

President's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



As we emerge from the fog of the past 3 years and resume more normal operations in both our work and personal lives, we have had the opportunity to reflect on all that we've learned about our own fragility and resiliency. I've most definitely come to better appreciate the fellowship and inspiration provided by participating in our wonderful society and am honored to serve as this year's president.

Our Summer 2022 meeting at The Cloister at Sea Island featured Dr. Julie Wei (pediatric ENT and work/life integration), Dr. Carl Snyderman (skull base surgery), and Dr. Terry Day (head and neck oncology), and proved to be an enlightening weekend full of wonderful talks that helped us take better care of our patients as well as ourselves. I am grateful for the strong leadership of both Dr. Ken Byrd and Dr. Anita Sethna who have guided this society the past 2 years.

Thank you to all who helped make the Fall 2022 meeting at the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Plantation such a success. The meeting was co-hosted by Dr. Kaelyn Krook, my partner and president of the Metro Atlanta Educational Society. Our honored speaker, Dr. Peter Belafsky from UC Davis, presented us with very practical information about dysphagia and highlighted the importance of failure in innovation. And we watched Georgia win the SEC Championship game with drinks and camaraderie in the exhibitor's hall!

I am very much looking forward to the Summer 2023 meeting which will be taking place at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, July 13-16. We are working hard to design an educational and engaging program for the membership. I hope to see you all there- bring your families!

Of course, none of this would be possible without the leadership of our board members and the direction of Tara Morrison and her team. I am grateful for all their guidance and behind the scenes work that make our society so strong. Please continue support the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology by attending our meetings and encouraging your partners and colleagues to join.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season, and here's to a fabulous new year!

Yours truly,
Jenny Kim, MD
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 Decatur Site Director

EMORY

HEALTHCARE

New Otolaryngology Providers:

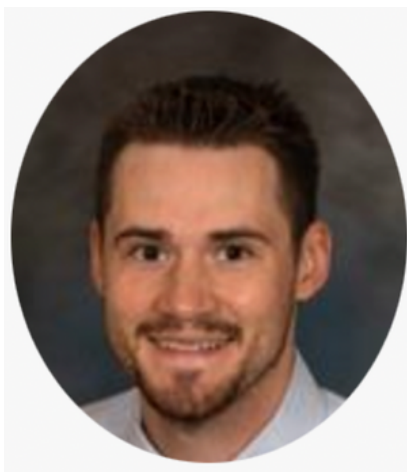
Ashley Moore, Au.D: Dr. Moore received her doctorate from the University of South Florida in Tampa. She will be providing comprehensive audiology services at Emory Midtown.



The department will be expanding its otolaryngology services at Emory Decatur Hospital. Please welcome our new providers:



Shabnam (Shay) Habibi, Au.D: Dr. Habibi received her doctorate from Auburn University and joins us from Columbus, GA. She will be providing comprehensive audiology services at Emory Decatur.

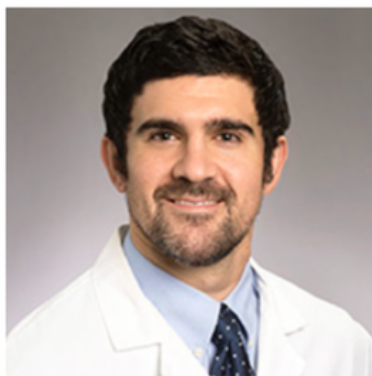


Sean Malanowski, PA-C: Sean currently provides inpatient care at Emory University Hospital. He will also start seeing general otolaryngology patients in at the Emory Decatur outpatient clinic starting January 2023.

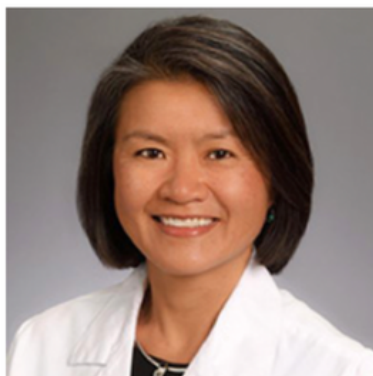


Lynn Guan, PA-C: Lynn will be treating general otolaryngology patients at Emory Decatur outpatient clinic, as well as inpatients at Emory University Hospital starting in January 2023.

