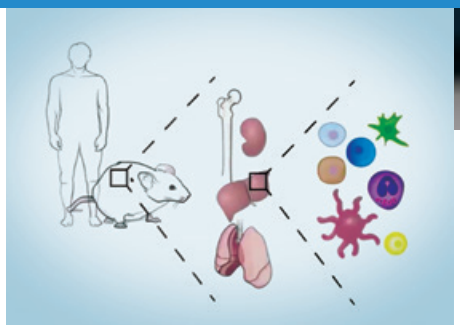
FALL 2023 | VOL. 20, ISSUE 2

HeadsUp!

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

UCSF
University of California
San Francisco



"We're trying to move faster than the traditional drug development process by evaluating more possibilities in a shorter period of time and studying the underlying biology in a lot of detail." *– Matthew Spitzer, PhD*

Matthew Spitzer, PhD

Leading a Paradigm Shift in Cancer Research

When Associate Professor of Otolaryngology Matthew Spitzer, PhD, was in fifth grade, his mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. She passed away while he was in college. "That was a strong motivating force for me to get involved in cancer research," Dr. Spitzer said.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Spitzer started work on his PhD at a time when cancer immunology was beginning to gain traction. "There were early, but exciting, new data showing that using the immune system could benefit patients with cancer," he said. The young researcher saw a new path forward in understanding and treating the disease that had impacted him so deeply.

"Previously, all cancer treatments had really been focused on trying to kill cancer cells – radiating cancer cells, using poisons called chemotherapies to kill cancer cells, surgically removing cancer cells, or using targeted therapies to block the signaling that cancer cells rely on to survive," he said.

Dr. Spitzer's research focuses on developing better immune-based treatments for head and neck cancer and increasing understanding for how the immune system works.

A Unique Approach to Research

Instead of relying on large clinical trials that measure the impact of drugs on tumor size, Dr. Spitzer's research group is investigating substantial effects on smaller patient cohorts. "We're looking for big clinical signals, and using that as an opportunity to study the biology in detail so we can really understand what these drugs are doing."

Dr. Spitzer and his collaborative network, which includes physician-scientists, medical oncologists, surgeons, and pathologists, are employing neoadjuvant trials as a crucial methodology. In these trials new drugs are administered preoperatively with pathologic evaluation post-therapy at the time of surgery.

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Also in This Issue

Message from the Chair

Growing and Achieving

This fall issue of *Head's Up!* may introduce you to several aspects of the department's portfolio that you weren't aware of, starting with a few highlights of our institution that are significant harbingers of growth.

Our department now has very active practices in multispecialty environments in Berkeley (Go Bears!) and in Redwood Shores. These sites also have ambulatory surgery centers associated with them, which will open in the summer of 2024. Both sites offer otolaryngologic allergy practices anchored by Anna Butrymowicz, MD, at Berkeley and Patricia Loftus, MD, at Redwood Shores. We offer a range of otolaryngology expertise at these sites, including rhinology/skull base surgery, pediatric OHNS, otology, and facial plastic surgery. The Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center has a presence in Berkeley, which provides wonderful access for patients who are coming from the East Bay.

Andrew H. Murr, MD

The Chancellor recently announced an initiative where UCSF is in active negotiations with Dignity Health to purchase hospitals for UCSF. Why? Our hospitals are filled to capacity… always. Even with our new hospital build, which is proceeding on time for a 2030 occupancy, UCSF will need more space to provide optimal care for patients. It is an extremely exciting endeavor to participate in this significant growth.

And our Mission Bay construction program continues. Our new Bayfront building, just down the street from the Golden State Warriors' Chase Center, will open on time and on budget in August of 2024. This facility will have a 16-room ambulatory surgery center as well as a new OHNS practice on the fourth floor.

