

WHAT YOU OTO KNOW



Department of Otolaryngology -
Head and Neck Surgery

SUMMER 2024
VOL. 5, NO. 1



RESIDENT LIFE

An interview with our
chiefs on their
residency experience

DIVISION UPDATES

Updates and new
additions in each of
the divisions.

RESEARCH

Stay up-to-date on all
the research highlights
in the department



University of Virginia

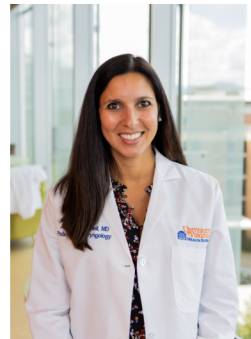
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What You Oto Know
Summer 2024 VOL. 5, NO. 1

Editor
Ariana Greenwell, MD

Creative Director
Stephen Oswald



Ariana Greenwell, MD



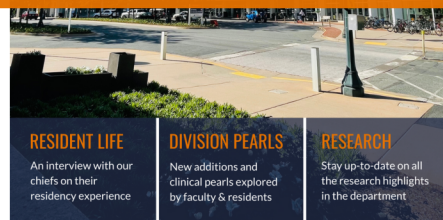
Stephen Oswald, BA

What You Oto Know is a bi-annual newsletter published by The University of Virginia Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

Please send questions, comments, and requests for hard copies to Stephen Oswald at: zrz2ht@uvahealth.org

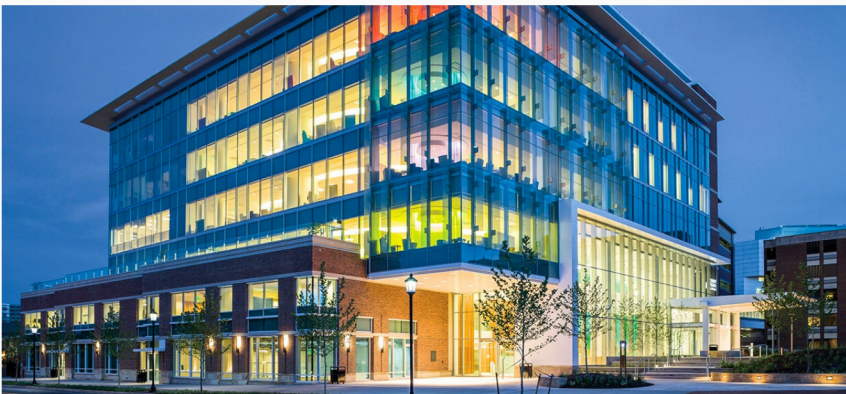


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LOCATIONS

- UVA Health Main Hospital
- ENT Clinic at Fontaine
- Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center
- Pediatric Otolaryngology Clinic at the Battle Building
- Charlottesville ENT Associates

Message From The Chair

STEPHEN S. PARK, MD



Greeting Friends and Colleagues,

So many people operate behind the scenes but are the driving engine to our department, including this Newsletter. Special thanks and shout out to **Dr. Ariana Greenwell** and **Mr. Stephen Oswald**, who bring together their creativity, attention to detail, and commitment to this publication. I hope you enjoy the read and catching up with our department.

Fitz-Hugh 2024 was a record-breaking symposium with over 180 attendees to the banquet! This year we honored our three graduating chiefs as well as Drs. **Dan Landes** and **George Hashisaki**, who are winding down long careers and service to the University of Virginia. We will hold a special ceremony for them as they fully retire next year – stand by. The occasion brought back many alumni from the residency program and neurotology fellowship, namely **Geoff Casazza, Ted Imbery, Jeff Kim, Dan Morrison, Brian Nicholas, Eric Oliver, Michael Biavati, David Clark, Matt Gerber, Matt Hubbard, Brian Hughley, Tim Jones, Charlie Lindsey, Scott McCary, Jk Rasamny, Bobby Reed, Derek Robinson, Steve Schoeff, Michael Ward, and Eugenia Gray**. So wonderful to see you all and thank you for coming!

The department continues to grow on many levels as we strive to improve our service and access to all citizens of the Commonwealth. **Vanessa Torrecillas, MD**, has had a terrific first year with the department, expanding the tertiary expertise in all elements of laryngology. Our research division has become a legitimate powerhouse with the addition of **Steve Munger, PhD**, and **Patrick Cottler, PhD**. The amount of external funding and peer reviewed publications have reached unprecedented levels.

Heads up for our Alumni Dinner at the annual academy meeting this year in Miami. It will be on Saturday evening, September 28th. More details will be coming out shortly.

Stay well and stay in touch!

As Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Park, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephen S. Park

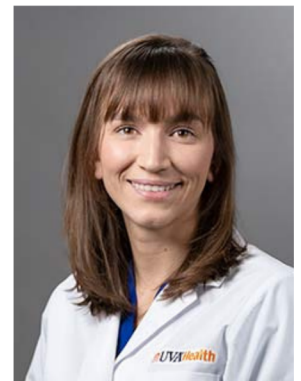
General Otolaryngology



Daniel Landes, MD
Associate Professor



John Mason, MD
Associate Professor

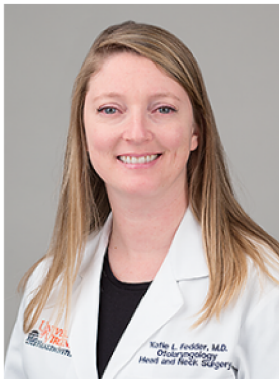


Delaney Carpenter, MD
Assistant Professor

Head & Neck Oncologic & Microvascular Surgery



David Shonka Jr., MD
Interim Division Director,
Associate Professor



Katherine Fedder, MD
Associate Professor



Jonathan Garneau, MD
Assistant Professor



Eric Dowling, MD
Assistant Professor

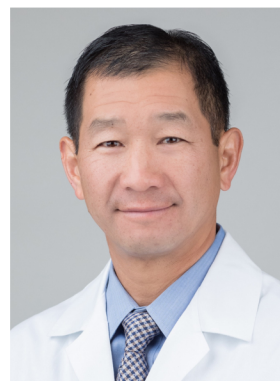
Pediatric Otolaryngology



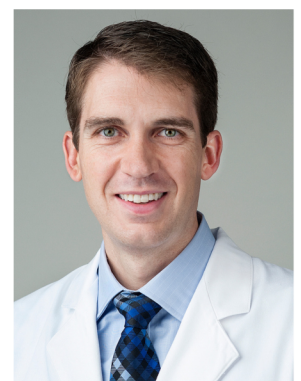
William Brand, MD
Division Director,
Assistant Professor



Ariana Greenwell, MD
Assistant Professor



Stephen Park, MD, FACS
Division Director,
Department Chair,
Professor

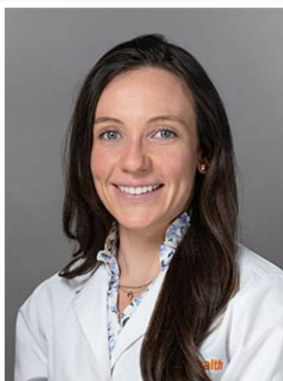


Sam Oyer, MD, FACS
Associate Professor

Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

FACULTY

Laryngology & Voice Care



Vanessa Torrecillas, MD
Assistant Professor



James Daniero, MD, MS
Division Director,
Associate Professor



Patrick McGarey Jr., MD
Assistant Program Director,
Assistant Professor

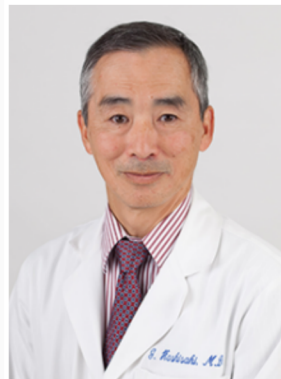
Audiology/Vestibular & Balance Center



Lori Grove, PhD
Division Director,
Assistant Professor



Benjamin Lovin, MD
Assistant Professor



George Hashisaki, MD
Division Director,
Associate Professor



Bradley Kesser, MD
Department Vice-Chair,
Professor

Otology & Neurotology

Research Faculty



Steven Munger, PhD
Professor

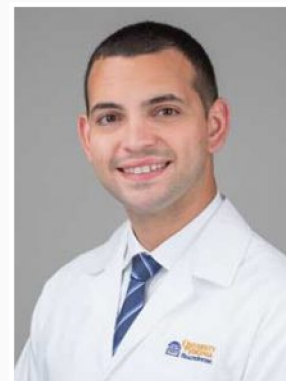


Patrick Cottler, PhD
Associate Professor

Rhinology & Endoscopic Sinus Surgery



Spencer Payne, MD
Division Director,
Professor



Jose Mattos, MD, MPH
Program Director,
Associate Professor

RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

CHIEFS

PGY-4

PGY-3

PGY-2

PGY-1



Nelson
Gruszczynski, MD



Claudia
Gutierrez, MD



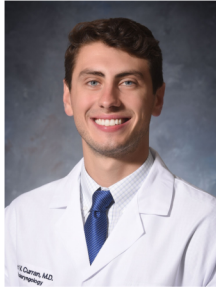
Christopher
Harryman, MD



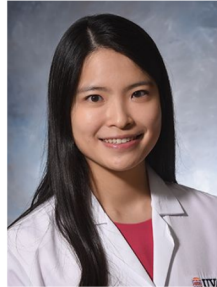
Otology /
Neurotology
Fellow



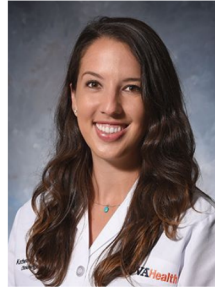
Adam Thompson-
Harvey, MD



Kent
Curran, MD



Betsy
Szeto, MD



Katherine
Webb, MD



Facial Plastic &
Reconstructive
Surgery Fellow



Benjamin
Brownlee, MD



Benjamin
Aunins, MD



Alexander
Murr, MD



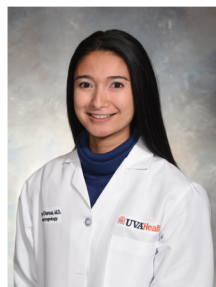
Jared
Sperling, MD



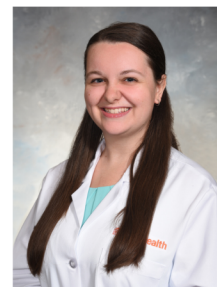
Head & Neck
Oncologic &
Microvascular
Surgery Fellow



