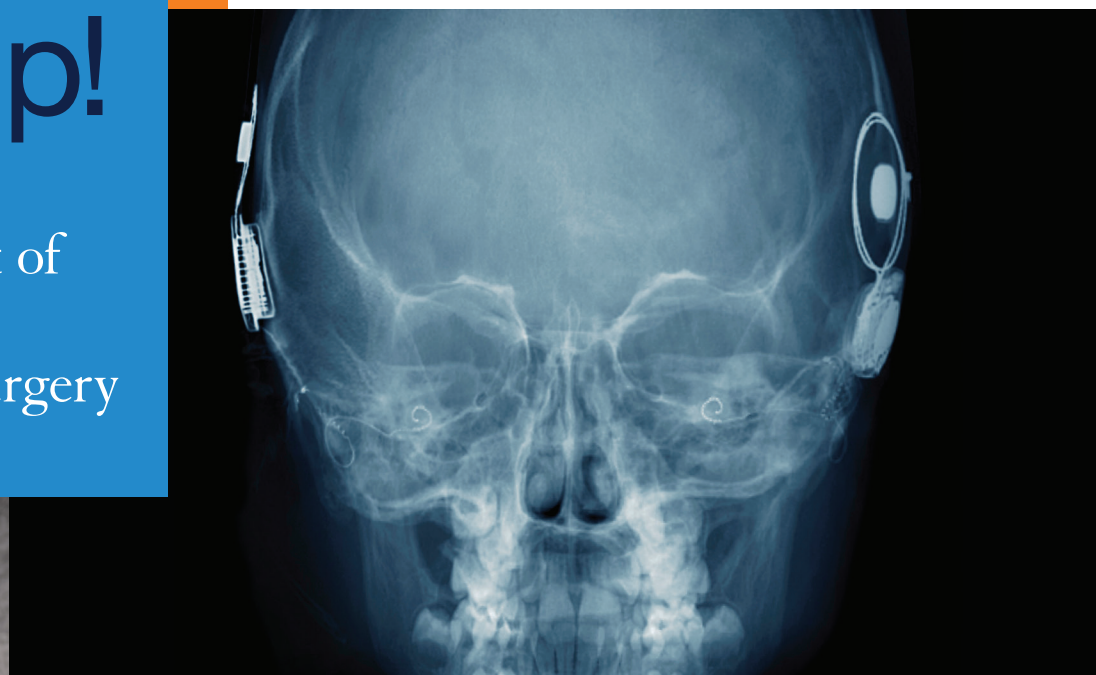


HeadsUp!

News from the
UCSF Department of
Otolaryngology –
Head and Neck Surgery



Aaron Tward, MD, PhD



X-ray showing cochlear implants

CI Hackathon: Generating New Ideas to Improve Cochlear Implants

Cochlear implants are amazing, but they are not perfect. They are absolutely not normal hearing,” said associate professor Aaron Tward, MD, PhD.

To address the fundamental problem of how to improve cochlear implant sound quality, Dr. Tward and others organized the Cochlear Implant (CI) Hackathon as a joint effort among UCSF, Advanced Bionics, and the University of Minnesota. The activity was a virtual competition aimed at generating new ideas on cochlear implant programming by drawing on previously untapped technical expertise from both scientists and computer programmers.

The competition began in December 2020 and continued through January 2021, with scientific participation spanning five continents. Teams were notified of their results when the contest closed in April 2021.

Inspiration

The open Artificial Pancreas System (APS) project inspired Dr. Tward to consider the competition. The APS project was started by a woman with Type 1 diabetes. Her goal was to implement automatic insulin delivery to keep blood glucose in a safe range – instead of manually testing, adjusting, and delivering insulin. “She got together with engineers, modified her pump, and designed her own algorithm for real-time adjustment of insulin levels,” explained Dr. Tward.

Onno Faber was another inspiration for Dr. Tward. Faber, a tech company CEO, had Neurofibromatosis Type 2 (NF2), a condition in which tumors develop on the nerves responsible for hearing and balance.

