

The Georgia ENTertainer

Spring 2020 Issue

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President's Message

by: Thomas E. Phillips, M.D.
ENT and Allergy Associates of South Georgia

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's fair to say that none of us could have foreseen the global upheaval which has occurred since our last issue of The ENTertainer. The changes which have taken place in our daily lives and in our practice of otolaryngology have been monumental. Hopefully, some of these changes will be transient but many will likely be permanent and will represent profound differences from our previous routine. Will we always be masked during interactions with seemingly healthy patients? Was your final handshake on meeting a new patient two months ago rather than on some future date very near your retirement? Perhaps we are heretofore in what many are calling the already-cliche' "new normal." I, for one, am hopeful that one day soon there will be some return to prior normalcy and we can again greet a patient with a handshake and an unmasked smile.



Thank you to all who participated in our annual fall meeting last December at the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Plantation. We enjoyed engaging lectures from guest speakers to include Brent Senior, M.D., Chief of Division of Rhinology, Allergy, and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery at University of North Carolina. As has become a tradition, we also enjoyed the SEC Football Championship game in a festive atmosphere in the exhibitor's hall. I and the 3 or 4 other LSU fans in attendance enjoyed it all the more considering the outcome!

Although our time at The Cloister this July will bring some new challenges in the face of social distancing concerns, we are still fully committed to another successful summer meeting. Due to institutional travel restrictions, some of our guest speakers will be presenting remotely. The conference room will be larger to accommodate distance between attendees. Masks will be

highly encouraged. All are rather small inconveniences, especially considering the alternative of cancelling the meeting entirely. We take our decision of going forward with the meeting very seriously and intend to make it as safe as possible while still fostering the camaraderie for which our meetings are known.

Your society needs you now more than ever. Please strongly consider attending the summer meeting at The Cloister. The room block, with an excellent rate, is reserved until June 22nd. You may find links for meeting registration and resort reservation at our society website.

Yours truly,

Thomas Phillips, M.D.
President, GSO/HNS

Register for the 2020 GSO/HNS ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

Thursday, July 23 - Sunday, July 26

The Cloister | Sea Island, GA

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



AAO-HNS Board of Governors Update

The Board of Governors was established in 1982 as a grassroots member network within the AAO-HNS. The BOG is made up of local, state, regional and national otolaryngology-head and neck surgery societies from around the United States and Canada and, now more than ever, has provided an important avenue of communication with the Board of Directors to help improve the programs and policies of the AAO/HNS/F. "TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER" remains the commitment of the BOG and you can connect and share at #BOGENT.



In the June edition of the Bulletin, Dr. Andrew M. Coughlin, our Chair of the BOG Socioeconomic and Grassroots Committee, emphasizes the diverse needs and

current challenges within our Otolaryngology practices. "While our Academy has been instrumental in looking at the bigger picture, right now there is a real opportunity to address the finer details, specifically, the individual needs of our heterogeneous practices. For example, imagine a private practice with two providers, three staff, and an office manager, three of whom are COVID-19 positive. How do two staff members run a practice? What resources are available to them? Academic systems generally have processes in place, but what if you work as a hospital-employed otolaryngologist where you are asked to come up with policy? What resources do you have, what resources do you need? How should these very different practices enter a recovery phase as they ramp up, moving forward once the curve flattens and declines? ...Survival, not success, is achieved during a crisis. Success is earned during the interim with careful planning and development of strong chains of command. Not every detail can be exacted, but we must be motivated in times of ease so that we prevail in time of trial."

Georgia is within the BOG Region 4. Our Member-at-Large is Troy Woodward, MD (troywoodwardmd@gmail.com) and our Region 4 Representative is E. Scott Elledge, MD (eselledge59@gmail.com). Our BOG Chair for 2019-20 is Spencer Payne, MD and Chair-Elect is Lance Manning, MD. The Board of Governors and its committees can also be emailed at bog@entnet.org. These hard-at-work individuals have been behind the scenes working to provide resources for all of us during the COVID-19 crisis.

We look forward to our virtual BOG committee meetings and assembly in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and OTO Experience in September. Registration for the new virtual meeting will open on Monday, June 15th.