Connor
O'Meara, MD,
PhD, FRACS



Shaley
Charous, MD



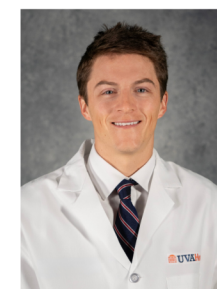
Aleeza
Leder Macek, MD



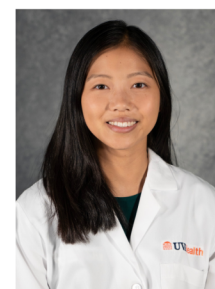
Akshay
Murthy, MD



Nicole
Senderovich, MD



William
Stout, MD



Adelaide
Zhao, MD

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: NEW CLINICAL FACULTY



**BENJAMIN
LOVIN, MD**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DIVISION: OTOLOGY &
NEUROTOLOGY**

Benjamin “Ben” Lovin, M.D. is dually trained in Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery and Neurotology. He attended Cornell University for his undergraduate degree before completing medical school at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He then completed his residency in Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine. Following residency, he completed a 2-year clinical and research fellowship in otology, neurotology, and lateral skull base surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Lovin specializes in the medical and surgical care of patients with hearing and balance disorders and other diseases of the temporal bone. His clinical interests include adult and pediatric hearing loss, chronic ear disease, vestibular testing, otologic manifestations of head and neck cancer, lateral skull base tumors, and implantable hearing devices, including cochlear implants. Outside of the hospital, he enjoys spending time with his family, trail running with his dog, skiing, tennis, and learning how to fly fish.

NEW FELLOW



**BENJAMIN
BROWNLEE, MD**

**FACIAL PLASTIC AND
RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGERY FELLOW**

Dr. Benjamin Brownlee is our new Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellow. He was raised on a horse and cattle ranch outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He received his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University, then his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma. He stayed in Oklahoma City to complete his residency training in Otolaryngology at the University of Oklahoma. He is looking forward to his fellowship at UVA, and his current clinical and research interests involve reducing opioid utilization after facial plastic surgery. Outside of work, Ben enjoys golf, reading, and spending time with his wife, two daughters, and two dogs.

NEW STAFF



**STEPHANIE
MILLS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**



**ALEJANDRA
ZUNIGA, MS**

**LAB SPECIALIST
SENIOR**



**VINCENT
NGUYENKHOA, BS**

**CLINICAL
RESEARCH
COORDINATOR**

NEW RESIDENTS



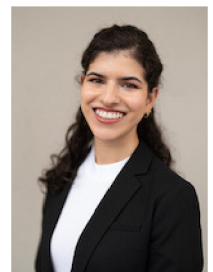
**WILLIAM
STOUT, MD**

PGY-1 RESIDENT



**ADELAIDE
ZHAO, MD**

PGY-1 RESIDENT



**NICOLE
SENDEROVICH, MD**

PGY-1 RESIDENT



Pictured in the photo from left to right: Current chief resident and rising FPRS fellow at University of Minnesota Jeff Mella and his family, current FPRS fellow Ben Brownlee and his family, Sam and Mary Oyer, and previous FPRS fellow Katherine Gossett and her husband.

The Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery (FPRS) division continues to grow in many ways as we expand both in number, but also into new and exciting specialty areas of clinical practice. Most notable is the focus on a full spectrum of facial paralysis treatment and gender affirming surgery, alongside a large practice of Mohs reconstruction, rhinoplasty, facial rejuvenation, and trauma surgery. We have started seeing patients in the lovely and newly renovated Pantops office, offering laser skin treatments and non-invasive injectable treatments.

We have expanded our clinical team to include fellowship training, now accredited through the American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS). This fellowship program is built on the success of dozens of years of experience training international fellows in FPRS. Additionally, we will be adding an advanced care provider to the team and are actively recruiting a third FPRS faculty member. This growth is critical to allow us to maintain high quality and timely patient care across all aspects of facial plastic surgery.

Beyond the clinical sphere, we have seen continued growth in ongoing clinical research studies focused on patient outcomes in the area of facial paralysis, facial trauma, rhinoplasty, and Mohs reconstruction. We hope these efforts will continue to improve the quality-of-life for the variety of patients we treat and allow us to provide even better outcomes on a daily basis.