Please congratulate our faculty who have been named as Top Doctors by Atlanta Magazine for 2022:



H. Michael Baddour, MD
Head and Neck



Amy Chen, MD
Head and Neck



Jeanne Hatcher, MD
Emory Voice Center



Adam M. Klein, MD
Emory Voice Center



Douglas Mattox, MD
Chief of Otolaryngology
Emory University



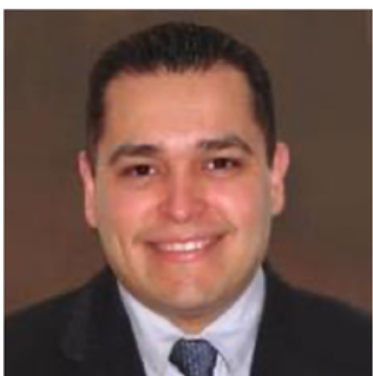
Charles E. Moore, MD
Chief of Otolaryngology
Grady Memorial Hospital



Mihir R. Patel, MD
Head and Neck



Anita Sethna, MD
Facial Plastics



C. Arturo Solares, MD
Rhinology



Sarah K. Wise, MD
Rhinology

Research updates:

Dr. Nikki Schmitt is the co-lead for a national clinical trial proposal that will investigate the use of statins as a preventative mechanism from hearing loss after cisplatin chemotherapy for head and neck carcinoma. She currently has a first in-human trial open at Winship Cancer Institute that combines radiation therapy with a novel drug (known as IAP antagonist-tolinapant) designed to enhance radiation efficacy with reduced toxicity. In addition, Dr. Schmitt also continues to investigate how immunology can impact treatment in head and neck cancer.

Dr. Jason Yu has been awarded a Georgia CTSA KL2 Career Development Award. Dr. Yu will be studying the effects of lung volume on the upper airway during drug induced sleep endoscopy.

Dr. Nikhila Raol is investigating the Inspire Implant for obstructive sleep apnea in Down Syndrome. This device study treats Down Syndrome children with persistent OSA. The study aims seek FDA approval for use in pediatric population.

Dr. Anthony Law continues to investigate how machine learning can be used to detect laryngeal cancer at its earliest stages. Dr. Law's research aims to improve survival and functional outcomes for this patient population. Dr. Law has been previously awarded an Emory School of Medicine I3 (Imagine, Innovate, and Impact) Award for his work.

Promotions and Awards:

Esther Vivas, MD has been promoted to Professor of Otolaryngology

Charles Moore, MD has been awarded the Eminent Physical Designation from Emory School of Medicine.

Sarah Wise, MD has been inducted as the President of the American Rhinologic Society. She is the first woman to serve as President!

Diana Becker, CCC-SLP has been awarded the Distinguished Early Career Professional Certificate of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. This award is for individuals who have demonstrated a significant impact in their profession and community.

Aisha Harun, MD has been promoted to the Emory Decatur clinical site director.



New Emory Clinics

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.

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.

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.



Follow us on
Instagram!

Keep up with all things new
within our department

@emory_ent





Dr. Still Kountakis, MD, Ph.D.



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
**MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA**

Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

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

Dear Fellow Georgia Otolaryngologists,

I hope you are doing well and spent quality time with family and friends during the holidays. We, at MCG-AU Otolaryngology, worked hard the first 6 months of the academic year to expand our services and improve the quality of care we deliver. Our wRVUs are up 13.4% and all are working on all cylinders, while our clinic continues to rank as one of the best in the institution in patient services.

We recruited three new faculty members in the subspecialties of Otology-Neurotology, Laryngology and Head & Neck/Microvascular surgery, and our hope is to continue to grow. This is especially true as our institution is preparing to build a hospital in our neighboring Columbia County, the only county in the State of Georgia without a hospital, which was ranked the Best Place to Live in America by Money Magazine in 2020 (Evans, GA).

