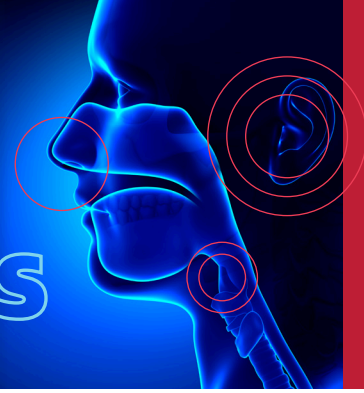




Department **ENT** News



Chair's Welcome

Celebrating the UArizona Department of Otolaryngology's decade of clinical service to the people of Arizona



Ten years ago, on a quiet summer day in Tucson, two new otolaryngologists and one new surgery intern could be found trying to figure their way around the University of Arizona Medical Center. Initially, the otolaryngology service was just two faculty physicians, Dr.

Alex Chiu and Dr. Stephen Goldstein, who were driven by a belief that there was a need and an opportunity to create a true academic otolaryngology program to serve the people of Southern Arizona. Helping Drs. Chiu and Goldstein on their first day at the University of Arizona Medical Center was Dr. Erynne Faucett, a new surgery intern who would 6 years later become the first otolaryngology residency graduate from the University of Arizona. Ten years ago, a new ENT clinic was opened on the 5th floor of the hospital, in the same location that had once previously housed an ENT clinic but that had not welcomed any ENT patients in more than 20 years.

Despite humble beginnings, the University of Arizona otolaryngology service thrived thanks to the strong support of many otolaryngologists from the Tucson community and other supporting physicians across the region who recognized the value of an academic otolaryngology program in Southern Arizona. After a busy first year, Dr. Chiu, a fellowship-trained rhinologist, and Dr. Goldstein, a fellowship-trained facial plastic surgeon, recruited additional faculty to provide subspecialty otolaryngology services in head and neck oncologic surgery and neurotology. A new 5-year otolaryngology residency program was accredited in 2013, and an advanced rhinology fellowship was added in 2015. In

2014, the Arizona Board of Regents approved transition of the Division of Otolaryngology within the Department of Surgery to become a new Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, which included at that time, 8 clinical faculty and 2 research faculty.

In 2015, the University of Arizona and Banner Health entered into a historic 30-year academic affiliation agreement, creating a partnership between the oldest medical school in the state and one of the largest non-profit hospital systems in the country. The benefits of this historic partnership for the state of Arizona are many, including an investment of more than \$1.2 billion dollars over the past 7 years for academic medicine in Arizona.

April 2019 marked the opening of the new Banner University Medical Center Tower. This \$400 million nine-story tower replaced many of the older sections of the original hospital that was built in 1974. A highlight of the new tower are 24 state-of-the-art operating rooms. The new hospital tower complemented the opening of the Banner University Medicine North Clinic, a 208,000 square foot ambulatory clinic which opened in 2018. This more spacious multi-specialty clinic includes our new ENT clinic. The old ENT clinic, which was located in the 1970s-era main hospital building, was transformed into modern, new administrative offices for the department.

UArizona Dept of Otolaryngology: the largest group of advanced subspecialty otolaryngology physicians in Arizona

Today, the University of Arizona Department of Otolaryngology at Banner University Medicine – Tucson features the largest otolaryngology practice in southern Arizona. Our department currently has 12 board-certified otolaryngologists, including 11 who have completed additional fellowship training beyond residency – we are the largest subspecialty otolaryngology practice in the state.

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DepartmentENT News is published twice yearly by the UArizona College of Medicine Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery.

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Design:
UArizona Health Sciences
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Our team of fellowship-trained otolaryngologists includes 3 head and neck cancer and reconstructive surgeons, 2 pediatric otolaryngologists, 2 rhinologists, 2 otologists, 1 laryngologist, and 1 facial plastic reconstructive surgeon.

As a department, we are focused on offering specialized otolaryngology services not available elsewhere in the region. Our goal is to be the destination location for taking care of the most complex ENT problems.

