UCSF to Open the Most Modern Hospitals in the Nation in February

When it opens fully in February 2015, the 289-bed, 878,000-gross-square-foot UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay will set a new standard for patient- and family-centered health care, safety, sustainability and translational medicine.

Step one in the process was completion of the Gateway Medical Building, which is focused on outpatient services for our women, children, and cancer patients. Many outpatient clinics, including Pediatric Audiology, will move from the Parnassus and Mount Zion campuses to the Gateway Medical Building, which is located at 1825 Fourth Street, at the corner of 16th Street, in San Francisco’s booming Mission Bay neighborhood.

The brand new Mission Bay hospitals, which will open on February 1, 2015, comprise the UCSF Benioff San Francisco Children’s Hospital, the UCSF Bakar Cancer Hospital, and the UCSF Betty Irene Moore Women’s Hospital. The hospitals are three different buildings that are connected to each other and the Gateway Medical Building.

OHNS Spaces
The Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery will move its surgical oncology practice and pediatric practice to the $1 billion hospital complex by early February. An OHNS workroom in the Gateway Medical Building includes eight workstations that can accommodate four physician-medical assistant teams. Adult and pediatric procedure rooms and three audiology booths with control rooms in the outpatient clinic feature state-of-the-art equipment for the utmost in patient care.

Continued on page 4
Message from the Chair

Celebrating our Sesquicentennial

This year marks UCSF’s 150th anniversary. While the numerical milestone is significant, how we are celebrating it is even more important. A recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of our academic building at Mission Bay featured Jaime Sepulveda of UCSF Global Sciences, Chancellor Sam Hawgood, CEO Mark Laret, former UCSF Chancellor Haile T. Debas, and philanthropists Chuck and Helga Feeney. The building was completed on time and on budget in just 19 months. Although some have questioned the open office space design, I have walked through our floor of the building, and I think it will be a spectacular place to work. The space prizes collaboration but also has abundant facilities for privacy when needed. Our top-notch head and neck oncologic surgery team and our growing pediatric team will move in this winter.

Meanwhile, our brand new Mission Bay hospitals, which comprise the UCSF Benioff San Francisco Children’s Hospital, the UCSF Bakar Cancer Hospital, and the UCSF Betty Irene Moore Women’s Hospital, will open on February 1, 2015. Our department is diligently preparing for the launch of our services at the most modern hospital in the country.

More good news came when US News & World Report published its latest rankings of hospitals. UCSF is eighth in the nation, and our department also ranks eighth in the nation for otolaryngology-head and neck surgery care. This year’s rating seemed to have a greater emphasis on quality metrics that relate directly to patient experience, which is an area where both our hospital and our department shines. We are very proud that our high degree of effort and professionalism has been recognized. Also, US News and Doximity recently produced a ranking of residency programs, with our program in the top 15 out of approximately 100 programs in the nation. Of course, irrespective of rankings we feel we have the best balance of experience of any program in the country.

But how do we compare from a research perspective? In the most recent data ranking of otolaryngology departments, utilizing NIH funding as the metric, we ranked 13th in the nation. Since that ranking, in 2013, the department has received four additional RO1 grants and one R21 grant. More important than rankings, however, is a solid pipeline of new investigators who can compete at the highest level of science for funding and who will be the key to continuing the legacy of outstanding and transformative research that is the hallmark of UCSF. We are building new laboratories for outstanding scientists whom we think will lead our field in innovative discovery.

Turning to academics, I would like to welcome two new faculty members to the department. Jonathan George, MPH, MD, joins us from the MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he received advanced fellowship training in endocrine surgery of the head and neck, as well as ablative head and neck oncologic surgery. Jonathan will be part of the head and neck team that moves to the UCSF Bakar NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital in February. Jonathan is off to a great start and is an expert in all aspects of thyroid and parathyroid surgery. Also joining the team is Aaron Tward, PhD, MD. Aaron is an otologist/neurotologist who finished his two-year fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary after completing his residency at the Harvard Combined Program. Although Aaron is an otologist as a clinician, he is also a scientist who, having trained with Nobel Laureate Michael Bishop, will be starting up a lab devoted to discovering the molecular genetic underpinnings of head and neck cancer. Aaron’s lab is being constructed on floor 7 of Health Sciences East in partnership with the lab for Dylan Chan, PhD, MD. We expect the space to be completed during the spring of 2015.