“He got one of his tumors removed that was caused by this condition. I looked at the data and said that it doesn’t obviously predict a path forward for us with regards to monitoring or drugs that we will treat you with,” said Dr. Tward.

“Onno is a go-getter and wasn’t particularly satisfied with that answer, so he said he was going to organize a hackathon, where he would release his data to lots of

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Moving Forward

Here at UCSF, we have been most fortunate regarding the pandemic. Our societal control measures have paid dividends with regard to dissemination of the SARS CoV-2 virus, yet incompleteness of vaccination in our population was a cause of our summer surge in hospitalizations. Fortunately, our capacity was adequate to handle the onslaught, and our team was able to continue to care for our population with minimal interruption. Between a rollout of booster shots and full FDA approval of the vaccine, I hope that during the winter the pandemic will be curtailed.

Our team has achieved a number of important external acknowledgements of our efforts. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked our department #5 in the nation in its most recent survey. We believe that our outstanding patient outcomes, survival, and placement at discharge from the hospital were the key factors in this ranking.

Much of the credit for these hospital-based metrics goes to our Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery team, led by Patrick Ha, MD, and our fabulous Facial Plastic and Reconstructive team, led by P. Daniel Knott, MD. Also, our skull base surgeons – led by Ivan El-Sayed, MD, on the anterior/rhinology approach side and Charles Limb, MD, on the lateral/otology side – contribute to our outstanding patient outcomes for tertiary care problems. We are very

fortunate to have the resources of UCSF Health to support the special needs of our most complex and tertiary surgical care issues.

On the research side, I am very proud that we have moved up to #4 in the nation for NIH funding. This is due to the magnificent work of our Coleman Lab, headed by Christoph Schreiner, MD, PhD, and of our Head and Neck Signaling Lab, which is run by our vice chair, Daniel Johnson, PhD, and our Werbe Distinguished Professor, Jennifer Grandis, MD. Additionally, Dylan Chan, MD, PhD; Aaron Tward, MD, PhD; Andrea Hasenstaub, PhD; Matt Spitzer, PhD; Young-Wook Jun, PhD; John Houde, PhD; Steve Cheung, MD; and Taha Jan, MD, have all achieved significant success in their research foci. Our group investigates central auditory processing, cochlear physiology, tissue engineering, cancer-related signaling, immunology, stem cells, functional imaging, and nanoparticle engineering. As is the saying at UCSF, our research team is “quietly awesome.”

With education being a primary focus of the department, I hope you will have a chance to meet those who represent the future of our field – our new resident and fellow cohort. Congratulations to our soon-to-graduate chiefs and also to the stalwart administration of the residency program: Steve Pletcher, MD (Program Director), VyVy Young, MD (Associate Program Director), Jose Gurrola, II, MD (Diversity Director), and Pranathi Sundaram (Education Program Coordinator). Their creativity and wisdom in adapting to pandemic conditions has allowed us to sustain a fabulous educational experience for all of our learners.

Have a peaceful holiday season. I hope to see you soon in person!

Warmly,

Andrew H. Murr, MD, FACS
Professor and Chair
UCSF Department of Otolaryngology –
Head and Neck Surgery



Andrew H. Murr, MD



CI Hackathon

Continued from page 1

smart people and would get them together over a weekend to work on figuring out something good to do with his data,” Dr. Tward added.

So, during one weekend in 2017 about 150 people showed up at UCSF to devise new ways to address Faber’s condition.

Organizing and Designing the CI Hackathon

In addition to Dr. Tward, CI Hackathon organizers included former UCSF graduate student Leah Muller, MD, PhD; UCSF medical student Kris Merrill; Advanced Bionics (the CI Hackathon sponsor and one of the three FDA-approved cochlear implant manufacturers); and Andrew Oxenham, PhD, and Jordan Beim, PhD, from the University of Minnesota.

Initially, Dr. Tward recruited Muller and Merrill to join his UCSF team. Dr. Tward met Merrill while treating his hearing loss. “Kris had been in IT in Antarctica for five years. He then came back to the Bay Area and worked in tech at Twitter before becoming an engineering manager at Slack,” according to Dr. Tward.

