MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As winter approaches in Augusta, a number of significant programmatic changes are being implemented. Our successful recruitment of Gregory Postma to the faculty has completed a doubling in the size of the faculty over a three year period. Dr. Postma’s arrival has facilitated the creation of the MCG Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders, and resulted in the offering of a laryngology fellowship, increasing to three the number of fellowship offerings (along with rhinology and endocrine/head and neck surgery).

Our growing academic enterprise entered the realm of book publishing this summer as the first two textbooks edited by MCG faculty members were released (see inside).

Finally, Christine Gourin has accepted the responsibility of editor of the OTO Observer. We believe you will enjoy reading about the recent events of our department in the pages that follow.

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

Achih Chen was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Stilianos Kountakis was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Christine Gourin was named to the editorial board of The Laryngoscope, selected to the 2006 Program Committee for the American Head and Neck Society, and was chosen by the Consumer's Research Council to be listed in the 2005-2006 edition of America’s Top Physicians.

David Terris was elected to the council of the Triological Society for 2005-2008.

Stilianos Kountakis and David Terris served as Oral Board examiners for the American Board of Otolaryngology Annual Certifying Examination.

Best Doctors:

5 Otolaryngology faculty members were named to the 2005-2006 list of The Best Doctors® in America. Drs. Mitchell Austin, Christine Gourin, Stilianos Kountakis, Gregory Postma, and David Terris received this distinction. The Best Doctors database includes the top 3% to 5% of specialists in America, chosen from an exhaustive peer-review survey of over 33,000 physicians. The Best Doctors database includes specialists in more than 30 countries around the world, representing over 400 subspecialties of medicine.

Textbooks Published

Two new textbooks devoted to frontal sinus disease and sleep apnea and snoring were edited by Department faculty members.

Stilianos Kountakis, MD is senior editor of “The Frontal Sinus”, published this year by Springer-Verlag. This is the first comprehensive text devoted to the management and treatment of frontal sinus disease. Co-editors are Drs. Brent Senior of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Wolfgang Draf of Philipps-University Marburg in Germany. Drs. David Terris and Christine Gourin of the Department of Otolaryngology and Drs. Ramon Figueroa and Joseph Sullivan of the Department of Radiology contributed chapters.

David Terris, MD is senior editor of “Surgical Management of Sleep Apnea and Snoring”, a comprehensive textbook incorporating the latest surgical treatments for sleep disordered breathing published this year by the Taylor & Francis Group. Dr. Richard Goode of Stanford University is co-editor. Dr. Chris McMains of the Department of Otolaryngology contributed chapters.

Three Fellowships Available for 2007-2008
Endocrine/Head and Neck Surgery (contact Dr. David Terris)
Rhinology/Sinus Surgery (contact Dr. Stil Kountakis)
Laryngology (contact Dr. Gregory Postma)
Pictures from the Archives

The Pig Roast is an annual tradition, hosted by the Department for more than 20 years. Every year, over Memorial Day weekend, otolaryngology residents camp out overnight at a local state park campsite and roast a whole pig, which serves as the main course for the annual Department Pig Roast Picnic held the following day.

Residents Lana Jackson, Tammara Watts, Russ Blankenship and David Walters (from left to right) serve chopped pork at the 2005 Pig Roast.

Opportunities to Invest

Charitable support is a critical component for successful resident research and educational endeavors. Four funds have been established to provide an opportunity to invest in the future success of the Department: the Porubsky Library Fund, the Barton Otolaryngology fund, the Temporal Bone Laboratory Fund, and the Otolaryngology Research Fund. In addition, opportunities exist for naming and supporting research pursuits in specific areas of interest such as thyroid, head and neck cancer, sinus, or laryngology/voice research. All gifts are tax-deductible. For further information, please contact Kenny Brace, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at (706) 721-6100.

