



OBSERVER

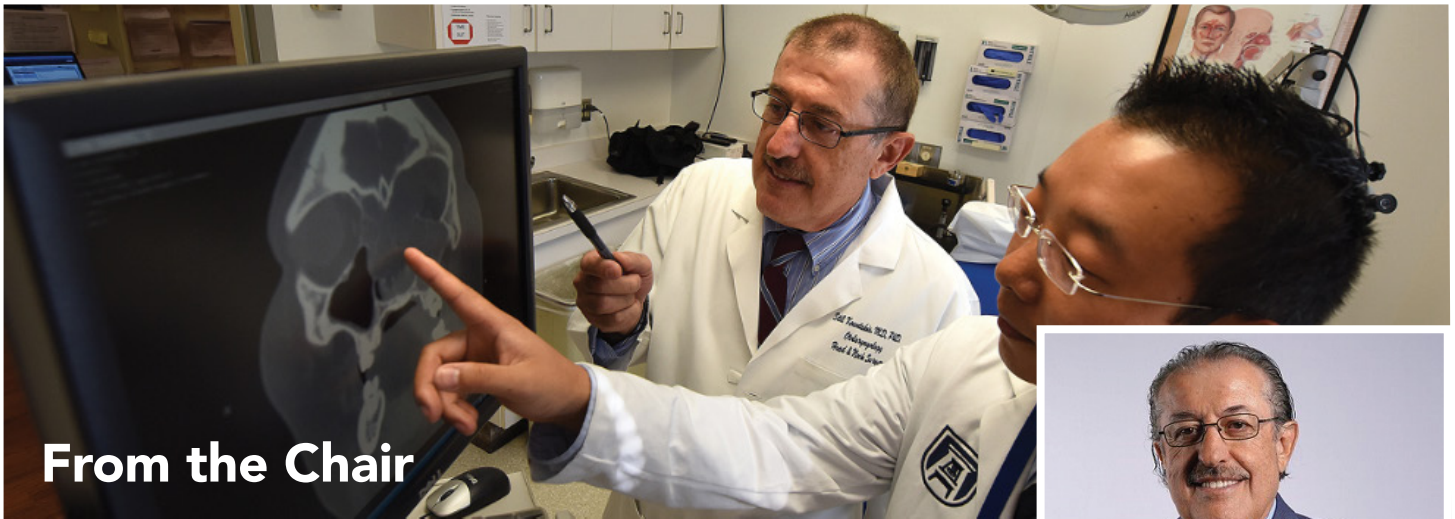


AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA



Summer 2024

Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery



From the Chair

Dear Readers,

As we began the new academic year, we find ourselves in an ever-changing environment that can feel as unpredictable as quicksand. With the arrival of new interns and fellows, our programs are invigorated with fresh energy and enthusiasm.

Adding to this excitement, we are transitioning to a new electronic medical record system, moving from Cerner to Epic. Training sessions are being organized, and we are gearing up to create new templates and order sets. While those of us who are tech-savvy might find this change relatively smooth, others may face a steeper learning curve. However, change is a powerful driver of improvement, giving us the opportunity to enhance patient care and enrich the educational experiences of our learners.

The recent Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event was a poignant reminder of our community's resilience and dedication. We celebrated the achievements of those completing their training and welcomed the new academic year with optimism, inspired by the hope and enthusiasm in the faces of our new learners. Drs. David Kennedy and Elina Toskala were the Guests of Honor, and with their aura of extensive experience and mentorship, added to the enlightening event.

We remain hopeful, steadfast, and excited for what lies ahead. Together, we are MCG Otolaryngology.

Stay healthy and enjoy the beautiful colors of Fall!

Sincerely,

Stil Kountakis



Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

*Edward S. Porubsky, MD
Distinguished Chair in
Otolaryngology*

*Professor and Chair,
Department of
Otolaryngology-Head and
Neck Surgery*

*Medical College of Georgia
Augusta University*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FACULTY



J. Kenneth Byrd, MD

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



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.



