

President's Message



Dear Friends and Members,

Welcome to our Spring Edition of the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Newsletter. As we embrace the warmth of the season, I'd like to thank you for your membership in our wonderful society. I hope that you have taken advantage of our robust meetings that provide networking opportunities, literature updates, and introductions to cutting edge treatments and technology shaping the future of our specialty.

I am thrilled to have a distinguished group of keynote speakers joining us for this summer's meeting. Dr David Lott, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology at The Mayo Clinic Arizona, will share his wealth of experience and expertise in the field of laryngology. Dr Habib Rizk is an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology at the Medical University of South Carolina. He also serves as the Director of the Multidisciplinary Vestibular program and will provide us with an update on vestibular disorders. Dr. Laurie Loevner will join us from the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Radiology where she is Professor and Chief of the Division of Neuroradiology. She will explore the intersection of imaging and otolaryngology. We will also hear talks from several other esteemed colleagues who will enhance our educational program. We will close the meeting with a Round Table Journal Club. I hope that you all will attend our Summer Meeting at the luxurious Cloister at Sea Island July 18-21, 2024.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors and the administrative team, led by Tara Morrison, for their support of GSO-HNS. They have made my year of service as president run so smoothly. Dr Drew Prosser will serve as our next president. Please encourage your colleagues to join GSO-HNS so that our society can continue to grow and thrive during his tenure. I look forward to seeing you all at the Cloister in July for a memorable meeting filled with education and relaxation!

Warm regards,
Avani Ingley, MD
President, GSO/HNS

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of Georgia Updates

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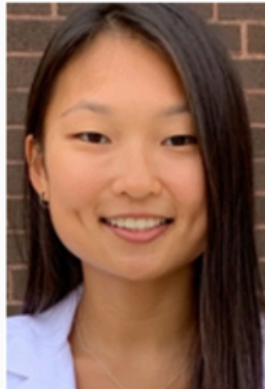
GSO Fall 2023

By: Aisha Harun, MD
Assistant Professor,
Otolaryngology-Head and
Neck Surgery
Director, Decatur
Otolaryngology Clinical Site

EMORY
HEALTHCARE

Resident Updates

Emory Otolaryngology Residency has been increased to 5 residents per year starting in 2024. Please welcome our new interns who will be starting July 1st!



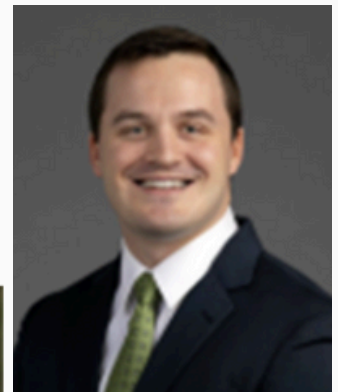
Sherrie Wang
 Rowan University



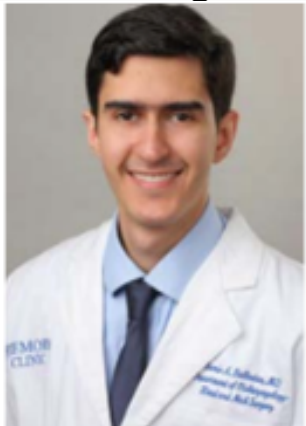
Daniel Moverman
 Sackler School of Medicine



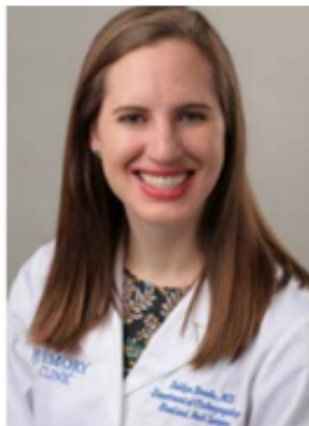
Christian Shannon
 UT- Austin



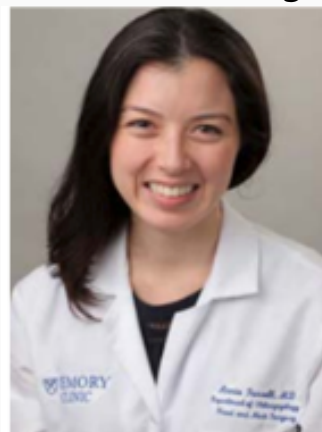
Congrats to our graduating chiefs. Here is where they will be next year:



