Physician-Scientist Recruited to Laryngology Program

Paul Weinberger will be joining the faculty at GHSU this summer, and will bring with him a wealth of expertise in translational research and cutting edge surgical techniques for airway reconstruction from his fellowship training in London. Dr. Weinberger’s research centers on biomarker discovery and validation, and inflammatory modulators in the setting of tracheal stenosis. His clinical specialty is airway reconstruction and minimally invasive surgical treatment of tracheal and laryngeal stenosis.

Dr. Weinberger graduated from Georgia State University in 1997 and received his MD from MCG. He completed a clinical research fellowship at Yale University, residency at GHSU (voted Resident of the Year), and fellowships in laryngology (GHSU) and airway reconstruction (Royal National ENT Hospital). His many honors include the AHNS Fanconi Award and the AMA National Leadership Award. He serves on the Associate Member Council of the AACR and is a member of the NCI Cancer Genome Atlas Thyroid Group.

Dr. Weinberger will have a dual appointment in the Center for Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine, where he will carry out translational research in dedicated departmental laboratory space.
Message from the Chair

This has been a tremendous year of change in Augusta as we near our tenth year as a department. A new Dean, a new President, a new Hospital CEO, and (you may have noticed) a new name. We are Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU), better reflecting the large enterprise we have become, which includes five different schools, hundreds of degree programs and thousands of students.

Honors

**Jack Borders** was selected as a member of the GHSU Academy of Medical Educators and was named to Best Doctors in America. He received a GHSU Patient’s Choice Award and Family Choice Award. He has recently completed mission work in Haiti and is currently working on obtaining his MBA.

**Stil Kountakis** was named to Best Doctors in America and served as guest examiner for the American Board of Otolaryngology oral exam and guest speaker for the Turkish Society of Otolaryngology.

**Greg Postma** was visiting professor at George Washington University, UTHSC-San Antonio, and University Hospital in Madrid, and was guest speaker for the European Laryngologic and Taiwan Otolaryngologic societies. He was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Georgia Society of OHNS and President-Elect of the ABEA. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the AAO-HNS.

**Arturo Solares** was visiting professor at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, Australia and the Cleveland Clinic.

**David Terris** was elected President of the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology. He was visiting professor at Cairo University, the University of Toronto, the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University and Tulane University, and guest speaker for the Korean, Italian, Mississippi and Houston Otolaryngology societies, the Saudi Arabia Surgery society, and the Korean Thyroid Association.

Thyroid Book Translated to Turkish

Dr. Terris’ highly-acclaimed book of medical and surgical management of thyroid and parathyroid diseases has been a best-seller since it was introduced 18 months ago. The vigorous sales in the US and abroad have prompted a translation into the Turkish language.

McKinnon Edits Operative Techniques

Dr. McKinnon was invited to guest edit a companion pair of issues of the journal *Operative Techniques in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery* entitled Techniques for the Ear (Part I and II). This project features the work of a number of thought leaders in the field of otology/neurotology including John Niparko, Craig Buchman, John McElveen, Jr., and Thomas Balkany, among others.
Coleman Celebrates 30 Years

Annette Coleman, LPN is celebrating 30 years with GHSU this year. She worked in the inpatient units until 1995 when she transferred to the outpatient Otolaryngology Practice Site. She has been working with Head and Neck patients for 25 years, and is an essential member of our team. Congratulations Ms. Coleman!

Carter Receives Golden Pen Award

Barb Carter received the Golden Pen Award from GHSU, which honors employees who have demonstrated extraordinary accomplishment and leadership through publication in a professional journal or through a speaking engagement at a professional conference. Barb had two protocols published and presented at the Society of OHN Nurses, and she contributed to the Telephone Triage for OHN Nurses. She was awarded an engraved golden pen for her accomplishments.

Borders/Seybt Receive Awards

Drs. Jack Borders and Melanie Seybt were each selected to receive the Exemplary Teaching Award from the GHSU School of Medicine based upon their substantial outstanding contributions to resident/student teaching. These were both richly deserved, and we are proud of their efforts.

GHSU Repeats as Champion

The GHSU golf team repeated as champions of the Triological Society’s Pillsbury Residency Golf Challenge held at GrayHawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, AZ. The return of Dr. Kountakis led the team to a 5 stroke victory over the nearest competitor. For the second year in a row resident Drew Prosser won the long drive contest. Dr. Postma, sidelined from recent shoulder surgery, served as team coach/motivator utilizing text messages to cheer on and refocus the team. We are looking forward to a chance for a “three-peat” in 2012.

Giving Opportunities

Designate Your Gift to GHSU Otolaryngology

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

TOTAL $__________

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City ____________________State_______Zip_______
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Email Address _________________________________

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

Dr. David Terris developed a novel facelift approach for robotic thyroidectomy that he has successfully performed together with Drs. Seybt and Singer (see Publications).

Audiology Expands

Angela Gerbasi has joined the Audiology program as demand for hearing services (and especially hearing aids) has grown. Her special interests include hearing aid fitting and programming, tinnitus management, and electrophysiological testing.

Consultant of the Year

We are pleased to announce that John Vender, a pivotal member of the Skull Base team assembled by Arturo Solares, has been unanimously selected as the Departmental Consultant of the Year.

Cochlear Implants

Dr. Brian McKinnon has expanded the implant program at GHSU to include deaf children. We now offer the full array of partially and fully implantable otologic devices.