Following the CDC's recent recommendations for limited in-person events, the 2020 Leadership Forum and BOG Spring meeting was cancelled in Alexandria, VA this past April. April 16-18, 2021 is the next Leadership Forum and BOG Spring Meeting at The Westin Alexandria Old Town - SAVE THE DATE!

Elizabeth A. Shaw, MD

GSO Immediate Past-President and GSO BOG Representative

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 everyone is doing well and navigating current troubled waters successfully. We at the Medical College of Georgia-Augusta University are proud of our tripartite mission of patient care, education and research, but for us this means triple the problems during the COVID-19 era. We feel bad that our patients missed needed care, our research endeavors basically came to a halt and we are unable to recognize our 2020 resident and fellow graduates in our

traditional and festive way. But we stood our ground and we are coming out of the pandemic stronger than ever. AU faculty members designed a COVID-19 screening app that now serves as the template for screening for the entire State of Georgia and our Health System labs are working on all cylinders testing our patients and our health care personnel. This allowed our operating rooms to remain functional and this week we are proud to report that we are back to pre-pandemic levels and on the way to breaking performance records, while improving the quality of the care we deliver. Our residents, fellows and faculty members continue to work on database related research projects and we have increased our manuscript submission rate. Unfortunately, our 2020 Porubsky Symposium and Alumni event was cancelled, but we plan to have a virtual recognition of our graduates using the Zoom communications platform. We plan to keep our distance and cover our faces as ordered, but at least we will not let a little backstabbing RNA in a can with a crown on its head steal the moment from our graduates.

Thank God golf courses stayed open in the Augusta area, hopefully in all of Georgia. Have a great summer and stay healthy.

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

Faculty Honors and Awards



Dr. William Greer Albergotti received the MCG-AU Exemplary Teaching Award for Undergraduate Medical Education.



Dr. Michael Groves was named the Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education for the Medical College of Georgia and Associate Designated Institutional Official in the Office of Academic Affairs.



Dr. Mingsi Li received the MCG-AU Exemplary Teaching Award for Graduate Medical Education.



Dr. Gregory Postma was selected as one of Americas Top Doctors for 2020 for the 18th consecutive year.



Dr. David Terris was selected as one of America's Top Doctors for 2020.

2019 Porubsky Symposium and Resident Graduation



Dr. Michael Groves

received an outstanding review from a patient that was publicized in the Your Health Today AU Spring 2020 magazine which stated "Thank you, Michael Groves, MD. You did an amazing job! Best ENT surgeon, hands down! Definitely an amazing hospital and happy they are part of my care team. It's worth the two-hour drive."

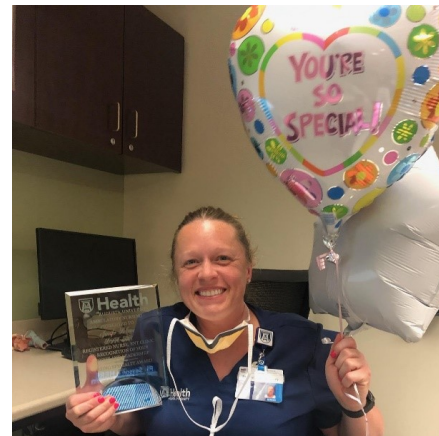


Dr. Camilo Reyes was featured in Your Health Today AU Spring 2020 magazine. The article discusses the link between allergic rhinitis and sinusitis and how surgery can help prevent rhinitis from progressing to sinusitis.

<https://yourhealth.augustahealth.org/2020/03/26/breathe-a-sigh-of-relief/>

Staff Awards

Otolaryngology clinic nurse, Jennifer Bellamy, RN, received the Ambulatory Nursing Specialty of the Year Award. Jennifer has only been in the department a short time and she continues to show her commitment to the team through her hard work. We are so proud of Jen and consider the department lucky to have such a caring clinic nurse serving our patients.



Quality Project:

Improving Post-operative Pediatric Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy Care



Dr. Thomas Holmes (PGY3) led a quality project to improve post-operative pediatric tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy care. Utilizing a multidisciplinary team, the improvement project evaluated current discharge instructions and made recommendations for improvement. Once developed, physicians and nurses were educated on new discharge instructions to ensure uniformity. The new discharge instructions and education greatly improved staff satisfaction and confidence in educating families and patients. This effort was immensely impactful and will go a long way to ensure high quality post-operative care instructions.