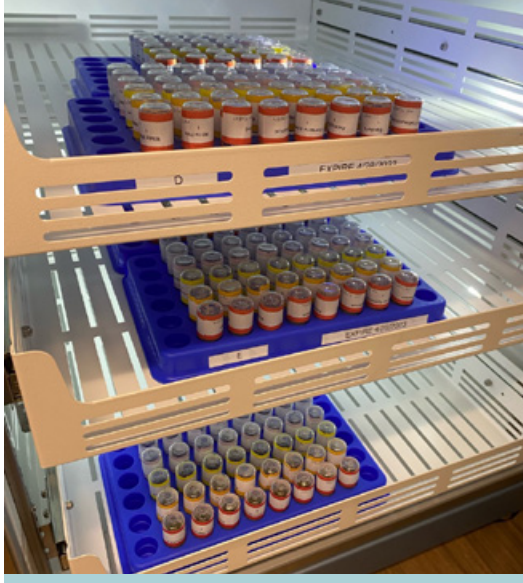
In the areas of research and education, the department is once again ranked sixth in the nation in NIH funding according to the Blue Ridge method, and our residency program is also ranked #6 according to Doximity. But what actually matters is the culture of our team. We have amazingly accomplished residents who have fantastic career opportunities when they graduate. That is because our faculty value education and prioritize the residency in all of our practices and projects. Check out the page 1 story on Matt Spitzer, PhD, who is mentoring Kathy Wai, MD, in his immunology laboratory. And Megan Durr, MD, is our new leader at Pride Hall, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG). As Interim Chief of Service, Megan just opened our new research offices at – the first new research facility to be opened at ZSFG in many years.

Finally, I want to highlight the achievements and offer congratulations to a few other faculty members: Andy Goldberg, MD, the President of the Triological Society; Patrick Ha, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Head and Neck;* Megan Durr, MD, Jolie Chang, MD, and Daniel Knott, MD, section editors of *Laryngoscope;* Jennifer Grandis, MD, the 2023 John Conley, MD Lecturer on Medical Ethics at this year's meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery; Clark Rosen, MD, editor of the newly released *Bailey's Head and Neck Surgery: Otolaryngology 6th Edition* textbook, along with section editors Charles Limb, MD, and Patrick Ha, MD; and Steve Cheung, MD, Vice President of the UC Academic Senate.

As we approach the end of the year, please have a safe holiday season. Also consider a contribution to the department to support our research and education programs. Your gracious donations are extremely meaningful to our residents, faculty, and scientists. And as we look to 2024, I hope to see you at one of our upcoming courses: the February 16–17 29th Annual Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring course in San Francisco, or the February 17–24 Pacific Rim Otolaryngology Update in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Aloha!

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



OHNS Now Offers Allergy Testing and Treatment

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery now provides allergy services at two Bay Area locations. Anna Butrymowicz, MD, and Erica Yuan, RN, lead the services at the Berkeley Outpatient Center, and Patricia Loftus, MD, and Andrea Arana, RN, head up the services in UCSF's Redwood Shores office.

Offerings include in-office allergen skin prick testing for patients suffering from rhinitis likely due to environmental allergens. Based on the results of that testing, patients will receive a treatment plan that considers immunotherapy, pharmacotherapy, and/or surgery.

The two offices offer both subcutaneous immunotherapy (SCIT, or allergy shots) and sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT, or allergy drops placed under the tongue), which many allergy practices do not offer. Led by otolaryngologists who provide allergy care, both locations can offer surgical options for symptoms of nasal congestion and rhinorrhea for patients who would benefit from those interventions in combination with SCIT or SLIT. ■

Matthew Spitzer, PhD

Continued from page 1

"We're trying to move faster than the traditional drug development process by evaluating more possibilities in a shorter period of time and studying the underlying biology in a lot of detail," Dr. Spitzer said. "This is only possible because of our amazingly collaborative team at UCSF."

Currently, only 10–20 percent of head and neck cancer patients benefit from immunotherapy drugs called checkpoint inhibitors. Dr. Spitzer is committed to substantially increasing that percentage by developing effective immunotherapies that cater to a larger patient population.

Leveraging Lymph Nodes

While most existing immunotherapies have focused on targeting cells in tumors themselves, Dr. Spitzer's recent research unveils a more efficacious target: lymph nodes adjacent to the tumor. As reported in a March 16, 2023, article in *Cell,* 12 head and neck cancer patients whose tumors hadn't metastasized past the lymph nodes received a cycle of the immunotherapy drug atezolizumab (anti-PD-L1) prior to surgery. The trial, sponsored by Genentech, culminated in the removal of tumors and lymph nodes one to two weeks after treatment, enabling Dr. Spitzer's team to meticulously evaluate treatment efficacy.