Skull Base Lab Opens

The opening of the Skull Base Laboratory represents an important milestone for the Skull Base Center, headed up by Arturo Solares, that will facilitate the training of national and international visiting surgeons. The first post-doctoral fellow is Marcos Mirambeaux from the Dominican Republic (seen here with student Jason Van Rompaey from Sydney, Australia), who has already enjoyed a very productive experience.

Four Fellowships Available

Endocrine/Head and Neck Surgery (contact Dr. David Terris: dterris@georgiahealth.edu)
Rhinology/Sinus Surgery (contact Dr. Stil Kountakis: skountakis@georgiahealth.edu)
Laryngology (contact Dr. Gregory Postma: gpostma@georgiahealth.edu)
Otology/Pediatric (contact Dr. Brian McKinnon: brmckinnon@georgiahealth.edu)
Departmental Faculty and Areas of Interest

Jack C. Borders, Jr., MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology

Jimmy Brown, DDS, MD, FACS
Head and Neck Surgery

Achih H. Chen, MD
Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Scott S. DeRossi, DMD
Oral Medicine

C. Anthony Hughes, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology

Lana L. Jackson, MD
Head and Neck Surgery

Frederick N. Klippert, MD
General Otolaryngology

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD, FACS
Rhinology and Sinus Surgery

Brian J. McKinnon, MD, MBA
Otology/Neurotology

Edward Porubsky, MD, FACS
General Otolaryngology

Gregory N. Postma, MD
Laryngology

Melanie W. Seybt, MD
Endocrine Surgery

C. Arturo Solares, MD
Skull Base Surgery

David J. Terris, MD, FACS
Endocrine Surgery

John R. Vender, MD
Neurosurgery

Paul M. Weinberger, MD
Laryngology
Weinberger Takes the Reins as Director of Research

Paul Weinberger has hit the ground running as our newest faculty member (see cover story). Among his numerous new responsibilities, he has taken over from Arturo Solares as Director of Research for the department. He is already underway with the recruitment of a new research coordinator.

Paul Weinberger

Publications


Hail

Brett Comer
Univ of Kentucky
Rhinology Fellow

Ashli O’Rourke
Univ of Virginia
Laryngology Fellow

Hachem Jammal
Tawam Hospital
Otology Fellow

Mickey Fisher
Rush Medical
PGY-1 Resident

Lauren Crosby
Univ of SC
PGY-1 Resident

Jamie Segel
Wayne State Univ
PGY-1 Resident

Donor Acknowledgements

The ongoing success of any major department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery depends heavily on the philanthropic investments in academics made by alumni, grateful patients and other friends of the department.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors:

Master’s Club ($1000 or more)
James E. Bush, MD
Allen Butler, MD
Firas Farhat, MD
Richard L. Hebert, II, MD
William H. Moretz, Jr., MD
Robin Schilling, MD
David J. Terris, MD
Elizabeth Whitaker, MD

President’s Club ($500 - $999)
Timothy D. Knudsen, MD
William H. Moretz, III, MD

Chairman’s Club ($100 - $499)
Thomas Crews, MD
Edward A. Porubsky, MD

Farewell

Eyad Khabbaz
(Fellow) will pursue Academic Rhinology

Michele Morrison
(Fellow) will join the Portsmouth Naval Medical Ctr

Michael Singer will stay as Minimally Invasive Endocrine Surgery Fellow

Jason Champagne
(Chief Resident) will pursue fellowship in Facial Plastic Surgery at UCSF

Helen Perakis (Chief Resident)
will pursue fellowship in General Plastic Surgery at Univ of Minnesota

Residency and Fellowships Expand

We are pleased that the Otolaryngology Residency Review Committee approved a residency position expansion, effective July 1, 2011. This will increase the number of incoming interns from 2 to 3 for the group starting their training this coming academic year. Our department has grown considerably and with 14 clinical faculty members we offer tremendous underutilized resident learning opportunities.

In another important educational initiative, we announce the recruitment of Dr. Hachem Jammal as our first subspecialty fellow in Pediatric Otolaryngology (with a special emphasis in Otology). This brings to 4 our fellowships, adding to subspecialty training that includes rhinology, laryngology and endocrine surgery.

– Stil Kountakis

To share your news with the other alumni, please send updates to Donna Black at donnab@georgiahealth.edu or call 706-721-6100.
Minimally Invasive and Robotic Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Diseases

September 23-24, 2011
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty
Herb Chen, M.D.
David Cooper, M.D.
Clive Grant, M.D.
F. Christopher Holsinger, M.D.
Christina Kile, M.D.
Virginia LiVolsi, M.D.
Gregory Randolph, M.D.
David Terris, M.D.

Program Chairs
Michael Singer, M.D. and Paolo Miccoli, M.D.

Register early. Participation in the Lab is limited.

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

David J. Terris, MD, Chairman
Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery
Stil Kountakis, MD, Vice Chairman
Rhinology and Sinus Surgery
Jack C. Borders, Jr., MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology
Jimmy J. Brown, DDS, MD
Head and Neck Surgery
Achih H. Chen, MD
Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Scott S. DeRossi, DMD
Oral Medicine
C. Anthony Hughes, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology
Lana L. Jackson, MD
Head and Neck Surgery
Frederick N. Klippert, MD
General Otolaryngology
Brian J. McKinnon, MD
Otology and Neurotology
Edward S. Porubsky, MD
General Otolaryngology
Gregory N. Postma, MD
Laryngology and Swallowing Disorders
Melanie W. Seybt, MD
Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery
C. Arturo Solares, MD
Head and Neck Surgery
John R. Vender, MD
Neurosurgery
Paul M. Weinberger, MD
Laryngology and Swallowing Disorders