We are creating new educational opportunities for our medical students, residents, and fellows. This is reflected in the quality of our training and the quality of otolaryngologists who graduate from our programs. I personally witnessed that during our annual dinner of MCG Rhinology-Skull Base Surgery Fellowship alumni that took place in Philadelphia, PA during the annual AAO-HNS meeting, where I spent quality time with our rhinology fellowship alumni. On the following day, at a different restaurant, I ran into Dr. David Jang (Rhinology Director, Duke University), one of our rhinology fellowship alumni (2013), who was having dinner with his own rhinology fellowship alumni. At first I felt old, especially when Dr. Jang's fellows called me "grandfather" - imagine someone 32 years old or older calling you grandfather- but then fulfilled when I became aware of the quality and the number of rhinologists trained by one of our best rhinology fellowship alumnus. Events like this revalidate our commitment to education and training, and we will continue to strive to improve. We need to continue to improve our clinical care environment and we would like to thank our partners and referring physicians everywhere in Georgia, who assist and supports us. They deserve and should share the credit.

I wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair

Honors and Awards



Dr. Gregory Postma was a visiting professor and invited keynote speaker at the 6th Congress of the European Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Society on October 31, 2022 in Milan Italy, where he presented “Stop Using Large ETTs! A Plea for Sanity in Airway Management” along with “Optimal Treatment of Zenker’s Diverticulum and CP Muscle Dysfunction,” and “TNE in Neuromuscular Diseases.” Dr. Postma was also invited to the International Medical Student Conference in Novi Sad, Serbia where he gave three lectures on “Introduction to ENT,” “Airway Management,” and “Management of Dysphagia” in November 2022.

Dr. Stil Kountakis received the Hellenic Rhinologic Society’s “Honoris Causa” award in recognition of his distinguished career and outstanding contributions to Rhinology in Athens, November 18, 2022. He was the Guest of Honor at the 20th Panhellenic Congress of Rhinology and Facial Plastic Surgery, November 18-20, 2022, Athens, Greece.



Dr. Heather Koehn received the MCG Exemplary Teaching Award to recognize faculty and residents who have made a significant contribution in undergraduate and graduate medical education at MCG in the past year.

Dr. Heather Koehn and our pediatric otolaryngology division were featured in two news segments about the importance of vocal health and her work with cleft palate for Children’s Hospital of Georgia. View the news clips here:

<https://www.wjbf.com/featured/jennie/jennie-mcg-experts-say-vocal-health-is-important-for-children-and-adults/>

<https://www.wrdw.com/2022/05/02/6-year-old-overcomes-adversity-childrens-hospital-georgia/>

Dr. David Terris received the Lester Brown Award from GSO-HNS for more than 20 years of outstanding contributions to the field of Otolaryngology-HNS in Georgia.



Dr. Diana Bigler received the MCG Exemplary Teaching Award to recognize faculty and residents who have made a significant contribution in undergraduate and graduate medical education at MCG in the past year.

Brian Shirley, DNP, CPNP successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on November 18, 2022, earning his Doctorate in Nursing Practice.



The Department Welcomes Three New Faculty Members



Christopher M. Johnson, MD earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS and his medical degree at Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA. He completed his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA followed by a fellowship in Laryngology at the Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery at Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, GA.



Sarah E. Hodge, MD attended University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Professional Studies and Spanish. Dr. Hodge went on to earn her medical degree from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, during which she served as Fundraiser Commissioner for the Loyola Division of Chicago's Community Health Clinic. She completed her residency training at the University of North Carolina. After residency, Dr. Hodge went on to complete her fellowship training in Neurotology at the House Ear Clinic.



Daniel D. Sharbel, MD attended University of Georgia, Athens, GA where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology and went on to earn his medical degree at University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine, Memphis, TN. Dr. Sharbel completed his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, GA followed by a fellowship in Head and Neck, Microvascular Reconstruction and Cranial Base Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Residency Program Update

J. Drew Prosser, MD - Residency Program Director

Our new group of residents have jumped right in and are already making an impact both on patient care and research/quality improvement projects. Our program has been well represented at regional and national meetings this year. Residents have given podium and poster presentations at the American Rhinologic Society, American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, and the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology meetings. They have set a high bar for the group that follows.



George Davies (PGY3) and Lindsey Megow (PGY5) presenting a poster along with Dr. Heather Koehn at the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology in Vail, CO.