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.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

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



Accreditation Council for
Graduate Medical Education

RESIDENTS & FELLOWS



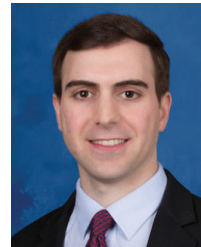
Brittany Beisel, MD

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



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



Rebecca Paquin, MD

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

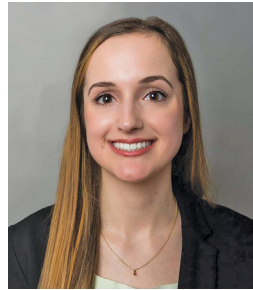
Congratulations!

HAIL

Welcome New Residents, Fellows & Faculty

New Residents

We are pleased to share the results of this year's very successful match. Dr. Lillian Day joined us from the Medical College of Georgia, and Dr. Hannah Long joined us from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. These Bright individuals are tremendous additions to our residency program.



Lillian Day, MD



Hannah Long, MD

New Fellows

In addition to new residents, three surgeons began their fellowship training with us in July 2024. Dr. Joel Biester joined us from the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System as the 17 th Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery fellow, and Dr. Nizar Tejani joined us from Louisiana State University – Shreveport as the 18 th Laryngology fellow. Our very own Dr. Diana Bigler joined us as the 21st Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery fellow after completing her Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residency with us.



Joel Biester, MD



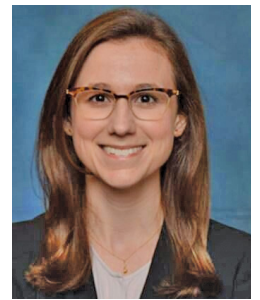
Diana Bigler, MD



Nizar Tejani, MD

New Faculty

Dr. Sallie Long joined the Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Head and Neck Surgery. Originally from Augusta, Georgia, Dr. Long is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where she graduated with honors with a degree in Dietetics. After college, she worked as a registered dietitian and underwent post-baccalaureate premedical study. She then attended Georgetown University School of Medicine, where she was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha and graduated magna cum laude. She completed residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia and Cornell in New York City followed by fellowship in head and neck surgery and microvascular reconstruction at the University of Miami. Her primary research interests focus on patient-reported outcomes.



Sally Long, MD

FAREWELL

Farewell Graduating Residents & Fellows

Congratulations to our recently graduated Residents and Fellows. They're well-prepared for excellent careers in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, thanks to their time at MCG. Their hard work and dedication deserve recognition and will certainly benefit the patients they will care for.



Rebecca Paquin, MD, DMD

Chief Residents

Dr. Paquin joined the University of Colorado Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery as a fellow in Pediatric Otolaryngology.

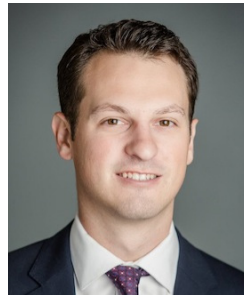
Dr. Bigler remained with the Medical College of Georgia's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery as fellow in Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery for the 2024-2025 academic year. She will then join our faculty upon her graduation from fellowship.



Diana Bigler, MD



Evan Compton, MD



Joshua Ziehm, DO

Fellows

Dr. Compton returned to the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada as faculty in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Ziehm joined the prestigious Clayman Thyroid Center in Tampa, FL.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



22nd ANNUAL PORUBSKY SYMPOSIUM AND ALUMNI EVENT

We held the 22nd Annual Porubsky Research Symposium and Alumni Event on June 7-8, 2024. Our residents gave exceptional presentations on a variety of research projects which they have completed. Two of our alumni, Dr. Rebecca Howell (Laryngology fellow alumna) and Dr. Jason Champagne (resident alumnus), also joined us as guest lecturers. It was inspiring to see the progress in their careers and to hear the knowledge they shared. This year's symposium distinguished guest lectureship was particularly special: Drs. David Kennedy and Elina Toskala together served as our distinguished guest lecturers. Drs. Kennedy and Toskala are both internationally recognized leaders in Otolaryngology. Their presence and lectures made this event truly special, and it was a privilege to host them.



