• At the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings (COSM) in April, Andrew Robichaux, M.D. (PGY-4) gave poster presentations. Dr. Robichaux's was titled, "Disposable Bronchoscope Versus Conventional Bronchoscope for Assisted Percutaneous Dilatational Tracheostomy in a Medical ICU: A Cost Comparison Study". Dr. House's was titled, "Tinnitus Prevalence, Characteristics and Relationship with Cardiometabolic Risk in an African American Cohort". Dr. Sorrel's was titled, "Relationship of Stroke Risk and Hearing Loss in African Americans". Dr. Scott Stringer, Professor and Chairman, participated in a panel discussion on "Leadership Lessons Learned".

• The National Resident Matching Program notified our department that we matched three outstanding students, Hudson Fery, Brian McManus and Cindy Moore. Hudson is a senior medical student at UMMC; Brian is a senior at LSU-New Orleans; and Cindy is completing a preliminary year in general surgery at UMMC. The Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences is excited to have these join us. We look forward to working with them.

Our Graduating Seniors

Dr. Patrick L. Bockenstedt
Dr. Bockenstedt received his Doctor of Medicine degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio. He began his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center on July 1, 2012. Patrick and his wife Jessica will move to Columbus, Ohio where he will begin private practice.

Dr. Jessica L. Lange
Dr. Lange received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Kentucky. She began her residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center on July 1, 2012. Jessica, her husband Scott, and children Graham and Lucy will move to Lexington, Kentucky where she will begin private practice.

Dr. Allison G. Ordemann
Dr. Ordemann received her Doctor of Medicine degree from Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She began her residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center on July 1, 2012. Allison and her fiancé Marc will move to Dallas, Texas where she will complete a one year fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at the University of Texas Southwestern.

Research faculty member, Wu Zhou, Ph.D., celebrated two milestones this fall. He reached 25 years of service at UMMC and received the prestigious Platinum Medallion Award for reaching $5,000,000 in extramural award monies at UMMC. Over his impressive career, Dr. Zhou’s research has advanced understanding in the field resulting 48 papers and 105 presentations. His labs have given countless residents and other learners important exposure to standard research protocols and reporting in the areas of balance and eye movement control. He has received grant awards from the NIH, NASA and the American Hearing Research Foundation allowing the department to rank among the top otolaryngology departments for federal funding over the last decade.

As a high school student in China in the 1980s, Dr. Zhou was fascinated by science and math. In 1984, a famous American scientist visited Zhou’s hometown as a part of one of the first U.S.-Chinese exchange programs after China began opening itself up to the outside world. Zhou recalls, “He spoke about the potentials of neuroscience, genetics and artificial intelligence. 35 years later, these are still the hottest areas of research. As a high school senior, I was fascinated by the pictures he painted of the ‘future’. I decided to study biology with a focus on neuroscience.”

Zhou was accepted to a neuroscience Ph.D. program at the University of Rochester following his biology degree from the University of Science and Technology of China. At Rochester, he began working on eye movement control in animals with his mentor, Dr. Mike King, who eventually brought him to UMMC in 1993. He joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery, Division of Otolaryngology, in 1999.

During his tenure at UMMC, Zhou and wife, Hong Zhou, M.D., Ph.D., completed various funded studies on sound activation of the vestibular systems in rodents. Their results improved the clinical VEMP test and led to prestigious collaborations with researchers across UMMC and the country, including at Harvard. The translational implications of studying genetic- and trauma-induced vestibular disorders may lead to improved recognition of the specific and sensitive biomarkers of vestibular disorders important for understanding disease progression and treatment efficacy.

When asked about the importance of research training in otolaryngology residency, Zhou noted the rapid advancements in otolaryngology requiring physicians to grasp new approaches more quickly. Since new information is presented in the format of research reports and acquired using standard research protocols, physicians with research experiences will have an advantage in understanding the results and incorporating them into their own practices. As Zhou and his team make important discoveries, he also gives credit to future otolaryngologists valuable skills to provide their patients with excellent care.

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To consult with a physician or to schedule a patient appointment, call 601-984-5160. Visit our department website at www.umcent.com for the latest news, physician listings, and email links.
Department News and Highlights

- Our annual Simulation Bootcamp took place August 18th. Instructors included Drs. Eric Bridges, Claude Harbarger, Lana Jackson, Gina Jefferson, J. Randall Jordan, Christopher Lee and Scott Stringer. Residents Lauren Buck and Erin Smith assisted in this morning-long bootcamp that introduced our PGY1 and PGY2 residents to common ORL procedural consultations and instrumentation.

- Our department participated in the Jonestown Health Fair on Saturday, September 8th. This event featured oral, head and neck cancer screening, hearing screening, eye exams, and blood sugar testing to those who otherwise wouldn’t have access.