Giving Opportunities

Designate Your Gift to MCG Otolaryngology

☐ Porubsky Library Fund $ __________
☐ Barton Otolaryngology Fund $ __________
☐ Temporal Bone Lab Fund $ __________
☐ Otolaryngology Research Fund $ __________
☐ Area of Greatest Need $ __________
☐ Other: ________________________ $ __________

TOTAL $ __________

☐ Check enclosed to MCG Foundation, Inc.
☐ CREDIT CARD please complete the following
  MC _____Visa _____AE _____Discover
  Card #_________________________ Exp._______
  Name on card: _______________________________________________________
  Signature Required:____________________________________________________

Full Name ____________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________
City ______________________ State__________ Zip___________________________
Daytime Telephone ______________________________________________________
Email Address __________________________________________________________

Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. MCG fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. For more information, call 706-721-6100 or visit www.mcg.edu/giving.

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


Mixson CM, Weinberger PM, Austin MB. Comparison of microdebrider subcapsular tonsillectomy with harmonic scalpel and electrocautery total tonsillectomy. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, 2005.

Publications


We are pleased to announce that Dr. Gregory Postma joined the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia in October 2005 as Chief of Laryngology and Director of the new MCG Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders.

Dr. Postma comes to MCG from Wake Forest University where he was an Associate Professor at the Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders. In 1984, Dr. Postma received his medical degree from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and he completed his residency in Otolaryngology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1993. He took a fellowship in laryngology and professional voice at Vanderbilt University and joined the faculty at Wake Forest in 1996.

Dr. Postma’s clinical interests span the entire field of laryngology. These include voice disorders, professional and singing voice care, dysphagia and associated swallowing disorders, airway surgery and reconstruction, spasmodic dysphonia, extraesophageal and gastroesophageal reflux, and chronic cough. In addition, he is one of the pioneers in the area of in-office surgery including transnasal esophagoscopy and un-sedated laryngeal and airway laser surgery.

Dr. Postma’s research interests include extraesophageal reflux, surgical and non-surgical management of swallowing disorders, and in-office surgery. He is the author or co-author of more than 70 peer-reviewed publications and has written more than 50 chapters and invited articles. He has given more than 130 presentations on a wide array of laryngologic topics.

The Medical College of Georgia Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders is a collaborative effort involving the Departments of Otolaryngology, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Pulmonary, Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Speech-Language Pathology. This team approach to the evaluation and management of patients allows us to provide optimal care for individuals with voice, swallowing, and airway problems.

Dr. Postma can be reached at gpostma@mcg.edu. For an appointment, call 706-721-4400.

Greg Postma Joins Faculty to Direct New Voice and Swallowing Center

Glenn Bedell recently joined the Otolaryngology team as Administrative Director of Ambulatory Care Surgical Services for MCG Health, Inc. He is responsible for the operation of the otolaryngology practice site.

Glenn joins us after serving for the past 9 years in healthcare management at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. He holds a Master of Health Services Administration from George Washington University, and is an associate of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Marquetta Howard joined the Department as Surgical Coordinator. Marquetta will have her hands full as we have doubled the size of our faculty in the past 3 years.

Kenny Brace, Department Administrator, was named President-elect of the CSRA Medical Managers Association. He has served on the board of this local affiliate of the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) for the past 3 years.
Grand Rounds 2005-2006

September 6  Willard E. Fee, Jr., MD  Stanford University  “Aesthetic Parotid Surgery”

October 4  Scott P. Stringer, MD, MBA  University of Mississippi  “Health Economics”

November 1  Dennis H. Kraus, MD  Memorial Sloan Kettering  “Anterior Craniofacial Resection”

December 6  Patrick J. Antonelli, MD  University of Florida  “Labyrinthine Injury”

January 3  Gayle E. Woodson, MD  Southern Illinois University  “Update on Phonosurgery”

February 7  Bert W. O’Malley, Jr., MD  University of Pennsylvania  “Emerging Technology in OHNS”

March 7  Bruce J. Davidson, MD  Georgetown University  “Management of the Neck in Thyroid Malignancy”

April 11  Frank M. Kamer, MD  The Laskey Clinic, Beverly Hills  “Endonasal Rhinoplasty”

Continuing Education Symposia

The Department will host several major CME symposia in the 2005-2006 calendar year. Dr. Greg Postma will direct the 2nd Transnasal Esophagoscopy Symposium on December 3, 2005. The symposium will feature Milan R. Amin, MD, (New York University Voice Center), Mark S. Courey, MD, (UCSF Voice Center), and C. Blake Simpson, MD, (UT-San Antonio) as distinguished guest faculty. Hands-on experience with TNE is emphasized.