CARE TEAM RECOGNITION

Sleep Surgery



Michael Groves, MD



Amy Blanchard, MD

Dr. Michael Groves with MCG's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery has received recognition by the Inspire Institute's Excellence Program as a Physician of Excellence. Together, he and Dr. Amy Blanchard with the Department of Medicine's division of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine have also received recognition as a Care Team of Excellence. They are one of only fourteen teams nationwide to receive such recognition for their collaborative work in Sleep medicine. Congratulations Drs. Groves and Blanchard!

Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month

In honor of Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month in April, we hosted a head and neck cancer screening event on the 19th. Patients were screened for head and neck cancer at no charge.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

■ Sharbel D, Lin C, Topf MC, Mannion K. *The internal mammary artery perforator flap in pharyngoesophageal, cervical tracheal, and cutaneous neck reconstruction.* *Head Neck.* 2024 Jul;46(7):1835-1840. PMID: 38711230

■ Barrera S, Agarwal A, Cabrera-Muffly C, Groves M, Cottrill E, Allen A, Koehn H, Megow L, Cognetti 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 Investig 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.

CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT: Large Fetal Neck Mass

J. Drew Prosser, MD, Associate Professor and Chief, Pediatric Otolaryngology, Wellstar/MCG

We were referred a 20-year-old pregnant female with concern for a fetal neck mass on ultrasound. EGA was 28 weeks. Fetal MRI was obtained and revealed a suspected venolymphatic malformation vs teratoma of the anterior neck with concern for airway obstruction. The patient was transferred from an outside hospital at 34 weeks after going into preterm labor. EXIT procedure was performed with successful intubation while on maternal-fetal blood supply. MRI was performed revealing a large lobulated,

heterogeneously enhancing complex solid cystic mass involving the soft tissues of the anterior neck and superior mediastinum, measuring approximately 12 x 6.7 x 7.7 cm. Multifocal areas of T1 hyperintensity, concerning for blood products vs calcifications. Associated significant displacement of the visceral structures of the neck and bilateral common carotid arteries extending posterior/lateral to the large cystic/solid mass.

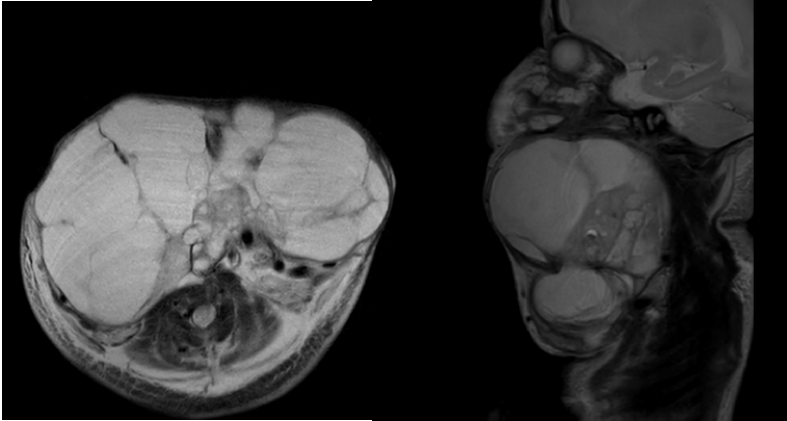


Figure 1: Axial and Sagittal views of the neck mass. The mass was resected on Day of Life 13 and tracheostomy was performed. Intraoperative photos below.