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



11 likes

mcgotolaryngology What is today, Fitzgerald asks? WORLD VOICE DAY. For more than two decades, April 16 has been celebrated worldwide. 'Focus on your voice' in 2020. #worldvoiceday

April 16

Welcome New Residents and Fellows

We are pleased to announce the results of this year's very successful residency match. George Davies joins us from the University of Tennessee, Nicholas Drury from Mercer University in Macon Georgia, and Savannah Stockton from the University of Mississippi. All three of these individuals will be excellent additions to our residency program and we are excited to begin working with them.



George Davies, MD
University of Tennessee



Nicholas Drury, MD
Mercer University



Savannah Stockton, MD
University of Mississippi

In addition to new residents, we have three individuals that will begin their fellowships with us in July. Simon Holoubek from Des Moines University will be the 13th Endocrine/Head & Neck Surgery fellow, Stephen Larson from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center is the 12th Laryngology fellow, Lindsey Ryan from the University of South Florida is the 18th Rhinology-Sinus and Skull Base Surgery fellow.



Simon Holoubek, DO, MPH
Des Moines University



Stephen Larson, MD
University of Tennessee



Lindsey Ryan, MD
University of South Florida

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.



Stil 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



William W. Carroll, MD
Assistant Professor
Pediatric
Otolaryngology



**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
Otology/Neurotology



David J. Terris, MD
Regents' Professor
Thyroid and Parathyroid
Surgery



Sungmee Kim, PA-C
Physician Assistant II
Head and Neck
Surgery



Marc LeDuc, PA-C
Physician Assistant II
Otology/Neurotology



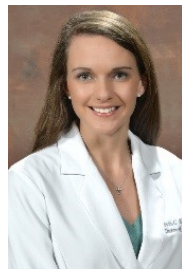
**Heather C. Bentley,
FNP-C**
Nurse Practitioner
Head and Neck Surgery



**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



**Sarah S. Storey, 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

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



DID YOU KNOW?
GSO/HNS NOW OFFERS
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS
Spread the word to your Advanced Practice Providers

Details at gsohns.org

Associate Members shall be individuals who are not licensed in otolaryngology/head and neck surgery but who have shown distinction in research, surgical innovation or teaching in the fields of otolaryngology/head and neck surgery, radiology, audiology, speech and language pathology or other disciplines related to the specialty. Associate members may also consist of advanced practice providers including physician assistants and nurse practitioners. Associate Members may not vote or hold office, but may serve on Committees. They shall be required to pay dues. [DETAILS ONLINE](#).

Emory University Update



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



The Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery at Emory University continues to provide excellent care, even in these difficult times. As always, the department is represented at seven facilities in the Atlanta area. Emory University Hospital Midtown Campus continues to serve as our academic and clinical centerpiece. Faculty also practice at Emory University Hospital, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's Egleston Hospital, Grady Memorial Hospital, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, the Emory Sleep Center, the

Emory Aesthetic Center, and now Emory Decatur Hospital.

The past three months challenged us, but also served as an opportunity for us to flex our innovation muscles to continue to be here for our patients and our community. We were early adopters of telehealth across our divisions, including laryngology, rhinology, otology, head and neck surgery, audiology and speech-language pathology. Emory hospitals are utilizing a secure Zoom platform for the majority of visits, with FaceTime as an alternative option for patients who are unable to connect via Zoom. To date, the Department of Otolaryngology has completed nearly 1,000 telemedicine visits. These successes have provided us the opportunity to educate our colleagues nationwide on telemedicine. In April, Drs. Jeanne Hatcher and Amanda Gillespie were invited speakers on a national webinar on multi-disciplinary clinical care via telemedicine for patients with voice, swallowing, and airway disorders.

Promotions

Congratulations to **Dr. Carrie Flanagan** on her promotion to Associate Professor Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Flanagan is the Chief of Otolaryngology at the Atlanta VA.

Awards and Accolades

Dr. Merry Sebelik was awarded the 2020 Distinguished Award for Humanitarian Service by the American Academy of Otolaryngology. This award represents the culmination of years of international outreach and service.

