

President's Message



Dr. Ken Byrd
President, GSO/HNS
Augusta University

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

How much things have changed since last summer when we were obligated to cancel the GSO/HNS meeting due to the pandemic? Now with widespread vaccinations, we have regained some degree of normalcy and are able to see friends and family face-to-face once again.

Our Fall 2020 meeting at Lake Oconee was a great success thanks to all of you who attended, our excellent speakers, and the efforts of Executive Director Tara Morrison and her colleagues to ensure that we were able to have a safe hybrid meeting format. Dr. Bradford Woodworth, Professor and Vice Chair at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was our guest of honor and gave some great presentations on endoscopic management of frontal sinus CSF leaks and trauma and cystic fibrosis. It was good to see so many of you there after months of isolation.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the 2021 Summer meeting at the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island, July 22-25. Due to a conflicting meeting, Dr. Anita Sethna will be running the meeting as President-Elect and has put together a great program. Our honored guests are Dr. Russell Smith, a head and neck surgeon at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, Jacksonville; Dr. Patricia Rhyner (Hudgins), an esteemed radiologist and former Director of Neuroradiology at Emory; and Dr. Brian Vickery, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and an expert in pediatric immunology and allergy. Attendance will be in person and we are not requiring masks or distancing for vaccinated individuals according to CDC guidelines.

Thank you again for your support of the GSO/HNS - you are the reason for its success and accolades.

Sincerely,

Ken Byrd, MD
President, GSO/HNS

In this issue

p. 1 ... President's Letter

p. 2 ... Emory University updates

p. 7 ... Augusta University/Medical College of Georgia updates



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 1!



Hope Iyiewuare
Rush Medical
College



Mitesh Mehta
Northwest University



**Nathaniel "Nate"
Neptune**
Duke University



Roberto Soriano
Universidad de
Ciencias Medicas

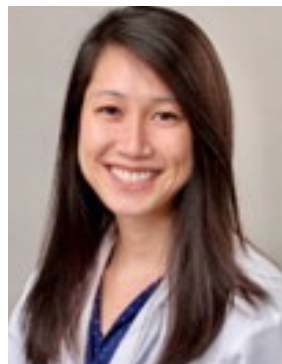
What our chief residents will be up to next year ...



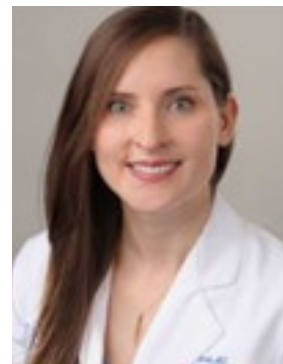
Patrick Davis, MD



**Thomas Edwards,
MD**



Mai Nguyen, MD



**Danielle Scarola,
MD**

- **Dr. Patrick Davis** - Facial Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship with Dr. Andrew Frankel in Beverly Hills, CA
- **Dr. Thomas Edwards** - Rhinology & Endoscopic Sinus/Skull Base Surgery Fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina
- **Dr. Mai Nguyen** - General otolaryngology in Fort Worth, TX
- **Dr. Danielle Scarola** - Head & Neck Surgery Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH



New sleep surgeon at Emory

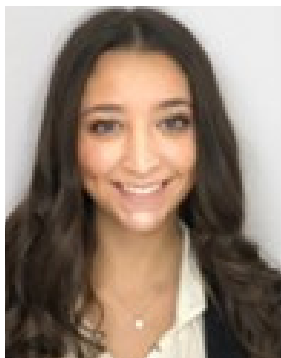
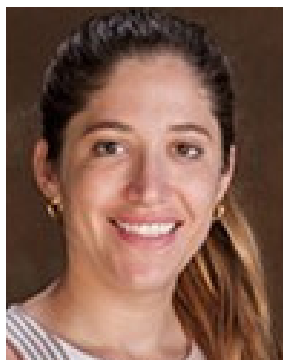
We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jason Yu, who will be joining our faculty on Sept. 1 as our new Sleep Surgeon! Dr. Yu will be joining us from the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his otolaryngology residency and fellowship in sleep medicine. His interests include drug-induced sedation endoscopy.



Klein wins GSO award

Dr. Adam Klein in the division of laryngology was awarded the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology's 2021 Gerald Gussack award. This award was established in 1996 and is given to someone who has shown exemplary teaching in otolaryngology. Congratulations, Dr. Klein!