“It became clear that hearing aids weren’t helping too much, and he got cochlear implants on both sides,” said Dr. Tward. “Kris has done spectacularly well with the implants. After he got cochlear implants, he was hearing so much better and functioning so well that he applied to medical school and was admitted to the UCSF School of Medicine. Kris approached me just before he was about to start medical school and said, ‘Hey, I’m going to be a medical student, and I’d love to get involved in some research involved with cochlear implants if you have anything.’ My response was, ‘I have just the project for you.’ After Kris joined me, we went to having this amazing website and developing new tools to enable the CI Hackathon.”

“Leah also joined us early on. After she graduated from UCSF, she went to

work for Intuitive Surgical, but she decided to continue running the CI Hackathon on her own time because she was so passionate about it,” shared Dr. Tward.

In early 2020, Dr. Tward approached Advanced Bionics and was put in touch with their then head of research, Leo Litvak, PhD. Together, they brainstormed ideas on ways to open up the architecture of the CI programming and settled on a hackathon. This would let people modify some state-of-the-art signal processing techniques or try their own techniques and simulate what it would sound like to a cochlear implant user. This way, people could try their hand and see if they could come up with a new idea.

To inspire the teams, the CI Hackathon was designed so that if a participant came up with a novel idea, it would be within their rights to patent and keep that idea.

The Actual Contest

Initially, the CI Hackathon was going to be an in-person event. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was changed to an online hackathon. An advantage to doing it online was that the competition could run for a longer time and people from all over the world could participate.

For the contest, Advanced Bionics provided contestants with a fully-featured cochlear implant sound coding strategy. They also provided, along with the University of Minnesota, a software framework that allowed contestants to develop their own coding to address solutions to common cochlear implant challenges. In addition, they included an acoustic simulation of the experience of perceiving sound through the implant, to allow normal-hearing listeners to work to optimize the sound quality of cochlear implants through the development of sound processing algorithms.

The teams developed novel strategies to improve current sound processing techniques. The algorithms that were crowd-judged were: natural speech, hearing speech in noisy environments, simple words, and hearing music.

Results

“The results were pretty amazing. I think about 50 teams registered, 16 teams submitted entries for judging, and eight of the teams produced something that,

at least along one dimension, sounded better than our gold standard baseline strategy. A few entries sounded better in multiple categories,” said Dr. Tward.

“About 70 people registered as judges, and they judged each other’s entries. We crowd-sourced the judging of the sound quality,” he added.

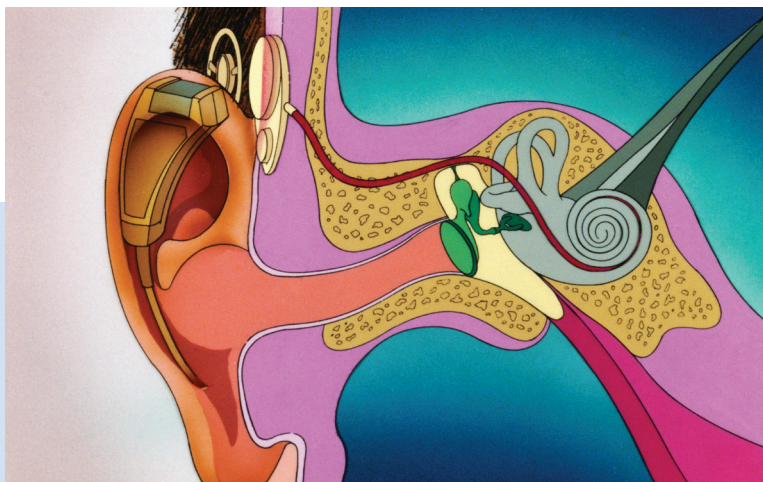
Top tier entries represented academic institutions, commercial entities, and individuals. The top three teams, performing well in all four categories, were:

- **Pepino-Barchi:** Leonardo Pepino and German Barchi – independent researchers based in Argentina
- **Googlears:** A team from Google Research headed by Richard Lyon
- **Binding Hack:** Ravinderjit Singh and Andres Llico from Purdue University

In addition to monetary prizes, the top three teams will have opportunities to work with Advanced Bionics to improve current sound processing techniques.

