

Department News

WELCOME from the Chair

Welcome to our Spring 2018 newsletter.

In 2015, the University of Arizona and Banner Health entered into a historic 30-year academic affiliation agreement, creating a partnership between the only allopathic medical school in the state and



Steven J. Wang, MD, FACS

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 new investments of 1.2 billion dollars for academic medicine in Arizona. This investment has directly benefited the UA Otolaryngology program, which moved into the new Banner University Medicine North clinic in January 2018, a state of the

art 208,000 square feet multispecialty clinic located 2 miles north of the main hospital. Our old ENT clinic in the 1970s-era main hospital building has been transformed into modern, new administrative offices. This month, our department's administrative and faculty offices moved out from our "borrowed" space within the Department of Surgery to the bright, modern larger remodeled space of our former ENT clinic. Finally, construction of a new, \$400 million, nine-story hospital tower to replace the older

sections of the current hospital is well underway. The new hospital tower will open in April 2019, featuring new operating room facilities, labor and delivery rooms, and all-private hospital rooms for patients and their families.



So far in 2018, we welcome three new faculty members to our department. **Dr. Heather Coffman** is a fellowship-trained otologist who grew up in North Dakota. She previously trained and was on faculty at the University of California—

Davis. Dr. Coffman and her family moved to Arizona in 2015, first joining a private practice in Flagstaff, AZ. In January, Dr. Coffman became an Assistant Professor in our Department, and offers to our patients her expertise in the treatment of diseases of the hearing and balance system, surgery for chronic ear disease, middle ear surgery, and implantable hearing devices.



Dr. Carlos Caulin is a research scientist from MD Anderson who is moving his research lab to the University of Arizona. Dr.

Caulin was recently awarded a 5-year 1.9 million dollar NIH grant to study salivary gland cancers. He is our Department's Director of Head and Neck Cancer Research. **Dr. Marina Cardo-Vila** is a research scientist from University of New Mexico with expertise in cancer immunobiology; she will be joining our Department as a Research Associate Professor in July.

In this issue we share with you the many exciting recent happenings in our Department as well as spotlight our multidisciplinary head and neck cancer program and our Director of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Dr. Jonathan Young.

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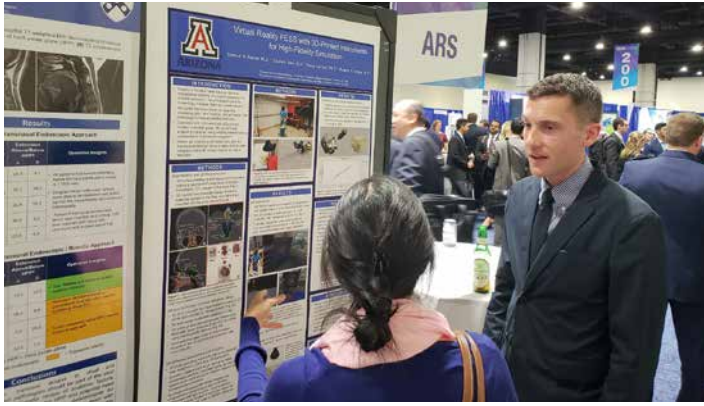
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Banner – University Medicine North clinic

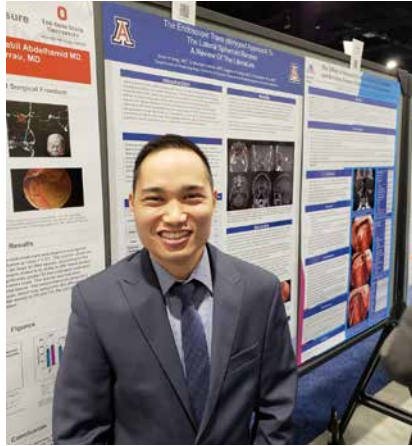


COSM 2018 Recap



PGY-1 resident **Dr. Samuel R. Barber** presents his research on Virtual FESS Simulation using 3D-printed Surgical Instruments at the American Rhinologic Society Poster Session at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meeting (COSM) 2018, National Harbor, Maryland. Preliminary data collected for this abstract was included in a AAO-HNSF CORE grant submission earlier this year.

