MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I t has been another busy recruiting year as we continue to grow our department. We welcome two new faculty members this year (see inside). Bao-Ling Adam is a proteomic scientist specializing in the identification and characterization of head and neck tumor markers. Beverly Wang is a head and neck pathologist who comes to us from Mt. Sinai with specific expertise in cytopathology, and a research interest in p53-related nuclear proteins.

It was also a year in which we completed three of our continuing medical education activities. The First Annual Porubsky Symposium was a success by all metrics, and this was followed by a superb Sinus Course, and most recently, the first Temporal Bone course held at the Medical College of Georgia. Finally, we continued to produce growing surgical volumes, particularly in the areas of facial cosmetic procedures and endocrine surgery. See inside this issue for more details about the latest events in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia.

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

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

Christine Gourin was formally inducted into the American College of Surgeons at the Annual Meeting in Chicago in October.

David Terris was invited to be Visiting Professor at the Medical College of Virginia, Loyola University – Chicago, and the University of Mississippi.

Stilianos Kountakis’ thesis was accepted by the Triological Society, and he was inducted into the Society at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix in April.

Christine Gourin was elected President of the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Women Surgeons.

Mitch Austin and David Terris were both named to the 2003-2004 list of the Best Doctors in America.

Daiichi Clinical Scholar Program

Drs. Christine Gourin and Alan Johnson were both selected as Daiichi Clinical Scholars by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery for 2003-2004. The Clinical Scholars Program began in 2001 with the intent to train investigators to perform evidence-based medical research to gain valuable data outcomes. Sponsored by the Daiichi Pharmaceutical Corporation, the year-long program is designed to guide scholars through the process of research topic development within his or her own practice.

Visiting Professor Program

The 2003-2004 Otolaryngology Grand Rounds program continues to attract a world-class caliber of Visiting Professors. Recent distinguished speakers include Clough Shelton, MD, Jonas Johnson, MD, J. Regan Thomas, MD, and Jack Gluckman, MD. Grand Rounds are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 pm and are open to all members of the community.

Consultant of the Year

We are pleased to announce that pathologist Richard Hessler was unanimously selected as the second recipient of the Otolaryngology Consultant of the Year. Dr. Hessler has a tremendously busy schedule, but finds time not only for ad-hoc consultations, but is a dependable participant in the weekly Head and Neck Tumor Board. His contributions to resident education are priceless. We are fortunate to have such a superb pathologist on our faculty. Congratulations to Dr. Hessler.

Renovation Project Completed

The renovation/construction of the Department of Otolaryngology academic offices, conference room and library was completed in February 2004. Our thanks to the team of Cleveland Construction Co., 2KM Architects, the Dean of the School of Medicine and MCGHI for their support in moving this project along. The project allowed the department to centrally locate the faculty and support staff in one area. It also provides an outstanding environment for teaching and research in the Porubsky Library and Departmental Conference Room.
Resident Recruitment

Applications for the residency program reached an all time high this year. Over 140 applications were received for two positions. We are proud to announce the recruitment of Melanie Wilson Seybt, from the Medical College of Georgia, and Tammara Watts from the University of Maryland. They will begin their rotating surgical internships on July 1, 2004.

Ms. Watts has authored or co-authored eight publications, is the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on two grants, and was awarded a patent for her work on Peptide Antagonists of Zonulin. She will receive both her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in June.

Ms. Seybt has authored or co-authored two publications, and will make a national presentation at the annual meeting of the American Rhinologic Society in May. She will receive her M.D. degree in June.

Hail and Farewell: Incoming Residents and Graduating Residents

We welcome our new Otolaryngology Residents, Adam Becker from Eastern Virginia University and William Moretz from the Medical College of Georgia. Each will complete their rotating surgical internship June 30, 2004. We look forward to having them join the Otolaryngology service in July.