A symposium on Minimally Invasive Surgical Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Disease, directed by Drs. David Terris and Christine Gourin, will be held on April 21-22, 2006. Distinguished guest faculty include Dr. Paolo Miccoli of the University of Pisa, pioneer of minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid surgery techniques; Dr. Ronald Weigel, Chairman of Surgery at the University of Iowa; and Dr. Phillip Pellitteri, of Geisinger Medical Center. This year’s course will feature an expanded laboratory providing hands-on experience with minimally invasive approaches to the thyroid compartment.
Transnasal Esophagoscopy (TNE)

Chevalier Jackson and other otolaryngologists pioneered the use of rigid esophagoscopy years ago for examination, dilation, biopsy, and foreign body removal. Now, thin, flexible TNE endoscopes are available with distal-chip cameras for high-quality optics. These endoscopes can be passed safely transnasally, while providing air insufflation, irrigation, and biopsy capability. TNE is particularly useful in the management of individuals with dysphagia, reflux, and head and neck cancer. It has proven to be safe and well tolerated in the vast majority of patients and it may come to facilitate or even replace routine panendoscopy for many cancer patients.

Indications
The following are current TNE indications:

1. A screening tool in patients with LPR or chronic cough to evaluate for reflux esophagitis, Barrett’s esophagus, and esophageal adenocarcinoma.
2. A biopsy tool to obtain tissue specimens and perform in-clinic panendoscopy in patients with lesions suspicious for malignancy.
3. An evaluation tool to assess the esophageal mucosa of patients exposed to previous sources of damage such as caustic ingestion or radiation therapy.
4. To rule out anatomic obstruction (stricture, diverticulum) and assess motility in patients with dysphagia.
5. A therapeutic tool for procedures such as secondary tracheoesophageal puncture, foreign body management, and placement of wireless pH capsules.

Technique
Although it is preferred that patients have nothing to eat for 3 hours, a recent meal is not a contraindication to TNE. Topical nasal anesthesia and decongestion is accomplished with oxymetazoline (0.05%) and lidocaine (4%), or cocaine (2%) soaked pledget(s) for approximately 10 minutes. One spray of 20% benzocaine (Hurricane) to the oropharynx is optional.

The Endoscope is advanced with visualization of nasopharyngeal closure, tongue base, hypopharynx, vocal fold motion, and possible pooling of oral secretions. The endoscope is then advanced into the stomach and retroflexion is performed to assist in the identification of small or medium sized hiatal hernias. If mucosal lesions or irregularities are noted, multiple biopsies are obtained. The endoscope is slowly withdrawn to re-examine the mucosa of the entire esophagus.

Complications
The complication rate for TNE is very low. A recent review of over 700 TNE procedures revealed only 6 cases of self-limited epistaxis and 2 vasovagal episodes.

Conclusion
TNE is a safe and effective procedure that maintains all the advantages of conventional endoscopic techniques, while offering the distinct advantage of performance in the office without sedation. In addition, it gives the head and neck surgeon the ability to perform a remarkable variety of procedures in the outpatient setting without sedation. This results in better patient care and significant cost savings.
Minimally Invasive Surgical Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Disorders

April 21-22, 2006
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty

Paolo Miccoli, M.D.
Pioneer of Minimally Invasive Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery
University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Phillip K. Pellitteri, D.O., F.A.C.S.
Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA

Ronald J. Weigel, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S.
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

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

Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Clinical Faculty and Areas of Interest

David J. Terris, MD, Chairman
Thyroid and parathyroid surgery

Stilianos Kountakis, MD, Vice Chairman
Rhinology, sinus and skull base surgery

Mitchell B. Austin, MD
Pediatric otolaryngology

Achih H. Chen, MD
Facial plastic and reconstructive surgery

Christine G. Gourin, MD
Head and neck oncologic surgery

Alan J. Johnson, MD
Otology and neuro-otology

Frederick N. Klippert, MD
General otolaryngology

Edward S. Porubsky, MD
General otolaryngology

Gregory N. Postma, MD
Laryngology and swallowing disorders