Dr. Kara Prickett was accepted into the Emory Professional Leadership Enrichment and Development Program (ProLEAD). ProLEAD is a competitive year-long program for clinicians to gain leadership and business skills.

Research accomplishments

Dr. Steve Goudy, MD, was awarded a NIH R01 for his project "An immunomodulatory approach to improve oral cavity wound healing" to support his work in cleft palate etiology and therapy. Dr. Goudy is the first physician in Emory Otolaryngology to be awarded this highly competitive research grant.

Dr. Josh Levy, MD received approval for a multi-site trial of Dupilumab for Allergic Fungal Rhinosinusitis. This grant establishes our group as national leaders in the use of biologics for chronic sinusitis.

In May, Dr. Levy also had an editorial on the State of Cannabis Research Legislation in 2020 published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Amanda Gillespie, PhD was awarded a grant from the University Research Committee and Georgia Clinical Translational Science Alliance for her project, "Optimization of voice therapy adherence with mobile support."

Dr Adam Klein, MD, received two grants for his work on chronic cough. First, from the Bidirectional Global Health Disparities Research Pilot Grant, for his project, 'Chronic Cough Across Races: Understanding and comparing chronic cough symptoms due to air pollution among Chinese and Indian immigrants and the American population living in Atlanta, Georgia'. Second, from the Emory Global Health Institute, Global Health Seed Grant to study chronic cough across expanded immigrant groups.

Dr. Nikhila Raol, MD and medical student Rhea Shah won the Best Poster award at the Virtual Global Health Thesis Symposium for their poster: "National Trends of Aspiration Pneumonia Admissions in the Pediatric Patient Population from 2006-2016 and the Association of Aerodigestive Programs on those Admission rates in the

United States."

Congratulations to our graduates

A warm congratulations and best wishes to our resident physicians and fellows as they embark on their next otolaryngologic journey:

2020 Graduating Residents:



Mallory Raymond, MD

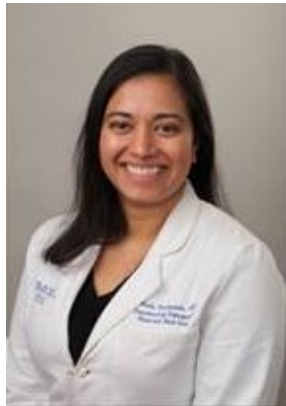
Hometown: Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Medical School: University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Residency: Emory University School of Medicine

Fellowship: Neurotology at Medical University of South Carolina (2020-2021)

Hobbies: tennis, running, cooking, scuba diving, spear fishing



Anita Deshpande, MD

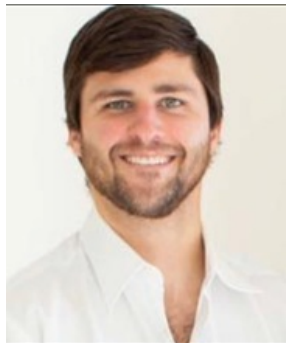
Hometown: Aberdeen, NJ

Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine

Residency: Emory University School of Medicine

Fellowship: Pediatric Otolaryngology at University of Cincinnati (2020-2021)

Hobbies: orange theory, cross stitching, reading



Matthew Ochsner, MD

Hometown: Savannah, GA

Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine

Residency: Emory University School of Medicine

Fellowship: Head and Neck oncologic/Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery University of Miami (2020-2021)

Hobbies: hunting, fly fishing, spending time with friends and family



Celeste Nagy, MD

Hometown: Dallas, TX

Medical School: Baylor College of Medicine

Residency: Emory University School of Medicine

Fellowship: Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Meridian Plastic Surgery in Indianapolis, IN (2020-2021)

Hobbies: Cooking, yoga, bike riding, kickboxing

Congratulations to our current fellows on their future faculty positions:

- **Emily Barrow, MD**- Rhinology/ Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery- faculty position: Emory University Hospital
- **Aisha Harun, MD** - Laryngology/ Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck

Surgery- faculty position: Emory University Hospital

- **Samuel Helman, MD**- Rhinology/ Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery- faculty position: New York Presbyterian Hospital

Welcome new faculty and trainees

2020-2021 Incoming Interns:



Anthony Botros, MD

Hometown: Greenville, NC

Undergraduate: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Medical School: The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Hobbies & Interests: international travel, playing any racquet sport, chess, reading