In other academic news, Emily Cope, PhD, received the Basic Science Award, for the best basic science paper, from the American Rhinologic Society (ARS), during the ARS’s fall 2014 Scientific Meeting. The paper, entitled “Probiotic Instillation Delays Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Induced Sinusitis and Translocation to the Lower Airways in a Murine Model,” was prepared in conjunction with Andy Goldberg, MD, and Steve Pletcher, MD, who are Emily’s clinical partners. Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not highlight the recent core grant awarded to Jolie Chang, MD, by the Triological Society for her work entitled “Plasticity of Binaural Integration in Asymmetric Sensorineural Hearing Loss.” Jolie is being mentored by Steve Cheung, MD, who has abundant research experience in this area.

Finally, please check our CME programs including our Head and Neck Cancer and Endocrine Surgery Update and our Pacific Rim Update with Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii during the week of February 14, 2015.

Warmly,
Andrew H. Murr, MD
Chairman
Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery,
Roger Boles, MD Endowed Chair in Otolaryngology Education
Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

From left: Haile T. Debas, Chuck and Helga Feeney, Sam Hawgood, Mark Laret, and Jaime Sepulveda at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our academic building at Mission Bay (photo by Carmen Holt)
Profile: Young-Wook Jun, PhD

Focusing on Nanotechnology to Defeat Cancer

Young-Wook Jun, PhD, is concentrating on extremely tiny materials to solve huge problems. His focus is nanoparticles, which are objects between 1 and 100 nanometers in size. To put that in perspective, if a nanoparticle were the size of a football, a red blood cell would be larger than the size of the football field.

Dr. Jun is an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and 2012-2013 Bryan Hemming Endowed Fellowship recipient whose current research is focused on cancer. Research in nanoparticles is currently an area of intense scientific interest due to a wide variety of potential applications in biomedical, optical and electronic fields.

Using advanced nanoprobing systems providing new optical, electronic, and magnetic capabilities, Dr. Jun and his research team are investigating the single molecule dynamics of biomolecules involved in cellular developments such as gene regulation, cell-to-cell communications, and neuron circuit formation.

Investigating Signal Regulation

“I am developing techniques that can be used for any type of cancer,” he explains. “My lab develops platform nanotechnology to investigate dynamics of key signal regulation proteins in living cells. For example, we study the Notch receptor which is a key cell-signaling decider in neuro-, blood vessel-, and cancer-development.”

His team recently developed multifunctional magneto-plasmonic nanoparticles to image and control spatial and temporal distributions of Notch receptors in living cells. Furthermore, the nanoparticles enable regulation of the Notch signal activation and thus transcriptional program of cells. Using this technology, cell behavior can potentially be changed or controlled with single cell resolution. This new technique promises a diverse range of applications: For example, blood vessel maps and neuro maps during development can be potentially created or targeted.

“Currently we are interested in creating a blood vessel map to understand the development process,” he says. “By observing cell development, it is possible to visualize how our body system orchestrates and beautifully organizes individual cells to generate vessels. Once you learn how cell vessels grow, various applications of the nanotechnology become possible. For example, while imaging nanoparticle-labelled endothelial cells guided by MRI, it may be possible to direct angiogenic vessel development to avoid cancerous tissues.”

Trained as a chemist at Yonsei University in Korea, Dr. Jun received a PhD degree with a research emphasis in the chemistry of nanocrystals at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. He then moved to UC Berkeley for his postdoctoral research in single particle microscopy with Professor Paul Alivisatos. In 2010 he started his career as an Assistant Professor at UCSF. Since joining UCSF he has met many researchers and has come into contact with the many biologists on the faculty.