“I’m inspired by my patients. I see patients come in, and I see patients having problems. And I think to myself, we can do better than we’re doing. You know, nothing is worse than sitting in front of a patient and saying, ‘this is the best we’ve got.’ I should say that personal interest also goes a long way. I just find these things fascinating. I’m fascinated by puzzles and solutions. I enjoyed doing the CI Hackathon, and this may well have real implications in the field,” Dr. Tward declared. ■

To learn more about the CI Hackathon visit <https://cihackathon.com/>.



Improving Cochlear Implants

What the implants provide is much more information dense than what people with hearing loss are getting already, which is why sound perception ends up better than before. However, there are a number of tasks that cochlear implants still struggle with quite a bit – things like hearing in noisy environments. Music perception is very, very difficult for patients with cochlear implants. And even with the core tasks that cochlear implants are best at – listening to speech and things like that – cochlear implants are good, but they are not spectacular.

There was a major improvement in cochlear implant technology about 30 years ago, via a protocol called CIS (Continuous Interleaved Stimulation). That caused a big jump in cochlear implant performance. Ever since, there have been a number of other really good ideas, but none of them have translated into a massive jump in performance. The key question is, can we do better?

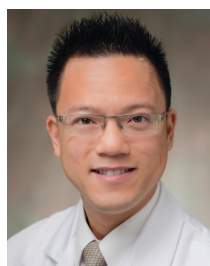
I thought, well, why don’t we take advantage of the knowledge base and ideas of people out there in the world in general and see if we can crowdsource the idea generation. We could open it up and let the world work on the problems with cochlear implant programming. ■

— Aaron Tward, MD, PhD

Dr. Dylan Chan Is Investigating Improved Access Through Teletherapy

If teletherapy can improve speech and language outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children, then it can be an important option for families having trouble accessing specialized speech-language therapy.

That's the purpose of "Teletherapy to Address Language Disparities in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children," a study being conducted by Dylan Chan, MD,



PhD, associate professor and director of the Children's Communication Center.

With support from a 2020 Patient-Centered Outcomes

Research Institute (PCORI) Grant, Dr. Chan is investigating whether therapy provided over a remote computer connection can connect families – especially those from low-income households who may have trouble accessing specialized speech-language therapy – to remote providers with the expertise that their child needs.

"The main impact of hearing loss or hearing differences, especially in babies and toddlers, is trouble learning spoken language and learning how to talk. Being born with hearing loss puts the child at significant risk for permanent speech and language delays," explained Dr. Chan.

"Speech and language delays can develop into cognitive delays and educational delays. It can have very significant consequences down the road if the child doesn't have a language that they can use. That's why speech and language therapy is crucial for children who are deaf or hard of hearing," he added.

About the Study

The study is enrolling deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to 27 months old at four children's hospitals. All the children in the study will receive comprehensive speech and language assessments upon entering the study, at nine months, and at 18 months.

"We are able to track very precisely how their speech and language are

developing," explained Dr. Chan.

"The kids who will be enrolling will be randomized so that half will receive their usual care, including cochlear implants if indicated. The other half of the kids will be referred to an 18-month course of supplemental teletherapy. We will then see if the kids who were referred to teletherapy were able to use it, whether they found benefit from it, and whether it helped with their speech or language development."

Disparities Among Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

All deaf and hard of hearing children in California are eligible for Early Start, California's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities. In addition, children can get support through their health care provider.

"Many kids we see at UCSF who are deaf or hard of hearing may be getting Early Start services, but we may want to provide additional speech and language therapy. Or, they may be receiving speech and language therapy through some other private provider. But kids and families who are in different circumstances have more limited access to speech and language therapy," he said.