DIVISION HIGHLIGHT



Sam Oyer, MD (Left), Katherine Gossett, MD (Center), and Stephen Park, MD (Right)

Our first AAFPRS fellow, Dr. Katherine Gossett, is poised to start her academic career at Wake Forest University following graduation and we are eager to welcome our next fellow, Dr. Ben Brownlee, to the team starting July 2024.

STEPHEN PARK, MD, FACS

PROFESSOR, DIVISION DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

SAM OYER, MD, FACS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Steven Munger, PhD (left) and Michael Catalino, MD (Right)



DIVISION HIGHLIGHT



Spencer Payne, MD (Left), Jieun Lee, MD (Center), and Jose Mattos, MD (Right)

With the addition of Steven Munger, PhD to the department, the research of smell and olfactory disorders in the division of Rhinology & Endoscopic Sinus Surgery is off and running. Dr. Munger brings his expertise in bench research in olfaction to the division and we have already begun a number of new initiatives. In addition to clinical research on the biological dupilumab's effects on immunity to staphylococcus aureus, we are now underway with an additional study to draw out its effects on olfaction and smell loss. The division is also in the process of establishing a multi-institutional collaborative (including Johns Hopkins and MUSC) to focus on the creation of large clinical trials in human olfaction. We're excited to continue to investigate these issues which aren't necessarily "right under our nose!"

On the clinical side, the division has been expanding the UVA Skull Base Program. Dr. Michael Catalino has joined the Department of Neurosurgery and has quickly integrated with our team. His expertise has been honed by UNC, Dr. Law's at the Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, and MD Anderson Cancer center where he focused on complex brain and skull base tumors. Our ability to manage complex disease at the nose/brain interface is vastly accelerating – we will be keeping "our noses to the grindstone" for sure!

We say goodbye to our Fellow, Dr. Jieun Lee. She heads to the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA to bring her flavor of rhinology and general otolaryngology to the place Dr. Payne once called home. Introducing her to their faculty was certainly a decision that was "on the nose." All the best on her future endeavors!!

SPENCER PAYNE, MD
PROFESSOR, DIVISION DIRECTOR



Rachel
Morgan, PA



Katherine
Fedder, MD



Jonathan
Garneau, MD



Eric
Dowling, MD



David
Shonka, MD



Connor
O'Meara, MD

The Head & Neck Division remains exceptionally active, both clinically and academically and is constantly expanding and innovating. Rachel Morgan, PA has become an integral part of the outpatient Head and Neck service including the development of a thyroid nodule clinic. Her busy clinical practice, seeing initial and follow up patients, allows us to improve access to care, keeping wait times as short as possible. Given Rachel's incredible success, the division plans to hire an additional NP or PA to help with our ever-increasing clinical volume.

Dr. Eric Dowling has developed a busy ablative and reconstructive practice and was recently recruited to the UVA Robotics Committee as well as the UVA Provider Data Governance Committee. On a national level, he has been appointed to the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) Young Members Committee where he will be responsible for providing young AHNS members with mentorship and networking opportunities for career development.

Dr. Jonathan Garneau continues to maintain a busy clinical practice performing a substantial portion of the complex reconstructive surgery within the division, yet also is the leading grant funded researcher in cancer imaging. He has been named the Medical Director of the Cancer Service Line Clinics for the Emily Couric Cancer Center. This is a significant leadership position within the ECCC and Dr. Garneau will undoubtedly fill this role admirably.

Dr. Katherine Fedder continues to perform complex ablative and reconstructive surgery but is becoming increasingly known for her sialendoscopy skills, as she is one of the few surgeons performing this procedure in the state. She was recently invited to present internationally on sialendoscopy in Geneva.

Dr. Fedder also served as the Section Lead for Head and Neck on the Program Planning Committee, playing an integral role in the program development for the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Annual Meeting in Miami, 2024. We hope to see you at the meeting which promises to be a fantastic educational opportunity under Dr. Fedder's leadership.

As a division, we remain highly invested in education and scholarship. Connor O'Meara, MD from Australia joined the team in January 2024 as a clinical fellow. He has hit the ground running with several papers and research projects completed or in development and has been a delight to teach in the clinic and operating room. Holly Hess, SLP has been training Spencer Todd, SLP who is the first SLP fellow at UVA. BJ Ferrebee Chamandi, CRC has kept the division heavily involved in clinical trials. Our group has been quite busy on a national and international level giving numerous presentations across the US and abroad. We hope to continue to advance the field of head and neck surgery, as a division having already produced 9 new peer reviewed publications in the last 8 months.

It is an honor to be a part of such an incredible team. I would like to thank all of our nurses, administrative staff, and other team members who work so hard to help our complex patients. I especially want to thank our residents who work tirelessly to make sure that the patients who come to UVA for their care get the best possible outcomes. We could not maintain this degree of success without everyone who supports our Head and Neck Division. Thank you!

DAVID SHONKA, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, INTERM DIVISION DIRECTOR



(James Daniero, MD (left) on stage with local musicians at the Eastwood Farm and Winery for World Voice Day

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates from the Division of Laryngology and Voice Care. Our recent activities have showcased our community outreach and commitment to advancing the quality of voice care nationwide.