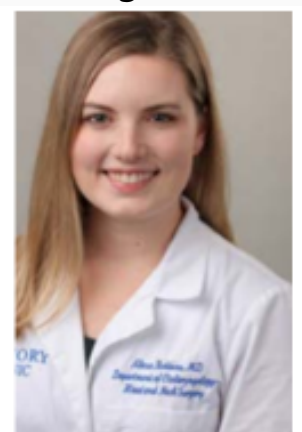
Samir Ballestas, MD
 Laryngology Fellowship
 MGH/Harvard



Kaitlyn Brooks, MD
 Neurotology Fellowship
 Baylor



Annie Farrell, MD
 Pediatric Fellowship
 Lurie Children's



Alexa Robinson, MD
 Endocrine H&N
 Emory



Dr. Jennifer Gross, Assistant Professor, received the Hidden Gem award by the Emory SOM given to faculty members nominated by their departments in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Emory or beyond.

Pembrolizumab and cabozantinib in recurrent metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma: a phase 2 trial

Published in Nature Medicine and featuring contributions from Emory's Head and Neck faculty, Dr. Patel and Dr. Schmitt, this article details a phase 2, multicenter, single-arm trial of pembrolizumab and cabozantinib in patients with recurrent head and neck cancer who had Response Evaluation Criteria and no contraindications to either agent. This work was a team effort sponsored by Winship and led by Dr. Nabil Saba. The recorded data on progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) imply that the cabozantinib and pembrolizumab combination improved PFS and OS beyond what has been seen with single-agent treatments in the past, paving the way for additional research into this therapeutic pairing for RMHNSCC.

Saba NF, Steuer CE, Ekpenyong A, et al. Pembrolizumab and cabozantinib in recurrent metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma: a phase 2 trial. Nat Med. 2023;29(4):880-887. doi:10.1038/s41591-023- 02275-x



Nicole Schmitt, MD



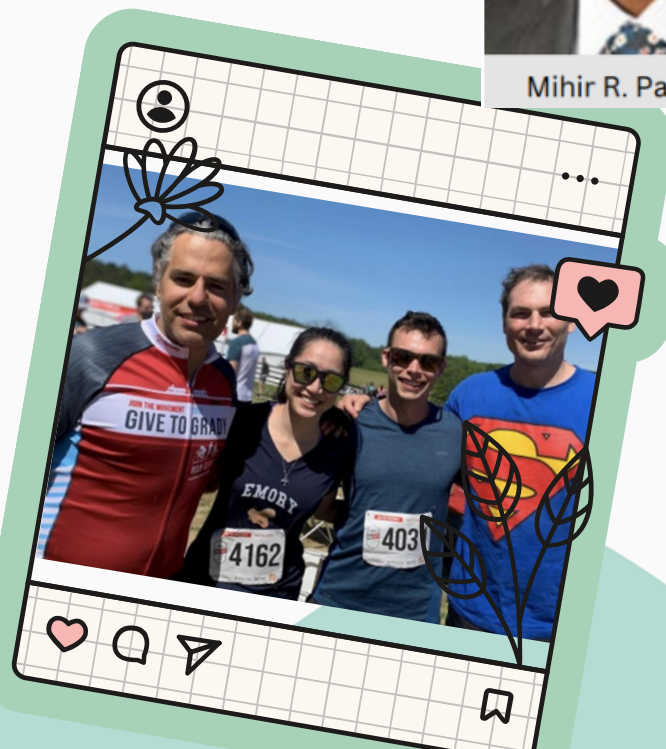
Mihir R. Patel, MD



*Follow us on
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Keep up with all things new
within our department

[@emory_ent](#)





AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
**MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA**

Department of Otolaryngology



Dr. Still Kountakis, MD, Ph.D.

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

Dear Fellow Georgia Otolaryngologists,

Spring is here, and I hope it has brought you the same sense of renewal and optimism that I'm feeling. It's a challenging time across the nation, with significant societal shifts demanding our attention and empathy. Yet, within our otolaryngology community, there's a wellspring of hope and an unyielding commitment to bettering the world through healthcare.