For example, imagine:

- A child who only speaks Spanish and lives in a county that is a six-hour drive from UCSF. The child is the only deaf or hard of hearing kid in the county. There is one speech therapist in that county, but she speaks only English and there isn't an interpreter.
- A child who is deaf or hard of hearing who lives in San Francisco, but her mother is a single parent without a car who works across town from UCSF, which makes it extremely difficult to get to appointments.

"Situations like these illustrate the huge disparities in access to care," said Dr. Chan.

For the study, Dr. Chan and his team validated tests and surveys that they could use across a broad group of Spanish- and English-speaking deaf and hard of hearing children.

"Part of what we will be examining is the effect of the language matching of



UCSF OHNS speech language pathologist Chiara Scarpelli in a teletherapy session.

the therapist and the family. We are matching Spanish-speaking families with Spanish-speaking therapists. Teletherapy should be able to provide access to a much broader group of therapists that can be better matched with the family in terms of language," said Dr. Chan.

Collaboration

UCSF co-investigators for the project are Kathleen Tebb, PhD, an adjunct professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and Ann Lazar, PhD, MS, an associate professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences.

"I have learned a lot from Kathleen Tebb on trial design and working with lower resource populations," said Dr. Chan. "Ann Lazar is the statistician on the project, and she has been integral to designing the study. There are also clinical collaborators from UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland: audiologist Sarah Coulthurst, MS, AuD, and Joy Kearns, MS, CCC-SLP, LSLs, a speech language pathologist."

The UCSF team is collaborating on the project with Stanford University and Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

An Overlooked Area

"We and others in the field see huge disparities in access to care for deaf and hard of hearing children, creating big differences in language outcomes. These differences overwhelm anything that we can do as doctors or surgeons. This area has not been historically studied or addressed, which is why we really wanted to do this study," explained Dr. Chan. "If we can provide good evidence in favor of teletherapy through this kind of research, then it can have a big impact by helping to make hearing health care more fair and equitable." ■

Learn more about "Teletherapy to address Language Disparities in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children" at tinyurl.com/pcori-results.

New Residents and Fellows

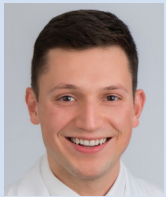
RESIDENCY CLASS OF 2026

Alyssa Civantos, MD



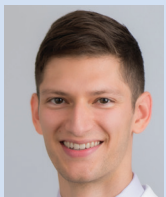
Dr. Civantos received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania (UP) School of Arts and Sciences. She earned both her medical degree and master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia. At UP, she held progressively higher leadership positions for the Center for Surgical Health, a medical student run, surgeon led clinic that supports, educates, and advocates for vulnerable Philadelphians with surgical diseases. She received the Walter Lewis Croll fund scholarship at the Perelman School of Medicine.

Edgar Ochoa, MD



Dr. Ochoa earned his BS at UC Davis and his medical degree at UCSF. He received the Pendergast/UCSF Clinical Research Fellowship, a year-long donor and grant-funded research fellowship in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery. He worked with advisors Drs. P. Daniel Knott and William Ryan on projects in the areas of post-surgical therapy for Human Papilloma Virus-associated Oropharynx Carcinoma, Oral Tongue Carcinoma, and Oncologic Outcomes of Human Papillomavirus-Related Oropharynx Carcinoma as well as other projects in oncologic and reconstructive head and neck surgery.

Evan Patel, MD



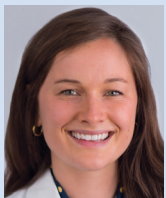
A recipient of the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings Student Award in 2021, Dr. Patel received his BS at Yale University and his medical degree from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. As a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Medical Research fellow at New York University School of Medicine, he explored the distal effects of gut microbiota on lung tumor microenvironment and cancer progression (PI: Dr. Dan Littman), among other projects. Dr. Patel has authored more than 10 scientific research papers.