- **Head and Neck Surgery:** Dr. Steven Wang, Dr. Audrey Baker and Dr. Shethal Bearely draw patients from all over Arizona who seek their surgical expertise. A few of the unique services we offer include transoral robotic surgery (TORS) utilizing the da Vinci SP robot, the only surgical robot of its kind in Tucson, and complex reconstruction after head and neck cancer surgery performed by the most experienced head and neck reconstructive surgery team in Arizona. Our head and neck surgeons partner with other cancer specialists at the University of Arizona Cancer Center, the only NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center headquartered in the state, to offer multidisciplinary cancer care and access to a large portfolio of clinical trials offering novel therapeutics.
- **Laryngology/Airway/Swallowing:** Dr. Helena Yip leads a multidisciplinary team of airway, swallowing and professional voice experts from the UArizona Department of Speech/Language Pathology, to provide the only single-stop comprehensive multidisciplinary laryngology care in the region. As part of the Banner University Medicine Tucson Center of Excellence for COVID care, Dr. Yip manages some of the most vexing upper airway complications suffered by many long-haul COVID patients.
- **Pediatric Otolaryngology:** Dr. Jon Skirko and Dr. Carrie Liu provide surgical care for children with ENT problems, including congenital cleft palate abnormalities, airway and sleep disorders, and chronic ear disease.
- **Rhinology/Anterior Skull Base Surgery:** Dr. Eugene Chang and Dr. Chris Le provide surgical care for inflammatory and infectious sinonasal diseases as well as for malignant neoplasms of the anterior cranial base. In partnership with neurosurgery colleagues, Drs. Chang and Le have one of the busiest anterior skull base practices in the Southwest.
- **Otology/Lateral Skull Base Surgery:** Dr. Nick Dewyer and Dr. Heather Coffman collaborate with an outstanding group of audiologists and neurosurgeons to manage a wide range of hearing and balance disorders, chronic ear disease, and lateral skull base tumors.
- **Facial Plastic Surgery:** Dr. David Chen has a diverse practice that includes local flap reconstruction after Mohs surgery and other cutaneous malignancy defects of the face and neck, facial nerve reanimation procedures, and facial cosmetic procedures including in-office laser treatments.

Complementing its clinical mission, the UArizona Dept of Otolaryngology has active clinical research programs and is one of the top funded academic departments of otolaryngology, ranking 28th in the nation in NIH funding. The UArizona residency training program graduated its first resident in 2017 and recently expanded in 2021 to match two residents per year.

It has been a truly remarkable first 10 years for the UArizona Otolaryngology program. I am honored to have had the privilege of leading this incredible team of physicians and scientists for the last 6 years. The program we have built is, in many respects, just getting started, and the future of the UArizona Dept of Otolaryngology at Banner University Medicine-Tucson is sure to bring even more exciting success.

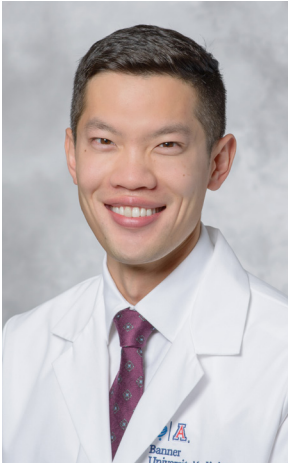
In this issue of our newsletter, we introduce the two newest members of the department, Dr. David Chen, the new director of facial plastic surgery, and Dr. Carrie Liu, our newest pediatric otolaryngologist. We announce our residency match results and look forward to welcoming two new PGY-1 residents, Lauren Malaya and Madeleine St. Peter, this summer. Recent events including the 9th Annual ENT in the Desert CME conference are highlighted. Our faculty spotlight is on Dr. Audrey Baker, a head and neck microvascular surgeon and residency program director, who is the longest currently serving faculty member in the department. Our resident spotlight is on Dr. John Richards, a soon to be Chief Resident, who shares his experiences as a trainee in the department. Our clinical spotlight is on the microvascular reconstructive surgery program, and Dr. Shethal Bearely describes how pre-operative computer-aided medical modeling helps achieve the best head and neck reconstructive outcomes for his patients.



Dr. Steven Wang, Chair, Department of Otolaryngology

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven J. Wang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Wang" being the most prominent parts.