In contrast to T cells within tumors that often lose their functionality, T cells within lymph nodes undergoing immunotherapy can become activated and proliferate, yielding a clonal army of T cells that circulate through the bloodstream and infiltrate affected tissues to eliminate infected or cancerous cells.

"Rather than acting upon dysfunctional immune cells in the tumor, we can enlist a fresh cohort of T cells from the lymph nodes," Dr. Spitzer explained.

There's a bigger question looming about whether lymph nodes should be removed at all, Dr. Spitzer said. Large clinical studies will be needed to answer that question definitively because of risk-benefit trade-off. Leaving the lymph nodes in place gives the patient more T cells, but there's also a higher chance of leaving in metastatic cancer cells that could cause recurrence.

"The jury is still out on whether the pros outweigh the cons," Dr. Spitzer said. Immunotherapy before surgery, however, can certainly harness T cells in the lymph nodes before they are removed.

Building on the success of the first clinical trial, the team at UCSF has finished enrolling patients for a second trial arm evaluating anti-PD-L1 combined with another immune targeting drug that blocks an inhibitory receptor called TIGIT. A third trial arm is also underway.

Envisioning the Future

"Our goal is to develop a better suite of immunotherapies that work for all patients," Dr. Spitzer said.

While cancer cells often develop resistance to conventional treatments like chemotherapy, immune cells can adapt to the evolving nature of cancer. This means that instead of extending life by a few months, which many current cancer treatments do, immunotherapy has the potential to provide durable cures for many more patients in coming years.

Dr. Spitzer envisions a gradual departure from indiscriminate treatments like chemotherapy, which lack specificity toward cancer cells. He foresees the ascent of precision medicine, which gives medical professionals the tools to predict the efficacy of various treatments for each patient and tailor therapies to individual patients.

The Importance of Philanthropy

Dr. Spitzer is grateful for the philanthropic support of his research, which has complemented his government funding.

"Innovative and creative ideas often encounter the greatest funding challenges," he said. He acknowledges the contributions of funders such as the Parker Institute, Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, the Cancer Research Institute, the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Cancer Society, and direct donations to UCSF. These contributions have empowered him to foster creative thinking and develop research with profound and enduring impacts.

Training the Next Generation

In addition to his research pursuits, Dr. Spitzer enjoys mentoring up-and-coming scientists, and he views a substantial aspect of his role as cultivating the next generation of scientific leaders.

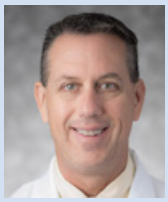
"Teaching people how to become independent scientists is a cornerstone of our mission," Dr. Spitzer said.

Graduates from his lab have gone on to start their own labs in academic research institutions, join biotech companies, or pursue further training. "This creates a ripple effect that amplifies the influence of our work," he concluded. ■

Dr. Patrick Ha Receives $500,000 Anonymous Gift

Patrick Ha, MD, the Irwin Mark and Joan Klein Jacobs Distinguished Professor and Chief of Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery, announced how he will use a recent anonymous gift of $500,000. The gift will be used to support basic research through tissue banking and salary support of basic scientists as well as to help support incoming surgeon scientists as they begin their careers. "Our group has worked hard to ensure that patients with head and neck cancer feel surrounded by the multiple teams required to successfully carry out complex treatment plans. To me, this gift reinforces that our process is working and is a recognition of all of their efforts," Dr. Ha said. ■

AAO-NHS Recognizes Dr. Clark Rosen



The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery has presented a Distinguished Service Award to Professor **Clark Rosen, MD,** Lewis Francis Morrison, MD, Endowed Chair and Chief of Laryngology and Co-Director of the UCSF Voice and Swallowing Center. This is Dr. Rosen's third Distinguished Service Award, which acknowledges volunteer service to the Academy. ■

