

The Georgia ENTertainer

Fall 2020 Issue

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President's Message

by: Ken Byrd, M.D.
Augusta University

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's hard to believe how different the Fall of 2020 is compared to 2019, and how much things have continued to change over the past eight months. Unfortunately, the society had to cancel our Summer meeting at the Cloister in July due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, so it has been almost a year since many of us have seen each other in person.



I am pleased to report that, after surveying the membership and leadership of the GSO/HNS and MAES/OHNS, we will be moving forward with our Fall meeting at the Ritz Carlton at Reynold's Plantation at Lake Oconee December 5 and 6. With the help of Dr. Tim Ryan, MAES/OHNS President, we were able to put together a great, well rounded program with in-person and virtual CME. Our Honored Guest will be Dr. Brad Woodworth, Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Woodworth has published prolifically in the fields of Rhinology-Skull Base and cystic fibrosis, and is a phenomenal lecturer.

We are committed to having this meeting in a responsible, safe environment. Appropriate measures have been taken in planning, including a larger auditorium and exhibit hall that will allow for social distancing, and a mask requirement, in accordance with CDC recommendations. Additionally, all content will be streamed online to view remotely, should anyone feel more comfortable participating from home or hotel room.

I would like to encourage you all to attend our meeting to support our society, either virtually or in person. A discounted rate is available for those of you who choose to attend the meeting remotely, and both the virtual and in-person registration fees are refundable for cancellation for

any reason. As always, the Ritz is a great place to visit this time of year, and the discounted room rate is excellent.

Thank you for your support of the GSO/HNS over the years - you are the reason for its success and accolades as a Model Society.

Sincerely,

Ken Byrd, MD
President, GSO/HNS

Register for the 2020 GSO/HNS ANNUAL FALL MEETING Saturday, December 5 - Sunday, December 6 The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Oconee | Greensboro, GA

[<<Click Here to Register>>](#)



2020 IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION

- The meeting will be a two-day format of half-day Saturday afternoon and half-day Sunday morning
- The meeting will be set up as a hybrid meeting. This means that we will be running a Live Stream of all the talks

- For those unable to travel to the Ritz, there is a VIRTUAL ONLY registration option.
- Attendees who are ONSITE will also have access to the Live Stream so they can watch from their hotel room if they choose.
- You must either be in person or watch in real time to get CME. Recordings will not qualify.
- The meeting will be set up in the safest way possible with much more meeting space and the exhibit hall in the Pavilion.

Augusta University Update



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
**MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA**

Department of Otolaryngology

By: Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

Edward S. Porubsky, MD Distinguished Chair in
Otolaryngology
Professor and Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology-
Head & Neck Surgery, Medical College of Georgia - Augusta University



Dear Fellow Georgia Otolaryngologists,

I hope you are enjoying the great weather we are having and you are in the spirit for the upcoming holidays despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

We at the Medical College of Georgia-Augusta University are proud of our heritage, our code of ethics and responsibility to the residents of our great state and this has been gloriously exhibited throughout the months of the pandemic. We stepped up to assist in the efforts to control COVID-19 and became the testing center of the State of Georgia, while simultaneously providing great care to our patients and great training to our medical students, residents and fellows. We like to think that our attention to our tripartite mission and responsibility to our patients and learners, inspired our current chief residents to pursue further training and we are proud that all three matched into the fellowship of their choice. At a time of uncertainty and risk we focus and savor each victory and use each victory as a catalyst to keep performing at the highest level possible. After all, it is grinding, hard work and perseverance that has defined our great nation and has led it to victory during hard times.

So we should use the upcoming Thanksgiving and end of year holidays to bring all together, at least spiritually, give thanks and celebrate the fact that we will prevail.

As one of my mentors once told me: "you become stronger through struggle and overcoming adversity".

I wish to all Happy Holidays and a new year full of health and happiness.

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

Faculty Honors and Awards



Dr. Gregory Postma, in October, was a Virtual Visiting Professor at the University of Alabama, Birmingham Department of Otolaryngology. He gave a presentation on Contemporary Management of Zenker's Diverticulum and Cricopharyngeal Muscle Disorders.



Dr. Stil Kountakis was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation for his distinguished service on committees, in the scientific programs, exhibits continuing education courses and instructional courses of the society.

Faculty in the News



Dr. Gregory Postma was featured in the news for his research on the intersection of COVID-19 patients and dysphagia.

<https://www.wrdw.com/2020/07/20/could-covid-19-keep-you-from-enjoying-your-favorite-foods/>

Resident and Alumni News



Dr. Luke Edelmeyer and Family

The department is excited to announce that all three chief residents have matched into prestigious fellowships following their graduation from the residency program. We are proud of all of their accomplishments and know that they have bright futures ahead of them.