Welcome New Faculty



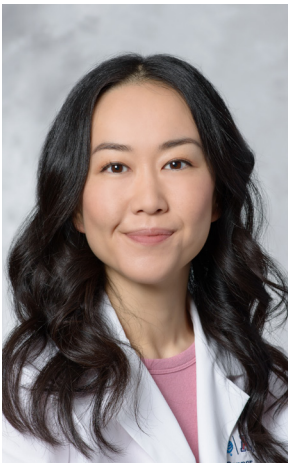
**Dr. David Chen, MD,
Director of Facial Plastic
and Reconstructive Surgery**

Dr. David Chen is our new Director of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Maryland with a degree in Physiology and Neurobiology, and was awarded the Banneker/Key full academic scholarship. He then completed his medical school and residency training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he was inducted into the Johns Hopkins Distinguished Teaching Society, awarded the Department of Otolaryngology Henkel Chief Resident Teaching Award, as well as the Duane Sewell Resident Award for Professionalism and Humanitarianism. Following residency, he completed an additional year of advanced fellowship training in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Oregon Health and Science University, under the mentorship of renowned surgeons Dr. Tom Wang and Dr. Myriam Loyo Li.

Dr. Chen's clinical interests span both reconstructive and cosmetic interventions for the face. These include rhinoplasty, treatment for facial paralysis, Mohs reconstruction, facial trauma reconstruction, otoplasty, scar revision, as well as cosmetic treatments such as facelift, browlift, blepharoplasty, laser resurfacing, and injectables.

Dr. Chen takes a personalized and holistic approach to the care of each of his patients, working with them to achieve the best possible results. His goals are to build a robust Division of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in an academic setting, both in the reconstructive and cosmetic realms, and to foster strong trainee education in facial plastics.

Outside the hospital, Dr. Chen loves the great outdoors. You'll find him hiking, camping, backpacking, rock climbing, and snowboarding in his free time.



**Dr. Carrie Liu, MD,
Assistant Professor,
Otolaryngology**

Dr. Carrie Liu provides comprehensive care across the full breadth of pediatric otolaryngology, including hearing loss and chronic ear disease, obstructive sleep apnea, sinonasal disorders, and aerodigestive disorders. Her approach to patient care is collaborative, ensuring that the family and involved health care providers are always informed and engaged in the decision-making process.

Dr. Liu graduated from medical school and residency at the University of Calgary in Canada. During residency, Dr. Liu completed a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. This was supported by a full research scholarship from the Surgeon Scientist Program at the University of Calgary. Following residency, she completed a fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at the Seattle Children's Hospital / University of Washington.

In addition to providing excellent patient care, Dr. Liu has a passion for health services research. Her work focuses on quality improvement, health economic evaluations, resource utilization, and evaluating practice variation and how this affects patient and system outcomes. She has published numerous textbook chapters and articles in high-impact journals. Two of these studies garnered international attention and were featured in podcasts produced by the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Liu has also presented at national and international scientific meetings, previously winning the prestigious William Potsic Award at the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology annual meeting.

Dr. Liu is also passionate about surgical education. Throughout residency and fellowship, Dr. Liu gave lectures to medical students, fellow residents, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other medical personnel. This culminated in her receiving the Otolaryngology Resident Teaching Award. As an attending, Dr. Liu has continued educational endeavors by taking on the role of faculty advisor to residents, presenting workshops at national scientific meetings, and teaching at the Canadian otolaryngology boards review course.

In her spare time, Dr. Liu enjoys exploring Arizona with her husband. They love to hike and have recently fallen in love with birdwatching.





ENT in the Desert 2022

The University of Arizona Department of Otolaryngology was thrilled to host the 9th Annual ENT in the Desert Conference after the pandemic forced a year with no conference in 2021. Dr. Steven Wang, MD, Professor and Chair, and Dr. Eugene Chang, MD, Associate Professor and Vice Chair, co-directed this three-day CME course, which took place February 3 – 5, 2022. It was a delight to return to in-person interaction, despite having to take necessary health precautions due to the surge of the Omicron variant.