Otolaryngology Hospitalist Becomes Team Concept

The otolaryngology hospitalist, a novel position at the UCSF Parnassus Campus, has evolved into a team concept with a core trio of attending physicians providing consistent coverage throughout the work week. Residency Program **Director Steven Pletcher, MD** (left, top), anchors the program with his rhinology expertise and vast resident education experience. **Caroline Schlocker, MD** (left, bottom), provides the perspective of a general otolaryngologist. The newest member of the team is Tyler Crosby, MD, a laryngologist with particular interest in complex airway disease. These three attendings work closely with the PGY-2 resident assigned to the consult service, as well as with their intra- and inter-departmental colleagues for the high-complexity care required by a large number of UCSF patients. Designed to facilitate care for OHNS inpatients and the ER consult service, the otolaryngology hospitalist position was pioneered as a pilot in 2007 and implemented in 2009 as one faculty member supplemented by the on-call faculty when there were coverage gaps. ■

UCSF OHNS Chief Residents Match into Top Fellowships

The five 2023-2024 OHNS Chief Residents matched into the following prestigious fellowships. Pictured above, from left: **Tania Benjamin, MD** – Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery with Dr. David Kim and Dr. Jill Hessler; **Jacqueline Harris, MD** – pediatric otolaryngology fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine; **Sifon Ndon, MD** – Advanced Surgical Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction Fellowship at the University of North Carolina; **Neil Patel, MD** – facial plastic/microvascular surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic; **Karolina Plonowska-Hirschfeld, MD** – Advanced Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction Fellowship at the Washington University School of Medicine. ■

Welcome to the Department

Two Exceptional Otolaryngologists Joined the OHNS Faculty in October

Song Cheng, MD

As the newest member of the Division of Otology/Neurotology, Song Cheng, MD, provides comprehensive care for otologic and lateral skull base diseases.

After graduating from the University of London, King's College, with a Bachelor of Science degree with 1st Class Honors, Dr. Cheng attended medical school at the University of Oxford, Harris Manchester College. He was a Junior House Officer at Royal Country Hospital in Winchester, UK.

In 2014, Dr. Cheng came to the U.S. to work as a research fellow in middle ear mechanics under Heidi Nakajima, MD, at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. That fellowship was supported by a training grant from the American Otological Society. Dr. Cheng went on to complete his residency in OHNS at New York University and returned to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Harvard Medical School as a clinical and research fellow in their two-year otology/neurotology fellowship program.

Dr. Cheng authored 10 papers, and he is the first author on five book chapters. He received both the Barber Scholarship and the SAGA Scholarship at Oxford, and he was the winner of the annual NYU Resident Temporal Bone Competition two years in a row. Dr. Cheng also received a Commendation of Enhancement of Patient Experience at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan. In addition, he completed service in the Singapore Armed Forces as a Full Lieutenant.

Tyler Crosby, MD

Tyler Crosby, MD, is now part of the team at the Laryngology, Voice and Swallowing Center.

Dr. Crosby completed his fellowship in laryngology at New York University (NYU) and NYU Langone Health. Prior to that, he completed a residency in OHNS at Louisiana State University (LSU) Shreveport, culminating in a year as chief resident.

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from LSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Dr. Crosby attended medical school at LSU New Orleans. During medical school he received the LSU Health Sciences Center Foundation Scholarship and the Connell Memorial Scholarship, and he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society as a senior medical student.

In addition to completing approximately 15 papers and projects, he has been successful in applying for and receiving small grants, including a $10K Voice Foundation grant that he is currently using to study the effects of prolonged absence on the performance of stage actors and vocalists.

Dr. Crosby has special expertise in airway stenosis, and he is an active partner in managing tertiary airway stenosis and other issues alongside the OHNS Parnassus Hospitalist Team and Yaron Gesthalter, MD, of the UCSF Department of Pulmonary Medicine. ■

New Residents and Fellows

RESIDENCY CLASS OF 2028

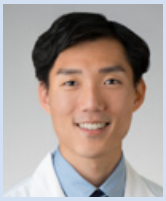
Maimuna Ahmad, MD

Dr. Ahmad obtained her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMMS), where she received the UMMS Martin Luther King Semester of Service Award in recognition of her work in developing hands-on STEM enrichment activities for a diverse group of middle school girls. As a Dorothy Wolff Fellow in Otolaryngology Research, Dr. Ahmad's focus was on vestibular disorders and treatment of otosclerosis.

Patrick Barba, MD

Dr. Barba graduated from the UCSD School of Medicine with a research focus on global health. He was involved in various projects, including characterizing injuries from burns in rural Mozambique, epidemiology of Zika virus to compare Zika high-risk areas with dengue high-risk areas in Rio de Janeiro, and multiple projects focused on long-term progression in multiple sclerosis. He also authored more than 15 peer-reviewed publications.