Please welcome our NEW fellows



top row, left to right

- Rachel Irizzray, MD, SUNY Downstate Head & Neck
- Nathalia Valasquez, MD, University of Pittsburgh Rhinology
- Jordan Malenke, MD, Vanderbilt Rhinology
- Marisa Ryan, MD, MPH, Johns Hopkins Laryngology

bottom row, left to right

- Vandra Harris, MD, Johns Hopkins Pediatrics
- Alessandra Verdi, MA, MGH, Speech-Language Pathology

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



top row, left to right:

- **Dr. Chris Nickel** - faculty in Head & Neck at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL
- **Dr. Mark Arnold** - faculty in Rhinology at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY
- **Dr. Jon Mallen** - joining the Premier ENT group in Pennsylvania/New Jersey
- **Dr. David Young** - faculty at Queens Medical Center/University of Hawaii in Oahu, HI

bottom row, left to right:

- **Dr. Inbal Bendror** - research and clinical fellowship at Lurie's Children's Hospital in Chicago, IL
- **Dr. Grace Cutchin** - SLP in the Laryngology Division at Washington University in St. Louis, MO



New Head and Neck Survivorship Clinic

The Emory Head and Neck Disease Survivorship Clinic at the Winship Cancer Institute opened in February 2021. The clinic is focused on helping cancer survivors adjust after their treatment. The program provides outreach activities, support groups and health education based on their prior treatments.

Grady Multidisciplinary Airway Committee

Otolaryngology has led the way in improving safety surrounding management of patients with surgical airways. Grady's otolaryngologists Drs. James Hamilton, Charles Moore and Oswaldo Henrriquez are working with representatives from anesthesia, surgery/critical care, emergency medicine and respiratory therapy to improve routine and emergency management of tracheostomy and laryngectomy patients through revision of protocols, education and simulation training.

Pediatric Multidisciplinary Feeding Program

Dr. Nikhila Raol and colleagues have developed a multidisciplinary dysphagia program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The program aims to improve feeding in children with chronic and severe disruptions in their relationship with food. In addition, Dr. Raol's research interests include investigations to efficiently and equitably treat kids with feeding difficulties, using clinical trials to develop best practice algorithms, and improving quality of life for patients and caregivers.

Grady Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Clinic

Grady Medical Center's first multidisciplinary head and neck clinic went live in May 2021. 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.

Emory-Drexel Collaboration

Dr. Charles Moore and colleagues have established a collaboration between Emory and Drexel University! Recognizing the need to design innovative strategies to improve well-being among young people in Atlanta and Philadelphia, a collaborative peer-learning design process between Emory University Urban Health Institute (UHI)/Grady Health System and the Center for Non-Violence and Social Justice (CNSJ) at Drexel University has been established to: 1.) Explore various measures of well-being at the individual and community levels and to explore the impact of interventions which incorporate healing from physical, emotional and racial trauma by addressing the social determinants of health, trauma, violence and social justice, and 2.) Design a community-engaged process for replicating culturally responsive, trauma-informed interventions for survivors of trauma and support the development of a health care-based intervention for victims of trauma.



Research updates

Reducing cisplatin-induced hearing loss in Head and Neck cancer patients

Dr. Nichole Schmitt joined our department in 2020. She serves as the Co-Director of Translational Research in the Head & Neck Program, Winship Cancer Institute. Dr. Schmitt has received an NIH Bench to Bedside Program Award to investigate the reduction of hearing loss in cancer patients undergoing cisplatin therapy. In an analysis of retrospective data, she, along with colleagues Lisa Cunningham and Katharine Fernandez at the National Institute of Health, found that patients taking atorvastatin for high cholesterol were less likely to develop hearing loss during a course of cisplatin chemoradiation (Fernandez et al., JCI 2021). A randomized, placebo-controlled trial of atorvastatin versus placebo for prevention of hearing loss in head and neck cancer patients treated with cisplatin chemoradiation is currently in development. The study will include investigators at Emory, NIH, University of Rochester and University of Maryland.

Early detection of Laryngeal Cancer using Machine Learning

Dr. Anthony Law also joined our department in 2020 in the division of laryngology. Dr. Law recently received an Emory School of Medicine Imagine, Innovate, and Impact Award to investigate early detection of laryngeal cancer to improve patient outcomes. The goal of his research is to build a machine learning model on a smartphone platform that could classify patients into high versus low risk dysphonia using a voice sample alone. Such a model could ultimately empower PCPs to screen high risk patients to help expedite their care.