- Audiology faculty and externs participated in the Annual Mississippi Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference on October 17th. This conference provided education and networking opportunities for families of children with hearing loss, health care professionals and early interventionists.

- UMMC’s Excellence in Research Awards ceremony was held October 25, 2018. This annual ceremony recognizes faculty members for their achievements in gaining outside funding. Congratulations to Dr. Wu Zhou, recipient of a platinum level award, and Dr. Bradley Walters, recipient of a bronze level award.

- Medical student Drew Morgan has been awarded a funding for the Full Option Medical Student Research Program (MSRP) in Dr. Christopher Spankovich’s lab. The requirements for acceptance into the Full Option MSRP are not easy to achieve. We commend Drew and Dr. Spankovich for this award.

- We were honored to welcome Dr. James C. Denneny III, Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and its Foundation in early December. Dr. Denneny presented “How Can Otolaryngology and Quality Help Shape Successor Payment Models?” followed by “Developing a Culture of Research and Quality in Residency: How the AAO-HNS Can Help.”


ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Patrick Hass grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. He completed his undergraduate studies at Harvard University and spent a year at Oxford University studying Sports Science before starting medical school at the University of Cincinnati. Patrick finished his Otolaryngology residency at UMMC in 2015.

After residency, Patrick joined a private practice ENT group in Northern Kentucky, a suburb of Cincinnati. In the last 3 years, the medical group has expanded to become a multi-specialty practice with Otolaryngologists and Medical Allergists. Dr. Hass enjoys practicing general otolaryngology with a special interest in Allergy, Rhinology, Pediatrics, Skin cancers, and Endocrine surgery.

Patrick enjoys spending time with his wife, Emily, who works as a pediatrician at a Federally Qualified Health Center in inner city Cincinnati. He also enjoys rowing and running and was lucky enough to complete his first marathon this past May. Patrick and Emily have 3 children, Henry (2), Mary Emily (3), and Oliver (8), who is in the second grade, enjoys reading, and misses the warm weather in Mississippi. Dr. Hass notes that he still relies on former co-residents Matt Richardson and Jim Spencer for sage advice in tough clinical scenarios.
A 9-year-old girl with progressive hearing loss was evaluated for cochlear implant candidacy. She had been a longtime hearing aid user but complained about not being able to understand speech as well. Unaided audiogram showed a sloping, moderate to profound sensory hearing loss (Figure 1).

She underwent left-sided cochlear implant at UMMC using hearing conservation approach, in which steroids and surgical lubricant are used in special techniques to preserve inner ear anatomy. Postoperative hearing thresholds were within 0-20 decibels of preoperative levels and she was fit with a Med-El EAS processor, which combines both electrical and acoustic hearing in one hybrid processor. She immediately noted dramatic improvement in speech discrimination after initial programming. At the request of her and her mother, the right ear was implanted five months later with similar results. Sentence recognition scores on the left ear went from 40% to 96% after surgery with similar results on the right, along with dramatically improved hearing in noise.

Electrical-acoustic stimulation (EAS) has been a target of research in otology, and currently the Cochlear Nucleus Hybrid and the Med-El EAS are FDA approved in patients over 18 years old. However, while the Nucleus Hybrid uses a shorter array with fewer electrodes, the Med-El system uses the same implants that are approved at 12 months of age and a different external device; therefore, if the EAS processor is not tolerated, a standard electrical processor can be used.

Hearing conservation surgery in cochlear implantation gives options to the patient with regard to electrical hearing, acoustic hearing, or both.

Ongoing research continues to demonstrate better hearing outcomes and patient satisfaction by using both modalities. This procedure has been repeated successfully in 5 patients at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Figure 1. Preoperative pure tone audiogram (UPTA) compared with postoperative graph (CPUPTA).
ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

• Faculty and residents attended the annual MSO meeting June 29-July 1, 2018. This year’s event was held in Orange Beach, AL. Resident presentations included “Delayed Cochlear Implant Complications,” by Laura House, MD (PGY-5), “Frailty in Head and Neck Cancer Patients,” by Kristen Pitts, MD (PGY-5), and “The Role of Intravenous Acetaminophen in Post-Operative Pain Control in Head and Neck Cancer Patients,” by Erin Smith, MD (PGY-5). Faculty presentations included “Endoscopic Ear Surgery,” by Jeff Carron, MD, “Pedicled Lateralis Musculocutaneous Flap for Head and Neck Reconstruction,” by Gina Jefferson, MD, and “Topical Therapies for Recalcitrant Chronic Rhinosinusitis.” by Scott Stringer, MD.