This year's World Voice Day theme "Resonate, Educate, Celebrate" was brought to life nationally by Dr. McGarey in his AAO-HNS Bulletin article. Locally, we celebrated World Voice Day in epic fashion at the picturesque Eastwood Farm and Winery. This annual department event not only raises awareness of voice disorders, but also generates funds for the Music Health Alliance, a crucial organization supporting our often underinsured vocal artists. Our musical headliners were none other than Virginia's own Robin and Linda Williams, beloved performers known for their frequent appearances on NPR's Prairie Home Companion. Robin Williams's performance and testimony as a patient added a special touch to an already remarkable event.

In addition to the World Voice Day, Drs. Torrecillas, McGarey and Daniero along with Sam Olds PA-C successfully hosted our first Voice and Stroboscopy Course since COVID-19. This marked a significant milestone as we reintroduced the course in collaboration with our Speech Language Pathology colleagues,

Joanna Lott, Casey Resnick, Flora Vassilev, and Dr. Kazlin Mason. The course was held at a new venue, the Charlottesville ENT clinic at Pantops, which serves as a part-time home for our laryngologists and houses two stroboscopy towers. The course had incredible support from Storz, Olympus, Pentax, and Bryan Medical and attracted attendees from across the country. Participants traveled from as far away as California and Louisiana, reflecting the broad interest and dedication to advancing voice care.



Pictured from left to right: James Daniero, Samuel Olds, Vanessa Torrecillas, Patrick McGarey, Flora Vassilev, Spencer Todd, Casey Resnick, Joanna Lott, and Kristin McNail

JAMES DANIERO, MD, MS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DIVISION DIRECTOR



George Hashisaki, MD enjoying some fly fishing on a gorgeous sunny day near their family cabin in Montana

After 30 years of dedicated service to the department, to our residents, and to his patients, Dr. George Hashisaki will be scaling back his clinical practice. The consummate surgeon-educator and a meticulous, exacting surgeon, Dr. Hashisaki will continue to see outpatients and teach residents two days/week at the Fontaine Clinic. The department, residents, and I are very fortunate to have Dr. Hashisaki stay on in a part-time status – his methodical, brilliant, supportive, and non-judgmental teaching style has benefited scores of trainees over his 30 year career.

Born in Missoula Montana, “Dr. H” received his medical degree from the University of Washington and travelled east to UVA for residency. He was the first neurotology fellow under Dr. Paul Lambert and started his postgraduate career at the University of California, Irvine. UVA and our department under the leadership of Dr. Robert Cantrell were extremely lucky to recruit the Drs. Hashisaki (his wife Teresa is a pediatrician) back to UVA in 1994.

Dr. Hashisaki has served the department, our community, and our specialty as Division Director

of Otology/Neurotology, CME Director for our Grand Rounds lectures, Medical Director for the Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation, and member of the Executive Council of the American Neurotology Society. He has reviewed countless manuscripts and serves on the Editorial Board of our specialty’s flagship journal, Otology/Neurotology.

Other than Otology/Neurotology, Dr. Hashisaki’s passion is the great outdoors – hiking, camping, and especially fly fishing. Stories from summers with his family at their shared cabin in Montana amaze and entertain. Dr. H will be looking forward to more time in the great outdoors as he steps back from clinical practice, and more time with Teresa and his two sons, Jonathan and Nathaniel. We wish you all the best, Dr. H – we will miss your clear, simple, and precise explanations of complex otologic/neurotologic concepts and practice principles. We will miss your wisdom, guidance, and commitment to our trainees’ education. Go hook ‘em Dr. H!!

BRAD KESSER, MD
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT VICE-CHAIR



Ariana
Greenwell, MD



William
Brand, MD



Denise
Jackson, PA



Cheryl Hubbard, RNCC (left) and Myra Johnson,
RNCC (right)

The Pediatric Otolaryngology Division remains extremely busy as we continue to expand our clinical volumes and the breadth of complex care offered. The division, in conjunction with the UVA Children's Hospital, offers many multidisciplinary clinics to aid in the care of medically complex children. Specifically, we participate in the Cleft Palate clinic, the Aerodigestive clinic, Complex Care clinic, and Vascular Anomalies Conference.

Our RN Clinical Care Coordinator (RNCC) Cheryl Hubbard coordinates the Aerodigestive clinic, which meets monthly to see patients with complex aerodigestive disorders. She is joined by Myra Johnson, our newest team member and second RNCC. Both Cheryl and Myra are integral parts of the UVA Pediatric ENT team, and recently attended the Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses seminar. With their assistance, we are excited about improving the care we provide our pediatric patients.

Our amazing Physician Assistant Denise Jackson, rounds out her tenth year here at UVA this summer! She continues to offer her clinical expertise to all our patients, but especially to some of our more medically complex patients who follow in the Complex Care clinic.

As our volume increases, division director Dr. William Brand is working with the institution to pilot a new Fast Track program which aims to offer healthy kids routine surgeries expeditiously, but while still providing the excellent care UVA Children's is known for.