Ana Marija Sola, MD



Dr. Sola earned her BS at UC Davis and completed her medical degree at UCSF. Dr. Sola's medical research experience was in the UCSF Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, where she focused on Infant-Toddler Hearing Related Quality of Life and Cyclic STAT3 decoy effect on head and neck cancer cells undergoing anoikis. Dr. Sola was a UCSF Regents Scholar who volunteered in the S.F. Unified School District Hearing Lessons program and served as a Student Leader in the UCSF First Generation to College Student Group.

Taylor Standiford, MD



Dr. Standiford earned her BS at Cornell University and her medical degree at the University of Michigan Medical School, where she received the Glasgow-Rubin Citations for Academic Achievement from the American Medical Women's Association and the Michigan Medical School Academic Recognition Award. The author of seven scientific publications, her research at the University of Michigan included an investigation into the infection rate of SARS-CoV-2 on health care providers involved in tracheostomies under the Michigan Medicine tracheostomy protocol.

INCOMING FELLOWS

David Bracken, MD

Laryngology and Care of the Professional Voice



Dr. Bracken attended medical school at the University of Texas, Houston. He completed a residency in Otolaryngology at UC San Diego. His research interests include neurolaryngology, high density non-invasive surface EMG monitoring of swallowing and phonatory function, and treatment of challenges for the professional voice.

William DeBusk, MD

Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



Dr. DeBusk earned his medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans. His residency in Otolaryngology was completed at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis. Dr. DeBusk received an AAO-HNSF CORE Resident Research Grant Award and has interests in microvascular reconstruction, facial reanimation, and head and neck cancer.

Sagar Kansara, MD

Bryan Hemming Endowed Fellowship in Head and Neck Cancer



Dr. Kansara received his medical degree from the University of Texas, Houston. He completed an Otolaryngology residency at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. His research focus is on functional outcomes following treatment for head and neck cancer and surgical management of non-melanoma skin cancer.

Margo Tanghetti, DO

Pediatric Otolaryngology



Dr. Tanghetti earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, Colorado. Her Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery/Facial Plastic Surgery Residency was completed at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa. Her research interests include pediatric vascular anomalies and health care disparities. ■

Faculty News

Dr. Anna Meyer Receives Patient Experience Post



Anna Meyer, MD, was named Medical Director of Patient Experience for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, San Francisco (BCHSF). In

her new position, which she assumed in August 2021, Dr. Meyer works closely with Susan Pappas, executive director of the UCSF Health Experience Excellence Division and the Patient Experience team, and with the clinical leadership of BCHSF to develop a systematic and patient-centered approach to improving the patient and family experience in all clinical settings.

"In addition to her remarkable clinical career in the department, Dr. Meyer has emerged as a highly effective leader in a number of areas in the University and the Health System," said department chair Andrew Murr, MD.

Dr. Meyer will continue her clinical and educational responsibilities in addition to this new appointment.

Dr. Steven Cheung is New Chair of UCSF Academic Senate



Steven Cheung, MD, professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, began a two-year term as chair of the UCSF Division

of the University of California Academic Senate in September 2021.

The mission of the Academic Senate is to provide the highest level of analytical and administrative support, guidance, coordination, communication and assistance in matters concerning the Academic Senate and Associated UCSF Faculty.

"One of my goals as Chair is to support underrepresented minority (URM) and dependent-caregiver faculty

and campus-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives," said Dr. Cheung.

"Chairing the UCSF Division of the UC Academic Senate is a prestigious position, and it will be deftly handled by one of our own, Dr. Cheung. We will have more to say about Dr. Cheung and this role in a future issue of *HeadsUp!*," said department chair Andrew Murr, MD.

Tertiary Care in an Ambulatory Setting Is Now Available at Parnassus Campus

OHNS surgeons now perform nasal and sinus surgery and other procedures three days a week at an outpatient surgery center that opened in September 2021 in UCSF's Ambulatory Care Center at 400 Parnassus Avenue.

The new center expands outpatient surgical options with the addition of four operating rooms, two procedure rooms, and 14 pre-operative beds.



José G. Gurrola II, MD

"A goal of the center is to provide excellent OHNS care for patients who do not require an extensive hospital stay," said José G. Gurrola II, MD, a rhinology and skull base surgeon and associate professor.

