Otology Program Expands

We are pleased to announce that Brian McKinnon, M.D., M.B.A. joined the Medical College of Georgia Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in October as Assistant Professor of Otology and Neurotology. Dr. McKinnon, formerly Chief of Otology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Otolaryngologist to both the White House Medical Unit and the Pentagon, earned his medical degree from Boston University and completed an otolaryngology residency at the Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia. This was followed by a fellowship in otolaryngology at the University of Virginia. Dr. McKinnon received his Masters of Business Administration from Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. McKinnon has lectured both in the U.S. and internationally on the use of implantable hearing devices and cochlear implantation in the elderly and in the military. His clinical and research interests include disorders of hearing and balance, including cholesteatomas, acoustic schwannomas, implantable hearing devices, and cochlear implants. He was one of the founders of the cochlear implant and implantable hearing devices program at Walter Reed.

Phone Numbers and Web Site Address
Appointments: (706) 721-4400
Academic: (706) 721-6100
Fax: (706) 721-0112

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

Thyroid Screening is a Success
(See inside for details)
Exciting times have again come to Augusta – this time in the form of a new Dean (Dr. D. Douglas Miller from St. Louis University) and the first Director of our new Cancer Center (Kapil Bhalla from the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa). The institutional growth parallels our own departmental expansion, and you will see that our otology program has added a world-class recruit in Dr. Brian McKinnon. As we witness unprecedented increases in our clinical and surgical volumes, our staff continues to provide outstanding and compassionate care (see 2 more examples of award-winning nursing excellence on page 3 inside). We look forward to another productive academic year.

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

Lori Burkhead was an invited speaker at the European Study Group for Dysphagia and Globus in Malmö, Sweden, the National Cancer Institute of Amsterdam, and the Toronto Rehabilitation Hospital in Ontario.

Christine Gourin was appointed to the American Board of Otolaryngology Task Force for New Materials and was a visiting professor at the University of Alabama.

Stil Kountakis served on the Program Committee and was a featured speaker for the International Congress of Rhinology-Skull Base Surgery in Athens. He was elected Second Vice-President of the American Rhinologic Society, and Treasurer of the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology.

Gregory Postma was elected Treasurer of the American Broncho-Esophagological Association. He was a featured speaker at the Congress of the European Laryngological Society in Nottingham, UK, as well as at the Medical College of Wisconsin Laryngeal Surgery Course, and was a visiting professor at the University of Colorado.

David Terris was an invited speaker at the 2006 Minnesota Academy of Otolaryngology annual meeting, and visiting professor at Northwestern University.

Gregory Postma is senior author of the “Atlas of Transnasal Esophagoscopy”, published this year by Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. Co-authored by Peter Belafsky of UC-Davis and Jonathan Aviv of Columbia, this is the first comprehensive text and illustrated atlas describing the use of transnasal esophagoscopy (TNE) and the management of common otolaryngologic conditions whose diagnosis is facilitated with this new technology. TNE is considered by many to be the most important addition to the management of reflux and swallowing disorders in the last decade.
Pictures from the Archives

The 4th Annual Porubsky Symposium

Drs. Edward Porubsky (left) and Bill Welch, ’81.

The MCG Alumni Reception at the AAO-HNSF 2006 Annual Meeting


Giving Opportunities

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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.

Departmental photograph, Spring 2006

To share your news with the other alumni, please send updates to Donna Black at donnab@mcg.edu or call 706–721–6100.
Christine Gourin was the recipient of an American Head and Neck Society Pilot Award and was co-PI with Bao-Ling Adam on an Interdisciplinary Research Program Grant awarded for the proposal “Serum protein profile analysis in patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma”.

Paul Weinberger, PGY-2, received a CORE Resident Research Grant awarded by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery for the proposal “Molecular Analysis of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Associated Oropharyngeal Carcinoma”. He also received the 2006 American Head and Neck Society Fanconi Award for Best Overall Research Presentation for his paper “Nuclear, cytoplasmic expression of Galectin-3 is associated with b-catenin/wnt-pathway activation in thyroid carcinoma”.

Publications


AHNS and AAO-HNS Meetings

The departmental presence at the Annual American Head and Neck Society (Chicago) and Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (Toronto) was nothing short of stunning. In addition to collecting three research awards (see page 6), our faculty and residents (some of whom are pictured below) presented a total of more than 20 papers, panels and courses at these two meetings. The presentation on outpatient thyroid surgery prompted an Academy press release which was picked up by several major media outlets.

Thyroid Cancer Screening Day

The Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery conducted a thyroid cancer screening day in recognition of Thyroid Cancer Awareness month. As part of the MCG Thyroid/Parathyroid Center’s efforts to improve early detection of thyroid malignancy, free thyroid screenings including ultrasound evaluation were provided free of charge to the community.

Joy Benson, LPN was the recipient of an MCG Family Choice Award in July 2006. This Award recognizes health care professionals for outstanding service and dedication to practicing patient- and family-centered care.