Disparities in hearing health care

Ellie Thompson, MS, Oswaldo Henriquez, MD and Amanda Brandino, AuD are working to identify the main barriers that prevent patients to obtaining hearing amplification by assessing disparities in access to hearing aids in patient with hearing loss at Grady Medical Center compared to Emory University. The ultimate goal is to design strategies to overcome these barriers and reduce disparities in hearing health.



We're on Instagram!

Follow along with us to keep up
with all new things in our
department!
Find us @emory_ent.





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



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

**MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA**

Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Dear Fellow Georgia Otolaryngologists,

I hope you are doing well and are ready to go back to normal! We just had our end of the year Porubsky Symposium and Chief Resident Graduation/Alumni Event without wearing masks or maintaining social distancing and it felt great. It was nice to see so many uncovered faces on our campus again but it was not without glitches. Small things occurred that we never thought of before, but nevertheless, things we had to deal with. My assistant Corrin Colesar, for example, being on campus for the first time without a mask, reached for her lipstick and found it to be dry. What a nuisance! There's also the possibility of having to attend informational meetings again late in the day. The pandemic forced us to meet virtually and that changed our lifestyle for the better. There were no more in-person 5-7 p.m. meetings looking at slides of policies and procedures, which worked out well. We were home right after the meeting, had our dinner and maybe a glass of wine. But the debate and discussion was not as efficient for virtual meetings with action items and we were often reminiscient and missed our colleagues. So we need to find the sweet spot and use what we learned from the pandemic with the goal of a better work-life balance. Maybe we can avoid burnout that way.

Anyway, I hope you are all as excited for the summer as much as I am. So go out and enjoy it!

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

Faculty Honors & Awards



Dr. David Terris
was selected as one
of America's Top
Doctors for 2021.



**Dr. Gregory
Postma** was selected
as one of Americas
Top Doctors for
2021 for the 19th
consecutive year.

Available Faculty Positions

We are recruiting a full-time fellowship-trained Otolologist-Neurotologist and a full-time General 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.



Dr. Drew Prosser

Residency Program Update

It has certainly been an interesting year in resident education! I can honestly say this: I did not anticipate many of the challenges we faced this year as a program when I took over from Dr. Groves as Program Director. But as occurs with overcoming any challenge, we have emerged an even stronger program than before and I have certainly learned a lot.

Along with the typical Program Director duties, shepherding the residency program through the many hoops that our accrediting body the ACGME sets forth, we have learned how to accomplish many of our educational activities in a virtual format. We also have learned ways to improve surgical education outside of the OR by investing in simulation technology, thanks to a generous donation from MCG alumnus Dr. James Bush ('69), focusing on sinus surgery and facial plastic surgery. These two areas were particularly impacted by the COVID-related OR shut downs. The residents have been absolutely amazing and resilient adjusting to new methods of learning and even caring directly for COVID patients in the ICU during OR shut downs! All of these efforts did not go unnoticed as the ACGME again awarded our program with continued accreditation without any citations for the seventh year in a row.

Despite all of that, my biggest relief came this year on Match Day, when I found out that we matched two MCG superstars Jack Owen and Faris Mirza. We are very excited to welcome them in July and are confident they will continue to impress us just as they have done over the past four years as intelligent, caring, hard-working medical students. All of the credit for our match success should go to our phenomenal program coordinator Caroline Cook, who managed to pull off setting up a packed virtual interview day, coordinating multiple virtual "interview rooms," a virtual hospital tour and even a virtual tour of Augusta - all packed into a half-day session. I can't stress enough how thankful I am for the work she put in and the expertise she showed in running these sessions. In summary, it has been a wild and crazy year to kick off my first year as Program Director. Fingers crossed that the upcoming year brings fewer challenges!



