Professor, Jefferson Medical College
“Innovative Techniques in Tonsil and Adenoid Surgery”

January 6, 2004  Clough Shelton, MD, Professor, University of Utah
“Management of Complications of Mastoid Surgery”

February 2, 2004  Jonas Johnson, MD, Professor & Vice-Chairman, University of Pittsburgh
“Evaluation and Management of Parotid Masses”

March 2, 2004  J. Regan Thomas, MD, Professor & Chairman, University of Illinois
“Local Flaps and Nasal Reconstruction”

April 12, 2004  Jack Gluckman, MD, Professor & Chairman, University of Cincinnati
“Management of Parapharyngeal Space Tumors”

Renovation Project Moves Forward

After a slow start, due to the numerous challenges of bridging three buildings, the renovation of the Department of Otolaryngology academic offices is in full swing. The team of Cleveland Construction Co. and 2KM Architects has completed the staging and framing phases of the project, and are moving forward with the plans to provide a “state-of-the-art” conference room, library and academic offices. The scheduled completion of the project remains January 2004.

Strategic Planning Conference

The faculty and staff from the Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery recently participated in our second annual Strategic Planning Conference at Hickory Knob State Park, near McCormick, SC. The weekend conference was held from Friday, August 22nd thru Sunday, August 24th. After a review of the previous years accomplishments, the group went about the task of refining our short and long-term goals and identifying the “champion” responsible for helping us meet each specific goal.

The topics addressed during the conference included: Clinical Initiatives, Residency Issues, Resident Recruitment, Research Initiatives, Medical Student Education. The conference provided us with a chance to share ideas, identify opportunities, solve problems and conduct team-building in a beautiful setting.
The First Annual Porubsky Symposium was held on June 6 and 7, 2003, in conjunction with Alumni Weekend and Chief Resident Graduation. Named in honor of Dr. Edward S. Porubsky, who started the Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residency program at the Medical College of Georgia more than 25 years ago, the Porubsky symposium featured presentations from Department faculty and residents as well as 2 distinguished guest speakers, Dr. Patrick Gullane and Dr. Ashok Shaha. Drs. Gullane and Shaha are internationally recognized as leaders in the field of Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery and have served as role models and mentors to a generation of trainees.

Dr. Gullane is the director of the Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery training program, and Wharton Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Toronto. He is a recipient of the prestigious Mosher Award of the Triological Society. Dr. Gullane lectured on the management of Laryngotracheal Stenosis and Reconstruction of the Oral Cavity. Dr. Shaha previously served as Chief of the Head and Neck Surgery Service at State University of New York-Downstate Medical Center. He returned to Memorial-Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in 1992 where he is Professor of Surgery and is an authority on Head and Neck Cancer Surgery, with particular expertise in thyroid and parathyroid disease. Dr. Shaha gave presentations on the management of difficult thyroid cases and the management of difficult neck cases.

Resident presentations emphasized current research activities within the Department of Otolaryngology. While judging was very close, the award for most outstanding resident presentation was given to Scott Caveney, M.D., Ph.D., for “Electrocautery versus Harmonic Scalpel Tonsillectomy: A Randomized Prospective Study”.

The Second Annual Porubsky Symposium will get underway on Friday, June 11, 2004. Featured guests this year will be Paul Levine, Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Virginia and President-elect of the American Head and Neck Society, and Richard Goode, former Chairman at Stanford and past-president of American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. The emphasis of the program will be on facial plastic surgery, otology and head and neck cancer. This year’s format will include Friday afternoon and Saturday morning lectures, Saturday dinner honoring the chief residents and Sunday morning golf. Mark your calendars now!