Dr. Luke Edelmeyer will start his Otology Fellowship at AdventHealth in Celebration, Florida. Dr. Edelmeyer will be accompanied by his wife, Mandy, and their three children.

Dr. Chris Johnson will start his Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship at the Oregon Health and Science University in

Portland Oregon. Dr. Johnson will be accompanied by his wife Jamie and their children, Carter and Bennett.

Dr. Dan Sharbel will start his



Dr. Dan and Mrs. Kristie
Sharbel

Head and Neck Oncology Fellowship at Vanderbilt in Nashville Tennessee. He will be accompanied by his wife Kristie and their dog Lucy.



Dr. Chris Johnson and Family

MCG Student Research Program

The Medical College of Georgia Medical Scholars Program offers the opportunity for medical students in good academic standing to engage in research activities in close mentorship with faculty who are nationally and internationally distinguished scientists, clinicians, and academic scholars. In the past year 19 medical students have been involved in research working across every departmental subspecialty. These students are vital assets, assisting our faculty in ongoing projects and further developing their research skills. So far in 2020 four medical students have assisted the Department Chair and his Fellows in their current research, producing two oral presentations, four poster presentations, and three peer-reviewed articles and counting!

Clinical Spotlight: Recurrent Craniopharyngioma in a Pediatric Patient

J. Kenneth Byrd, MD, FACS, and Martin Rutkowski, MD

In this case highlighting the AU interdisciplinary skull base surgery team, otolaryngologist Dr. Ken Byrd and neurosurgeon Dr. Martin Rutkowski successfully performed endoscopic transphenoidal gross total resection of a recurrent adamantinomatous craniopharyngioma in a 4 year old with visual compromise and severe headaches who had undergone a prior subtotal resection via transcranial resection at the age of 3. At 6 months postoperatively she has had full recovery of her vision, resolution of headaches, and she remains without evidence of recurrence.

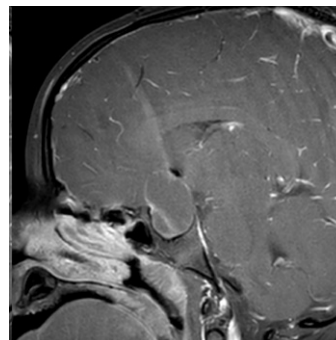


Figure A

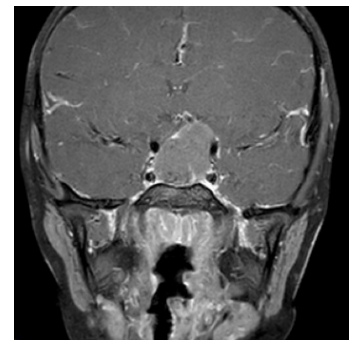


Figure B

Dr. Rutkowski joined the Department of Neurosurgery at Augusta University in 2019 after completing residency at the University of California San Francisco, followed by fellowship in open and endoscopic skull base surgery at the University of Southern California. Dr. Byrd joined the Department of Otolaryngology in 2014 after completing residency at the Medical University of South Carolina followed by additional fellowship training in skull base surgery and head and neck oncologic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh.

To read the full article visit:

<https://www.augusta.edu/mcg/otolaryngology/documents/summer2020clinicalspotlight.pdf>

MCG Otolaryngology Social Media

Over the last several months, our department has established a social media presence on Instagram and Facebook. We have found that this is a great opportunity to keep alumni, referring physicians and friends updated on some of the developments in our department. Over time we will be adding patient education posts as well. Our current sites can be reached at @mcgotolaryngology. We would love to hear from alumni. If you have interesting pictures or stories, please send them to Greg Postma at gpostma@augusta.edu.



Available Faculty Positions

We are recruiting a full-time fellowship-trained **Otologist-Neurotologist**, and a full-time fellowship-trained **Pediatric Otolaryngologist**, both at the Assistant or Associate Professor level in the Department of Otolaryngology-HNS at MCG-AU. Interested individuals are asked to send a cover letter and curriculum vitae to Dr. Stil Kountakis at skountakis@augusta.edu.

Upcoming Educational Events

April 22-24, 2021

Southern States Rhinology Symposium

Kiawah Island, South Carolina

www.southernstatesrhinology.org

June 11-12, 2021

Annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event

Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Speaker: Randall Otto, MD

Fellow Alumni Speaker: Lana L. Jackson, MD,
PharmD

Resident Alumni Speaker: Jason Champagne, MD

www.aofedtn.org/Porubsky

Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Team

The AU Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Department offers treatment of conditions affecting the ears, nose, throat, and head and neck including diagnostic procedures, minor surgical procedures, speech and language evaluation and treatment and full audiology services including hearing aids and cochlear implants.