Best wishes to our departing Chief Residents. Eddie Porubsky will join a local practice in Augusta, Georgia. Chris McMains was selected as the second Rhinology Fellow under Stilianos Kountakis, and will begin this Fellowship in July. Congratulations to each of the Chief Residents.

Picture from the Archives

1978 Otolaryngology Faculty and Residents

To share your news with the other alumni, please send updates to Donna Black at donnab@mcg.edu or call 706-721-6100.
New Protocols Approved

Current Steering and Pitch Perception in HiRes Bionic Ear Users
Principal Investigator: Alan J. Johnson, M.D.
Study Sponsor: Advanced Bionics Corporation

Clinical Protocol 509: Pillar Palatal Implant System for Obstructive Sleep Apnea
Principal Investigator: David J. Terris, M.D.
Study Sponsor: Restore Medical Inc.

The Collection of Serum, Tissue and Saliva Samples from Patients with Biopsy-Proven or Suspected Head and Neck Cancer or Endocrine Disease and Matched Normal Volunteers
Principal Investigator: Christine G. Gourin, M.D.

80-Hour Work-Week Restrictions Associated with Increase in Family Size

The 80-hour work-week mandated by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) was implemented at MCG effective July 1, 2003. The new requirements limit resident work hours to 80 hours per week averaged over a four-week period. Since the implementation of work hour reform, the Department of Otolaryngology has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of resident offspring, suggesting there may be an association between work hour restrictions and family size.

Welcome to our Newest Team Members

Eddie and Claiborne Porubsky welcomed Claiborne Porubsky in November, 2003; Russ and Allyson Blankenship welcomed Benjamin Blankenship in January, 2004, and Brennan and Dawn Wood similarly welcomed Gracen Wood in February, 2004. Tyson and Heather Deal welcomed Judson Benjamin Deal, II in April, 2004, and Firas and Rola Farhat are expecting their first child in June. These statistics strongly support the premise that adequate free time from clinical and formal educational responsibilities and program duties exists under the new regulations. Congratulations to our newest Departmental members!

Staff Highlights

Michael Dixon, Administrative Director of Ambulatory Care Surgical Services, recently passed the certifying exam administered by the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). An individual may advance to Diplomate only after presenting to the ACHE Credentials Committee evidence of professional growth and competence in the field. These factors are demonstrated by the candidates leadership in health and community affairs at the local, state or national level; by participation in programs of continuing professional education; and by passing the Board of Governors Examination in Healthcare Management. ACHE was founded in 1933.

Terra Culliver and Lisa Koon, Patient Services Specialists in the Otolaryngology Practice Site, recently received the Department of Otolaryngology Distinguished Service Award for exceptional management of increasing patient volumes and complexity of registration requirements.
Two New Faculty Members Recruited

Dr. Bao-Ling Adam joined the Department of Otolaryngology as Assistant Professor. Dr. Adam previously held the position of Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Cell Biology at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, where she earned her Ph.D. degree in Biomedical Sciences in 1990. Dr. Adam has authored more than 27 peer-reviewed original research publications and she is a recipient of the Individual National Research Service Award from the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Adam holds a joint appointment with the Center for Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia and her focus of investigation is in the field of proteomics and the application of novel protein biochip technology in the discovery of tumor biomarkers. Her research into serum protein profiling of patients with head and neck cancer generated tremendous interest at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Head and Neck Society. In conjunction with the MCG Head and Neck Tumor Board, Dr. Adam has created a head and neck tumor tissue and sera bank that will be used for further proteomic elucidation of head and neck biomarkers for early detection and treatment.

Dr. Beverly Wang has been jointly recruited with the Department of Pathology as Associate Professor of Pathology and Otolaryngology and Director of Surgical Pathology. Dr. Wang’s major clinical expertise is in the field of General Surgical Pathology with subspecialties in otolaryngologic pathology and cytopathology. She comes to Augusta from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, where she was Assistant Professor of Pathology and Attending Pathologist at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. She had previously completed residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at Mount Sinai. Dr. Wang took fellowships in Pathology from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, in pulmonary and mediastinal pathology from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, in soft tissue pathology from the University of Michigan, and in cytopathology from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She was awarded the Parke-Davis Award in Experimental Pathology while at the University of Toronto and is a reviewer for Archives of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. She is the author of more than 33 articles, and has experience in immunohistochemistry with several discoveries in neuropeptides and tumor markers.