Erik Kim, MD



Dr. Kim received his MD from UCSF with distinction. As president of the UCSF Global Surgery Student Alliance, he organized and chaired the 2022 Global Surgery conference, arranged speakers for weekly meetings of the UCSF Global Health Interest Group, and translated material from English to Korean for a student-initiated website providing credible information related to COVID-19. Dr. Kim has authored more than 10 peer-reviewed papers, and he has received multiple awards in support of his research and global health projects.

Arushi Gulati, MD

Dr. Gulati completed her MD with distinction at UCSF, where she designed and managed a telephone-based curriculum to address medical and social needs of more than 300 older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was included as a for-credit elective within the UCSF School of Medicine curriculum and was adapted for patients in other primary care clinics. Dr. Gulati's current research projects emphasize patient outcomes and quality of life after surgical procedures.

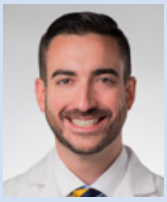
Rex Lee, MD

While pursuing his MD at UCSF, Dr. Lee co-founded the Otolaryngology Interest Group, provided volunteer medical care under attending supervision to people experiencing homelessness as part of the UCSF Shelter Clinic, and was an enthusiastic participant in Vocal Chords, UCSF's a capella group. He has more than 15 peer-reviewed publications, and he has won the UCSF Regents Scholarship and the UCSF Long-Term Dean's Prize in Research and Scholarship.

INCOMING FELLOWS

Ian Bowers, MD

Laryngology Fellow



Dr. Bowers received his DO from the Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency training at Michigan State University. He received the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Humanitarian Travel Grants and is a Gold Humanism Honor Society Member. Dr. Bowers also has an MBA in Healthcare Leadership and has more than 10 peer-reviewed publications.

Elaine Bigelow, MD

Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellow

Dr. Bigelow earned a medical degree at University of Maryland School of Medicine and completed a residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she was an NIH T32 Research Fellow. Her primary research was investigating topics in oropharyngeal cancer epidemiology, survivorship, and decision making, and she has authored more than 15 peer-reviewed publications.

Steven Engebretsen, MD

Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellow

Dr. Engebretsen obtained his DO from the Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency at the Detroit Medical Center. He has contributed to textbook chapters, authored more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, and participated in a surgical mission to Malawi. Dr. Engebretsen has extensive experience as an educator and has contributed to numerous community service organizations.

Zainab Farzal, MD

Head and Neck Oncologic and Microvascular Reconstruction Fellow

Dr. Farzal obtained her medical degree from UT Southwestern and completed both her residency with an NIH T32 grant and a Master's in Public Health from the University of North Carolina. She is a member of the ENT Political Action Committee PAC, a member of the Advocacy & Issues Committee for the American College of Surgeons, and is social media editor for the *Otolaryngology Case Reports Journal.* She has published more than 40 peer-reviewed papers and won multiple awards for her presentations at national and international conferences. ■

Thoughts from Our Experts

Updated FDA Indications for Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation with the Inspire System

Drs. Jolie Chang (right) and Jacquelyn Callander

A recent FDA decision opens doors for a broader range of patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) to benefit from the Inspire Upper Airway Stimulation system.

The decision expanded the indications for the use of Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation (HNS) or Upper Airway Stimulation (UAS) with the Inspire system and marks a significant step forward in the treatment landscape.

The FDA decision expanded three main indications for the innovative therapy:

1. Increase in Apnea-Hypopnea Index (AHI): The upper limit baseline AHI has been increased from 65 to 100. This means that more patients with severe obstructive sleep apnea can now be considered for this treatment. This expansion recognizes the need for alternative treatments in patients with higher AHI, who often struggle with conventional therapies.

2. Increase in Body Mass Index (BMI): The upper limit for recommended BMI has been increased from 32 to 40kg/m2. This change reflects a more inclusive approach and acknowledges that BMI alone should not be a barrier to accessing treatment for OSA and associated co-morbidities.