This year's conference was held at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in the foothills of the majestic Catalina Mountains. As usual, specialists from around the country joined the experienced faculty of the University of Arizona in discussing current trends and challenges in the field of Otolaryngology. Session topics included Pediatrics, Laryngology, Head and Neck, Otology, Facial Plastic Surgery, and the impact of Covid on Otolaryngology. In addition, conference attendees enjoyed two in-depth Rhinology sessions, one exploring clinical skills and surgical techniques, and another focusing on chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps. All of the sessions involved panel discussions, encouraging audience participation and interaction.

Distinguished Faculty for ENT in the Desert 2022 included: Michael J. Hinni, MD, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science; David G. Lott, MD, Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, and Chair of the Division of Laryngology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science; Zara M. Patel, MD, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and Director of Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery at Stanford; and Steven D. Rauch, MD, Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Harvard Medical School, and Medical Director of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Balance and Vestibular Center.

Conference attendees enjoyed mingling with experts and colleagues during breaks and meals, browsing the exhibitor tables, and being serenaded by a live mariachi group during dinner. In addition to soaking up the expertise of the conference speakers, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a “Shotgun Golf Tournament” at Loews Ventana Canyon's award-winning golf course and a group hike in beautiful Ventana Canyon.

We're already looking forward to next year's conference.

Otolaryngology Residency Match Results

Welcome New Residents



MADELEINE ST. PETER, MD

My name is Maddie and I'm from Chandler, Arizona. I attended Arizona State University for undergrad, then moved to Kansas City for a job as a lab manager. I then attended medical school at the University of Kansas where I fell in love with the patient population and surgical techniques in otolaryngology. There is nothing more fulfilling than being able to provide definitive treatments for head and neck pathologies.

What attracted you to Arizona?

Interview day was so much fun! It was clear that the residents work hard but have a great amount of support from the faculty and staff. This program has well-rounded faculty who serve a large, very diverse area of southern Arizona. Graduated autonomy was also mentioned regularly by the residents, which I think is very important for surgical education.

What is your favorite surgery to be involved in?

The most amazing surgery I've ever seen was a carotid body tumor resection. Tympanoplasty is another favorite of mine!

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I'm usually at the aerial arts studio or the racquetball courts.



LAUREN MALAYA, MD

My name is Lauren Malaya. I grew up in Troy, Illinois. I received my undergraduate degree in Film and Media Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. After college, I worked for a few years as a personal trainer, where I discovered my love of working with others to improve their health. Soon after, I started medical school at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. I chose otolaryngology during an elective rotation in my third year after discovering how impactful surgeries in the head and neck can be to restoring function and addressing a wide variety of diseases.

What attracted you to Arizona?

I completed an away rotation at Arizona last summer and immediately felt at home with the whole team. I was extremely impressed with the skill and professionalism of everyone I met. I feel that this program offers an unparalleled opportunity to become a fantastic surgeon in a welcoming family environment.

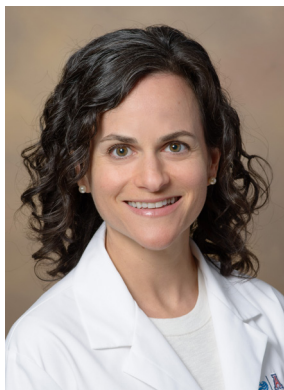
What is your favorite surgery to be involved in?

My favorite surgeries so far are reconstructive cases, including laryngectomies and cleft lip repair.

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy bicycling of all types, painting, growing orchids, and going on walks with my husband and two dogs.

Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Audrey Baker



Dr. Audrey Baker is an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and specializes in head and neck cancer and microvascular reconstruction. She founded the head and neck cancer program at the University of Arizona and is the otolaryngology residency program director. We interviewed her today from her home in Tucson, Arizona where she lives with her husband and her three children.

Tell us about what originally interested you in surgery.

I have always wanted to treat patients with cancer and thought I may go into oncology from a young age. As a medical student I had the opportunity to suture in the operating room and I was hooked. I grew up knitting with my mother and grandmother at the beach and had no idea that those were my first surgical mentors! What a joy to be able to use my hands to help my patients, cure cancer, and teach residents all in the same day.

You trained at the University of Michigan and Mass Eye and Ear. Do you miss the cold?

