Welcome from the Chair

Each March, Match Day occurs at medical schools across the United States. On March 15, we welcomed Dr. Andrew Johnson to our University of Arizona otolaryngology residency program. Andrew will spend the next 5 years with us as he becomes a fully-trained otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeon. The time will no doubt fly by. Spring is also the time each year that we prepare to say goodbye to those finishing their training. It seems hard to believe that Dr. Jonnae Ostrom and Dr. Maheep Sohal will soon graduate from our ENT residency and Rhinology fellowship program.

Education is critical to our academic mission. We mentor medical students at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson and Phoenix campuses, who seek to pursue residency training in ENT. Training of ENT residents is provided by our clinical faculty through daily clinical practice, didactic lectures and regularly scheduled hands-on workshops focused on topics such as basic ENT emergencies, maxillofacial trauma, and temporal bone anatomy. The expertise of our faculty are shared with other ENT physicians at our annual ENT in the Desert conference, many national and international conferences, and through interactions with colleagues across the globe.

April 22, 2019 marked the beginning of a new era for medicine in Tucson with the opening of the new Banner University Medical Center Tower. This $400 million nine-story hospital tower replaces many of the older sections of the current hospital. The hospital tower features a new labor and delivery unit and all-private rooms for our patients and their families. A highlight of the tower are 22 new operating rooms which provide a spacious, state-of-the-art operating room environment. The new hospital tower complements the opening of the Banner University Medicine North Clinic, a 208,000 square foot ambulatory clinic which opened in 2018. This multi-specialty clinic includes our new ENT clinic that provides clinical services to adults and children in a bright, pleasant environment. The expanded clinic space has allowed us to co-locate our ENT physicians with audiology services and ENT physicians with audiology services and ENT physicians with audiology services and ENT physicians with audiology services.

University of Arizona Foundation

For donations, please make check payable to Otolaryngology Research and Education Fund.

For further information, you may visit our website at www.otolaryngology.medicine.arizona.edu.
From January 31-February 2, Dr. Steven Wang, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, at the University of Arizona (UA), and Dr. Alexander Chiu, Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, at the University of Kansas (KUMC), co-directed the 7TH Annual ENT in the Desert (ENTD) Conference. The Conference was held at the Scottsdale Marriott at McDowell Mountains amidst stunning desert and mountain views. The ENTD Conference provided focused sessions on Head and Neck Surgery, Laryngology, Otology, Pediatrics, and Rhinology. More than 160 otolaryngologists, residents, advanced practice providers and other physicians attended the 2019 Conference.

Expert Faculty from the UA and KUMC joined other nationally and internationally renowned guest speakers providing updates on management of common clinical problems likely to be encountered by the typical ENT practitioner. The conference format encouraged interaction between presenters and attendees during the daily sessions. Our program allowed ample time for participants to explore Scottsdale and attend the Waste Management Golf Tournament during the afternoon breaks.

Distinguished Faculty for the conference included Sujana Chandrasekhar, MD, Past President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF); James C. Denneny III, MD, Executive Vice President/CEO of AAO-HNSF; Albert Merati, MD, President, AAO-HNSF and Professor, University of Washington; James Netterville, MD, Professor, Vanderbilt University; and Richard Orlandi, MD, Professor, University of Utah.

Dr. Audrey Baker leads a Panel on Physician Wellness at the 7th ENT in the Desert.

Dr. Alexander Chiu leads a Panel on Physician Wellness at the 7th ENT in the Desert.

Congratulations to Dr. Audrey Baker for her promotion to Associate Professor, and to Dr. Eugene Chang for receiving Tenure at the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Audrey Baker has been on faculty at the University of Arizona since 2011. She has clinical expertise in head and neck oncology, skin cancer and melanoma, and microvascular reconstructive surgery. Dr. Baker is a dedicated educator and the founding Program Director of the UA Otolaryngology Residency.