“At UCSF there is a great atmosphere of collaboration,” he says. “By working with UCSF biologists, I became interested in cell behavior and nanoparticles. UCSF is amazing in that there is a culture of collaboration – everyone helps each other, everyone discusses their research, and that is really cool. At some universities there is an extremely competitive environment and people don’t want to share their research.”

Controlling Cell Growth

At some point in the future Dr. Jun and his fellow researchers may be able to use nanoparticles to manipulate cell growth behavior and actually prevent cancer, although such activities may be 10 to 20 years away. The promise relies on the properties of nanoparticles. While some nanoparticles are toxic, with the proper coating, nanoparticles that were initially toxic can be made to overcome that property and can become biologically inert.

Dr. Jun’s plans include continuing to expand on his current research, especially in clinical applications like cancer detection. One area of interest is brain mapping, which he notes is an exciting new field that researchers have just begun to pilot. Another project he will soon be starting involves exploring the use of nanoparticles to understand touch. In addition, he and his research team are looking at the delivery of genetic materials by nanoparticles.

Dr. Jun’s research is currently supported by multiple funding sources including NIH/NIGMS R01, NIH/NIBIB R21, NIH/NHLBI R21, The BayBRAIN SEED Funding, UC-Cancer Research Coordinating Committee, and UCSF-SOM Bridge funding.
Sustainability

A LEED Gold certified building, the new UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay integrates the best practices available in sustainability architecture to create a hospital complex that positively affects healing, health, safety and well-being for both patients and the environment.

By conserving water, improving energy performance, incorporating healthy building materials and more, UCSF is taking conscious steps to keep Mission Bay sustainable from the start.

Innovative Operating Rooms

The operating rooms at the UCSF Bakar Cancer Hospital have been designed for optimal efficiency, flexibility, efficacy and convenience. In short, they have been designed for success in surgery. From infection control to ceiling-mounted equipment booms to the latest in OR technology, the operating rooms perform at the very highest level.

An integrated interventional platform merges surgical and imaging modalities for new advances in cancer treatments. State-of-the-art surgical suites featuring OR integration, robotics, intra-operative imaging, low temperature treatments and the adoption of emerging technology will keep this cancer hospital on the leading edge of modern health care.

Ceiling-mounted equipment booms will keep surgical equipment off the floor for ease of access and infection control. These ceiling-mounted structures will include an anesthesia boom that provides power, data and medical gas to the anesthesia machine. In each operating room, there will also be an adjustable height ceiling-mounted work surface providing flexible case documentation options.

Like all rooms in the UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay, the surgical suites are designed for healing. Smooth surfaces for easy cleaning, coved flooring and minimal ledges offer the highest possible levels of infection control, while rubber flooring allows for reduced maintenance and increased staff comfort and sound attenuation.

Touch screen flat panel displays are an important part of the overall OR integration system. These screens provide connectivity within the operating room, between other operating rooms at Mission Bay, across campuses, or even worldwide. Other large screens, on both sides of the OR, offer staff an easy and accessible way to view pertinent information before, during and after surgery.

In the cancer hospital, LED lights will be integrated with shadow elimination technology into the operating rooms. These lights reduce traditional heat dissipation created by infrared emissions. By using infrared-free LED lights, surgeons will have a more comfortable, productive working environment while improving patient safety.

Focus on patients

The acute care patient rooms in the cancer hospital were designed to accommodate patients’ increasing demands for better, easier ways to maintain close and healthy relationships with their caregivers and loved ones. For example, the traditional TV has been replaced by a high-tech multimedia wall. From connecting to work or a classroom via webcam to playing games with friends; and from customizing the room lighting to investigating a new diagnosis, the multimedia wall provides a lifeline to the resources within the hospital and to the world outside – creating a more familiarized (and comfortable) environment for patients and family alike. Meanwhile, the inviting family area in each acute care patient room allows for more comfortable and lengthy visits, including overnight stays, with loved ones.