MCG Brings Home Coveted Southern/Middle Section Golf Trophy

Our faculty and residents successfully participated in the academic activities at the Southern section meeting that took place in Marco Island, FL, this past January. Our success continued on the golf course as our program competed in the Southern sections’ residency program golf tournament. Our golf team consisted of David Terris (Professor and Chair), Stil Kountakis (Professor and Vice Chair), Eddie Porubsky (Chief resident) and Tyson Deal (third year resident). Using a team approach with good course management, while allowing cheerful interaction of the players’ diverse personalities, the MCG golf team won first place, easily outstanding the competition by 6 strokes.
Our First Annual Masters of Otolaryngology Symposium, Advances in Rhinology-Sinus Surgery was held October 7-10, 2003, under the guidance of Stil Kountakis, Director of Rhinology and Sinus Surgery at MCG. This hands-on sinus course with cadaver dissection attracted participants from all over the United States. Comments from the participants were extremely positive, praising our nationally and internationally recognized guest faculty (Charles Gross - University of Virginia, Brent Senior – University of North Carolina and Brad Marple – University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas). Dr. Gross was honored by the MCG Department of Otolaryngology for his life-long contributions to the field of Rhinology-Sinus Surgery and to academic medicine in general.

The guest faculty included: Dr. Newton Coker, Professor of Otolaryngology at Baylor School of Medicine, and immediate past-president of the American Neurotology Society, Dr. C. Philip Daspit, of Phoenix, Director of Neurotology for the world-renowned Barrow Neurologic Institute, and Dr. William Moretz of Augusta, pioneer of middle ear prosthetic design. Dr. Alan Johnson of MCG was course director.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our corporate sponsors, Aventis, Brainlab, Daiichi, Entific, Gyrus ENT, Leica, and Xomed-Treace/Medtronic.

The next course will be held February 25-26, 2005.
Presentations and Publications

Presentations:


Publications:


Three Research Grants Submitted
Molecular Identification of Hypopharynx versus Larynx as Origin of Advanced T-Stage Head and Neck Cancers
American Head and Neck Society Pilot Research Grant
Principal Investigator: Paul M. Weinberger, BS
Sponsor: David J. Terris, M.D.

Transcanal Suture-Guided Approach to Tympanic Membrane Repair in an Animal Model
American Head and Neck Resident Research Grant
Principal Investigator: R. Tyson Deal, M.D.
Sponsor: Mitchell Austin, M.D.

Cellular-Molecular Markers in Allergic Fungal Sinusitis
AAO-ARS New Investigator Award
Principal Investigator: K. Chris McMains, M.D.
Sponsor: Stilianos E. Kountakis, M.D.
Second Annual
Porubsky Symposium
and
Chief Resident
Graduation/Alumni
Weekend

June 11-13, 2004
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty
Paul A. Levine, M.D.
Professor and Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Richard L. Goode, M.D.
Professor and Former Chairman, Division of Otolaryngology
Stanford University, Palo Alto, California

Program Co-Chairs
Christine G. Gourin, M.D. and David J. Terris, M.D.
Department of Otolaryngology, Medical College of Georgia

Register early. Participation in the Lab is limited.

Second Annual
Masters of
Otolaryngology
Symposium

Advances in Rhinology-Sinus Surgery

October 7-10, 2004
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty
David Kennedy, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
William Bolger, M.D.
Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, MD
Brent Senior, M.D.
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
Winston Vaughan, M.D.
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Course Directors
Stil Kountakis, M.D., Ph.D.
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
Frederick A. Kuhn, M.D.
The Georgia Nasal and Sinus Institute, Savannah, GA