3. Inclusion of Adolescents (age 13–18) with Down Syndrome and severe OSA.

Reflections on the Updates

UCSF experts offer the following comments on the FDA decision:

In addition to the expanded indications for use of the Inspire UAS system, there remain specific conditions under which the Inspire system should not be used.

Overall, expanded criteria are a welcome change, reflecting a more comprehensive understanding of sleep apnea and its treatment. By increasing the AHI limits, the FDA has acknowledged the complexity of sleep apnea and the need for personalized treatment options.

The inclusion of adolescents with Down syndrome is particularly noteworthy. This population often faces unique challenges in managing sleep apnea, and there is evidence that use of HNS with a comprehensive management plan with families is effective and offers a promising alternative when traditional treatments fail.

Kristina Rosbe, MD, chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology says: "The expanded FDA indications for the Inspire UAS system in treating adolescents with Down syndrome represent a promising treatment option. This offers a new pathway to improved sleep and overall well-being for families who have exhausted other surgical therapies and in whom CPAP is not well-tolerated. It's an evidence-based treatment that recognizes the unique needs of these young patients."

Kristina Rosbe, MD

While the Inspire system offers a promising alternative to traditional medical treatments, it is essential to recognize the broader context of sleep apnea management. This highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach that includes weight management.

Obesity is a significant risk factor for obstructive sleep apnea, and addressing weight issues should be an integral part of the treatment plan. Lifestyle modifications, dietary counseling, and collaboration with UCSF's weight management program and bariatric surgery program can enhance the overall effectiveness of OSA treatments, including the Inspire system.

"While the increase in BMI criteria for the Inspire system is an important step, it must be approached with caution. For patients with a BMI greater than 35, surgical interventions for sleep apnea often show diminishing results. Obesity is a complex issue, and while the Inspire system may offer relief for some, it should not replace a comprehensive weight management strategy and multidisciplinary OSA care. The interplay between BMI, sleep apnea, and overall health requires an individualized approach," says Jolie Chang, MD, associate professor of otolaryngology and chief of Sleep Surgery and General Otolaryngology.

Jolie Chang,MD

"The Inspire UAS system has proven to be a game-changer for those who cannot tolerate or use CPAP treatments. At UCSF Sleep Surgery, we've seen firsthand the transformative impact of UAS on patients' lives. Our extensive experience with OSA care and research contributions to sleep apnea care underscore the potential of this technology. We aim to expand and present comprehensive treatment options to all the patients we care for with OSA," reports Megan Durr, MD, associate professor of otolaryngology and interim chief of otolaryngology at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

Megan Durr, MD

The future looks bright for those battling sleep apnea, with options for HNS leading the way in offering new hope and possibilities. However, it is essential to recognize that the Inspire system is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Proper patient selection, thorough evaluation, and adherence to clinical criteria remain crucial for optimal outcomes. ■

UCSF OHNS in Africa

An Update on Global Health

Four faculty from the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery completed successful trips this year to Tanzania, where they engaged in training and capacity building in their areas of specialty while enhancing medical practices, advancing research, and improving care.

In late summer Mary Jue Xu, MD (Head and Neck Oncology), Jeffrey Sharon, MD (Otology/Neurotology), Andrew Goldberg, MD (Sinus and Skull Base Surgery), and Lia Jacobson, MD (Pediatric Otolaryngology) collaborated with their counterparts at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Health Sciences (MUHAS) and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) – the largest medical training institution and public referral hospitals, respectively, in Tanzania, with 50 total resident trainees in OHNS at any one time.

UCSF has long and established ties with MUHAS. Its Professor Haile Debas Centre for Health Professions Education, established in 2011, honors UCSF's former chancellor and global health leader and has been a cornerstone of collaboration and professional development.

"Now, building on research collaboration through the UCSF Global Cancer Program between Dr. Xu and Aslam Nkya, MD, current chair of otorhinolaryngology at MNH, our departments are taking steps toward building capacity for clinical care," Dr. Goldberg said.

Dr. Xu has also been instrumental in leading a broader collaboration between UCSF and MUHAS in cancer, pediatrics, emergency medicine, and other disciplines. In addition, Dr. Jacobson has been working on long-term plans to support the Muhimbili Department of Otorhinolaryngology in their goals of developing subspecialty expertise.