Speaking of resident selection, we are excited to be returning to in-person interviews this year after doing 2 years of virtual only interviews! After multiple long discussions, and review of the literature surrounding virtual vs in-person interviews, we feel that the in-person interview offers the applicants the best opportunity to learn everything they can about the program where they will train and make an informed decision. Further in-person interviews also give the faculty the opportunity to get to know the applicants in a more natural setting, and demonstrate important aspects of the training environment such as faculty-resident interaction, general department/institutional culture etc. The data is clear that because of virtual interviews, both applicants and programs ranked and matched home students or those who had rotated in-person at higher rates. This adversely disadvantaged those applicants from large medical school classes with multiple applicants or those students without a home Otolaryngology program. Virtual interviews were not all negative, as they did offer a cost savings to the applicants. As we return to in-person interviews, this should not be overlooked and our program is actively looking at methods to decrease the travel costs to applicants (including residents hosting candidates at their homes, exploring travel grants, etc.) associated with in-person interviews. These are challenges that I believe can be overcome to offer the best opportunities for all applicants. We are looking forward to an exciting interview season.

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

We attended another successful annual meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS in Philadelphia, PA in September and enjoyed meeting our national-international colleagues, but one of the highlights was the annual dinner of MCG Rhinology-Skull Base Surgery Fellowship alumni. This is now a great tradition that gives us the opportunity to reminisce and for some of us, revalidate our careers in academic medicine. This year the event took place at the private room of the McCormick & Schmick's Seafood-Philadelphia restaurant, where we were able to enjoy comradery and friendship, have great food and taste exquisite wine. We relaxed and remembered every funny story from years past, especially about those who were not able to attend the dinner!



Available Faculty Positions

We are recruiting a fellowship-trained Head and Neck Microvascular Surgeon, a fellowship-trained Pediatric Otolaryngologist, and a fellowship-trained Rhinology and Sleep Surgeon. All positions are 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 20-22, 2023

Southern States Rhinology Symposium

Kiawah Island, South Carolina

www.southernstatesrhinology.org

June 9-10, 2023

Annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event

Augusta, Georgia

www.aofedtn.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

Clinical Spotlight

Mandibular Distraction Osteogenesis in Neonate with Pierre Robin Sequence (PRS)

Heather Koehn, MD, MMHC

The patient presented as a 2-month-old African American female with micrognathia transferred from outside hospital (OSH) for failure to thrive (FTT) and inability to wean oxygen therapy. She was born full term at OSH and struggled in the neonatal period to take PO so g-tube was placed. Additionally, she was managed with positive pressure ventilation, nasal trumpet, and oxygen therapy. She was discharged home at approximately 4 weeks of age and re-presented to an OSH with FTT and respiratory distress. Initially her FTT was thought to be due to socioeconomic factors.

As her evaluation continued a community otolaryngologist was consulted and identified her retrognathia as a source of her symptoms and recommended transfer to the Children's Hospital of Georgia for mandibular distraction osteogenesis (MDO). On arrival, we were met with a very involved and knowledge mother at bedside. She explained in remarkably plain language a complex medical situation: "[She] can't gain weight because she can't breathe."



Figure 1: Before surgery (left) and after surgery (right)

The patient indeed displayed the hallmark retrognathia, glossoptosis and airway obstruction of PRS and continued to require oxygen support and prone positioning with increase WOB and observed apneas. After reviewing a CT of her facial bones, we confirmed that she was a good candidate for MDO. The presurgical process also involved 3D planning with 3DSystems and Stryker to plan osteotomy sites, appropriate hardware selection and placement. With this technology we were able to obtain 3D printed cutting guide for use during surgery and mandibular models depicting the anticipated 17mm of distraction.

Post-operatively, she was admitted to the ICU and remained intubated as planned for 3 days while the initial activation phase began, once there had been a few millimeters of distraction, she was extubated to nasal trumpet and weaned over the course of the next few days as the distraction continued. A total of 12 days of distraction prior to post auricular post removal. The bone was then allowed to consolidate over 10 weeks before hardware removal. She was discharged just 2 weeks after her initial surgery taking all of her nutrition by mouth, on room air without respiratory support and with a very happy mama!