Dr. David Shonka brings his endocrine expertise, collaborating with our division to grow our pediatric thyroid program. Similar to adult patients with thyroid neoplasms, all patients are seen in the Pediatric ENT clinic where they undergo preoperative flexible laryngoscopy. Their pathology is reviewed at our Thyroid Tumor Board. Should they require surgery, Dr. Ariana Greenwell and Dr. Shonka work together to provide optimal care to this special population.

We are also growing in the research sphere with a recent publication in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology describing a novel syndrome of silent rhinovirus in children with recurrent wheeze, spearheaded by Dr. William Teague, a member of our aerodigestive team.

We are excited about all this growth and are actively recruiting a third fellowship trained pediatric otolaryngologist to join us!

ARIANA GREENWELL, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



*Jennifer
Weber, AuD*



*Cassie
Turner, AuD*



*Cynthia
Clark, AuD*

This past year has brought about considerable change and growth within the Audiology Division. Our clinical team has expanded to 14 audiologists with clinical experience ranging from new graduates to providers who have spent 38 years serving patients within this division, each specializing in specific areas of audiologic & vestibular assessment and management.

Over the past few months, Jen Weber, Au.D. and Cassie Turner, Au.D. have already proven to be strong additions to our team. Dr. Weber completed her clinical externship at Hershey Medical Center and obtained her Au.D. from Gallaudet University in May 2024. She has joined the cochlear implant team and also provides diagnostic and hearing aid services. Dr. Turner, a 2021 graduate of Gallaudet University, completed her clinical externship with UVA Audiology, and has chosen to return to our clinic after leading the audiology program for the UVA Sheila C. Johnson Center for the past few years. Dr. Turner specializes in pediatric diagnostics and hearing aid services.

After 10+ years serving as Coordinator of the UVA Newborn Hearing Screening Program, Cynthia Clark, Au.D. has handed over the reins to Dr. Turner.

Dr. Clark has been an outstanding leader of our NBHS program, cultivating a strong relationship with the Mother-Baby and NICU teams, serving as the liaison between UVA Health and the Virginia Early Hearing Detection & Intervention program, and working diligently to ensure that all babies born at UVA receive the necessary hearing screening and follow-up care. We are indebted to Dr. Clark for her many years of dedication and service to this program, and look forward to continued program success under Dr. Turner's leadership.

LORI GROVE, PHD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DIVISION DIRECTOR



Simone Barker, MD



David Jung, MD



Jeff Mella, MD

What motivated you towards the ENT specialty?

Simone: I learned about ENT as a kid, my dad was a general ENT. my experience with my dad coupled with my love for head and neck anatomy really motivated me to go into ENT.

David: The complex, beautiful anatomy. The balanced approach to patient care with emphasis on both medical and surgical intervention modalities. Ultimately, ears rule.

Jeff: As a student I loved all surgical specialties, but it was the character of the people within ENT that pulled me in- passionate, crazy smart, without big egos seemed to be a common denominator.

How do you feel your residency experience helped you prepare for the future?

Simone: We are incredibly lucky at UVA to have motivate, passionate and engaged faculty who have prepared me well for future practice by honing my surgical and diagnostic skills.

David: I feel well equipped for neurotology fellowship given the amazing otology training we get. But the greatest strength of our program is its well-rounded exposure. I feel comfortable in all aspects of otolaryngology thanks to the great mentorship and learning opportunities across all subspecialties.

Jeff: Training at UVA gives me immense confidence as I approach the future. I've been shaped by world class surgeons and been given the tools I need to succeed in any environment.

What is a major highlight of your residency?

Simone: My co-residents! Both past and present made everyday fun and infused positivity into every experience.

David: The tight-knit nature of the relationship among residents and faculty. It is a great mix of collegiate and personal learning, which is rare to see in such an established academic institution with a long tradition.

Jeff: There were tough times over the last 5 years for sure, but my memories of residency seem to be one big highlight reel. The first time I did a surgery "skin to skin," bonding over a campfire at resident retreats, listening to Dr. Park try to talk someone out of a tonsillectomy through a Spanish interpreter, matching to fellowship. Residency is 100% about the people you share it with and I wouldn't change a thing.

What are your plans following residency?

Simone: I'm joining a private practice group, Sacramento ENT in Sacramento, California. I'm looking forward to being close to my family again!

David: I will be moving to Michigan to pursue fellowship training in neurotology-otology at the Michigan Ear Institute.

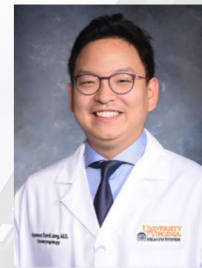
Jeff: Thrilled to be completing a 1-year fellowship in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Minnesota.

Do you have any parting advice for aspiring Otolaryngologists?

Simone: Work hard, have fun, and always be kind. Residency is hard but everyone you encounter is trying their best, and the best thing you can do is treat everyone with kindness and respect.

David: It is truly a beautiful field with highly diverse, complex pathology that trains you in all aspects of modern surgical concepts. We are at the forefront of medical technology while respecting the traditional surgical tenets. The people in the field are "nice" and inspiring. You will not regret making the decision to become an otolaryngologist.