OHNS procedures at the center will be performed primarily by Dr. Gurrola; assistant professor Patricia Loftus, MD, a rhinology and skull base surgeon; and associate professor Aaron Tward, MD, PhD, a surgeon who specializes in diagnosis and treatment of ear and skull base disorders.

"The OSC will permit an improved and streamlined experience for our patients. We are thrilled to continue building upon the highest level of patient care," said Dr. Tward.

Redwood Shores Medical Suite to Open

A state-of-the-art medical suite in Redwood Shores will be the newest Bay Area location for OHNS services when it opens in December 2021. The site is conveniently located to allow easy access for Peninsula patients seeking high level allergy/rhinology

care and other quality nose and sinus care services from UCSF.

Situated near the main headquarters of Oracle in Redwood Shores, the medical suite is located at 2900 Whipple Avenue in Redwood City. New faculty member Michael Friduss, MD, along with other departmental faculty will staff the office.

The new medical suite is part of the department's effort to meet the full spectrum of patients' otolaryngologic needs and to provide care in new locations throughout the Bay Area, including Berkeley, Marin, Oakland, and San Francisco.

Dr. Michael Friduss Joins the Department



Veteran physician Michael Friduss, MD, joined the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in August 2021. He will work at the new

Redwood Shores facility as well as at other UCSF OHNS sites, where he will address a variety of otolaryngological patient care needs.

Dr. Friduss most recently served as a staff physician in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara, a position he held from 1993–2021. He was concurrently a staff physician at Kaiser South San Francisco (1993–1996). He also served as a professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (2016–2020). Previously, he was a senior staff physician at Henry Ford Hospital, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in Detroit, Michigan (1989–1992).

After earning his medical degree at the University of Illinois School of Medicine in Chicago, Dr. Friduss completed a surgical internship at the University of Illinois Metropolitan Hospitals and a residency in General Surgery at Harbor General Hospital in Torrance, California, followed by a residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at UCLA.

While working at Kaiser, Stanford Otolaryngology residents and Endocrinology fellows spent clinical

rotations with him. He received the UCLA Chief Resident Teaching Award, The Henry Ford Hospital Faculty Teaching Award, and the Stanford University Clinical Faculty Teaching Award.

"I am delighted to join the prestigious faculty at UCSF, where I will continue my focus on clinical care, resident teaching, and clinical research," said Dr. Friduss.

Asked what inspires him, Dr. Friduss shared: "My educational and professional pursuits are routed in a family with a mission to serve people in the fields of both health care and education. I think this focus is rooted in my upbringing, having a father who was a dentist and a mother who was in special education, both trying to make a difference in people's lives. If you can be involved in trying to help people, it's by far the most meaningful thing."

In the Media

Dr. Goldberg in the *San Francisco Chronicle*

"Dogs can smell COVID-19. Can they help the U.S. slow the disease?", an article in the June 21, 2021 issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, included quotes from Andrew Goldberg, MD. Dr. Goldberg advocated for scientific rigor and discussed how some dogs may be able to use their olfactory abilities to detect COVID-19. The article can be viewed at tinyurl.com/sniff-smells.

Dr. Limb Featured in PBS and UCSF Programs

A segment of the September 5, 2021 *PBS Newshour* discussed how music can heal. Music's power is well documented in most cultures, but only in the past two decades have the scientific and medical communities come together in an effort to prove its efficacy – and explore how to include music in medical protocols. Charles Limb, MD, the Francis A. Sooy Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and co-founder of the Sound Health Network at UCSF, discussed his work in that regard during the segment, which can be viewed at tinyurl.com/sep5segment.

Dr. Limb received a different kind of recognition when Chancellor Sam Hawgood asked him to perform "Catalyst," an original musical composition, during the October 21 State of the University Address. He can be heard here at minute 53: tiny.ucsf.edu/address. ■

In Memoriam

Herbert H. Dedo: 1933–2021

Herbert H. Dedo, MD, who was associated with UCSF for more than half a century, passed away on August 5, 2021.