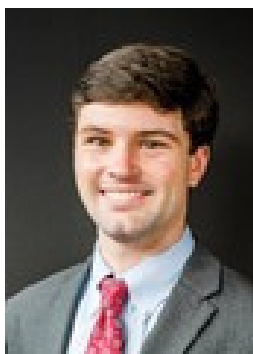
**Dr. Amy
Blanchard**

Consultant of the Year

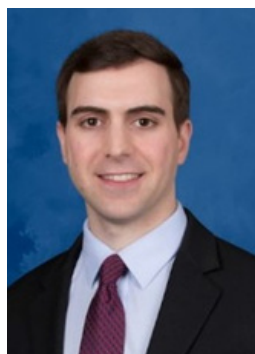
We are delighted to announce that Amy Blanchard, M.D. was the selection for the Department of Otolaryngology Consultant of the Year for 2021. Dr. Blanchard was unanimously selected by the Otolaryngology Faculty for her work on numerous sleep study consultations over the past year. The department also recognizes her hard work and resilience over the last year as she led the MICU through the COVID surge.

Dr. Blanchard was appointed Assistant Professor in the Pulmonary Critical Care Division of the Department of Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in 2000 and rose to the rank of Associate Professor in 2005. She is a graduate of Medical College of Georgia, where she completed residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Blanchard has been Medical Director of Augusta University's Sleep Disorders Center since 2002 and Medical Director of Augusta University Medical Center's, Medical Intensive Care Unit since 2006. She specializes in the treatment of adult and pediatric sleep disorders.

Welcome new residents and fellows!



Dr. Jack Owen

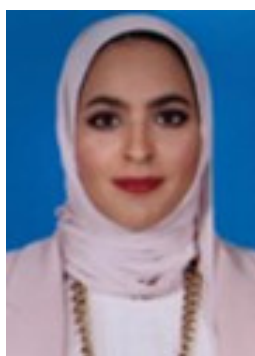


Dr. Faris Mirza

We are pleased to announce the results of this year's very successful residency match. Jack Owen and Faris Mirza both join us from our very own Medical College of Georgia. Both will be excellent additions to our residency program and we are excited to begin working with them.



Dr. Justin Ross



**Dr. Nisreen
Almusailim**



Dr. Emad Alhajali

In addition to new residents, we have three individuals that will begin their fellowships with us this July. Emad Alhajali, from St. Elizabeth Medical Center will be the 14th Endocrine/Head & Neck Surgery fellow, Justin Ross from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine is the 13th Laryngology fellow, and Nisreen Almusailim from Farwaniya Hospital is the 19th Rhinology-Sinus and Skull Base Surgery fellow.

Staff highlight



Pediatric Otolaryngology Nurse Practitioner, Krystal Oestreich, was featured in the local news for her role in the ongoing research on nursing mothers and COVID-19. Krystal herself contracted COVID-19 in July 2020, and continued to breastfeed her then-four-month-old daughter. Because of her involvement in past research studies at Augusta University a sample of her breastmilk was stored prior to her positive COVID-19 diagnosis. A sample of her breastmilk obtained after her infection showed the presence of COVID-19 antibodies. For the full story visit: augustachronicle.com/story/news/2021/04/09/studies-breast-milk-could-protect-babies-covid-19/7126376002/

Philanthropy

The department would like to recognize Dr. James Bush for his generous contribution in honor of his late friend and fellow Medical College of Georgia alumni. It has tremendously helped kick off a departmental resident simulation project.

The department would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Fred Klippert for his generous donation of several books to the Porubsky Library collection. These books will act as a valued resource for our residents.

The department would also like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Tom Cawthon for his generous donation of otology surgical instruments to the Temporal Bone Lab. These are a tremendous addition to our residency program and to ongoing department research.

The department would like to recognize the below individuals for their generous support of our Porubsky Resident Education Fund during fiscal year 2021:

- R. Tyson Deal
- Bernard Durante
- David W. Jang
- Coker Foundation
- Calvin Myint
- R. Glen Owen
- Helen Perakis

*Thank!
You!*

We invite you to consider supporting the **Porubsky Resident Education Fund.**

Your tax-deductible donation should be made payable to the Georgia Health Sciences Foundation, Inc. (GHSF, Inc.), and should be mailed to the following address:

**Attn: Porubsky Resident Education Fund
MCG-AU Otolaryngology
1120 15th St BP-4109
Augusta GA 30912**

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**

GSO/HNS Annual Summer Meeting

July 22-25, 2021

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

Register
online!
gsohns.org

Member job postings

Robb Family ENT in Alpharetta, GA is seeking an M.D. to join the practice. Call 770-410-0202 or email your resume to danielle@robbfamilyent.com for more information.

If you have a classified ad to post and are a GSO/HNS member, email carly@theassociationcompany.com.



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