I am particularly excited about the bright, eager faces of our new resident candidates who will be joining us in July. Their fresh energy and dedication are just what we need as we look to the future of our field with hopeful eyes.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event, Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th, 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity to earn complimentary CME credits, catch up with old friends, and celebrate our 2024 class of trainees.

In these times, when the world seems to pivot daily, our strength as a community gives me hope. We are more than just a group of medical professionals; we are a force for positive change, united in our passion and dedication.

So, let's step into this beautiful season with a sense of purpose and togetherness. I am excited to see all of you in June - ready to share stories, laughter, and maybe even enjoy a round of golf on a sunny Saturday morning.

Wishing you a wonderful Spring filled with joy and professional success.

Sincerely,

Still Kountakis, MD, PhD

Faculty Accomplishments



Heather Koehn, MD

Dr. Heather Koehn, Assistant Professor and Medical Student Clerkship Director was recognized by the MCG Office of Student Affairs for being a great mentor to all four classes of medical students.



Sarah Hodge, MD

Dr. Sarah Hodge, Assistant Professor and Associate Residency Program Director, successfully passed the ABOHNS Neurotology Sub-certification exam. Dr. Hodge also received the Graduate Medical Education Exemplary Teaching Award for AY 2022-2023.



J. Kenneth Byrd, MD

Dr. J. Kenneth Byrd, Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs and Chief of Head and Neck Surgery, will be promoted to Professor, effective July 1, 2024.



J. Drew Prosser, MD

Dr. J. Drew Prosser received approval for Fellowship candidacy in the Triological Society.



Jason May, MD

Dr. Jason May received approval for Fellowship candidacy in the Triological Society.

Residency Program News

The Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Program received an official letter from ACGME with continued accreditation with no citations.



Resident & Fellow Accomplishments

Faris Mirza, MD

Dr. Mirza, PGY3 Resident, presented two posters at the Triological Society Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida on January 27, 2024.

- Patient factors and outcomes in cerebrospinal fluid leak repair: An institutional review
- Atypical presentation of a rare Chorda Tympani Schwannoma and review of literature

Brittany Beisel, MD

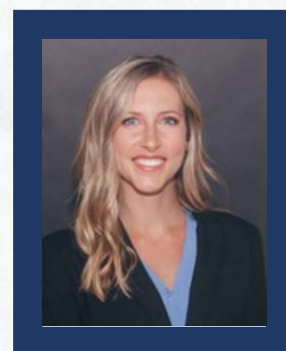
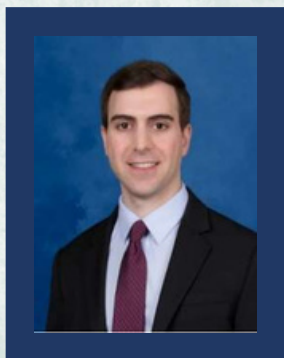
Dr. Beisel, PGY 2 Resident, presented a poster entitled Magnetic Localization of Grill Brush Bristle in Esophageal Wall: A Pediatric Foreign Body Case Report at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meeting in Chicago. Illinois on Friday, May 17, 2024

Evan Compton, MD

Dr. Compton, Laryngology Fellow, presented a presentation entitled Hypopharyngeal Webs at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meeting in Chicago. Illinois on Friday, May 17, 2024

Rebecca Paquin, MD

Dr. Paquin, PGY5 Resident, received the Exemplary Teaching Award AY 2022-2023 for Residents and Fellows as Teachers.

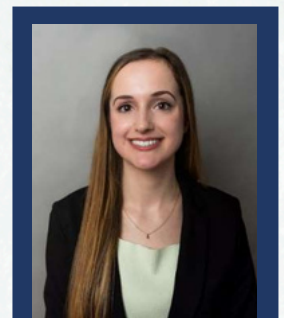


Welcome New Residents!

July 2024

Lillian Day, MD
– Medical College
of Georgia at
Augusta University

Hanna Long, MD
– Brody School of
Medicine at East
Carolina University



Recruitment

Dr. Sally Long has accepted the Head and Neck Microvascular Surgery faculty position. Dr. Long is scheduled to start August 12, 2024.