Dr. Eugene Chang was recruited to the University of Arizona in 2014 as the Director of Rhinology. In addition to leading the Department’s busy rhinology clinical practice, Dr. Chang conducts translational research and his lab at the University of Arizona is one of the few molecular airway laboratories utilizing genotype-endotype and phenotype data to provide a foundation for precision medicine to treat chronic sinus disease.

On April 27, 2019, the University of Arizona Cancer Center held its second Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Day at the Banner University Medicine North Campus. Presentations were given by Dr. Steven Wang, Dr. Julie Bauman, Dr. Sheetal Bearelly, and Dr. Sun Yi. Two cancer survivors, Mrs. Laura Brown and Ms. Mary Brown, shared their personal head and neck cancer experiences. Many volunteers from across the University of Arizona College of Medicine and Banner Health helped to make it a successful event.

Dr. Audrey Baker

Dr. Eugene Chang

A multidisciplinary team including Dr. Eugene H Chang and Dr. Samuel Barber from Otolaryngology and Dr. Young-Jun Son and Saurabh Jain from the College of Engineering received a $100,000 Bio5-Accelerate for Success grant. This award focuses on improving surgical education by developing a novel neuro-rhinology simulator that incorporates virtual-reality, augmented-reality, and 3D printed physical models. The long-term goal is to develop a surgical tool to allow surgeons to prepare for surgery utilizing patient-specific anatomic models, to reduce intraoperative complications. This grant will promote collaboration between different colleges and establish multi-disciplinary teams to tackle health problems.
CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT: NEW SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY TEAM

We are pleased to welcome a team of speech pathologists from the University of Arizona Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences to our Banner University Medicine North clinic. As part of the UA Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery’s commitment to multidisciplinary care.

Dori Scholer, DMA, MS, CCC-SLP, Natalie Monahan, MS, CCC-SLP, Robin Samlan, PhD, CCC-SLP, and Kathleen Cazzato, MA, CCC-SLP provide comprehensive, collaborative care in voice, airway, and swallowing disorders. These speech language pathologists participate in voice and swallowing clinics with Dr. Helena Yip and Dr. Steven Goldstein, and they initiate swallow preservation and voice restoration programs with our head and neck cancer surgeons, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists. The SLP team provides pediatric voice and resonance evaluation and treatment in coordination with Dr. Jonathan Young, and also provide laryngeal airway evaluation and treatment, working closely with our colleagues in the pulmonary and allergy divisions.

The UA SLP providers have particular interest and experience in working with performers including opera, musical theater, jazz, contemporary commercial, and mariachi singers, individuals on the gender spectrum, neurological voice disorders such as Parkinson’s Disease, and aging voice. The UA SLP team coordinates clinical care efforts with clinical research endeavors at the University of Arizona Speech Language Clinic and at Banner University Medicine North.

Patient Spotlight

Dr. Jonathan Young, Assistant Professor and Director, Pediatric Otolaryngology and Hillary Bravo, RN visit with one of their patients who recently visited the clinic for a check-up. Meet Jonah! The back of his shirt reads “Every smile has a story.”

Welcome

WELCOME to our new PGY1 – Dr. Andrew Johnson

Dr. Johnson will be joining our department in July as our new incoming PGY 1 resident. Andrew was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. He attended the University of Washington in Seattle where he received a degree in Bioengineering. For the past 3 years, Andrew has attended Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. During medical school, he completed research projects on pediatric hearing loss and presented his work at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology. Outside of work, Andrew enjoys hiking, skiing, and playing golf. Welcome to the University of Arizona, Andrew!

Farewell

FAREWELL to our Chief Resident – Dr. Jonnae Ostrom

Dr. Ostrom was born and raised in rainy Southeast Alaska and is the oldest of four children. She attended the University of Washington where she received degrees in Psychology and Biochemistry. She remained in Seattle to attend medical school and was awarded the UW School of Medicine Service award for her involvement in volunteer activities. In addition, she was in the Underserved Pathway program, a separate curriculum for those interested in working with underserved populations. Traveling south to Tucson for residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, she fell in love with the sunny skies of the Sonoran Desert. After graduation, Dr. Ostrom will return to the University of Washington for a one-year fellowship in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery.

