Leading the Way in Editing

Our faculty pursue a number of important responsibilities including world-class patient care, education of students, resident and fellows, and accomplishing cutting-edge research. While it is often a thankless endeavor, providing peer-review is an additional and no less important task. We are proud that collectively we occupy 13 editorial board seats of major journals. But in addition to journal editing roles, three of us have made substantial contributions in the form of book editing, as evidenced by the textbooks and guest-edited journal issues showcased in the accompanying photographs.
It is another exciting moment for the Department of Otolaryngology at GRU as we seek a new chairman. After 12 years at the helm, I have announced that I will step down effective July 2014. I was given an extraordinary opportunity by David Stern and Dan Rahn to build a department from the division that Ed Porubsky led for 25 years. Generous resources and ample incremental space allowed for the recruitment of first-class faculty members. We therefore grew from four faculty members to fourteen, increased our budget from $2.5M to $14M, and the annual publication output from 1-2 to more than 40 per year. Combined reserves and endowments reached more than $3M. The faculty hold numerous leadership and editorial positions throughout our specialty. The future is very promising.

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

Faculty Honors

William Duke was a guest speaker for the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology.

Sarah Mowry was a guest speaker for the Georgia Society of Surgical Technologists.

Gregory Postma was a guest speaker for the European Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck

GRU Joins the American Cochlear Implant Alliance

GRU is now an organizational member of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance. This advocacy group is working at both the federal and state levels to increase awareness and access to cochlear implants. Dr. Sarah Mowry and Dr. Miranda Ross traveled to Washington, DC in October to take part in the ACIA national meeting. During that trip they lobbied congressional members for improved access to cochlear implants and to improve funding for cochlear implant research through the NIDCD. Dr. Mowry has continued the advocacy on the state level to assure CI coverage for all Georgians under the Affordable Care Act.

David J. Terris, MD
Surgeon-performed Ultrasound Improves Parathyroid Surgery

A growing body of evidence has demonstrated the impact of surgeon-performed ultrasound in the evaluation of surgical parathyroid disease. All patients undergoing parathyroid surgery at the GRU Thyroid and Parathyroid Center undergo a surgeon-performed ultrasound. We managed 2 patients recently for whom the preoperative ultrasound significantly affected their care.

A 48-year-old male was referred for treatment of primary hyperparathyroidism. A preoperative sestamibi was consistent with a right inferior parathyroid adenoma (Figure 1). Preoperative surgeon-performed ultrasound revealed a 1.6 x 2.5 cm hypoechoic lesion deep in the right central neck, suggestive of an overly-descended right superior parathyroid adenoma. At the time of surgery, a normal-appearing right inferior parathyroid gland was identified immediately adjacent to the thyroid gland (Figure 2). Based on the ultrasound findings it was quickly recognized that this was not the target lesion, and deeper exploration revealed a 6.5 gram overly-descended right superior parathyroid carcinoma (Figure 3), which was managed appropriately. The preoperative surgeon-performed ultrasound not only saved operative time by prompting the search for and rapid identification of an overly descended superior parathyroid gland, it also facilitated preservation of the normal inferior parathyroid gland.

A 63-year-old female was referred for treatment of primary hyperparathyroidism. A preoperative sestamibi scan suggested a right inferior parathyroid adenoma. A surgeon-performed ultrasound during her initial office visit revealed a bilateral multinodular goiter. On the basis of subsequent evaluation, the patient underwent needed thyroid surgery at the same time as her parathyroidectomy (Figure 4), saving her from another central neck operation in the future.
Departmental Faculty and Areas of Interest

Jimmy Brown, DDS, MD  Achih H. Chen, MD  Scott S. DeRossi, DMD  William S. Duke, MD
Sleep/Head and Neck Surgery  Facial Plastic Surgery  Oral Medicine  Endocrine Surgery

Michael W. Groves, MD  George F. Harris, IV, MD  C. Anthony Hughes, MD  Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD
General Otolaryngology  Pediatric Otolaryngology  Pediatric Otolaryngology  Rhinology and Sinus Surgery

Sarah E. Mowry, MD  William G. Pearson, Jr., PhD  Edward Porubsky, MD  Gregory N. Postma, MD
Otology/Neurotology  Cellular Biology and Anatomy  General Otolaryngology  Laryngology

C. Arturo Solares, MD  David J. Terris, MD  John R. Vender, MD  Paul M. Weinberger, MD
Skull Base Surgery  Endocrine Surgery  Neurosurgery  Laryngology
Skull Base Center Takes Off

With the advent of its newest member Sarah Mowry, the Skull Base Center is hitting on all cylinders. Volumes continue to grow, and the array of procedures being accomplished now includes endoscopic anterior and middle fossa surgery, and lateral skull base resections.