From any perspective, UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay will speed the application of laboratory discoveries to the treatment of patients in the Bay Area and beyond, furthering UCSF’s mission of advancing health worldwide.
Boles & Schindler Annual Lectures

Fall Lectures Highlight Patient Care Treatment and Advances

The annual Roger Boles lectureship was held October 2nd at UCSF’s Mount Zion campus. Douglas A. Girod, MD, FACS was the invited speaker, lecturing on the topic of “Oromandibular Reconstruction: Options and Controversies.”

Dr. Girod is a professor and the Russell E. Bridwell, MD, Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, and the Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Since 2012 he has been the executive vice chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Girod earned his medical degree from the University of California at San Francisco. He completed his residency and an NIH research fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle. Prior to joining the University of Kansas, Dr. Girod served as Vice Chairman and Research Director in the Department of Otolaryngology at the Naval Medical Center in Oakland, CA.

On November 13th, David S. Haynes, MD, Vice-Chair and Professor at The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Communication Disorders in Nashville, gave the annual Robert A. Schindler, MD lecture in Otology/Neurotology. In his presentation at the Mount Zion Campus Dr. Haynes discussed “New Techniques in Cochlear Implant Surgery.” He addressed a range of cochlear implant surgery issues and areas, including the nuances of implant electrode placement, improvements in utilization of implants for lesser degrees of hearing disability other than complete deafness, and the vast array of options for patients with single sided deafness.

The topic was of great interest to the audience, particularly given Dr. Schindler’s pioneering work in the development of the multichannel cochlear implant and his formal involvement in cochlear implant research dating back to his residency at UCSF and fellowship at the Karolinska Institute.

The Roger Boles and Robert Schindler Lectureships honor former chairmen in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. The Boles Lecture pays tribute to Roger Boles, MD, Chairman of the Department from 1974 to 1989. The Schindler lecture was established in 2004 by Dr. Robert A. Schindler and Janet Feinberg Schindler. Dr. Schindler served as Chairman of the Department from 1989 to 1999.
Welcome to UCSF

New Residents and Fellows

2014-2015 FELLOWS

Chase Heaton, MD

Dr. Heaton received his medical degree in 2009 from Loyola University in Chicago, IL. He completed a UCSF residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in 2014. He became the Bryan Hemming Fellow in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology in July 2014.

Divya A. Chari, MD

Dr. Chari received her undergraduate degree in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics from Yale University, in New Haven, CT. She earned her medical degree from Columbia University in New York, NY in 2014. In July 2014, she became a PGY-1 resident in UCSF’s Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery department.

Craig Villari, MD

Dr. Villari earned his medical degree at Emory University, in Atlanta, GA, in 2009. He then completed a five-year Otolaryngology residency at Emory University. Dr. Villari became a laryngology and professional voice fellow in the UCSF Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in July 2014.

Philip L. Perez, MD

Dr. Perez earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. In 2014, he completed his medical degree at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, MO. He joined the department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery as an incoming PGY-1 resident in July 2014.

Nina W. Zhao, MD

Dr. Zhao received her undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. In 2014, she earned her medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Zhao entered the UCSF Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery residency program as a PGY-1 resident.

RESIDENCY CLASS OF 2019

Joseph Chang, MD

Dr. Chang completed his undergraduate degree in bioengineering at Rice University in Houston, TX. He received his medical degree from UCSF in 2014. He joined UCSF Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery as an incoming PGY-1 resident in July 2014.

UCSF OHNS Residents Match into Stellar Fellowship Programs

“The UCSF team will mint two new neurotologists and a head and neck oncologic surgeon!” noted Chair Dr. Andrew Murr in announcing that OHNS Chief Residents have matched into fellowships. “We are very proud of our resident leadership team as they anticipate their next career focus.”

Ruwan Kiringoda, MD, will be training in Neurotology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, in Boston, MA. Seth Pross, MD, will be training in Neurotology at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. And Ryan Goepfert, MD, will be training in advanced head and neck oncology surgery at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. The three will commence their clinical fellowships in July 2015.

In Memoriam

Pioneer in Understanding Oral Cancer Mourned

Longtime UCSF School of Dentistry faculty member Sol “Bud” Silverman, Jr., MA, DDS, Professor of Oral Medicine in the Department of Orofacial Sciences, UCSF School of Dentistry, passed away on August 13 following a brief illness. He was 88.

