Minimally Invasive Surgical Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Disorders

November 10-11, 2006
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty
Rocco Bellantone, M.D.
University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy

Quan-Yang Duh, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco, CA

Brendan Stack, Jr., M.D.
University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR

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

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

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

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

We are proud to announce the recruitment of another key faculty member.

Dr. Lori M. Burkhead joined our department as Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology and Clinical Research Scientist in the Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders, where she will be teaming up with Chief of Laryngology, Gregory Postma.

Dr. Burkhead earned her Bachelor’s Degree of Speech and Hearing Sciences from the University of South Alabama, and her Master’s Degree in Communication Sciences from the MGH Institute in Boston, a program with clinical and academic affiliations with both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She enjoyed a successful clinical career as a speech-language pathologist in acute care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings before returning to academia to obtain a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences from the University of Florida in 2005.

Dr. Burkhead’s clinical and research interests include rehabilitation of voice and swallowing in critically ill patients with special emphasis on issues unique to tracheostomy and ventilator dependency, and voice restoration and rehabilitation of dysphagia due to head and neck cancer and a variety of neurologic etiologies including progressive disease processes, stroke, and brain tumors.

Phone Numbers and Web Site Address

Appointments: (706) 721-4400
Academic Ofc: (706) 721-6100
Fax: (706) 721-0112

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

MCG LEADS THE WAY IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE THYROID AND PARATHYROID SURGERY
Message from the Chair

Welcome to the seventh issue of the OTO Observer, now edited by Dr. Christine Gourin. The growth of the department continues this year with the addition of Dr. Lori Burkhead (see front cover) to Dr. Gregory Postma’s rapidly expanding Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders.

Our first Endocrine-Head and Neck fellow (Susan Anderson) will start with us in August, and she joins the Thyroid/Parathyroid Center (directed by Endocrinologist Ted Chin) that has emerged as a leader in the Southeast, particularly in minimally invasive and endoscopic surgical techniques (see Clinical Spotlight). Partnerships like this center have been critical to our successes.

We hope you will enjoy learning about the latest activities in our department.

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

Honors

Lori Burkhead was the recipient of a travel award to attend the 3rd Annual Clinical Research Conference in Washington, DC, sponsored by the Deafness Research Foundation, NIH, and the AAO.

Christine Gourin was inducted into the Triological Society, and was promoted to Associate Professor. She has also been appointed Chief of the Division of Head and Neck Surgery effective in July.

Stil Kountakis participated in the annual MCG fundraiser “Doctors Who Cook”, and was a visiting professor at the University of Texas-Houston.

Gregory Postma was a featured speaker at UCSF, and several laryngology symposia held in New York City and Las Vegas. He was a visiting professor at Penn State University and at SUNY-Stonybrook, and an invited speaker for the Birmingham, Central Pennsylvania and Georgia Societies of Otolaryngology.

David Terris was appointed as Senior Examiner for the American Board of Otolaryngology and was a visiting professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School, the University of Cincinnati, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Illinois.

Consultant of the Year

David Adams was unanimously selected as the recipient of the 2006 Otolaryngology Consultant of the Year Award. David has been with the Medical College of Georgia Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy since 2002. Prior to joining MCG, David worked as an attorney and also spent over 20 years as a funeral home director. He is presently the Director of the MCG Anatomical Donation Program. His tireless efforts over the past year have been essential to the success of numerous educational programs and symposia conducted by the department. We are grateful for David’s many contributions to our clinical and academic pursuits, and he is truly worthy of this honor. A plaque memorializing his achievement will be presented at the Porubsky Symposium Dinner.
Hail

Jason Champagne
Incoming 1st year Resident, is a graduate of LSU.

Helen Perakis
Incoming 1st year Resident, is a graduate of Boston University.

Susan Anderson
Incoming Endocrine/Head and Neck Fellow, is a graduate of Des Moines University.

Subinoy Das
Incoming Rhinology Fellow, is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

Farewell

R. Tyson Deal will be joining a group practice in Augusta, GA.

Charles Mixson will be joining a group practice in Athens, GA.

Manoj Kumar will be joining a group practice in Syracuse, NY.

Francis Ling will be joining a group practice in Ontario.

Picture from the Archives

MCG Alumni and faculty enjoyed a reception hosted by Dr. Murray Grossan, M.D., MCG class of ’48, at his home in Beverly Hills during the 2005 American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Meeting.

Giving Opportunities

Designate Your Gift to MCG Otolaryngology
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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.

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


New Members Join Head and Neck Tumor Board

Two new medical oncologists with head and neck oncology expertise were recently recruited to the multidisciplinary Head and Neck Tumor Board. Dr. Teresa Coleman is board certified in Medical Oncology and came to MCG after previously serving on the faculty of Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She has extensive experience in clinical trials through cooperative groups including SWOG. Dr. Paul Bilodeau is board certified in Medical Oncology and has held an adjunct teaching appointment at MCG since 1998. He was recruited this year to a full time faculty appointment as medical director of MCG Health System’s Cancer Center.