Sarah E. Mowry, MD

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

A recent patient was seen in the Skull Base Center with a right 2.5x2.5cm vestibular schwannoma. Figure 1 shows the preoperative dimensions of the tumor with brainstem impaction on an MRI scan. Figure 2 demonstrates the complete tumor removal. The patient has normal facial nerve function at 1 month postoperatively. A second patient presented with left superior semicircular canal dehiscence, as seen in Figure 3. The patient experienced significant vertigo. The canal was repaired via a middle fossa approach with complete resolution of their symptoms.

Meet Our New Staff

We are pleased to welcome three much needed additional staff to our department, who will support our multiple missions of patient care, research and education. It would not be an exaggeration to say that each of the new staff are superstars within their respective roles, and we are pleased that we continue to recruit individuals of the highest caliber to join our team.

Donna Abrams
Billing and Coding

Kelora Cofer
Research Coordinator

Marc LeDuc
PA
Otology and Otolaryngology


A variety of factors led to the Laryngology service having three Fellows for the first four months of this academic year. Through the Match, Dr. Chris Johnson from the Naval Hospital at San Diego was selected as a two-year Fellow. Chris is spending his first year in Dr. Weinberger’s laboratory and his second year devoted to clinical laryngology. During this time a senior resident at George Washington University was severely infected by the laryngology virus primarily via the mentorship of her chairman, Dr. Steve Bielamowicz. Dr. Rebecca Howell “wowed” everyone that she met in Augusta, leading to a one-time allowance for a second fellow.

In addition to this, discussions with the University of Cincinnati’s Pediatric Otolaryngology Department led to an arrangement in which Dr. Charles Myer IV (their newest faculty member) would join us for a four-month period of time as an observing Fellow. He will return to Cincinnati and help make further advances in the evaluation and management of pediatric voice and swallowing disorders. This confluence of factors has allowed us to have a fantastic first-third of the academic year in which all of us have learned more than we could without each other and we’ve had a terrific time along the way.

Five Fellowships Available

- Endocrine Surgery (contact Dr. David Terris: dterris@gru.edu)
- Rhinology/Sinus Surgery (contact Dr. Stil Kountakis: skountakis@gru.edu)
- Laryngology (contact Dr. Gregory Postma: gpostma@gru.edu)
- Facial Plastic Surgery (contact Dr. Achih Chen: achen@gru.edu)
- Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery (contact Dr. Arturo Solares: csolares@gru.edu)

Strong Residents

This Halloween, Tony Stark (aka Iron Man) paid the Laryngology team a visit and assisted them on a particularly difficult procedure. During this case, Dr. Jamie Segel was strangely absent fueling rumors of the true identity of Iron Man.

Alumni Giving Back

We’re pleased to announce a substantial gift from alumnus Dr. Bernie Durante (’87) this past academic year. Dr. Durante is the senior partner of Plymouth ENT in Plymouth, Massachusetts. He has led the way among an increasingly generous alumni participation in our philanthropic efforts.

The Laryngology Hat Trick

From L to R: Greg Postma, Rebecca Howell, Chris Johnson, Charles Myer and Paul Weinberger
Comprehensive Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Diseases
March 28-29, 2014
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty
Gary L. Clayman, DMD, MD, FACS
Barry R. Johns, MD
Paolo Miccoli, MD
Janice L. Pasieka, MD, FRSCS, FACS
John Porterfield, Jr., MD
Gregory W. Randolph, MD
Michael C. Singer, MD
R. Michael Tuttle, MD

Program Chairs
William S. Duke, MD and David J. Terris, MD

Register early. Participation in the Lab is limited.

Temporal Bone Dissection and Otology Update
February 14-15, 2014
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty
Bruce Gantz, MD
University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Program Chair
Sarah E. Mowry, MD
Assistant Professor
Georgia Regents University

Register early. Participation in the Lab is limited.