Otolaryngology-HNS Recent Publications

Barrera S, Agarwal A, Cabrera-Muffly C, Groves M, Corill E, Allen A, Koehn H, Megow L, Cogne D, Stringer S, Kane AC. Otolaryngology Applicant Perspectives on In-person and Virtual Residency Interviews. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2024 Jan 27. doi: 10.1002/ohn.645. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38279960.

Yang ZM, Loh TH, Ross J, Dalal K, Meiler SE, Postma GN. Transnasal Humidified Rapid Insufflation Ventilatory Exchange in Endoscopic Esophageal Surgery. *Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol*. 2024 Mar;133(3):325-329. doi: 10.1177/00034894231216273. Epub 2023 Dec 5. PMID: 38050852; PMCID: PMC10865761.

Hodge S, Lopez IA, Cronkite A, House J, Matsui H, Ishiyama G, Ishiyama A. Dynamic Molecular Markers of Otosclerosis in the Human Cochlea. *Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol*. 2024 Apr;133(4):390-399. doi: 10.1177/00034894231225134. Epub 2024 Jan 10. PMID: 38197255.

Grimes R, Hodge S. Facial Nerve Meningocele Presenting as Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss. *Otol Neurotol*. 2024 Feb 1;45(2):e126-e128. doi: 10.1097/MAO.0000000000004081. Epub 2023 Dec 23. PMID: 38152029.

Acree L, Day T, Groves MW, Waller JL, Bollag WB, Tran SY, Padala S, Baer SL. Deep neck space infections in end-stage renal disease patients: Prevalence and mortality. *J Invest Med*. 2024 Feb;72(2):220-232. doi: 10.1177/10815589231222198. Epub 2024 Jan 8. PMID: 38102746.

Drury NB, Sorensen N, Sharbel DD, Byrd JK. Atypical Regional Metastasis to the Parotid Nodal Basin in HPV-Associated Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2024 Mar 14. doi: 10.1002/ohn.705.

Zhang J, Warner R, Sheffield A, Hodge S, Crandall M, Skarupa D. Overnight In-House Critical Care Resource Intensivist Improves General Surgery Resident Education. *Am Surg*. 2024 Apr 1;31348241241658. doi: 10.1177/00031348241241658.



Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month

In honor of Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month this April, we hosted a head and neck cancer screening event on Friday, April 19, 2024. A total of 18 patients were screened for head and neck cancer at no charge.



Faculty Positions

Otologist/Neurotologist: We are seeking an individual at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with fellowship training in Otology/Neurotology. This is a full-time position at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University and Wellstar MCG Health. Excellent resources are available and rank is commensurate with experience.

Rhinologist: We are seeking an individual at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with fellowship training in Rhinology, Sinus, and Skull Base Surgery. This is a full-time position at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University and Wellstar MCG Health. Excellent resources are available and rank is commensurate with experience.

To apply and receive additional information, please send a curriculum vitae to Dr. Stil Kountakis at skountakis@augusta.edu.



MCG Otolaryngology Social Media

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



Upcoming Educational Events

June 7- 8, 2024

**Annual Porubsky Symposium and
Alumni Event**

Augusta, Georgia

www.aofedtn.org/Porubsky

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



The Georgia Audiology Shortage – A Pediatric Public Health Crisis

Sarah Hodge, MD, Sneha Chauhan, M4, Jason May, MD, Sarah King, AuD, Drew Prosser, MD, Heather Koehn, MD, MMHC

Medical College of Georgia- Department of Otolaryngology, Augusta, GA

Nearly 2,500 children in Georgia are classified as deaf or hard of hearing¹. In 2020, 215 children were diagnosed with permanent hearing loss, though only 132 received the diagnosis prior to 3 months of age 2. That is nearly 40% of children in the state of Georgia with hearing loss without a diagnosis before pre-K, which limits their access to early intervention services. Without such a diagnosis, they are ineligible for most private, federal, and state-supported early intervention programs. Preventable language delays occurs in 68% of infants who do not receive a diagnosis or who receive a late diagnosis of hearing loss.³ Studies have shown that children who receive timely intervention tend to catch up quickly and demonstrate language skills and cognitive abilities that are on par with their peers.⁴ A major contributor to these delays is the lack of access to audiology services due to a shortage of Audiologists in the state of Georgia.

