The Georgia Society of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery

The Georgia ENTertainer

President's Message



Dr. Anita Sethna, MD FACS President, GSO/HNS Emory University

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we enter our third year of adjusting schedules, travel plans/conferences and family gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it makes me pleased to see that our society held in-person meetings in the summer and fall of 2021 with such resounding success. That is in no small part due to the skills of our Board, past Presidents, Tara Morrison, and her team. Many thanks to all who helped us navigate the past two years through much chaos and uncertainty!

The Summer meeting in July of 2021 was one of the first in-person meetings many of us had attended in over a year. Set against the beautiful backdrop of the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, we were able to host wonderful speakers. World-renowned radiologist, Dr. Patricia Rhyner, speaking on radiology for the head and neck surgeon and oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma. Dr. Russell Smith speaking on HPIV-related oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma and a wonderful series of talks by Dr. Brian Vickery on food allergies and allergy management for the otolaryngologist. A newly formatted journal club to round out the last day was a novel way to increase engagement and foster discussion among attendees and something I hope we can continue in the coming years.

The Fall meeting was co-hosted by Dr. Joshua Levy, one of my esteemed colleagues within the Division of Rhinology and Skull Base surgery at Emory, and the Metro Atlanta Educational Society President. We were able to virtually host Dr. Diego Preciado at Children's National in Washington, DC speaking on pediatric SNHL, and Dr. Aneesh Mehta, Chief of Infectious Disease at Emory University discussing the COVID-19 pandemic and upcoming treatments and trends. We rounded out the last afternoon with an innovations panel with faculty members from Emory and Augusta as well as our featured speaker, Dr. Preciado. We were also able to award the Gerald Gussack award for outstanding teaching of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery to Dr. Adam Klein and the Lester Brown award for outstanding contribution to Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery in Georgia to Dr. Charles Moore. Congratulations to two incredibly well-deserving colleagues. The upcoming Summer meeting will be held at The Cloister at Sea Island. It is a beautiful venue and one I am looking forward to experiencing in person. Dr. Ken Byrd, who was the immediate past President of the Society, will be hosting the meeting this summer and the speakers with include Dr. Julie Wei: Work-life integration, well-being and resilience. I look forward to seeing all of you there in a few short months! As always, allow me to end with a request to please continue to support the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology. Not only by attending the meetings, but by encouraging your new partners or colleagues to join and attend as well. Our Summer and Fall meetings are such a wonderful time to get to know each other and our Society has always enjoyed extraordinary collegiality-which is why we won the Model Society Award in 2017!

Thank you again as always for your support, and look forward to another great year-

Anita Sethna, MD FACS President, GSO/HNS

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Dr. Aisha Harun, MD

Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology -Head and Neck Surgery Chief, Laryngology Service, Emory Decatur Hospital Emory Voice Center

EMORY HEALTHCARE

Please welcome our new interns, who will all be starting July I!



Emerson Bouldin, Emory University



Celeste Kim, Keck School of Medicine of the Univ. of Southern CA



Georges Daoud Ohio State University College of Medicine



Shubham Patel Emory University

What our chief residents will be up to next year ...



Micah Gibson, MD

Tyler Halle, MD





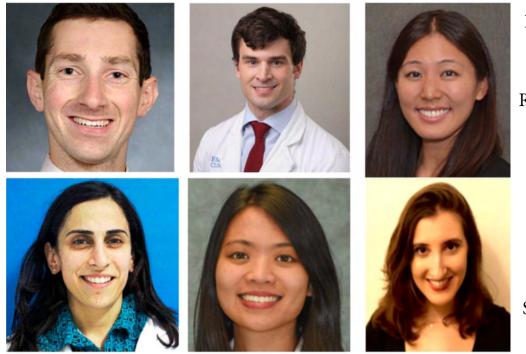
Anupriya Rao, MD

Jackson Vuncannon, MD

- Micah Gibson, MD: General otolaryngology, Southeast Texas Ear, Nose & Throat in Beaumont, TX
- Tyler Halle, MD: Fellowship in Head & Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania
- Anupriya Rao, MD: General otolaryngology at ENT of GA
- Jackson Vuncannon, MD: Fellowship in Rhinology and Skull base at Emory University

Emory University Updates

Please welcome our new fellows!