Oral Cancer Screening Day

The Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery participated for the fourth consecutive year in the annual Oral Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week sponsored by the Yul Brynner Head and Neck Cancer Foundation. As part of a nationwide effort to improve early detection of head and neck cancer, free oral cancer screenings were provided on April 19, 2006 with a total of 77 individuals screened.

Star Award

Congratulations to our physicians, nurses and staff on their outstanding customer service scores. The Otolaryngology practice site was recently recognized with a Star award for their high patient satisfaction results on the Press Ganey customer service survey.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Otolaryngology is pleased to welcome Mrs. Catherine Burress to our healthcare team. Cathy joins us as a Patient Care Assistant, and has taken on the role of surgery scheduler for the department. She is originally from Plymouth, England where she was a State Enrolled Nurse (comparable to an LPN), specializing in Hospice Care. She and her family (husband, daughter and son) have lived in Greece and Spain while her husband served in the military, and recently relocated to Augusta from West Texas.
Grand Rounds
2006-2007

Speakers scheduled for the coming academic year include Drs. Robert Miller, Executive Director of the American Board of Otolaryngology; James Netterville, Professor, Vanderbilt University; Gregory Wolf, Professor and Chairman, University of Michigan; David Eibling, Professor and Vice-Chairman, University of Pittsburgh; and C. Gary Jackson of the Otology Group of Vanderbilt.

Dr. Dennis Kraus (lower right) was a featured Grand Rounds speaker in the 2005-2006 calendar year. (1st row from left: Drs. Gregory Postma, David Terris and Dennis Kraus; 2nd row from left: Drs. Stil Kountakis, Achih Chen and Christine Gourin)

Continuing Education Symposia

The 4th Annual Porubsky Symposium will be held on June 9-10, 2006, in conjunction with Chief Resident Graduation Weekend. This year’s symposium will feature Dr. Roger Crumley, Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of California-Irvine.

The Department will host the Southern States Rhinology course under the direction of Dr. Stil Kountakis on October 19-21, 2006. Featured speakers include Drs. John DelGaudio of Emory University, Frederick Kuhn of the Georgia Nasal and Sinus Institute, Rodney Schlosser of MUSC, Brent Senior of UNC, and Michael Sillers of the Birmingham Nasal and Sinus Center.

A third TNE symposium will be held in conjunction with Emory University at the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology annual summer meeting on July 27, 2006 in Sea Island, GA.

A symposium on Minimally Invasive Surgery of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Glands was held recently and featured Dr. Paolo Miccoli of the University of Pisa. This year’s course included two hands-on laboratories featuring minimally invasive approaches with live demonstrations by course faculty. The course quickly sold out in advance and due to high demand, a second course will be held on November 10-11, 2006. The fall course will feature Drs. Rocco Bellantone of Rome, Italy, Quan-Yang Duh of UCSF and Brendan Stack of the University of Arkansas.
Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery

Theodor Kocher’s description of thyroidectomy (for which he was one of the few surgeons to receive the Nobel Prize in Medicine) has stood the test of time. Developed in the 1880’s, surgeons for more than 100 years have performed thyroid surgery with little deviation from the original procedure. That has changed dramatically in the past 5 years, as modern thyroid surgeons are increasingly rejecting the notion that an 8-10 cm neck incision is necessary to remove all thyroid lesions.

Pioneered primarily in Italy by Paolo Miccoli, a minimally invasive thyroidectomy approach which exploits both Harmonic technology and high-resolution endoscopy has enabled the performance of thyroid and parathyroid surgery through incisions as small as 3/4 of an inch. Not only is the surgery able to be performed with less dissection (enhancing the rate of wound healing) but it results in improved visualization by virtue of the 10-20x magnification, similar to endoscopic sinus surgery.

Because of the reduced tissue trauma involved with endoscopic thyroidectomy techniques, drains are virtually never required, and nearly all patients are discharged to home 1 to 2 hours after surgery.

The Medical College of Georgia has spearheaded the development of minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid techniques in this country. Both by virtue of experimental and clinical investigations, and educational efforts (see CME column in this issue) we have helped define indications for several versions of minimal access neck endocrine surgery.

We were fortunate to be invited by Laryngoscope to inaugurate the On-line video feature of that journal with clips demonstrating the endoscopic technique. These can be viewed at www.laryngoscope.com. A new publication, ENToday, highlighted our experience with minimally invasive thyroid surgery.

More recently, Dr. Terris hosted a live webcast with Professor Miccoli that featured a brief slide presentation, new video clips, and an online question and answer session. The webcast has been archived, and can be viewed by visiting www.OR-live.com, or downloaded from iTunes.