Debra Anderson, RN, OR Otolaryngology charge nurse, was the recipient of the Perioperative Nurse of the Year award given by the local chapter of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN). She is an active member of the local chapter, serving on the Board of Directors, and is dedicated to providing safe and effective care to patients in the operating room.
# Grand Rounds 2006-2007

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>James Netterville, MD</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
<td>“Medialization Laryngoplasty &amp; Arytenoid Adduction”</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Gregory T. Wolf, MD</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>“Organ Preservation Strategies &amp; the Role of Surgery in the 21st Century”</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>Robert H. Miller, MD, MBA</td>
<td>American Board of Otolaryngology</td>
<td>“The Role of Board Certification in the Quality Improvement Process”</td>
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<td>January 2</td>
<td>David Eibling, MD</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>“Rethinking Medical Error”</td>
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<td>February 6</td>
<td>Jay F. Piccirillo, MD</td>
<td>Washington University</td>
<td>“Innovations in Tinnitus Research”</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
<td>Wesley L. Hicks, Jr., MD</td>
<td>Roswell Park Cancer Institute</td>
<td>“Subsite Analysis in Oral Cavity Cancer”</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>C. Gary Jackson, MD</td>
<td>The Otology Group of Vanderbilt</td>
<td>“Prophylactic Antibiotics in Ear Surgery”</td>
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Dr. Frank Kamer of the Laskey Clinic in Beverly Hills (right, with Dr. Achih Chen) was a featured Grand Rounds speaker in 2006.

# Continuing Education Symposia

The Department hosted a symposium on Transnasal Esophagoscopaxy directed by Gregory Postma in conjunction with Michael E. Johns, III of Emory University at the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology annual summer meeting on July 27, 2006 in Sea Island, GA.

The Southern States Rhinology course was hosted by MCG under the direction of Dr. Stil Kountakis on October 19-21, 2006. Featured speakers included Drs. John DelGaudio of Emory University, Frederick Kuhn of the Georgia Nasal and Sinus Institute in Savannah, GA, Rodney Schlosser of MUSC, Brent Senior of UNC, and Michael Sillers of the Birmingham Nasal and Sinus Center, AL.

A Temporal Bone Dissection course directed by Drs. Alan Johnson and Brian McKinnon is planned for March 23-24, 2007 and will feature Dr. Antonio De la Cruz of the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles.
Hearing loss affects approximately one in ten people in our country. It is a common complaint, particularly in seniors, and represents a major health problem. Hearing loss impacts communication, education, recreation, and even personal safety. The resulting sense of isolation from not being able to communicate can be profound, and the challenge of overcoming hearing loss is often perceived as overwhelming. However, not only is hearing loss something that is the center of active ongoing research, but there are many options available to sufferers today.

Implantable Hearing Devices, or IHDs for short, are surgically implanted devices that help those with hearing loss. All presently available devices are semi-implantable, meaning that there is a component that is placed into the patient, and a component that the patient wears, coupled to the inner device either through a magnet, or to a fixture anchored in the skull. The type of hearing loss determines which IHD is most likely to benefit the recipient.

Bone anchored hearing aids, or BAHAs, are used to treat conductive hearing loss (hearing loss due to the ear drum or middle ear bones not working well), and unilateral deafness, when one side is without hearing and the other side is fairly normal. In both cases, the BAHA is attached to a fixture placed into the skull just behind the ear, and the sound is sent through the bone of the skull to the functioning inner ear. The advantage of the BAHA is that the person does not need to have a hearing aid actually in the ear canal, alleviating the hygiene problems of cerumen build-up that some hearing aid users develop from the use of in-canal aids.

The Vibrant Soundbridge is an IHD used in Europe that is used to treat hearing loss due to inner ear dysfunction. The device works by placing a small oscillator (the engineers call it a “Floating Mass Transducer”) on the inner ear bones, which amplifies the sound far more than can be achieved with a conventional hearing aid. The external device couples with the implanted device using a magnet, and communicates with the implant via a radio signal. It is expected to be available in the US in the next year, and holds great promise in improving hearing and quality of life.

“Implantable hearing devices are not a future possibility, but a present reality, in the management of hearing impairment.”
— Brian McKinnon

“Blindness cuts you off from things; deafness cuts you off from people.” — Helen Keller
Minimally Invasive Surgical Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Disorders

April 12-14, 2007
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty

Paolo Miccoli, M.D.
University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

R. Michael Tuttle, M.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY, NY

Peter Angelos, M.D.
University of Chicago, IL

Gerard M. Doherty, M.D.
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Ralph P. Tufano, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Program Co-Chairs

Christine G. Gourin, M.D. and David J. Terris, M.D.
Medical College of Georgia

Register early. Participation in the Lab is limited.

Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Faculty and Areas of Interest

David J. Terris, MD, Chairman
Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery

Stilianos Kountakis, MD, Vice Chairman
Rhinology and Sinus Surgery

Mitchell B. Austin, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology

Lori M. Burkhead, PhD, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathology

Achih H. Chen, MD
Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Christine G. Gourin, MD
Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery

Alan J. Johnson, MD
Otolaryngology and Neurotology

Frederick N. Klippert, MD
General Otolaryngology

Brian J. Mckinnon, MD
Otolaryngology and Neurotology

Edward S. Porubsky, MD
General Otolaryngology

Gregory N. Postma, MD
Laryngology and Swallowing Disorders