While the UCSF OHNS faculty have had a presence in Tanzania at all three of its major medical centers – in Dar es Salaam, Moshi, and Mwanza – this year, the four OHNS faculty concentrated their efforts at MUHAS/MNH in Dar es Salaam, the largest medical center in Tanzania and a referral center for tertiary care.

Dr. Jeffrey Sharon instructing a temporal bone course at the newly open temporal bone lab at Muhimbili in Tanzania, April 2023.

Previous Trips in 2023

Drs. Goldberg and Xu visited Muhimbili in July, with Dr. Goldberg leading a week-long rhinology and skull base-focused training program for faculty and residents. Dr. Xu continued her longstanding research collaboration in cancer along with lectures and clinical care in the outpatient clinic and in the operating room.

In April, Dr. Sharon led a temporal bone dissection course at the recently launched temporal bone lab at Muhimbili. In addition, he supported clinical training in the outpatient clinic and in the operating room during his visit. He will continue to support the Muhimbili team in future trainings and curriculum development.

"In addition to UCSF OHNS faculty visiting Tanzania, our department has been fortunate to have faculty from Tanzania visit UCSF. Most recently, we welcomed Dr. Willybroad Massawe, faculty at MNH, a GloCal research fellowship recipient, and UCSF Global Cancer Program research fellow," Dr. Goldberg said.

Dr. Massawe noted that these collaborations remind him of a famous Swahili saying: If you want go fast, go alone, but if you want go far, go together. "It's through such collaborations that both UCSF and Muhimbili can go in new directions, fostering the global health agenda," he said.

The allied efforts are designed to achieve the goal of supporting and training faculty and residents, establishing a regular presence in all OHNS subspecialty areas, and furthering collaboration in patient care, education, and research. ■

Dr. Aslam Nkya, Dr. Andrew Goldberg, Dr. Mary Xu in Tanzania

Joint Otolaryngology and Neurosurgery Grand Rounds given by Dr. Goldberg in Tanzania

Dr. Mary Xu (left) and Dr. Aslam Nkya in the OR in Tanzania

The Haile Debas Centre for Health Professions Education, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Upcoming Events

UCSF Otolaryngology Update
November 9–11, 2023
Hotel Nikko, San Francisco

Robert A. Schindler, MD Lectureship
December 7, 2023
Lawrence R. Lustig, MD, *Howard W. Smith Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center*

11:30 am – 1 :30 pm: Resident Session, Byers Hall Room 212

5:00–6:00 pm: Schindler Endowed Lecture, Byers Auditorium, Genentech Hall

Temporal Bone Course
F: 2/2, Th: 2/8, F: 2/16, Th: 2/22, F: 3/1 | 12:00–4:30 pm
Mission Center Building, Schindler Lab

29th Annual Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring
February 16–17, 2024
Grand Hyatt, San Francisco

Pacific Rim Oto Update 2024
February 17–20, 2024
Moana Surfrider Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii

Lewis Francis Morrison, MD Lecture
May 2, 2024 | 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Resident Session, location TBA

5:00–6:00 pm: 2024 Morrison Endowed Lecture, Dinesh K. Chhetri, MD, *Vice Chair, UCLA Department of Head and Neck Surgery, Director Voice and Swallowing Disorder Program / Laryngology program* (1 CME Credit)

Resident Research Symposium
June 14, 2024 | 12:00–5:00 pm

2024 Sooy Guest Professor and Graduation Speaker
June 15, 2024 | 7:30 am – 12:00 pm
Sydney Butts, MD, *Interim Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn, New York*

Helen Morrison Elkus Remembered

We mourn the loss on July 1 of Helen Morrison Elkus, daughter of Lewis Francis Morrison, MD, a former chair of OHNS and a professor from 1945 to 1956. UCSF established a named lecture in 2005 and an endowed chair in 2014 to honor Helen's late father.

Funding from the Morrison chair is dedicated to Laryngology. The funds recently supported Joseph Kidane, MD, as a medical student who spent a year performing research within the Laryngology division. Funds from the Morrison chair also allowed VyVy Young, MD, and Clark Rosen, MD, to share their clinical expertise and research in June 2023 at the 14th Congress of the European Laryngological Society in Italy. ■

HeadsUp!
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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**

UCSF Health Redwood Shores Specialty Care Clinic **415/476-7877**

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