Dr. Christopher H. Le, (right), Assistant Professor of Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery, and **Dr. Brian H. Song**, Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery Fellow, present their research on the Transpterygoid Approach to the Lateral Sphenoid Recess at the American Rhinologic Society Poster Session at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meeting 2018, National Harbor, Maryland. A literature review and a technical guide in performing this approach will be published in the soon to be released textbook, *Controversies in Skull Base Surgery*.



Congratulations

to **Dr. Shethal Bearely**, Assistant Professor, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery for receiving a \$10,000 American Head and Neck Society Pilot Research Grant. The award will allow him to further his research study to develop a broad set of monofilament sensory testing tools to accurately determine sensory thresholds of the aero-digestive tract. These tools will allow clinicians and researchers to objectively quantify tactile sensation. Secondly, he will determine differences in sensory tactile thresholds within the oral cavity and oropharynx between a younger and an older cohort. Thirdly, it is his goal to determine if ipsilateral radiation preserves tactile sensation to the contralateral oral cavity and oropharynx.



Dr. Bearely was accepted as an Active Member of the American Head and Neck Society on April 18, 2018. He was recognized for being dedicated to the promotion, advancement and knowledge in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of neoplasms and other diseases of the head and neck.

Welcome

Resident and Fellows



Dr. John Richards will be joining our department as the new incoming PGY 1 resident. John was born in Indio, California and grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma. John attended Oral Roberts University where he studied Biomedical Chemistry and met his wife, Larisa. During his undergraduate studies,

John took special interest in research and completed two projects on Matrix Isolation Spectroscopy. During his medical training at the University of Oklahoma, John was involved with various research projects and presented at the American Rhinologic Society Annual Meeting in Chicago in 2017. John completed his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma on May 19th and will be joining our department on July 1st.



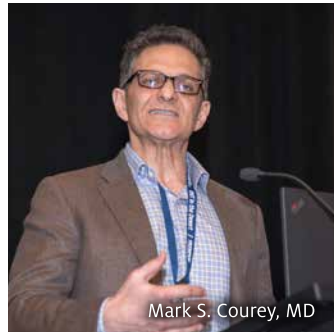
Dr. Saranya Reghunathan grew up in California as the second of four children. She spent her youth learning classical Indian dance, playing tennis and volunteering in animal shelters. After graduating high school, she matriculated to the University of Missouri Kansas City where she successfully completed

their 6-year BA/MD program as the youngest student in her class to graduate with an MD. She then came to the University of Arizona to pursue an Otolaryngology residency. Her areas of interest include general otolaryngology and laryngology. After graduation, she will pursue a fellowship and hopes to return to the west coast afterwards.

ENT in the Desert 2018

CONFERENCE REPORT

Held amid stunning views of the Catalina Mountains in southern Arizona, the 6th Annual ENT in the Desert conference highlighted insights, updates and innovations in the field of Otolaryngology. More than one hundred general otolaryngologists, residents, physician extenders and other physicians interested in Otolaryngology convened at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson from February 15 to 17 for the conference. Experts from UA Otolaryngology faculty joined other nationally and internationally renowned guest speakers from such distinguished institutions as Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York and Shimane University in Japan. General topics covered by the close to three dozen lectures and interactive panel discussions included Head and Neck Surgery, Laryngology, Otology, Pediatric Otolaryngology, Rhinology/Allergy and Sleep Medicine. "We see this conference as an opportunity to provide updates on management of various ear, nose and throat problems that are likely to be encountered by the typical ENT practitioner," said Steven J.