Georgia ranks near the bottom at 43rd in the nation for the ratio of certified audiologists to the population, with only 3.4 audiologists available for every 100,000 people. Georgia also lacks audiology graduate programs so every fully trained audiologist practicing in the state, had to be recruited from training programs in other states.

In contrast, our neighboring state of Tennessee ranks 7th in the nation with a nearly double ratio of 6 certified audiologists per 100,000 residents, boasting 430 certified audiologists in total. Tennessee also has 6 CAA* certified audiology programs. In a similar vein, our neighbor to the west, Alabama has 372 certified audiologists, resulting in 5.2 audiologists per 100,000 residents and 2 CAA* certified audiology programs ranking 18th nationally in audiology services. Colorado currently carries the #1 rank with 448 audiologists in 2022 and 7.7 audiologists per 100,000 residents.⁵ This is more than double that of the access for children in Georgia.

The nationwide standard from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) are:

- Ensure every child with hearing loss is diagnosed and receives appropriate, timely intervention.
- Enhance pediatricians', other physicians', and non-physician clinicians' knowledge about the EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines—screening by 1 month of age, diagnosis of hearing loss by 3 months of age, and entry into early intervention (EI) services by 6 months of age.
- Ensure newborn hearing screening results are communicated to all parents and reported in a timely fashion according to state laws, regulations, and guidelines.
- Incorporate EHDI into an integrated, medical home approach to child health.

Georgia has yet to meet these guidelines.

The rate of infants with a documented audiologic diagnostic evaluation varies greatly across Georgia's public health districts, with some school districts only achieving only a 20% diagnostic rate, while others reach over 80%. This disparity in outcomes highlights the urgent need to improve access to audiological services statewide. There are currently 103 healthcare facilities that provide audiology services to children in Georgia. However, there are no pediatric audiologists available south of Macon, GA. That includes 83 south Georgia counties where children have to travel to pediatric audiology services.

To address these pressing issues and improve the lives of Georgia's children with hearing loss, we advocate for the establishment of the first AuD program in the state. This initiative is imperative to bridge the gap in on-time diagnosis, improve access to audiological services, and ensure that all children in Georgia have a fair chance to achieve age-appropriate language and literacy skills.

*Accreditation held by The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

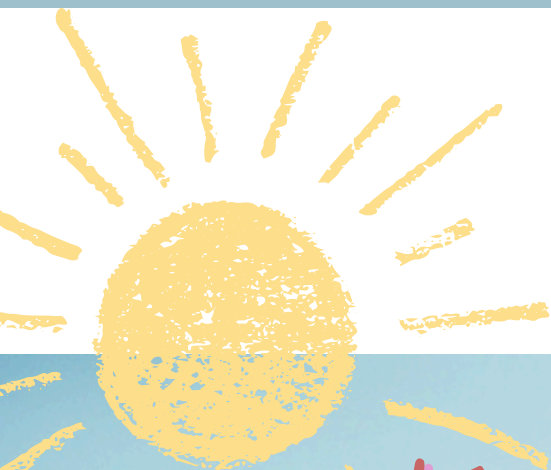
References:

1. Year 2019 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs. Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, 4(2), 1-44. DOI: 10.15142/fptk-b748
2. 2020 CDC EHDI Hearing Screening & Follow-up Survey (HSFS)
3. Georgia DPH 2016-2020 HSFS Data for PHIP referenced by Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing Language and Literacy Report (2021)
4. Mary Pat Moeller; Early Intervention and Language Development in Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Pediatrics September 2000; 106 (3): e43. 10.1542/peds.106.3.e43
5. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). Member and Affiliate Profile: 2022 ASHA-certified audiologist- and speech- language pathologist-to-population ratios. www.asha.org

Please scan the QR code or click the link and voice your support!



https://augusta.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZilJdsG527MLjg?Q_CHL=q_r



GSO HNS

The Georgia Society of
Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery

Register Now!





**2024 Annual
Summer
Meeting**

JULY 18 - 21, 2024

**THE CLOISTER
SEA ISLAND, GA**

GSO/HNS Members

If you have not done so yet, be sure to
 renew your dues! 

Please spread the word, and send this
link for new members to join:

<https://gsohns.wildapricot.org/Join-Us>

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SOCIAL MEDIA!** 



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