Daniel Spielman, MD – Rhinology and Skull Base (top left) Jackson Vuncannon, MD – Rhinology and Skull Base (top center) Tiffany Wang, MD – Laryngology (top right) Evana Francis, MD – Pediatrics (bottom left) Stephanie Chen, MD – Head and Neck (bottom center) Raquel Tripp – Clinical Fellow, Speech Language Pathology (bottom right)

What our current fellows will be doing next year ...

Rachel Irizarry, MD - Head and Neck Oncology Practice (top left) Nathalia Velasquez - Codirector of the endoscopic skull base and pituitary program at Cleveland Clinic, Weston, Florida (top center) Jordan Malenke, MD -Rhinology practice at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine (top right) Marisa Ryan, MD -Laryngology and pediatrics practice in Salt Lake City, Utah (bottom left) Vandra Harris, MD -Pediatrics otolaryngology practice (bottom right)











New Emory Clinics

Emory Otolaryngology Satellite Expansion

The Department of Otolaryngology will be expanding our satellite location at 2675 North Decatur Rd in Decatur, GA. We will be offering laryngology, rhinology, otology, audiology, and allergy services! Our new offices will be available early 2023.

Grady Health System Opens New Advanced Surgery Center

The Correll Pavillion will be a 10-story facility that will house outpatient facilities, including clinics and surgery. This will allow the hospital to increase outpatient volume by up to 45%. The new surgery center will open in early 2023.

Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Clinics at Grady and Emory Winship

Grady Medical Center's first multidisciplinary head and neck clinic went live last year. Led by Dr. James Hamilton, and in collaboration with medical and radiation oncology, palliative care, SLP and nutrition, the clinic aims to improve the delivery of cancer care by streamlining evaluation and management of new patients.

Similarly, Dr. Mark El-Deiry has been asked to lead the Head and Neck Cancer Program at Emory Winship. Dr. El-Deiry was also recently awarded the "Distinguished Physician Award" At the Emory Healthcare/School of Medicine.

Radiofrequency Ablation Now Available

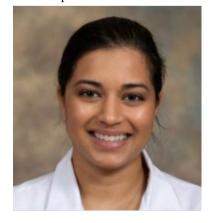
Dr. Merry Sebelik is expanding the Emory thyroid practice to include radiofrequency ablation, a minimally invasive treatment option for thyroid disease.

New Otolaryngology Providers:



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Thomas Edwards, who will be joining our faculty in September 2022 as a new rhinologist. Dr. Edwards completed his residency training at Emory University and is completing his rhinology and skull base fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Please also welcome Dr. Anita Deshpande, who will be joining our faculty in September 2022 as our new pediatric otolaryngologist. Dr. Deshpande completed her residency at Emory University and is completing her pediatric fellowship at Cincinnati Children's.





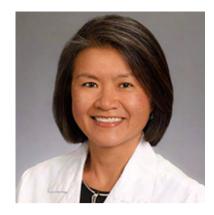
Brianna Williams, MS, CCC-SLP has joined the Emory Voice Center as our new speech language pathologist! She completed her clinical fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

EMORY otolaryngology

Dr. Amy Chen Recognized for Her Efforts in Otolaryngology

Dr. Chen was recently awarded the Margaret Butler Outstanding Mentor of Women in Head and Neck Surgery Award by the American Head and Neck Society. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated leadership in promoting gender diversity in the field of Head and Neck Surgery.

She has also been named the Chair of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the American Head and Neck Society. Congrats, Dr. Chen!





New Head and Neck Leadership

Dr. Mihir Patel has been named the Chief of the Head and Neck Division for the Department of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Patel in an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology. He completed his residency at University of North Carolina, followed by a skull base fellowship at Ohio State and in head and neck oncology at the University of Pennsylvania. Clinically, he focuses on minimally invasive surgical techniques to treat head and neck cancers. He is currently the co-lead for the transoral robotic surgery (TORS) fellows course at the American Head and Neck Society. He is involved in numerous research projects, including the designing a phase 3 trial in which HPV+ oropharyngeal cancer patients receive lower doses of radiation after TORS. He is also currently the co-lead of a research trial at Emory in which HPV circulating tumor DNA is used to direct therapy and dramatically reduce the radiation doses to minimize side effects. His work has been published in the journal Nature, and based on this work Emory will soon be opening a trial with pre-operative immunotherapy that is designed to treat HPV-driven cancers. We welcome Dr. Patel's leadership in moving our Division in Head and Neck Surgery forward!

New Faculty promotions

Michael Baddour MD (left), Amanda Gillespie PhD (center), and Nikhila Raol MD MPH (right) have all been promoted to Associate Professor for their recognition of their work have done for the department, Emory University, and nation-wide! The promotions are effective September 1, 2022.