FAREWELL to our Rhinology Fellow – Dr. Maheep Sohal

Dr. Sohal joined the University of Arizona as a Rhinology and Anterior Skull Base Surgery Fellow in 2018 under the mentorship of Drs. Eugene Chang and Christopher Le. Maheep grew up in New York and completed his undergraduate education at New York University. He subsequently attended the University at Buffalo for his medical degree. His otolaryngology residency was completed at the University of Connecticut where he developed an interest in rhinology which led to his coming to the University of Arizona for advanced fellowship training.

It has been an exciting year for Maheep as he has gained experience through active participation in our Department’s busy, complex rhinology and anterior skull base practice. After completing his fellowship, Dr. Sohal will be joining the Tucson Ear Nose and Throat practice. Dr. Sohal would like to thank all faculty, residents, office and OR staff for their warm welcome and support throughout the past year.

WELCOME to our new Rhinology Fellow – Dr. Kyle Mitts

Dr. Mitts will be joining our department as our new Rhinology / Anterior Skull Base Surgery Fellow on July 8th. Kyle did his undergraduate studies at Xavier University where he majored in Biology, with a minor in business. He attended Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating in 2014. Kyle completed his Otolaryngology Residency at Kettering Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio in June. Welcome to Tucson, Kyle!
Education Highlights

Dr. Shethal Bearelly (center) supervises our otolaryngology residents during the annual maxillofacial trauma plating course.

Last fall, Dr. Heather Coffman led a four week temporal bone course for the otolaryngology residents. The training started with basic temporal bone dissection, worked through cochlear implantation and canal wall down tympanomastoidectomy. The course culminated with guest lecturer, Dr. Hilary Brodie from UC Davis, teaching the translabyrinthine approach to the cerebellopontine angle and presenting the 3-D anatomy of the temporal bone.

Meeting Highlights

Our residents and faculty had a busy travel year, sharing research and clinical expertise at multiple national and international conferences and with colleagues across the globe. Dr. Eugene H Chang (1) was invited to attend the Eureka Translational Medicine Course, an intense 7-day meeting held in Siracusa, Italy designed to train the next generation of translational clinician-scientists. The course incorporated case studies, creative problem solving, and team development to bridge the gap between bench to bedside. Dr. Chang (1, far right) was joined by three colleagues from the University of Arizona, Drs. Christian Bime, Rebecca Vanderpool, and Casey Romanowski. Dr. Stephen A. Goldstein (2, second from left) presented “Bony and cartilaginous framework of the nose” at the AAFPRS Advances in Rhinoplasty meeting in April in Orlando, Florida.

ENT residents Drs. John Richards (1), Sam Barber and John Symms (2) presented research at the Triological Society Combined Sections meeting in January, on VR surgical training modules, management of cervical necrotizing fasciitis, and supraclavicular flaps in the repair of tracheoesophageal fistula. The three residents also represented the University of Arizona in the Resident Bowl (3), along with representatives from 19 other residency programs.

Dr. Steven Wang (4) discussed the value and cost-effectiveness of transoral robotic surgery at the 8th International Robotic Surgery Symposium in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Eugene Chang (4) gave a talk on “Viral infections in the development of chronic upper airway disease” at the 2019 Rhino Conference in London, England. Dr. Steven Wang (Center) and Dr. Jonathan Young (fourth from the right) were Visiting Professors at Shantou University College of Medicine in Shantou, Guangdong Province, China hosted by Dr. Hanwei Peng (third from the left), Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (6).

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Department of Otolaryngology Faculty and Residents at the Miniature Time Machine Museum during our 2018 Holiday Party. Needless to say, it was NOT a “small” Affair!