Clinical Spotlight

Mandibular Distraction Osteogenesis in Neonate with Pierre Robin Sequence (PRS)

Heather Koehn, MD, MMHC

Discussion:

Patients with Pierre Robin Sequence (PRS) have a triad of micro/retrognathia, glossoptosis, and airway obstruction w/wo cleft palate. Some diagnoses can be made in the prenatal period. For infants who have difficulty taking PO, and requiring respiratory support, interventions are necessary. Historically tracheostomy would be performed for airway management and is still required for the most extreme cases. Tongue-lip adhesions have also been used historically however these patients tend to have a higher rate of need for enteral feeding. The use of mandibular distraction osteogenesis (MDO) in many of these patients can reduce the need for nasogastric/gastric tubes and tracheostomy (1). MDO is performed with planned osteotomies application of distraction hardware, an initially activation phase with slow distraction of the osteotomies allowing for new bone growth in the intervening space. This can occur at a rate of 1-1.5 millimeters per day (2).

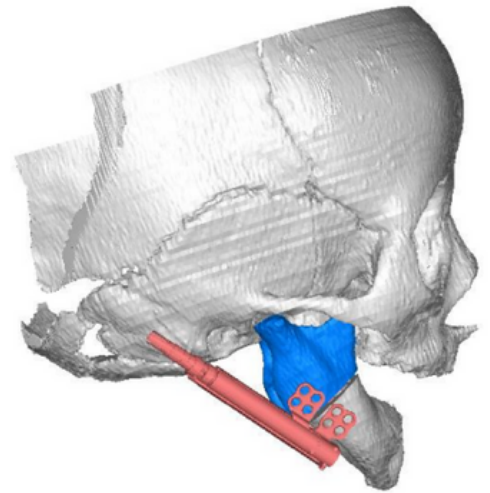


Figure 2: 3D model of mandibular distraction hardware and procedure. Images above courtesy of 3D Systems Mandibular Distraction Hardware by Stryker

Conclusion:

Mandibular Distraction Osteogenesis is a great option for some neonatal patients with PRS who are experiencing FTT, respiratory failure/distress and oral feeding intolerance to avoid tracheostomy and decrease need for enteral feeding.

References:

1. K El Ghoul, C E Calabrese, M J Koudstaal, C M Resnick. 2019. "A Comparison of Airway Interventions and Gastrostomy Tube Placement in Infants with Robin Sequence" Int, J. Oral Maxillofac. Surg. 10. 013.
2. J D Sidman, D Sampson, B Templeton. 2009. "Distraction Osteogenesis of the Mandible for Airway Obstruction in Children" The Laryngoscope. Vol. 111, Issue 7 p. 1137-1146

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](https://www.mcgotolaryngology.com). We would love to hear from alumni. If you have interesting pictures or stories, please send them to Greg Postma at gpostma@augusta.edu. Click the icons below to go to the Instagram/Facebook page & follow!



Board of Governor's Update

The Board of Governors is here to serve the local needs of the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology members. The BOG is established as a grass roots means of communication to assist with any socioeconomic, legislative, ethical, scope of practice, or other challenges to your practice success. With collective collaboration, we can make a difference and improve the environment in which we work to take care of patients.

Your current representatives are as follows:

BOG Governor - Elizabeth Shaw, MD

Email: eshaw@perimeter-ent.com

Cell number: [404-831-0256](tel:404-831-0256)

BOG SocioEconomic Rep - Brian Boyce, MD

BOG Legislative Rep - Harry Baddour, MD

BOG Director at Large Private Practice - Peter Abramson, MD

Connect to the BOG through the Academy's website and BLOG for up to date information on action items currently in progress with our legislative efforts at www.entnet.org/get-involved/board-of-governors/.... There are also toolkits online with coding tools, template appeal letters, advocacy and position statements to assist with reimbursement needs at www.entnet.org/business-of-medicine/...

Reach out to me at the address above for any assistance. Looking forward to a great 2023!

Elizabeth Shaw

Thank you to everyone who attended the
GSO/HNS Annual Fall Meeting at
The Ritz-Carlton, Reynolds!





Save The Date!

GSO  **HNS**
The Georgia Society of
Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery

2023
**Annual Summer
Meeting**

JULY 13 - 15, 2023

**THE RITZ-CARLTON
AMELIA ISLAND, FL**




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



HAVE YOU RENEWED
FOR 2023?

*No need to wait... give yourself the gift of
membership renewal for 2023!*



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

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



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