Dr. Dedo earned his Bachelor of Arts at UC Berkeley in 1954. He received his medical degree from UCSF in 1958, and he was a surgery intern and otolaryngology resident at UCSF from 1959–1963. He completed an NIH fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis with Joseph Ogura, MD, followed by a year of training with Dr. Erich Dunker in Hamburg, Germany. UCSF Chancellor Frank Sooy, MD, gave Dr. Dedo his first job as an academic otolaryngologist at UCSF in 1966. Dr. Dedo would go on to spend his academic career at UCSF, serving as an assistant, associate, and full professor of Otolaryngology from 1966–2010.

"He was always willing to help in difficult clinical situations and had viewpoints based upon vast clinical experience," shared Andrew Murr, MD, department chair.

"He was a true pioneer in the treatment of laryngeal dystonias and laryngeal paralysis, and he was also a surgeon who was at the forefront of managing recurrent respiratory papillomatosis and laryngeal and tracheal stenosis. Multiple generations of UCSF OHNS surgeons and students could recite Herb's approaches to clinical problems by heart.

"Dr. Dedo was an inveterate innovator and tinkerer who was a renowned laryngologist and head and neck surgeon. He was responsible for many new techniques and many instrument iterations that made the practice of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery more facile. He was a pioneer in adapting the laser to be of precise utility in the difficult to access regions of the airway.

"In 1990 Dr. Dedo published *Surgery of the Larynx and Trachea*, a truly elegant surgical atlas that exquisitely outlined his painstaking surgical approaches. This was in addition to many papers, presentations, chapters, and speaking engagements," Dr. Murr added.

He was a member of the American Laryngological Association and a fellow of the Triological Society. He was also the recipient of the Triological Society's Harris P. Mosher Award.

A member of the Bohemian Club, Dr. Dedo had many outside interests. He loved opera and enjoyed introducing others to the San Francisco Opera. He enjoyed reading history books, was fascinated by airplanes (especially World War II fighter aircraft), and was also a sailor.

Dr. Dedo is survived by his wife, Sigrid Homs Dedo, his sons Doug, Bill, and John, and stepsons Christopher and Stephen Homs, 10 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. ■





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Upcoming Events

UCSF Otolaryngology Update

November 11-13, 2021

Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco

The Robert A. Schindler, MD Lectureship

December 9, 2021, 5:00-6:45 pm

Howard W. Francis, MD, MBA, FACS

*Richard Hall Chaney, Sr. Distinguished Professor of Otolaryngology
Chair, Department of Head and Neck Surgery and Communication
Sciences, Duke University Health System*

27th Annual Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring

February 18-19, 2022

Grand Hyatt, San Francisco

Pacific Rim Otolaryngology – HNS Update

February 19-22, 2022

Moana Surfrider Hotel, Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, Hawaii

*For further information about CME courses and current travel information,
please go to <https://cme.ucsf.edu>.*

*For information on Grand Rounds and departmental events, please visit
<https://ohns.ucsf.edu> or contact Ofeibia Laud-Darku at ofeibia.laud-darku@ucsf.edu.*

To support the Department of Otolaryngology –
Head and Neck Surgery, please contact Assistant Director of
Development Ian Shore at 415/502-3482 or ian.shore@ucsf.edu.



Follow us on Twitter @UCSF_OHNS!

HeadsUp!

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General Otolaryngology

Pediatric Otolaryngology – HNS

Otology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery

Rhinology and Sinus Surgery, Sleep Surgery

415/353-2757

Cochlear Implant Center **415/353-2464**

Facial Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery Practice

UCSF Medical Center

415/353-9500

HNS – Facial Plastic and Post-Oncologic
Reconstructive Surgery, UCSF Helen Diller
Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

415/885-7528

Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology

Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery

Salivary Gland Center

415/885-7528

Balance and Falls Center **415/353-2101**

Voice and Swallowing Center **415/885-7700**

Audiology **415/353-2101**

Berkeley Outpatient Center **510/985-2000**