Alexandrea Kim

Hometown: Little Rock, AR

Undergraduate: University of Arkansas

Medical School: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine

Hobbies & Interests: music, true crime, performing arts, travel, outdoors



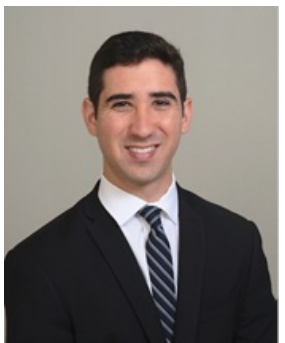
Benjamin Wibonele

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Undergraduate: Georgia Institute of Technology

Medical School: Morehouse School of Medicine

Hobbies & Interests: basketball and soccer, computer programming and innovation, 3D printing



Joseph Schertzer

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Undergraduate: Cornett University

Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine

Hobbies & Interests: piano and music, computer programming, soccer, hiking, skiing, travel

New faculty:

Nikki Schmitt, MD - June 1 - Head & Neck faculty

Emily Barrow, MD - Sept 1 - Rhinology faculty

Jennifer Gross, MD - Sept 1 - Head & Neck faculty
Aisha Harun, MD - Sept 14 - Laryngology faculty
Sean Evans, MD - Sept 14 - Pediatric faculty
Clarice Brown, MD - Sept 14 - Pediatric faculty
Anthony Law, MD, PhD- October 1- Laryngology faculty

Legislative Update

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

Private Payer Advocacy Spotlight: Wins and Challenges

Throughout the past year, the Academy has been active on a wide range of private payer coverage and reimbursement issues, including payment issues surrounding Modifier 25, coverage of functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS), and the use of balloon ostial dilation for treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis (BSOD). Following an extensive review process by multiple AAO-HNS Committees and the Physician Payment Policy (3P) Workgroup, the AAO-HNS submitted responses to seven BlueCross BlueShield Association (BCBSA) Evidence Street reviews:

- Implantable Bone-Conduction and Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids
- Cochlear Implant
- Eustachian Tube Balloon Dilation
- Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery for Chronic Rhinosinusitis
- Middle Ear Implantable Hearing Aids
- Steroid-Eluting Sinus Stents
- Treatment of Tinnitus

By providing clinical input on these evidence reviews, the AAO-HNS had an opportunity to directly impact the clinical evidence that will be assessed in future medical coverage policies by BCBSA member plans.

More details at: <https://bulletin.entnet.org/article/private-payer-advocacy-spotlight-wins-and-challenges/>

Changes Are Coming to E/Ms Starting in 2021

Beginning January 1, 2021, changes to the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code structure for office or outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) services will take effect. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized these changes in the 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule. The new updates include revisions to the CPT descriptors for codes 99201-99215 and documentation standards. While private payers are not bound by CMS policy, they will likely adopt a similar coding structure.

The new documentation requirements will be based on the traditional subjective, objective, assessment, and plan format-in which physicians document what the patient

was there for (subjective), what was learned from their history and exam (objective), what the physician assessed to be the problem, and the plan for resolving it.

Major changes include:

- Eliminating history and physical exam as elements for code selection
- Allowing physicians to choose whether their documentation is based on medical decision making (MDM) or total time
- Modifying MDM criteria to move away from simply adding up tasks to focusing on tasks that affect the management of a patient's condition

For more details: <https://bulletin.entnet.org/article/changes-are-coming-to-e-ms-starting-in-2021/>

AAO-HNS State Trackers

Calling all Academy members for participation in the AAO-HNS State Trackers program. The Advocacy Team provides the following resources to help guide you during your state's legislative session.

- AAO-HNS State Trackers List
- State Legislative Tracker - Introductory Slideshow
- State Tracker State-mENT newsletter
- Academy State Advocacy Bill Tracking
 - Legislative Tracking by State
- State Legislative Tracking Resources
 - 2020 State Legislative Session Dates
 - State Legislative Priorities
 - State "Mark-up" Styles
 - Glossary of legislative terms
 - Example of the state legislative process
 - Explanation of the crossover period

If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Academy State Advocacy Team at legstate@entnet.org.

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>