• Our department was well represented at the AAO-HNS/F Annual Meeting and Oto Experience held in Atlanta, Georgia in early October. “Juvenile Pneumomatomus Ostiary fibroma of the Maxilla: Case Report” poster was authored by faculty member Gina Jefferson, MD, resident Kristen Pitts, MD (PGY-5), and medical student, Kelsey Bounds. “Frailty Predicts Outcomes in Head and Neck Cancer Patients” was presented by resident Laura Buck, MD (PGY-4). Co-authors include residents Kristen Pitts, MD (PGY-5) and Alberto Artega, MD (PGY-1), with Lana Jackson, MD as the senior author. “Case Matched Comparison of the Ulnar Fasciocutaneous Free Flap to the Radial Fasciocutaneous Free Flap for Reconstruction of Head and Neck Defects” poster was presented by resident Erin Smith, MD (PGY-5). Co-authors include Issam Eid, MD and Lana Jackson, MD. In addition, department chair, Scott Stringer, MD participated in 3 panels including “Advanced Practice Provider in ENT: Justify, Recruit, and On-Board for Success: Parts I and II” and “Novel Medical and Surgical Interventions for Recalcitrant Sinusitis”.

• Dr. Christopher Spankovich presented on “Epidemiology of Hidden Hearing Loss” at the 34th World Congress of Audiology October 28-31st in Cape Town, South Africa.

• Congratulations on the successful fellowship matches for Drs. Laura House and Erin Smith. Dr. House will be completing an Otology/Neurosurgery fellowship at University of Miami in Miami, FL. Dr. Smith will be completing a Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship with Dr. Paul Nassif of Nassif MD Plastic Surgery in Beverly Hills, CA.

• In addition to the successful fellowship matches, the following presentations included “Delayed Cochlear Implant Complications,” by Laura House, MD (PGY-5), “Frailty in Head and Neck Cancer Patients,” by Kristen Pitts, MD (PGY-5), and “The Role of Intravenous Acetaminophen in Post-Operative Pain Control in Head and Neck Cancer Patients,” by Erin Smith, MD (PGY-5). Faculty presentations included “Endoscopic Ear Surgery,” by Jeff Carron, MD, “Pedicled Lateralis Musculocutaneous Flap for Head and Neck Reconstruction,” by Gina Jefferson, MD, and “Topical Therapies for Recalcitrant Chronic Rhinosinusitis.” by Scott Stringer, MD.

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EMR Access: Added Options for Referring Providers

Rapid technological innovation has changed the practice of medicine in recent years most notably in the area of electronic health records. UMMC undertook a big-bang implementation of the Epic health record with all clinic and hospital sites going live in June 2012. Like you, we could trade war stories about the challenges of EMR deployment. As our practice matures on Epic, we have moved into an optimization mindset where we seek to improve the usability of the system and reduce the effort required to complete routine tasks.

We strive to make communicating with us as effortless as possible for you and your staff.

Through optimization, we learned about options to give you better access to securely refer patients to our practice and receive timely correspondence on the care of referred patients. We strive to make communicating with us as effortless as possible for you and your staff. Both Epic and non-Epic users may take advantage of streamlined referrals and receive secure, customizable notifications about the care of your referred patients. Available information includes: lab, imaging and test results; scheduled outpatient visits; inpatient admissions or discharges; consultation notes; and any orders placed by UMMC providers.

For those currently using the Epic health record, you or designated staff can use the external referral option from within the patient encounter to send a referral to us. If you wish to refer to a specific provider, you may enter that provider’s name in the “To provider” field. Alternatively, you may enter University ENT Clinic in the “To location” field if you do not wish to refer to a specific provider.

Once the referral order is received and our care begins, you will receive our notes and other pertinent notifications about the patient in your InBasket. Additionally, patient demographic information, medications, allergies, histories, procedures, results and many other portions of the record update automatically, so you can stay current on your patients by checking the Care Everywhere activity tab or Care Everywhere section on the Rooming tab.

For those currently using EMR systems other than Epic, you or your staff will use the uView portal which provides secure, real-time web access to refer or view progress of patients you referred to UMMC. uView is available at no cost. You will register as a new site if you have not used uView. An office or nurse manager can complete this for your practice and serve as the site administrator. The site administrator gives clinical and non-clinical staff access to refer patients on your behalf, updates practice location(s) information and configures preferences on behalf of your practice.

Visit www.umchealth.com/uView to request a new account. When our IT department receives your request, our team will follow up with your office to schedule a training session. Our app for Android and iPhone will still be available as well as a phone and fax referrals should you prefer these. We look forward to continuing to support your practices and patients.

Please contact Abby Covington, Department Business Administrator, at acovington@umc.edu or 601-914-4096 with any referral or access related inquiries.