EMORY otolaryngology

Research Highlights

Dr. Andrew Tkaczuk from the Emory Voice Center will be working with Dr. Hyojung Choo from the department of Cell Biology at Emory University and Dr. W. Hong Yeo from the Department of mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech to study dysphagia. Their project, awarded a competitive I3 Emory School of Medicine/Georgia Tech for \$100,000, aims to develop a wireless nanomembrane wearable biopatch to assess dysphagia. Dr. Jennifer Gross from the division of head and neck oncology is the Emory primary investigator (PI) for the National Radiation Group Trial – NRG-HN006: Randomized Phase II/III Trial of Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy versus Elective Neck Dissection for Early-State Oral Cavity Cancer. She is also the Emory PI for the MCOC-Prevent 2.0 trial: Phase IIb Trial of Metformin for Oral Cancer Prevention. She was recently awarded the Best of Reconstruction poster at the American Head and Neck Society at COSM in Dallas.

Please keep an eye out for Emory's Head and Neck Free Tissue Course, organized by Dr. Brian Boyce, Dr. Michael Baddour, and Dr. Azeem Kaka. This course is aimed to improve free flap technique in trainees and will be taught by regional free tissue surgeons.



Keep up with all things new within our department @emory_ent



EMORY otolaryngology





Dr. Still Kountakis, MD, Ph.D.

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



Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Dear Fellow Georgia Otolaryngologists,

I hope you are doing well and are enjoying the spring weather. I am full of optimism for the future of our specialty, as I met a few of the resident candidates that interviewed with our program. They were all bright, affable, excited about their potential otolaryngology training, and ... young! We are fortunate to have matched all three positions very high on our rank list and are excited to have them join our program in July.

We are also getting ready for our annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event that will take place June 10-11, 2022, so we invite you to join us and celebrate the graduation of our 2022 class of trainees. The registration fee free event offers CME for the Friday, June 10 educational activities and leisure time, including golf on Saturday morning, June 11. MCG alumni can take this opportunity to revisit with their memories, which are all positive I am sure. Our campus and health care facilities are free of masks and social distancing so you can meet with your colleagues face to face. We are expecting you with open arms and "we'll leave the light on for you!"

Wishing you a happy spring and summer, get out there and enjoy them.

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

Faculty Honors and Awards



Dr. J. Kenneth Byrd was appointed as Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Otolaryngology.



Dr. Stil Kountakis was named to Castle Connolly Top Doctors for 2022.



Dr. Heather Koehn had an article published in The Georgia Pediatrician magazine on pediatric hearing loss: https://www.gaaap.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/02/News letter-Winter-22-TGP.pdf.



Dr. Gregory Postma was appointed as Vice Chair of Academic Affairs for the Department of Otolaryngology, and was named to Castle Connolly Top Doctors for 2022.

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Faculty Honors and Awards



Dr. J. Drew Prosser passed the American Board of Otolaryngology CPO (complex pediatric otolaryngology) sub certification exam.



Dr. David Terris was named to Castle Connolly Top Doctors for 2022.



Dr. Camilo Reyes has been promoted to Associate Professor effective July 1 and received the MCG Undergraduate Medical Education Exemplary Teaching Award for the 20-21 academic year.

Consultant of the Year

We are delighted to announce that we unanimously decided to offer an adult and a pediatric award this year for the Department of Otolaryngology Consultant of the Year for 2022. Dr. Janet Munroe was unanimously selected by the Otolaryngology Faculty for the adult award and Amanda Hutter, SLP was unanimously selected for the pediatric award. Janet Munroe, MD is an Associate Professor in the department of radiology and plays a critical role in the diagnosis and management of our patients with swallowing disorders. Amanda Hutter is a pediatric Senior Speech Pathologist and assists in the management of pediatric patients requiring language and speech pathology services. The department honors their hard work and dedication to Otolaryngology patient care.

Welcome New Residents and Fellows

We are pleased to announce the results of this year's very successful residency match. Mathew Caputo from USF Health, Ryan Elvis from MUSC and Brittany Gill from MCG will be joining the department in July. All three were highly regarded candidates and will be excellent additions to our residency program. We are excited to begin working with them!



