

# The Georgia ENTertainer

Fall 2019 Issue

## IN THIS ISSUE...

President's Message  
2019 Annual Fall Meeting  
Augusta University Update  
Emory University Update  
Legislative Report  
"Pearls From My Practice"

## President's Message

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

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my distinct privilege to assume presidency of the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery for the coming year. Since joining the society soon after leaving the military for private practice 20 years ago, I have been consistently impressed with the quality of its meetings and of its leadership. It is my sincere hope to continue the tradition of excellence.



As is customary, our summer meeting this year was held at a coastal location, namely The Sonesta Resort in Hilton Head, SC. Dr. Elizabeth Shaw moderated an exceptional slate of speakers, highlighted by Dr. Neil Gross, Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Gross spoke on the very timely topic of HPV-related squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck and updated us on cutting-edge head and neck cancer research.

The annual fall meeting, co-hosted by the Metro Atlanta Educational Society for Otolaryngology will be held on December 7-8, 2019 at The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Plantation. The meeting will feature keynote speaker Brent Senior, M.D. Dr. Senior is Vice Chairman for Clinical Affairs and Chief, Division of Rhinology, Allergy, and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. We will also host visiting speaker Richard Kloos, M.D., past Chief Operating Officer of the American Thyroid Association, and an expert in multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional basic, translational, and clinical research of the causes, treatments, and optimal monitoring of patients with thyroid carcinoma.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our summer meeting on July 23-26, 2020. The meeting will be held at The Cloister at Sea Island. The Cloister has received a Forbes Five-Star Award for ten consecutive years, and is the only U.S. resort to have hosted a G-8 summit. Please take advantage of the excellent rate we have secured to visit this world class resort and enjoy a meeting which will include among our guest speakers sinus surgery pioneer Dr. David Kennedy.

Our society is strong and active, but its membership is comprised of a disappointingly small proportion of practicing otolaryngologists in Georgia. If you are not an active member, please join and plan to attend our annual meetings. We also have an associate membership level for audiologists, speech and language pathologists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Although any organization is only as strong as its membership, our society's success in no small part has been due to its partnership with Association Management Executives, Inc.. Tara Morrison and her colleagues have been indispensable in the management of the finances of the society and in all of the logistics associated with running our meetings, including securing corporate sponsors. We appreciate their help more than we can say.


I hope to see you at our meeting in December at the Ritz.

Tom Phillips, M.D.

**We hope to see you at the**  
**2019 GSO/HNS ANNUAL FALL MEETING**  
Friday, December 7 - Sunday, December 8  
The Ritz-Carlton | Lake Oconee, GA

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



**GSO**  **HNS**  
The Georgia Society of  
Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery  
*Metro Atlanta Educational Society*  
*For Otolaryngology*  
*- Head & Neck Surgery, Inc.*



**Honored Guest Speaker:**  
**Brent A. Senior, MD, FACS, FARS**  
Professor of Otolaryngology/Neurosurgery  
Nathaniel and Sheila Harris Distinguished Professor  
Chief, Division of Rhinology, Allergy, and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery  
University of North Carolina

**REGISTER TODAY!** (Register online or turn over for the registration form)

Visit [www.gsohns.org](http://www.gsohns.org) for the agenda and additional meeting information



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 Otolaryngologists,

I hope everyone is doing well and is as happy as I am with the cooler weather finally being here. Our department faculty members started FY2020 firing on all cylinders so that by the end of the first quarter, our surgical cases are up by 33% in the adult service at MCG-AU Medical Center and by 18% at the Children's Hospital of Georgia.

Now I really have to worry about burnout, so I tested myself first by using the Maslach Burnout Inventory. Thank God my score showed "Low-Level Burnout" risk, but it got me thinking why that is? Don't I have to go to numerous committee meetings, receive more emails than Elvis, fight with insurance companies and deal with revenue cycle problems? All of these made me appreciate the time at work that I spend with patients and be glad that I persisted in continuing my clinical activity. I believe it is this face-to-face contact with my patients that reminds me why I became a physician and nourishes me to show up for work every day. This explains why most physicians continue to work later than when most others retire, some even in their 80s. So next time you feel down and beat by some external healthcare force, walk into a patient's room, look them straight in the eyes and give your 100% in listening to their symptoms and problems and make sure that they leave your office satisfied and happy that they got to see you. Then you can take the Maslach Burnout Inventory test and I bet you will pass with flying colors.

Have a great fall with best wishes for the holidays coming up sooner than you think.

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

### **Faculty Honors and Awards**



**Dr. J. Kenneth Byrd** was awarded an intramural grant for his project "The Effects of Chemotherapy on Gastrostomy Site Healing".