Mark S. Courey, MD



Wang, MD, FACS, Professor and Chair for UA Otolaryngology –Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Wang wanted the conference to encourage interaction by presenters and guests during presentations and outside of the daily sessions. "Providing those latest updates, as well as meaningful interactions, were things I wanted to make sure that we accomplished this year. I felt we did." Distinguished Faculty for the conference included Steven W. Cheung, MD, University

of California – San Francisco; Mark S. Courey, MD, Mount Sinai Health System, New York, NY; Peter H. Hwang, MD, Stanford University; Hideyuki Kawauchi, MD, Shimane University, Japan; Brian Nussenbaum, MD, FACS, American Board of Otolaryngology, Houston; and Soham Roy, MD, FACS, FAAP, University of Texas Medical School, Houston.

Next year, UA Otolaryngology and University of Kansas will combine forces on ENT in the Desert, with Drs. Wang and Alex Chiu co-hosting. The conference will take place Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2019, in Scottsdale. (Visit entinthedesert.org for more information.)

SAVE THE DATE

ENT in the Desert

January 31 - February 2, 2019

ENTINTHEDESERT.ORG

Scottsdale Marriott at McDowell Mountains, Scottsdale, Arizona

For more information, contact:
Jack Roberts: 520-626-6673 • jroberts@oto.arizona.edu
Tracy Quaethem: 913-588-6731 • quaethem@kumc.edu

Co-hosted by The University of Arizona College of Medicine Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and The University of Kansas Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery



Sun Yi, MD; Chris Adams, PA-C; Julie Bauman, MD; Steven Wang, MD; Margaret Eller, RN; Paula Mesch, RN; Shethal Bearerly, MD; Not pictured, Audrey Baker, MD

Head and Neck Cancer Program at the University of Arizona

Head and Neck Cancers includes cancers that arise from the mucosal surfaces of the mouth, nose, and throat (also known as head and neck squamous cell carcinoma), as well as tumors arising from the salivary glands, thyroid, and skin. There are an estimated 55,000 new cases of head and neck cancer in the United States this year, including more than 1,200 new head and neck cancer patients in Arizona. Treatment for these cancers requires a team approach. The University of Arizona Cancer Center is one of 45 NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers and the only one headquartered in and serving the state of Arizona. At the UACC, a multidisciplinary team of head and neck surgeons, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, radiologists, and pathologists meet for a weekly Head and Neck Tumor Board. Led by Disease Team Leader, Dr. Steven Wang, a separate monthly meeting of clinicians and researchers works to establish, review, and monitor clinical trials in Head and Neck Cancer. The head and neck cancer program, established by the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery 5 years ago, has rapidly established itself as a center of excellence and is a tertiary referral center for

patients throughout the state of Arizona and the Southwestern United States. Our team of head and neck surgeons includes Dr. Steven Wang, Dr. Audrey Baker, Dr. Shethal Bearerly, Dr. Eugene Chang, and Dr. Christopher Le. They are assisted in the head and neck surgery clinic by Chris Adams, physician assistant, and Paula Mesch, RN Nurse Navigator for head and neck surgery. The head and neck medical oncology team includes Dr. Julie Bauman, who is also Chief of the Division of Medical Oncology and Associate Director for Translational Research at the UACC and Dr. Simran Sindhu. Margaret Eller RN is Dr. Bauman's Nurse Navigator for head and neck oncology. Dr. Sun Yi provides expertise in head and neck radiation oncology along with Dr. Balassarre Stea, who is Chair of the Dept. of Radiation Oncology. We are the only center in Southern Arizona to provide comprehensive services for all aspects of the treatment of head and neck cancer, including surgical services in microvascular free flap reconstruction, transoral robotic surgery, and minimally invasive transnasal endoscopic anterior skull base surgery. Our radiation therapy and medical oncology colleagues provide access to the latest treatment technologies