The Georgia Sinus and Allergy Center has been established under the direction of Stil Kountakis, M.D. The mission of the Center is to improve the medical care of patients with diseases of the sinuses and allergic diseases of the upper airway. The Center incorporates state of the art technology including Computer Image Guided Endoscopic Sinus Surgery to treat patients requiring revision sinus surgery, endoscopic repair of cerebrospinal fluid leaks, advanced surgery of the frontal sinus, anterior skull base surgery, as well as initial functional endoscopic sinus surgery. For its efforts in education, research and patient care, the Center was recognized as a “Center of Excellence in Rhinology-Sinus Surgery” by Medtronic Xomed, the largest instrument company in the field of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. This recognition and future collaboration will allow the Center first-level exposure to technologies and product development activities. Furthermore, the center will participate in clinical studies and research and therefore be a leader in the advance of patient care.
Presentation and Publication List

Presentations:


6. Terris, DJ: Faculty, AAOHNS Mini-Seminar: Management of Tongue Base Obstruction


Publications:


Consultant of the Year Awarded

Chris Sheils, M.D. was recognized as the department’s Consultant of the Year during the Chief Resident dinner on June 7th, 2003. Dr. Sheils, a radiation oncologist at MCG, has been active in the educational and clinical missions of the department for the past year. He has also been an important collaborator in our weekly multi-disciplinary Head and Neck Tumor Board. The communication, teamwork and commitment he displays are the gold standard for others to emulate.


Resident Recruitment

Resident recruitment is once again underway at MCG. Last year, a record 10 senior MCG students elected to pursue a career in Otolaryngology. This year we witnessed another record-breaking statistic, as the applications for the MCG Otolaryngology residency increased by a stunning 47% even while there has been a modest decrease in the overall number of students applying for the Otolaryngology Match. The growth of interest in MCG reflects the expansion of the program and the broad, high-paced training now available.

Welcome to our Newest Team Members

Wanda White
Rhinology Nurse

Aprell Edwards
Rhinology Admin Specialist

Terra Culliver
Front Desk Support

Nicole Edwards
Cosmetic Surgery Counselor

Judy Johnson
Billing and Coding Reviewer
News From Our Alumni

David Parks ('89) and Mike Vick ('01) welcomed Scott Caveney ('03) to their practice in Marietta, Georgia.

Allen Butler ('03) recently joined the practice of Chris Hebert ('99) in Eunice, Louisiana.

The first resident of the MCG Residency Training program, Bill Welsh ('79), continues his robust practice in Augusta, GA.

Thanks for your support! 51% of the alumni from our program have contributed to the new Porubsky Library Fund. Your generous gifts will go a long way in support of our teaching mission.

William E. Barfield, III ('02)
Allen P. Butler ('03)
Michael and Jeannine Callahan ('01)
The Coker Foundation ('81)
Diane W. Davis ('83)
Scott Dempewolf ('96)
Bernard and Diane Durante ('87)
Paul and Vicki Free ('00)
Richard L. Hebert ('99)
John W. Lee ('88)
Robert and Elizabeth Merritt ('97)
R. Glen Owen, Jr. ('95)
Nicolette A. Picerno ('99)
Eileen Raynor ('98)
Bill Roberts ('88)
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Laura Silver ('93)
Robert P. Spears ('95)
Scott M. Stewart ('02)
Chris Vickery ('94)
William J. Welsh ('79)
Alan B. Whitehouse ('92)
John S. Wilson ('89)

Picture from the Archives

This was a tradition? After years of hard-work, Scott Dempewolf ('96), far right, is shown celebrating the completion of his Otolaryngology residency with the Orthopedic residents by ceremonially stomping and burning his lab coat.

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/Head & Neck Surgery

Positions available at the Medical College of Georgia in the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery:

**Fellowship in Sleep Apnea**

**Fellowship in Rhinology**

*To apply, please send a curriculum vitae by July 1, 2004 to:*

**Sleep Apnea:**
David J. Terris, M.D.
dterrit@mcg.edu

**Rhinology:**
Stil Kountakis, M.D.
skountakis@mcg.edu

Medical College of Georgia
Dept of Otolaryngology
1120 Fifteenth Street
Augusta, Georgia 30912-4060

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Masters of Otolaryngology Symposium

**Temporal Bone Anatomy And Dissection**

February 27-28, 2004

*Distinguished Guest Faculty*

**Newton Coker, M.D.**
Professor, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
President, American Neurology Society

**C. Philip Daspit, M.D.**
Director of Otolaryngic and Skull Base Surgery
Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, AZ

**William H. Moretz, M.D.**
Southern Otolaryngic Clinic, Augusta, GA

**William Roberts, M.D.**
Charlotte Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Charlotte, NC

**Course Director**
Alan Johnson, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Medical College of Georgia