**Dr. Michael Groves** was elected to the AUMA Board of Directors and received the prestigious 2019 Exemplary Teaching Award for undergraduate education, Medical College of Georgia at AU.



**Dr. Mohammad Seyyedi** received the prestigious 2019 Exemplary Teaching Award for undergraduate education, Medical College of Georgia at AU.

## **2019 Porubsky Symposium and Resident Graduation**



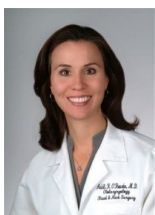
C. Gaelyn  
Garrett

We had a wonderful turnout for the 17th Annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni event. Guests from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina, as well as several Residency Program Alumni enjoyed some great CME lectures and resident research presentations.



Bernard Durante

Dr. C. Gaelyn Garrett provided two excellent Keynote lectures and our Residency Alumnus, Dr. Bernard Durante, and Fellowship Alumna, Dr. Ashli O'Rourke both inspired the audience with discussions of innovative technologies and techniques in our ever changing field.

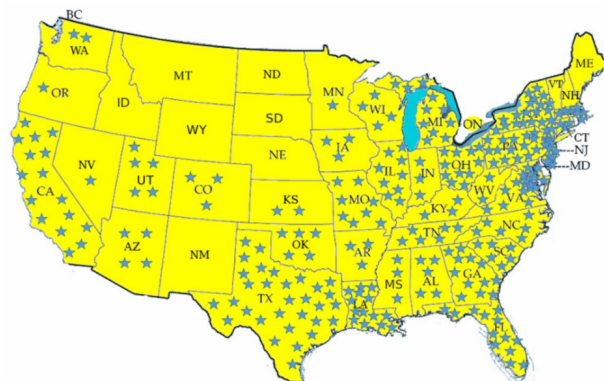


Ashli O\_Rourke

This was followed by a dominant performance by Dr. Garrett and her teammates, Drs. David Terris, Amy Blanchard and Arthur Torsiglieri, riding the "birdie-train" to victory in the Annual Porubsky Golf Tournament. The whole weekend was capped off in style with our resident and fellow graduation ceremony, where many laughs were had and all our graduates were congratulated and sent forth in good cheer. Overall, it was a fantastic event, and we hope more of our friends and alumni from neighboring states and all over the country will join us next year.

## **Medical College of Georgia - AU Otolaryngology-HNS Residency Program Reaches Far**

During the 2019 match cycle we received 292 applications for 2 residency positions and had 17 acting interns rotating through our service. Our resident candidates came from all over the country as the map below indicates. All 7 MCG students who applied for Otolaryngology-HNS matched as did 9 of the 10 visiting acting interns. Since 2015, all MCG students applying to otolaryngology have matched, indicating the excellent and successful learning environment we have created for our students. Our goal is to continue to provide an excellent training environment for our students and residents to thrive and learn, and continue to serve as ambassadors carrying the great name of the Medical College of Georgia, the state's only public medical school, as far as we can.



## **Annual Rhinology-Skull Base Surgery Fellowship Dinner at AAO-HNS Meeting in New Orleans**



We continued the great tradition for the MCG rhinology-skull base surgery alumni of gathering together for an evening of fun and food around the time of the American Rhinologic Society and the AAO-HNS Foundation fall meetings. This year the event took place at the Briquette restaurant in New Orleans' French Quarter, where we were able to enjoy camaraderie and friendship, discussed careers and future plans and contemplated multi-institutional clinical studies. We relaxed and remembered every funny story from years past!



Pictured from left to right: Justin Antisdell #7 (Chairman, SLU), Eyad Khabbaz #8 (Pennsylvania), Francis Ling #3 (Windsor, CN), Troy Woodard #6 (Cleveland Clinic), Stil Kountakis, Jose Gurrola #11 (UCSF), Chadi Makary #17 (current fellow, West Virginia), David Jang #10 (Duke), and Chris Ito #14 (University of Massachusetts).

## **Faculty in the News**

**Dr. William Carroll** was featured in the news for removing a rare vallecular cyst from a 3 week old baby. The cyst was causing airway obstruction requiring a tracheostomy. The tracheostomy is now removed and the child is growing at a healthy and normal rate.

[READ MORE](#)

**Dr. Michael Groves** was in the news for successfully managing the head and neck cancer of a 91 year old patient who loves to dance and be merry. The video embedded in the link shows the dance moves of a happy individual much younger than his years!

[READ MORE](#)

**Dr. Ken Byrd** was featured in the news for using endoscopic techniques to successfully, and with minimal morbidity, remove a large esthesioneuroblastoma in a 17 year old female patient. The patient and family were ecstatic with the results as they previously thought the patient's eye would have to be resected.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Available Faculty Positions**

We are recruiting a full-time fellowship-trained Otolaryngologist-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](mailto:skountakis@augusta.edu).