and a plethora of cutting-edge, innovative clinical trials which, in many cases, are not available elsewhere. Dr. Bauman is a national leader in multiple head and neck cancer clinical trials, bringing new systemic therapies to benefit our patients. She is the principle investigator of a multi-center study of sulfophorane-containing broccoli seed extracts for the secondary prevention of oral squamous cell carcinoma. All our head and neck cancer clinicians are also involved in cancer research and collaborate with many research scientists in the UACC and other research labs throughout the University of Arizona. We are pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Carlos Caulin, a research scientist from MD Anderson, who will serve as Director for Head and Neck Cancer Research. Dr. Caulin conducts research using mouse experimental models to study genetic alterations in cancers including salivary gland tumors, skin cancers, and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Dr. Caulin is principal investigator of a recently awarded 5-year 1.9 million dollar National Institute of Health grant to study mechanisms of invasion and metastasis in adenoid cystic carcinoma of the salivary glands.



Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Day at Banner – University Medicine

On April 28, the University of Arizona Cancer Center held its first Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Day at the Banner University Medicine North Campus, which was open to the general public. Presentations were given by Dr. Steven Wang, Dr. Julie Bauman, and Dr. Shethal Bearely. Many volunteers

from across the University of Arizona College of Medicine and Banner Health helped to make it a successful event. Four head and neck cancer survivors shared their stories. More than 50 people received free oral screening exams.

CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT

Pediatric Head and Neck Surgeon at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson

Dr. Jonathan N. Young joined the University of Arizona –Tucson in September 2017 as Director of Pediatric Otolaryngology and Assistant Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery with a dual appointment in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Young received his medical degree from the University of California –Davis. He went on to complete his residency training in Richmond, Virginia at the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System. He obtained his advanced subspecialty training in Pediatric Otolaryngology at the University of Colorado – Children’s Hospital of Colorado. Dr. Young sees a wide variety of clinical cases ranging from pediatric otitis media and hearing loss to pediatric sinus disease with orbital complications



to complex syndromic patients and difficult airway issues. He treats various syndromic patients including those with craniofacial anomalies including

cleft lip, cleft palate, oronasal fistulas, velopharyngeal insufficiency, Tessier facial clefts, microtia, atresia, and micro- or retrognathia. He cares for patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Banner – Diamond Children’s Medical Center. Dr. Young also sees patients at the Children’s Clinics for Rehabilitative Services (CCRS) in Tucson. Dr. Young works closely with multiple pediatric specialty services, such as Pediatric Pulmonology, Pediatric Gastroenterology, and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. These professional connections allow many patients to be able to consolidate their medical visits and receive the most efficient and complete care. Dr. Young plans to establish a multidisciplinary cleft and craniofacial program at Banner – Diamond Children’s Medical Center.

Humanitarian Actions

Dr. Jonathan N. Young is a major proponent of surgical humanitarian work. Throughout his training, he has been involved with various surgical missions such as the World Pediatric Project and Faith in Practice, traveling to underserved areas such as Dangriga, Belize and Antigua, Guatemala. He recently returned from a surgical mission to Nanjing, China with the Children of China Pediatric Foundation, where he taught local plastic surgeons from public hospitals how to repair grade III microtia, cleft lip, cleft palate, velopharyngeal insufficiency, and cleft rhinoplasty. The team treated 10 patients, ages ranging from 3 years to 14 years, over a 3 day period. Dr. Young plans to continue these global humanitarian missions for knowledge exchange with excellent patient outcomes on an annual basis.



Dr. Young with his CCPF colleagues.