Mathew Caputo USF Health Morsani College of Medicine



Ryan Elvis Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine



Brittany Gill Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University



Erika L. Ho, MD New York University Langone Health



Kareem B. Haroun, MD University of Texas Medical Branch

Available Faculty Positions

We are recruiting a full-time General Otolaryngologist, at the Assistant or Associate Professor level in the Department of Otolaryngology-HNS at MCG-AU. This position will hold a part-time appointment at the Charlie Norwood VAMC and serve as the VA Division Chief of Otolaryngology. Interested individuals are asked to send a cover letter and curriculum vitae to Dr. Stil Kountakis at skountakis@augusta.edu.

Upcoming Educational Events

June 10-11, 2022 Annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event Augusta, Georgia http://www.aoefdtn.org/porubsky/

> To make an appointment for your patients, 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

Laryngeal Paraganglioma Removed by Vertical Partial Laryngectomy with Preservation of the Endolarynx

George Davies, MD Justin Ross, DO Greg Postma, MD J. Kenneth Byrd, MD

Introduction

Paragangliomas, also referred to as glomus tumors, are characteristically benign, highly vascularized and locally invasive neuroendocrine neoplasms that originate from neural crest cells. The vast majority of paragangliomas are sporadic with a minority of familial tumors observed in relation to tumor syndromes such as von Hippel-Lindau and multiple endocrine neoplasia type II. Laryngeal paragangliomas are almost entirely sporadic lesions and are rare compared to other head and neck paragangliomas. Due to anatomic location, these lesions often present with airway compromise, speech complaints or swallowing dysfunction. We present a patient with a laryngeal paraganglioma who experienced significant respiratory compromise and dysphagia who underwent conservation laryngeal surgery.

Case Report

A 77-year-old African American woman presented to our academic tertiary referral center for management of a laryngeal mass. She had a history of gastrostomy and tracheostomy tube placement in April 2021 for respiratory distress, dysphagia and weight loss. The laryngeal lesion was reportedly biopsied October 2010 at an outside facility and was concerning for a neuroendocrine tumor versus carcinoma. The patient refused further workup or treatment at that time. Her past medical history is otherwise non-contributory. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a 4.0 cm transverse by 3.0 cm AP by 4.2 cm craniocaudal right supraglottic mass with T1 contrasted hyperintense signal and marked peripheral vascularity and flow voids (Figure 1). In office laryngoscopy demonstrated submucosal fullness and supraglottic obstruction with hypervascular mucosa without overlying ulceration or marked abnormality. The glottis was not visualized (Figure 2).

The findings were presented at our institution's multidisciplinary Head & Neck tumor board. The tumor was favored to be a paraganglioma, and surgical resection was recommended after pathologic confirmation via image-guided needle biopsy. Partial and total laryngectomy were discussed with the patient, who was willing to proceed given her laryngeal nonfunction.

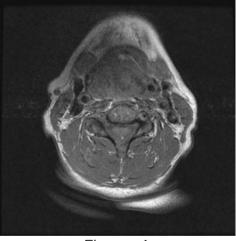


Figure 1



Figure 2

Augusta University Case Report

Operative direct laryngoscopy revealed that the tumor did not involve the glottis or mucosa. Ultimately an extramucosal tumor resection was performed via was ultimately performed with endolaryngeal preservation. The strap muscles were divided in the midline. The sternothyroid and thyrohyoid muscles were dissected off the thyroid cartilage on the right. The superior laryngeal artery was ligated. The superior laryngeal nerve was identified and traced into the tumor; it was therefore sacrificed. The perichondrium overlying the thyroid cartilage was incised and raised medially. Next, a 15 blade was used to incise the thyroid cartilage to the right of midline up to the superior border of the thyroid cartilage. The cartilage window was removed, and bipolar cautery and dissection were used to free the tumor from the pre-epiglottic fat and pyriform sinus mucosa (Figure 3). The tumor was delivered and sent for permanent pathology. A small pharyngotomy was oversewn and integrity was confirmed with a leak test. The straps were closed over the thyrotomy, followed by platysma and skin with a small JP drain. Her post-operative course was uneventful, and she was discharged on post-operative day 2. Pathology was consistent with paraganglioma, 4.7 x 2.3 x 1.7 cm, Ki67 1-3%.

The patient experienced dramatic improvement in her ability to maintain oral nutrition with associated weight gain. She was found to have improved speech, with no difficulty voicing around her tracheostomy tube. In-office laryngoscopy at 1 month demonstrated decreased mass effect and expected postoperative edema. At 4 months postop she passed a capping trial and was decannulated and her gastrostomy tube removed after clearance by Speech Pathology. At 6-month posttreatment, in office laryngoscopy revealed normal laryngeal structure and true vocal fold movement (Figure 4), and CT was without evidence of recurrent or persistent tumor (Figure 5).



Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Discussion

In comparison to epithelial derived neoplasms of the larynx, tumors of neuroendocrine origin are rare, accounting for less than 1% and interestingly demonstrate a female predominance. The differential diagnosis for these lesions is relatively narrow. However, distinguishing these lesions is important for patient prognosis and treatment planning. Our patient presented with obstructive supraglottic symptoms. In paraganglioma diagnosis, MRI is typically diagnostic due to avid enhancement and flow void, and biopsy is discouraged due to the potential for hemorrhage. In this case, pathology was confirmed via needle biopsy due to the atypical presentation and location of the tumor, and because the patient's airway was protected with a tracheotomy. Resection of a window of thyroid cartilage, as performed in a vertical partial laryngectomy, allowed for resection of this vascular benign tumor with preservation of the endolarynx and resulted in normal laryngeal function after recovery.

By: Oswaldo A. Henriquez, MD Associate Professor Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Emory University School of Medicine

NATIONAL LEVEL

Hearing Aid Services:

Currently, 36 bills in 16 states are under careful watch as the sessions proceed. Advocacy activity has been particularly noteable in FL (HB 79/SB 498), MA (HB 366/SB 211), and KY (HB 95), although all three are very different proposals. FL legislation addresses insurance coverage of hearing aids for children that mistakenly omits otolaryngologists and a medical clearance requirement. The MA bills were drafted by the MA Otolaryngology Society to repeal language prohibiting otolaryngologists from selling hearing aids to persons for whom they have provided services. The KY bill adds the sale/fitting of hearing aids to the audiologists' scope and permits them to be exempt from a hearing aid dispenser's licensure requirement. This bill also perpetuates existing language that prohibits a physician from selling hearing aids. KY HB 95 is likely to pass this year, however, physician advocates may consider a bill to remove the prohibition in 2023. The other 13 states mentioned in the last State-mENT are still active and are being monitored for progress.

More details at: https://www.entnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/State-mENT-March-2022-final.pdf

For more details in regards to the AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY INTERSTATE COMPACT (ASLP-IC): <u>https://www.entnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/aaohns_issuebrief_aslpic_final.pdf</u>

Senate Advances Legislation to Suspend Medicare Payment Cuts

On March 25, the Senate passed legislation (H.R. 1868), by a vote of 90-2, to extend the 2% Medicare sequester moratorium set to expire on April 1. The amended bill provides a nine-month extension of the moratorium through December 31. The House of Representatives passed a different version of the legislation earlier this month that would both extend the moratorium through the end of the pandemic and eliminate an additional 4% Medicare sequester scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2022. Consequently, the House must pass the Senate language when it returns from its spring recess in mid-April. The House is expected to vote favorably on the revised language, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has indicated that it will suspend processing April claims until the bill is enacted into law.

More details at: <u>https://www.entnet.org/advocacy/federal-legislative-advocacy/medicare-reimbursement/</u>

Congress Approves 5th COVID Relief Package

Late evening on December 21 Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, a \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package and \$1.4 trillion omnibus spending bill. The package provided economic relief through additional funding for a wide constituency. Specifically, the bill included a new round of stimulus checks, extended and expanded unemployment benefits, funding for small businesses and transportation, COVID-19 vaccine distribution and schools. The legislation also includes a number of provisions addressing healthcare that are of interest to practicing otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons. Detailed here is our preliminary analysis of the bill's impact on our members and their patients. As further details emerge, we will keep you informed about any changes and their effects.

More details at: <u>https://www.entnet.org/advocacy/federal-legislative-advocacy/medicare-reimbursement/</u>

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 o Legislative Tracking by State
- State Legislative Tracking Resources o 2020 State Legislative Session Dates
 - o State Legislative Priorities
 - o State "Mark-up" Styles
 - o Glossary of legislative terms
 - o Example of the state legislative process
 - o Explanation of the crossover period

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

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

GSO/HNS Events

GSO Annual Summer Meeting July 28-31, 2022 The Georgia Society of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery

REGISTER HERE:

https://gsohns.wildapricot.org/event-4691627

Save the date!

Annual Fall Meeting December 2 - 4, 2022 The Ritz Carlton, Lake Oconee Greensboro, GA



GSO/HNS Events





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