## **Upcoming Educational Events**

### **2020 Visiting Professor Series**

January 7, 2020 - **Trevor Hackman, MD, FACS**

Associate Professor, Co-Director, H&N Oncology Fellowship, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill NC

February 4, 2020 - **Robert Kern, MD**

George A. Sisson, MD Professor and Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago IL

April 14, 2020 - **Fred Telischi, MD, FACS**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami FL

**April 29-May 2, 2020**

**Southern States Rhinology Symposium**

Kiawah Island, South Carolina

[www.southernstatesrhinology.org](http://www.southernstatesrhinology.org)

**June 12-13, 2020**

**Eighteenth Annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event**

Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Speaker: Wendell Yarbrough, MD

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

Resident Alumni Speaker: Jason Champagne, MD

[www.aofedn.org/Porubsky](http://www.aofedn.org/Porubsky)



The banner features a background image of a laptop keyboard and a pair of glasses. On the left, there is a circular logo with a green and yellow border. Inside the circle, the text reads "GSO HNS" in large blue letters, with "The Georgia Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery" in smaller text below it. A green horizontal bar across the middle of the circle contains the word "MEMBERSHIP" in white. Below this bar, the word "NEWS" is written in white on a black rectangular background. At the bottom of the circle, the website "www.gshns.org" is listed. To the right of the logo, the text "Have you renewed for 2020?" is displayed in large, bold, black letters. Below this, in smaller italicized black text, it says "Stay ahead of the game and renew today." At the bottom right, the text "CLICK TO RENEW" is written in red, italicized capital letters.



**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 grow in numbers and clinical expertise. 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, and the Emory Aesthetic Center.

We are proud to report the following departmental updates for Fall 2019:

## **Accolades and appointments:**

- **Esther Vivas:** Chair, PanAmerican committee for the AAO-HNS
- **Josh Levy:** Chair the American Rhinologic Society's Resident and Fellows Committee
- **Charles Moore:** Selected to be a member of the Nominating Committee for the Academy of Otolaryngology.
- **Amy Chen:** President of the Georgia Chapter of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.
- **Sarah Wise:** Nominated to become the next 2nd Vice President of the American Rhinologic Society.

## **Emory at the American Academy of Otolaryngology meeting:**

- Faculty involved in presentations and panel participation: Jeanne Hatcher, Amy Chen, Adam Klein, Esther Vivas, Nikhila Raol, Sarah Wise, Mary Sebelik, Dr. Esther Vivas, Dr. Arturo Solares and Dr. Oswaldo Henriquez

## **Program Updates:**

- Emory Research Group in Otolaryngology (ERGO) has new leadership: Dr. Nikhila Raol, Director; Dr. Joshua Levy, Co-Director; Dr. Amanda Gillespie, PhD Secretary.
- ERGO The Emory Research Group in Otolaryngology (ERGO) is proud to offer summer clerkships for underrepresented minority medical students interested in an immersive experience in Otolaryngology research and clinical care. Interested students are encouraged to identify potential faculty mentors prior to submitting their application. For further information, please contact Dr. Levy: [Joshua.Levy2@emory.edu](mailto:Joshua.Levy2@emory.edu)

## **In the community:**

- The Emory Voice Center sponsored a booth at Atlanta Pride (October 11-12) and will host the first free Transgender voice and communication workshop at EUHM November 1st, 5pm.

## **Faculty openings:**

The Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery of Emory University continues to grow. Opportunities for multiple full time Otolaryngologist positions:

1. [Department Chair, Otolaryngology](#)
2. [Atlanta Veterans Administration Hospital](#)
3. [Laryngologist](#), Emory Voice Center, Emory University Hospital Midtown Atlanta
4. Otolaryngologist, Emory Decatur Hospital (this position is a community practice model through Emory Specialty Associates)
5. [Sleep Surgeon](#), Emory University Hospital Midtown Atlanta
6. [Pediatric Otolaryngologist](#), Emory + Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Interested applicants may apply online at [Careers@Emory.edu](mailto:Careers@Emory.edu) or may also submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to: Kaltun Mire: [kaltun.mire@emoryhealthcare.org](mailto:kaltun.mire@emoryhealthcare.org) and Dr. Douglas Mattox: [dmattox@emory.edu](mailto:dmattox@emory.edu)

The Emory Department of Otolaryngology is the premier clinical/academic/research otolaryngology program in the southeast while serving in one of the largest metropolitan regions in the United States. The training environment encompasses a



tertiary care university hospital, the region's sole public hospital and main trauma center, an urban, community hospital, Veterans' hospital and the region's elite pediatric referral center. Faculty research is conducted under the banner of the Emory Research Group in Otolaryngology (ERGO). Research projects span basic science, translational, and clinical investigations, including studies of the mechanisms of deafness caused by genetic mutations, the various implications of office-based rhinologic surgery, reconstruction of head and neck cancer defects, outcomes measurement, healthcare disparities and craniomaxillofacial trauma.