There are many things I miss about my training, however, driving (or walking) to work at 5am in the snow is not one of them. I spent undergraduate, medical school, and residency at the University of Michigan and I will always bleed Maize and Blue! Michigan is an amazing program with a rich surgical history, national leadership, and attentive and diverse mentors. I think about my training as academic boot camp and I am very proud to be part of the Michigan tradition.

During my fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear, I trained two blocks from where most of my family was born. Living in Boston for a year was an opportunity to learn from some of the busiest and most efficient microvascular surgeons in the world. I was also pregnant with my first child for most of my fellowship, and my fellowship directors refer to my first born as “Our Youngest Fellow”.

When I came to the University of Arizona in 2012, I was excited to organize and coordinate a new team of specialists to deliver the highest quality head and neck cancer care for Tucson and much of southwestern Arizona. Having trained at big programs, I was able to bring decades of institutional knowledge (but leave behind the horrible weather!) to build a new program in a part of the country desperately in need of head and neck cancer surgery and reconstruction. With the help of my dear friend and residency colleague, Dr. TJ Gernon, and the incredible support of the Tucson otolaryngology community, we were able to organize a multidisciplinary team of surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, and others to deliver state-of-the-art head and neck cancer treatment. In ten short years,

our head and neck surgery division has quadrupled.

Today, Dr. Wang, Dr. Bearely, and I are proud to provide comprehensive head and neck surgical care and continue to serve the needs of Arizona.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I love training residents. There is nothing that compares to seeing a resident’s eyes light up the first time they find the spinal accessory nerve on their own or complete their first neck dissection. Patients get the absolute best care when there are engaged learners physically present, asking questions, challenging our ideas of how we have “always done it,” and bringing our attention to the patient in new and innovative ways. Seeing the world through a beginners’ eyes is crucial to moving our field forward.

What do you do for fun?

I am mom to three busy children and wife to a busy orthopedic surgeon. I love cooking and that’s a good thing because my family has a voracious appetite for all things pasta-and-cheese forward. Our dinner table is filled with lively conversations about Pokémon cards, Rubik’s cubes, black holes and the space-time continuum, current trends in hip arthroplasty, and the best uses for submental flaps in radiated patients. We also like to bike, hike, and ski as a family. We love living in Tucson for the great access to the outdoors!



Dr. Baker sewing with her family.



Hiking on Mt. Lemmon.

Resident Spotlight – John Richards, MD – PGY4

My name is John Richards, I was born in Palm Springs, California and grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma. I attended Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma where I obtained my undergraduate degree in biomedical chemistry. I then attended the University of Oklahoma for medical school in Oklahoma City where I fell in love with Otolaryngology as a third-year medical student. I was very fortunate to interview with the University of Arizona's Otolaryngology program here in Tucson. I was extremely impressed with the quality and quantity of educational experiences that this program offered and was ecstatic when I matched here. I feel extremely grateful to be at a program that has a tight knit group of residents and faculty that truly care. Outside of the hospital I enjoy mountain biking, running, cooking, playing video games and relaxing with my wife and two dachshunds. I am very proud to be in this program and extremely thankful to be surrounded by outstanding individuals that continue to improve the program every day.

What attracted you to UArizona?

I was attracted to UArizona by the outstanding surgical and clinical training. I think UArizona is extremely unique in that we have a very tight-knit group both with the residents and with the faculty to the point that you are just as likely to see me hanging out with a faculty member outside of work as you are with a fellow resident. Also, I believe the hands-on training we receive is second to none.

What is your favorite surgery to be involved in?

I enjoy being in big open head and neck cases like free flaps, parotidectomies and neck dissections.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I enjoy being with my partner and two dogs, being outdoors hiking or mountain biking and cooking big meals for my friends.

What are your long-term goals?

I am looking forward to a career where I can continue to learn and improve my skills as well as share my knowledge with others.





HOLIDAY PARTY



It's not all work around here; the holiday party at the Reid Park Zoo was a chance to spend time with family and enjoy Tucson's beautiful winter weather.

At our Department Picnic, faculty and staff got some fresh air, ate delicious quesadillas, and perhaps even relieved some stress by taking a swing at a piñata.