Jeff: Find a way to love to journey (the struggle and the growth) because training is too long of a road to be looking forward to the end.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Congratulations, Class of 2025!



Otolaryngology Research Division Grows by Two



*Steven Munger, PhD
Professor*



*Patrick Cottler, PhD
Associate Professor*

This year we have the fortune of gaining two incredible research faculty who will expand our research capabilities immensely: Steven Munger, PhD and Patrick Cottler, PhD.

Dr. Steven Munger joins us from the University of Florida where he served as the director for the Center for Smell and Taste (UFCST). Over the last three decades, Dr. Munger has established an international reputation for research excellence and innovation in the chemosensory community. Dr. Munger's

lab focuses on understanding how olfactory and taste systems detect and encode chemosensory stimuli, and how the function of these systems vary under different physiological and pathophysiological conditions. Our studies, predominantly funded by the NIH, are conducted with human subjects and in model systems, and employ neurobiological, psychophysical, anatomical and molecular biological approaches.

Dr. Patrick Cottler joins is joining our department from Facial Plastic Surgery here at UVA Health. Dr. Cottler spent 10 years in start-up companies in the bio-technology industry sector before returning to UVA to pursue more research. During his time in industry, he served as a Principle Investigator for small businesses on several commercial based projects related to biomaterials and wound healing. He directed the research program for the plastic surgery resident doctors. Dr. Cottler's lab has interest in areas of wound healing, biomaterials, and regenerative medicine.

Internal Research Funding

ROBERT W. CANTRELL MD, RESEARCH GRANT / PAUL A. LEVINE, MD RESEARCH GRANT

This grant supports innovative basic science, translational and clinical research by residents and faculty OR worthy proposals that were not selected for funding by external mechanisms. One award cycle per year providing 2 grants up to \$8,000 each.

SUBINOY DAS OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

This grant fosters translational research partnerships linking medicine, law, regulatory governance, and business disciplines to provide immersive faculty and resident-driven product development experiences early in an Otolaryngologist's career. One award cycle per year providing 1 grant up to \$10,000 total.

The Miller Family Resident Education Fund

This grant supports higher training for residents and junior faculty in the area of Facial Plastic Surgery, especially facial trauma.

Goodbye 2023-2024 Research Fellows!



Naushin Ali, MS (left), James Daniero, MD (middle), and Keerthi Kurian, BS (right)

Thank you to our 2023-2024 research fellows, Keerthi and Naushin, for all of your hard work over the past year. You grew as research clinicians with your innovative projects, contributed greatly to the department's research endeavors, and enhanced our fellow program with your ideas and participation. Your futures are bright, and we hope to stay in touch as you further the field of Otolaryngology.

Both Keerthi and Naushin are scheduled to rotate through the the Otolaryngology department before they return to their home institutions. They will be applying for residency in the upcoming ERAS application cycle and we are excited for what the future has in store for you both!

Welcome 2024-2025 Research Fellow!



Ryan Stepp, BS

Ryan was raised in Greenville, South Carolina. He studied Biomedical engineering in undergrad and loves to build and create things. Ryan is currently a medical student at UofSC SOM Greenville. In his spare time if he's not studying, Ryan loves to hike trails, build computers, build various home projects, and spending time with his fiancé Gianna and Dachshund Maisy. Ryan visited Virginia during a four-day backpacking trip along the Appalachian trail many years ago but distinctly remembers how beautiful it is in the surrounding Charlottesville area. Ryan's areas of interest in research include the application of clinical engineering, biomaterial creation, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, and bioinstrumentation.



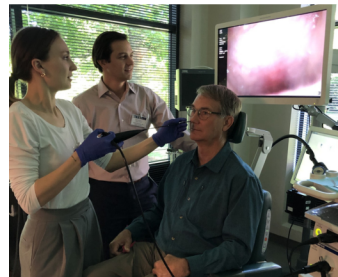
Noah Thornton, MA

Noah was raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi before attending the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) for college where he studied Biology and Society and Health. Noah has just finished his third year of medical school at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and has a M.A. in Urban Bioethics program. In his free time, Noah enjoys attending live sporting events, especially college baseball (Go Hoos!), as well as running half marathons or reading about bioethics, medical non-fiction, and anything from Paul Farmer or Arthur Kleinman. Noah is looking forward to spending the year in Charlottesville with the department of Otolaryngology as a research fellow.

48th Annual Fitz-Hugh

This year's 48th Annual Fitz-Hugh Symposium was an amazing experience for everyone involved! We couldn't have asked for better weather or company as we explored the advances in the field of Otolaryngology, AI in medicine, and more.

The symposium ended with a beautiful banquet honoring our incredible graduating chief residents Dr. Simone Barker, Dr. David Jung, and Dr. Jeff Mella (top left). We wish them all the best and they will be missed. This year, the chief residents awarded the Reibel Faculty Teaching Award to Dr. Patrick McGarey (bottom left).