Photo of grateful family and caregivers with Dr. Young

Kwang (Chul) Kim, PhD Announces His Retirement

Faculty, staff, friends, and colleagues celebrated the many accomplishments of Dr. Chul Kim's 33 year academic career during a Retirement Reception held in his honor on Friday, April 13, 2018. Dr. Chul Kim was born in Seoul, Korea in 1947. He came to the U.S. to pursue his doctoral degree in 1974 and received his PhD in 1979 from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Kim is an internationally recognized expert in the mucin biology field and his accomplishments are well known in the scientific community. Dr. Kim's ground-breaking research in his early career established MUC1 as an

important mediator of the inflammatory response in the respiratory epithelium, and his work describing the physiology of mucin biology has been continuously funded by the NIH for more than 20 years. Chul joined the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in 2014 as Professor and Director of the Respiratory Mucus Research Program.

Thank you Dr. Kim for your outstanding service and dedication to the University of Arizona College of Medicine. We wish you every happiness as you begin your retirement.



Drs. Kim and Wang

New Office Space for Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery



Entrance to suite by main elevators



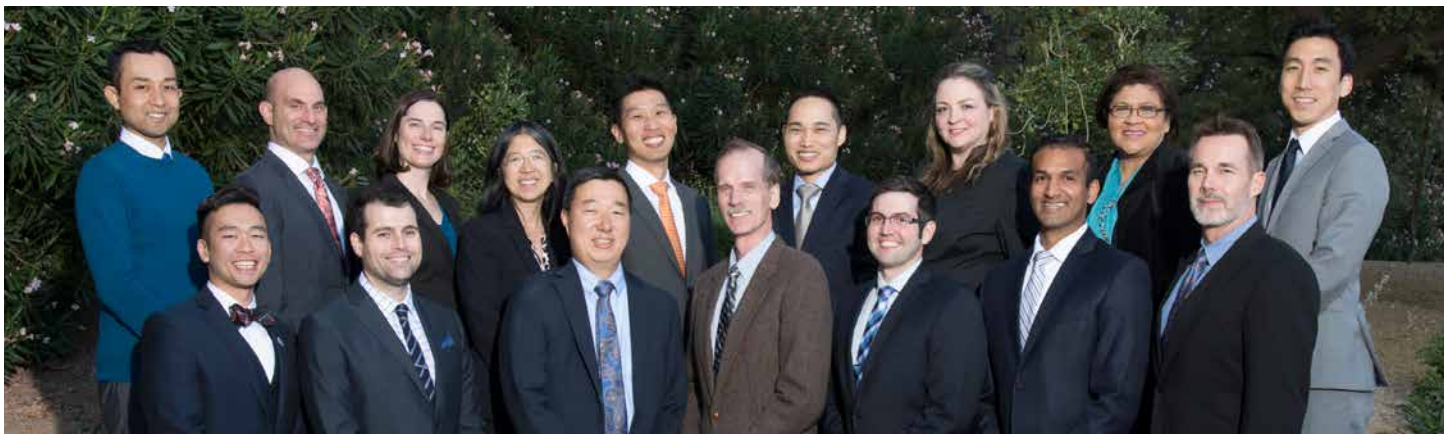
Conference room



Office as you enter Suite 5401

Community Outreach

Heather Coffman, MD and **Melanie Dunne, AuD, CCC-A** recently spoke to the Tucson Chapter of the Retired Public Employees Association on April 18 at Mimi's Café on North Oracle Road. At the request of Mr. Thomas Hanley, Dr. Dunne talked about hearing health, hearing aids and Cochlear implants. Dr. Coffman talked about hearing loss and surgical methods to correct some hearing problems. If you are interested in a similar presentation, please contact Jack Roberts in the Chairman's Office at 520-626-6673.



Back Row: Kosuke Kato, PhD.; Stephen Goldstein, MD; Heather Coffman, MD; Helena Yip, MD; Eugene Chang, MD; Christopher Le, MD; Mindy Black, MD; Melania Mercado-Pimental, PhD; Brian Song, MD

Front Row: Jonathan Young, MD; Clayton Andrews, PA-C, Steven Wang, MD; Bruce Stewart, MD; Christopher Adams, PA-C; Shethal Bearely, MD, Michael Bays, DO
Dr. Audrey Baker is not present.



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