Medical Modeling

By Shethal Bearely, MD, FACS



Ongoing technological advances in head and neck reconstructive surgery have enabled us to deliver better functional outcomes for our patients. The use of medical modeling and patient-specific implants has been an incredible tool to more accurately reconstruct defects of the bone such as the mandible or maxilla. Traditional bony reconstruction involves creating several cuts in the fibula bone to mimic

the contour of the missing mandible or maxilla and hand-bending a thick titanium plate to closely contour the bone. This technique requires an immense amount of experience, and it can be quite laborious, oftentimes requiring a great deal of extra time in the operating room trying to get the angles and contour just right. If the position of the bone is even a millimeter off, it can negatively impact the alignment of the teeth or contour of the face.

Advances in 3D printing technology form the basis of modern medical modeling. There are several plating companies that offer this service. Patient specific CT data is uploaded, and a 3D representation of the skull and tumor is created. In an online virtual planning session before the surgery, the surgeon and a clinical engineer draw out the margins of the tumor and design the exact location of the bone cuts. In this same simulation session, the fibula or scapula bone is cut and molded to precisely fit the defect. Cutting guides that snap onto the mandible, fibula, or scapula are created, allowing us to make these same intraoperative cuts. An individually engineered titanium reconstruction plate is custom designed to match the patient's anatomy, eliminating the need to hand-bend them. Each 3D-milled plate has a lower profile and higher intrinsic strength than the traditional reconstructive plates.

The cost and time required to produce these implants used to be prohibitive, but the technology is scaling and becoming easier to incorporate into our surgical plans. We are able to employ it for more patients, especially for complex defects. It is also being used in difficult cases like gunshot injuries to the face. 3D medical modeling assists in determining where the fragments should be placed, taking out much of the guesswork. It decreases the amount of time needed in the operating room and optimizes the appearance and function of our patients.

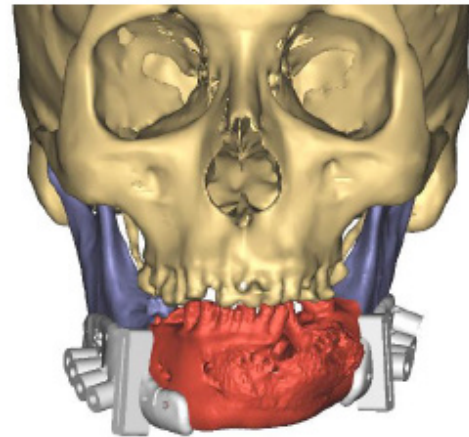


Image 1: Thin slices of patient CT scan used to create virtual model of the facial skeleton and the tumor. The tumor along with a specified margin is shaded in red. Cutting guides are created to precisely direct the intraoperative mandible cuts.

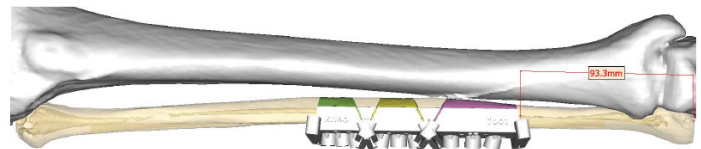


Image 2: CT scan of the patient's fibula is used to create a model of the bone and a cutting guide is created to determine the precise angle and length of the fibula bone cuts.

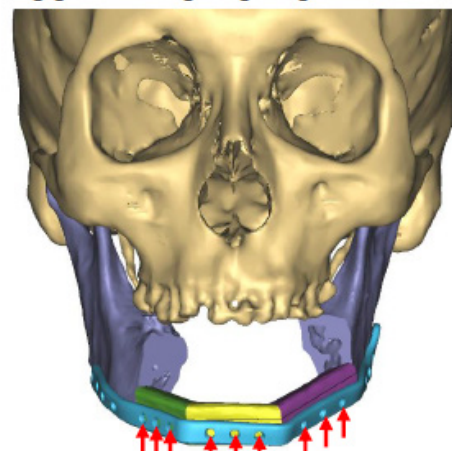


Image 3: 3D milled titanium plate is created to precisely fit the mandible and the fibula which allows for better facial contouring and restoration of occlusion.

