



A Biannual Publication of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

# The **OTO** **OBSERVER**

The Newsletter of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY  
**MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF GEORGIA**

Department of Otolaryngology

**Winter 2021**

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Winter 2021

OTO OBSERVER

# DEAR READERS,



I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and are upbeat about the New Year.

I have to admit, I was one of those who couldn't wait for 2020 to disappear into the past, but now looking back, I am proud of how our department, and the whole institution as a matter of fact, reacted during the consecutive waves of the pandemic. We, at the Medical College of Georgia-Augusta University are proud of our heritage, our code of ethics and responsibility to the residents of our great state and this has been gloriously exhibited throughout the months of the pandemic. We stepped up to assist in the efforts to control COVID-19 and became the testing center for the State of Georgia, while simultaneously providing great care to our patients and great training to our medical students, residents and fellows. We like to think that our attention to our tripartite mission and responsibility to our patients and learners, inspired our current chief residents to pursue further training and we are proud that all three matched into the fellowship of their choice. At a time of uncertainty and risk we focus and savor each victory and use each victory as a catalyst to keep performing at the highest level possible. After all, it is grinding, hard work and perseverance that has defined our great nation and has led it to victory during hard times.

As one of my mentors once told me: "you become stronger through struggle and overcoming adversity". As an immigrant who came to this great country at the age of 18 without speaking a word of English, I now understand very well what he meant.

The New Year is here and along with it has come hope in the form of the COVID-19 vaccine in overcoming this pandemic. Let's then take the opportunity to think and act with a mind full of hope and a heart full of love and understanding for others in need and persevere.

Wishing you a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD**

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

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