				
Stili Kountakis, MD, PhD, FACS Professor and Chairman Rhinology and Sinus Surgery	Gregory N. Postma, MD Professor and Vice Chairman Chief, Laryngology	W. Greer Albergotti, III, MD Assistant Professor Head and Neck Surgery	J. Kenneth Byrd, MD Associate Professor Chief, Head and Neck Surgery	Michael W. Groves, MD, FACS Associate Professor, General Otolaryngology Residency Program Director
				
Mingsi Li, MD Assistant Professor Sleep Disorders, Rhinology – Sinus/Skull Base Surgery	J. Drew Prosser, MD Associate Professor Chief, Pediatric Otolaryngology	Camilo A. Reyes, MD Assistant Professor Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Skull Base Surgery	Mohammad Seyyedi, MD Assistant Professor Otolaryngology/Neurotology	David J. Terris, MD Regents' Professor Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery
				
Sungmee Kim, PA-C Physician Assistant II Head and Neck Surgery	Carla Petty, NP-C Nurse Practitioner Head and Neck Surgery	Marc LeDuc, PA-C Physician Assistant II Otolaryngology/Neurotology	Heather C. Bentley, FNP-C Nurse Practitioner Head and Neck Surgery	Krystal Oestreich, DNP, CPNP-PC Nurse Practitioner Pediatric Otolaryngology
				
Brian B. Shirley, PNP-BC Nurse Practitioner Pediatric Otolaryngology	Sarah C. King, AuD, CCC-A Director of Audiology	Laura E. Barber, AuD, CCC-A Audiologist	Lauren Bush, AuD, CCC-A Audiologist	Sarah S. Sappington, AuD, CCC-A Audiologist

To make an appointment for your patient, please call:

Adults	706-721-4400
Pediatric	706-721-5500
Adult Head & Neck Cancer	706-721-6744

Utilize our physician referral tool making it simple for you and your patients

[-augustahealth.org/referral](https://augustahealth.org/referral)

Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University
1120 15th Street, BP-4109
Augusta, GA 30912
Academic Office: 706-721-6100

2021 Membership Renewals

It is now time to renew your GSO/HNS membership dues. To make payment, [click here](#).



RENEW YOUR DUES

Now accepting 2021 renewals

Emory University Update



EMORY
MEDICINE

Department of Otolaryngology—
Head and Neck Surgery



By: Amanda I. Gillespie, PhD, CCC-SLP

Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

Co-Director, Emory Voice Center

Director, Speech Language Pathology, Emory Voice Center

New Emory Decatur Clinic

The Emory Voice Center has now expanded from Emory Midtown to Emory Decatur Hospital! Dr. Aisha Harun and Diana Rose Becker, MS CCC-SLP, two former graduates of the Emory Voice Center fellowship training programs, provide voice and swallowing services at Emory Decatur. This satellite clinic now offers the latest innovation in laryngeal evaluation and speech and swallowing therapy.



Virtual Fall Voice Conference 2020

Emory faculty attended the virtual Fall Voice Conference October 23-24, 2020. Multiple faculty presented, including:

Dr. Amanda Gillespie and **Dr. Charles Moore** were panelists on the conference's opening session, *Examining racial and gender disparities in healthcare*.

Brian Petty, MS, CCC-SLP was a panelist on a session titled, *Current controversies in speech-language pathology*.

Diana Rose Becker, MS, CCC-SLP, presented a poster on her work, *Effects of mindfulness meditation on voice*.



New Multi-Disciplinary Clinic for Patients with Chronic Cough

The Division of Laryngology and Emory Voice Center are excited to have launched a Multidisciplinary Chronic Cough Clinic, collaborating with a gastroenterologist, pulmonologist, and allergist. Together with one of our laryngologists and speech-language pathologists, the patient has a one-hour visit with all five providers via telemedicine. Providers jointly take the case history and review any previous studies, and develop recommendations for a treatment approach. Patients have been very pleased with the clinic's efficiency and ability to meet 5 healthcare providers at the same time and may even be able to coordinate future visits and procedures together.