WAYS TO GIVE

The global mission of the University of Arizona Department of Otolaryngology is to improve ear, nose, and throat care within and around the state of Arizona through exemplary clinical medicine, basic/translational research, and the training of the next generation of Otolaryngologists.

Philanthropy makes sure we continue pursuing the most innovative solutions to Otolaryngology's most pressing problems. Your donation provides seed-funding for new research projects, enables breakthrough clinical trials, and supports trainees as they become competent and compassionate caregivers of tomorrow.

EDUCATION SIMULATION / SURGICAL SKILLS LAB

Head and neck anatomic dissection in the laboratory plays an important role in the education, research, and training of residents and young surgeons in Otorhinolaryngology. The three-dimensional anatomy of the head and neck is challenging for young surgeons to master, yet serious morbidity and mortality can occur from injuring vital structures in the head and neck and skull base region while performing surgery. Laboratory dissection is also essential to creating innovative operative techniques and developing new surgical instruments. One particularly challenging area for otolaryngology trainees to achieve mastery is in surgery of the middle ear, mastoid and temporal bone; for this reason, all otolaryngology residency trainees are required to have access to a temporal bone laboratory.

Currently our surgical skills and temporal bone laboratory contains two surgical simulation workstations equipped with microscopes, electric drills with foot pedals, surgical instruments, temporal bone mounts, and suction/irrigation. The stations also have computer video monitors to enable the class instructor to observe the trainee's hands-on technique. The residents have access to the lab to practice skills independently at any time. Our goal is to add 4 additional stations in a newly acquired space within the College of Medicine dedicated to surgical skills training. This expansion will allow us to meet the surgical skills/simulation training needs of a growing complement of residents as we increase our program to 10 residents by 2025.

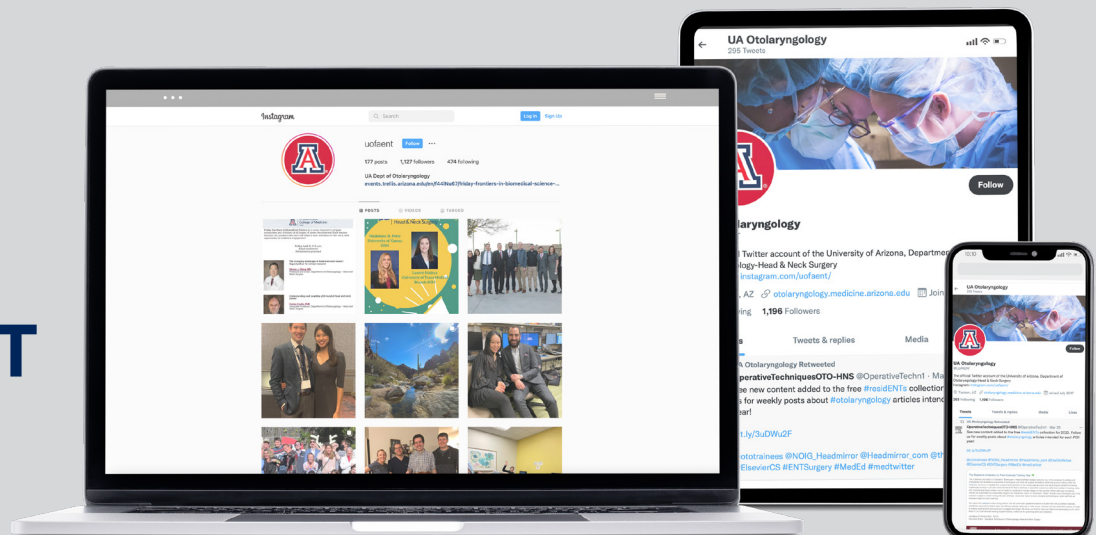


Our fabulous team of Ear and Hearing specialists

DR. STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN MEMORIAL OTOLARYNGOLOGY RESIDENCY EDUCATION FUND

Dr. Goldstein was a beloved faculty in our Department from its founding until his untimely death in 2020. He was twice honored with the Department's Clinical Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. To honor his legacy, Dr. Goldstein's family, friends, and colleagues have established the Stephen Goldstein Memorial Residency Education Fund.


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Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery

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