Through the years, Dr. Silverman maintained a close relationship with the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and was a pioneer participant in its UCSF tumor board.

“Dr. Silverman was a renowned clinician and a wonderful colleague” noted Chairman of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Andrew Murr, MD.
New Faculty

OHNS Welcomes Two Faculty Members

Jonathan R. George, MD, MPH

Jonathan R. George, MD, MPH, joined the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery as an Assistant Professor in July 2014.

Dr. George is a head and neck surgical oncologist specializing in the management of advanced thyroid cancers.

Dr. George earned his BA at Amherst College in Amherst, MA in 1998. His medical degree is from Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, NC. Dr. George also earned his Masters of Public Health from the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He completed an internship in General Surgery at UCSF, followed by a four-year UCSF Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Residency.

Dr. George’s fellowship in Advanced Head and Neck Surgical Oncology was at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and focused on the surgical management of aggressive thyroid malignancies.

His research examines molecular epidemiology of thyroid cancer as well as clinical outcomes of head and neck cancer treatment. He is actively engaged in multi-institutional clinical trials to advance the diagnosis and treatment of head and neck cancer.

Dr. George is certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology and is a fellow of the American Head and Neck Society.

Aaron Tward, MD, PhD

In September 2014, Aaron Tward, MD, PhD, joined UCSF as an Assistant Professor practicing in the Otolaryngology/Neurotology division of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Tward received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. He earned his PhD under the tutelage of Nobel Laureate J. Michael Bishop, MD, at UCSF, after coming to UCSF as a Medical Science Training program student. His Medical Degree was also completed at UCSF, followed by a one-year internship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2012, he completed a four-year residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in the Harvard Combined Program in Boston, MA. That was followed by a two-year neuro-otology fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston which he completed in 2014.

Dr. Tward’s research pertains to the origins of head and neck cancer with a focus on molecular genetics.

Resident Research Day 2014

OHNS Faculty, Fellows, and Residents gather in Saunders Courtyard at UCSF’s Parnassus Campus

From left, seated: Ryan Goepfert, Ruwan Kiringoda, Brandon Prendes, Ilya Likhterov, Chase Heaton, Andrew Murr, Matthew Tamplen, Daniel Faden, Rahul Seth, Anna Meyer

Second row: Elizabeth Cedars, Molly Naunheim, Katherine Yung, Mohammed Al Komser, Mia Miller, Laura Kirk, Divya Chari, Jolie Chang, Nicholas Dewyer

Third row: Matthew Russell, Seth Pross, Sean Wang, Marika Russell, Andrew Goldberg, Lawrence Lustig, Kristina Rosbe, Patricia Leake, Steven Wang, Conor McLaughlin

Upcoming Events

21st Annual Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring
February 13–15, 2015 | Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa | Orlando, Florida
The 2015 course “21st Annual Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring” will be hosted by the University of Pennsylvania Department of Otorhinolaryngology and will be held at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa in Orlando, FL. The course will return to San Francisco in 2016. For further information please go to http://tinyurl.com/21annual

Pacific Rim Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Update
February 14–17, 2015
Moana Surfrider Hotel, Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, HI

American College of Surgeons Thyroid and Parathyroid Ultrasound Skills-Oriented Course
February 14–15, 2015
Moana Surfrider Hotel, Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, HI

Laryngeal Endostroboscopy and FEES: Performance and Interpretation
March 4-6, 2015
UCSF Voice and Swallowing Center, San Francisco, CA

3rd Annual Merzenich Lecture
April 10, 2015 – 4:00 PM
Jon Kaas, PhD, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
San Francisco, CA

UCSF Otolaryngology Update: 2015
November 5–7, 2015
Grand Hyatt, San Francisco, CA

For further information about CME courses please go to http://cme.ucsf.edu. For information on departmental events please visit http://ohns.ucsf.edu or contact Agnes Ritter at aritter@ohns.ucsf.edu.