New Faculty at Emory University

We are pleased to welcome new faculty to our Otolaryngology team:

Dr. Emily Barrow, Assistant Professor

Specialty: Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery

Location: Emory University Hospital Midtown, Emory University Hospital, Emory Decatur Hospital, The Emory Clinic, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta VA Healthcare System

Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine

Otolaryngology Residency: Emory University School of Medicine

Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery Fellowship: Emory University School of Medicine

Interests: Endoscopic sinus surgery, skull base surgery, chronic rhinosinusitis, sinonasal tumors, cerebrospinal fluid leak, allergy, allergic fungal sinusitis, AERD, cystic fibrosis

Dr. Jennifer Gross, Assistant Professor

Specialty: Head and Neck Surgery

Location: Emory University Hospital Midtown, Emory University Hospital, Emory Decatur Hospital, The Emory Clinic, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta VA Healthcare System

Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine

Otolaryngology Residency: Washington University in St. Louis

Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery/Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship: University of Miami

Interests: Surgical treatment and management of benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck, minimally invasive transoral robotic surgery, microvascular flap reconstruction of head and neck defects

Dr. Aisha Harun, Assistant Professor

Specialty: Laryngology

- Chief, Laryngology Service, Emory Decatur Hospital

Location: Emory Decatur Hospital, Emory University Hospital Midtown

Medical School: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Otolaryngology Residency: Johns Hopkins Hospital

Laryngology Fellowship: Emory University School of Medicine

Interests: Voice, airway, and swallowing disorders

Anthony Law M.D., PhD, Assistant Professor

Specialty: Laryngology

Location: Emory University Hospital Midtown, Emory University Hospital, Emory Decatur Hospital, The Emory Clinic, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta VA Healthcare System

Medical School: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Otolaryngology Residency: University of Washington

Laryngology Fellowship: University of Washington

Clinical Interests: Voice disorders, microsurgery, transgender voice surgery, airway disorders, endoscopic airway repair, open airway repair, neurolaryngology, spasmodic dysphonia, disorders of swallow, transnasal endoscopy, Zenker's diverticula, upper esophageal sphincter dysfunction, laryngeal cancer

Research Interests: Machine learning, Computational Biology, Bioinformatics

Dr. Nicole Schmitt, Acting Associate Professor, Emory Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

- Co-Director, Translational Research, Head & Neck Program, Winship Cancer Institute

Location: Emory University Hospital Midtown, Emory University Hospital, Atlanta VA Healthcare System, The Emory Clinic, Grady Memorial Hospital

MD: Washington University School of Medicine

General Surgery Internship: University of Washington

Research Fellowship: Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, University of Washington

Otolaryngology Residency: University of Washington

Head and Neck Surgery and Tumor Biology Fellowship University of Pittsburgh

Interests: Squamous cell carcinoma of the upper aerodigestive tract, salivary tumors, thyroid and parathyroid disease, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer

By: Oswaldo A. Henriquez, MD, FACS

Associate Professor

Assistant Chief of Grady Ear, Nose & Throat Division

Director of Medical Student Education

Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Emory University School of Medicine



NATIONAL LEVEL FROM AAOHNS

Ask Congress to Support Physician Liability Protection

- As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, physicians must continue to treat patients under unprecedented conditions. The Academy needs your help to fight for federal physician liability protection legislation. In order to protect frontline pandemic physicians from the threat of substantial medical liability lawsuits and ensure patient access to care, otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons need to urge their Member of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 7059, the "Coronavirus Provider Protection Act." This essential legislation would grant targeted, limited liability protections to pandemic responders on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. Please click [here](#) to access the action alert on the AAO-HNS Advocacy website and raise your voice!

AAO-HNS Advocates to Maintain FDA's Authority on Tobacco Products

- On July 7, the Academy joined members of the PARTNERS Coalition in sending a letter to the House Appropriations Committee opposing any efforts to weaken FDA's authority over cigars or any other tobacco products. The letter asked the Committee to oppose any amendments to exempt cigars or other tobacco products from FDA oversight during consideration of the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bill. The AAO-HNS will continue to advocate with Members of Congress to ensure that the FDA exercises its full authority over manufacturers and sellers of tobacco products. President Trump Signs PPP Deadline Extension Legislation On July 4, President Trump signed into law a five-week extension of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Approximately \$130 billion of funding remains available for new PPP loans. Qualified small businesses, including physician practices, will have until August 8 to apply for relief.

Ask Congress to Support Otolaryngologists in Relief Package

The AAO-HNS needs your help! As the Senate works to draft new COVID-19 stimulus legislation, we want to ensure this legislation includes much needed relief for otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons and the patients you serve. Your Senators need to hear from you about the impact of COVID-19 on our specialty. Please click [here](#) to access the action alert on the AAO-HNS Advocacy website. The alert includes a sample letter you can use to make your voice heard!

STATE LEVEL

To get current information on the status on current bills at the Georgia House Level, please click on the following link:

<https://services.statescape.com/Search/GetReport.aspx?pageid=legis>