#### **Minimum Qualifications:**

- Board Certified/Board Eligible in Otolaryngology or hold equivalent qualifications, which would be considered eligible for credentialing in Otolaryngology with Emory Healthcare.
- Strong research and publication history, experience in clinical and research mentorship, a national reputation among colleagues within the otolaryngology community.
- Eligibility for a valid, unrestricted medical license to practice medicine in the state of Georgia.
- A controlled Substance Registration Drug Enforcement Administration Certificate.

Emory offers competitive salary and excellent benefits. Clinical and academic appointment levels in the Department of Otolaryngology are commensurate with credentials.

*Emory University is an EOAA employer*

#### Legislative Update

##### **By: Oswaldo A. Henriquez, MD, FACS**

Associate Professor  
Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery  
Emory University School of Medicine

President, Metro Atlanta Educational Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery



#### **NATIONAL LEVEL**

##### **American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery new executive board announced (2019-2020)**

###### **President**

Duane J. Taylor, MD

###### **President-Elect**

Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS

###### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Kenneth W. Altman, MD, PHD

###### **Immediate Past President**

Albert L. Merati, MD

## **Executive Vice President and CEO**

James C. Denny III, MD

### **AAO-HNS Comments on the CMS 2020 Medicare Physician Fee**

Schedule Proposed Rule On August 30, the AAO-HNS submitted a comment letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on the CY 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Quality Payment Program proposed rule. The Academy's comments focused on the agency's proposed changes to E/M codes and their value in the global surgery package, valuation of specific codes affecting the specialty, special endoscopy rules, market-based supply and equipment pricing, physician assistant (PA) supervision requirements, as well as comprehensive updates to the Quality Payment Program (QPP).

### **AAO-HNS Needs Your Support! Say No to H.R.4056**

Dr. David S. Boieson, BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair and the AAO-HNS Advocacy Team ask for your support now, more than ever, the AAO-HNS needs your support. Legislation has been introduced (H.R.4056) that seeks to designate audiologists as "practitioners" and allow them direct access to Medicare beneficiaries without a physician referral. The Academy has been advocating on Capitol Hill expressing opposition to this legislation to Members of Congress on the relevant committees of jurisdiction. Raise your voice and sign up for our "Calls to Action" by texting "otoadvocate" to 313131. With your support, we can make a difference by telling Congress to say no to H.R.4056 "The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019"

### **AAO-HNS Signs Letter to FDA on In-office Compounding**

The AAO-HNS joined other impacted medical specialties in signing a joint letter to the FDA, sent August 13, regarding an impending revised guidance document on compounding. The current FDA guidance contains an exemption for physicians who compound medications in their offices. The AMA-led letter seeks assurances that the FDA will continue differentiating between physicians and compounding pharmacies

### **STATE LEVEL**

To get current information on the status on current bills at the Georgia House Level, please [CLICK HERE](#).

### **"Pearls From My Practice"**

*"Pearls From My Practice" is a new section of the ENTertainer newsletter. We are seeking content for future consideration. Have you come across simple ideas or "pearls" that you've found beneficial in your practice? Something you have learned, discovered, modified, or used that has either helped your practice management, added to better patient care, prevented a problem, or simply made a task easier to do that you would like to share? Some ideas to get you thinking: post op sinus care, business management tips, pearls for post op pain management, etc.*

*To be considered, please email your idea to [katie@theassociationcompany.com](mailto:katie@theassociationcompany.com)*

### **Nasal packing after Rhinoplasty, sinus surgery, or for a nose bleed**

By: William E. Silver, MD, FACS

One of the most common A/B ointment packings for these purposes is Polysporin which carries a 2% allergic reaction.



**TIP:** Take 30 inches of 1/2 in plain gauze and add two cc's of Clindomycin (600 mg) until equally absorbed. Then squeeze 2 1/2 inch of Aquafor into a small open bottle and place it into a microwave for about 15 seconds until the Aqufor liquefies. Then mix the gauze with a tongue blade to even out the mixture.

It is an inexpensive, safe, and low allergy nasal packing which is easy to make. It can be stored for office use, made in smaller quantities, or made up on the spot.

*\*The above content was submitted by Dr. Silver as a personal opinion or idea.*

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