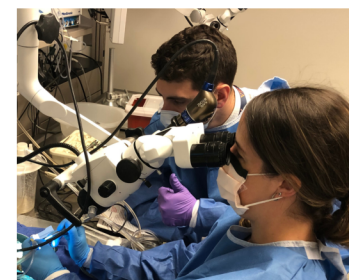
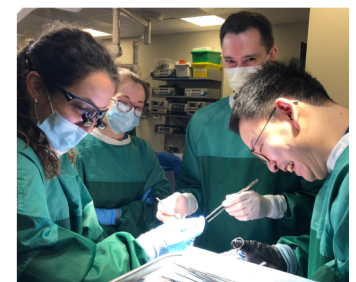


Stroboscopy Course

This year was the first ever UVA Voice Center's Stroboscopy & Voice Course. This two-day intensive course was designed to provide practical and hands-on education for speech-language pathologists and otolaryngologists in laryngeal anatomy, voice disorders, and the performance and interpretation of laryngeal stroboscopy. It was an amazing experience and we hope the first of many more!

Annual Cadaver Lab 2023-2024

The pilot of the multi-departmental integrated cadaver lab curriculum was received with high praise from our faculty and residents. We successfully integrated over 20+ hours of cadaver labs into the Grand Rounds curriculum, covering an array of procedures from each division. We were able to utilize every part of the cadavers in conjunction with Orthopedics and General Surgery to maximize educational experiences, lower costs, and honor the donors who provided every resident with invaluable opportunities to improve their surgical skill and increase patient outcomes.



Jahrsdoerfer Visiting Professor



Matthew Carlson, MD

We were honored to have Matthew Carlson, MD from the Mayo Clinic join us this year as the Jahrsdoerfer visiting professor. A professor of Otolaryngology, chair of the Otology/Neurotology division, medical director of the cochlear implant program, and program director of the Neurotology and Lateral Skull Base Surgery Fellowship, Dr. Carlson brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that he imparted to everyone in the department. Dr. Carlson spent the entire day educating our residents on Neurotology procedures, research, and engaged us with a competitive few rounds of “jeopEARDy!”.

Dr. Carlson’s keynote speech was titled: *“New Concepts Informing a Revised Approach to Small Vestibular Schwannoma Management (and its application to other fields)”*

EVMS Visiting Professor

As part of an initiative to expand and diversify the teaching and learning experiences of the faculty, we have partnered with EVMS and VCU to create a visiting professor program. Our first invitation was extended to Benjamin Rubinstein, MD from EVMS to lead a 2-hour grand rounds session with our faculty and residents. Dr. Rubinstein presented his lecture on *“Evaluation and Management of Unilateral Vocal Fold Paralysis”* during the first hour and spent time going over various related cases during the second hour.

Dr. Rubinstein completed his residency at Eastern Virginia Medical School and is board certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology. His clinical interests and skills include laryngeal and voice disorders, treatment of the professional voice, neurolaryngeal disorders, laryngeal and tracheal reconstruction and pediatric voice disorders.



Benjamin Rubinstein, MD



AAO-HNSF 2024 Annual Meeting & Alumni Reception

The best and brightest otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons from across the globe will come together **September 28 – October 1, 2024**, in Miami, Florida, for the AAO-HNSF 2024 Annual Meeting & OTO Experience. This year's event will take place at the Miami Beach Convention Center in Miami Beach, Florida, and offers you the opportunity to "Experience the Extraordinary".

This year's UVA Otolaryngology Alumni Dinner will take place sometime during the 2024 AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Wendy Baldwin at wdb4b@virginia.edu



UVA Medical Alumni Association & Medical School Foundation



**MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEDICAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

Want to stay connected and support the Department of Otolaryngology?

The UVA Medical Alumni Association and Medical School Foundation works with the department to plan events, share news, and support fundraising initiatives. Here are a few of the ways you can get involved:

- Stay up-to-date on happenings at UVA Health and the department by updating your contact information [here](https://www.uvamedalum.org/update-contact-info/). (<https://www.uvamedalum.org/update-contact-info/>)
- Follow @uvamedalum on Facebook, Instagram and X, or visit our website at [uvamedalum.org](https://www.uvamedalum.org).

Philanthropy

A gift to the University of Virginia Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery Resident Education Fund exclusively supports resident education at different levels including books, conferences, etc.

Please consider supporting the next generation of Otolaryngologists. If you would like to make a philanthropic investment in UVA Oto-HNS visit our [website](https://www.uvamedalum.org/giving/department-of-otolaryngology/).

<https://www.uvamedalum.org/giving/department-of-otolaryngology/>



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Department of Otolaryngology
Head and Neck Surgery

Save The Date!

Fitz-Hugh Symposium
June 26-27, 2025

49th Annual Fitz-Hugh Symposium

June 26-27, 2025

Symposium Focus

General Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Cancer Care
Sleep Surgery

Course Directors



Eric Dowling,
MD



Delaney Carpenter,
MD



Stephen Park,
MD



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WHAT YOU OTO KNOW



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