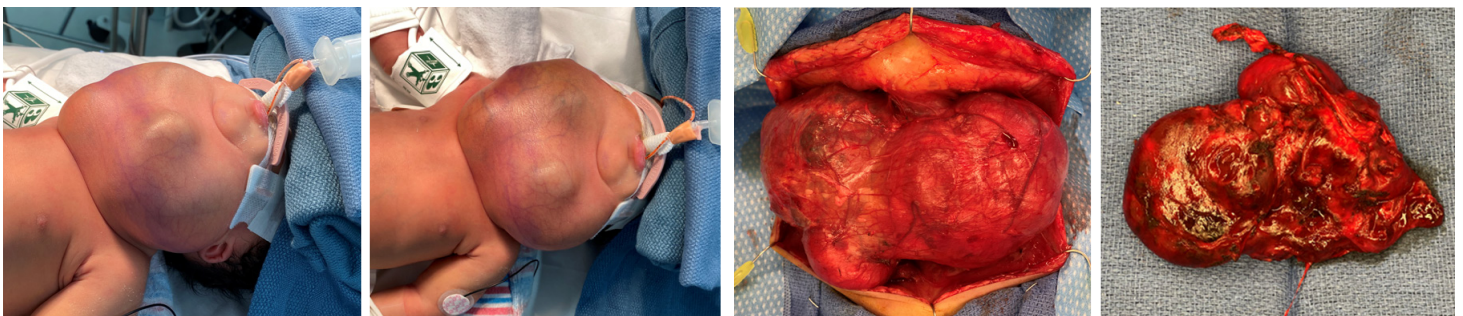


Figure 2: Intraoperative photos of the neck mass. Pathology revealed the mass to be a teratoma. The patient was discharged home after 6 weeks and has done well. Follow up at 6 months old shows suprastomal collapse likely from weakened tracheal cartilage at the site of the mass. She has no other deficits and is developing well. She is currently on the decannulation pathway.



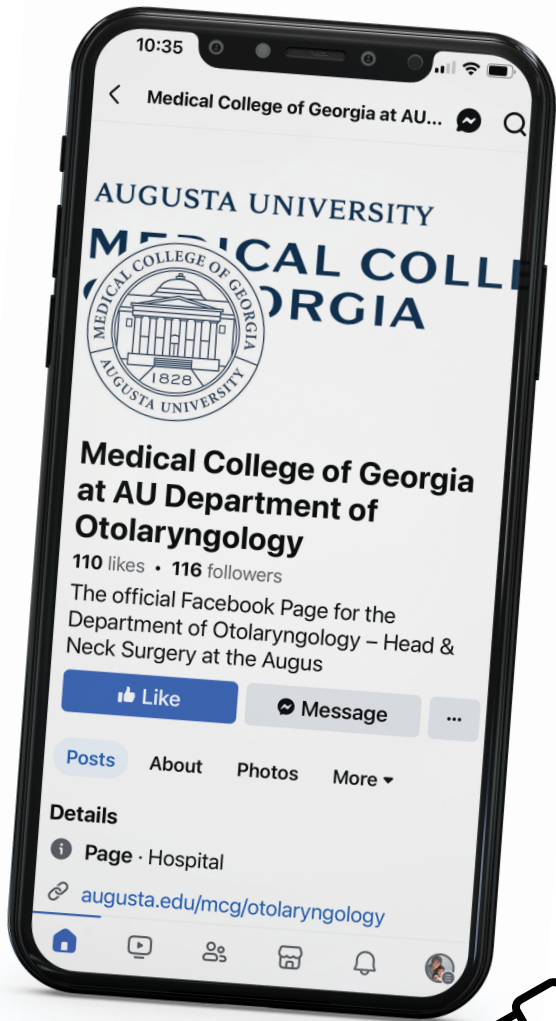
Figure 3: 6 month follow up after resection of the neck mass and tracheostomy.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@mcgotolaryngology

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. We would love to hear from alumni. If you have interesting pictures or stories, please send them to Rachel Elvis at relvis@augusta.edu.



JOB OPENINGS

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

FACULTY, FULL-TIME POSITIONS, RANK COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE

Comprehensive Otolaryngology: Two positions available at the Assistant or Associate Professor level, preferably with interest or fellowship training in Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.

Otologist/Neurotologist: Assistant or Associate Professor level with fellowship training in Otolaryngology/Neurotology

Rhinologist: Assistant or Associate Professor level with fellowship training in Rhinology, Sinus, and Skull Base Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
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Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery



AFFILIATED WITH MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA



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PEDIATRIC – 706-721-5500

ADULT HEAD & NECK CANCER – 706-721-6744

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