

HeadsUp!

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



Steven D. Pletcher, MD

The preference signaling process calls for medical students to notify their top two prospective employers of their interest.

Otolaryngology Residency Application Process Evolves

In 2012, the Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Alvin Roth, PhD, for his work on stable allocations and the practice of marked design. A centerpiece of this work was the redesign of the Match for medical students applying for residency positions. While the Match has worked well for the past decade, increasing competition for residency positions and a spiral of increasing application numbers have cluttered the application process at the point of interview offers, before applicants can enter the Nobel-winning Match algorithm.

In combination with specialty leaders in otolaryngology – head and neck surgery, UCSF OHNS is at the forefront of the implementation and evaluation of a preference signaling program that has now been adopted across the nation. This program has had a major impact in otolaryngology, and data from our specialty has convinced nearly all residency specialties to incorporate signaling within the residency application process. In the current Match cycle, almost all of the 40,000 medical students who participate in the Match will participate in Preference Signaling.

Within otolaryngology, over 500 medical students apply for 350 otolaryngology residency positions. In the past decade the process has become more competitive, with prospective residents submitting more applications. As reported in “Preference Signaling for the Otolaryngology Interview Market,” an article in the October 6, 2020 issue of *The Laryngoscope*, otolaryngology applicants submitted an average of 84 residency applications, an 80% rise over 10 years. This costs upwards of \$1,700 per student in application fees alone.

“The pressures and consequences of not matching in a program are so high that the fees end up being inconsequential relative to not matching. In this context applicants submit an ever-increasing number of applications, and programs are overwhelmed as they try to select students for interviews. It’s so hard for students to stand out among the sea of applications we receive,” said Otolaryngology Residency Program Director Steven D. Pletcher, MD, who was one of the authors of *The Laryngoscope* article.

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Looking Beyond the Numbers

We have placed sixth in the national rankings for NIH grant funding for OHNS departments as compiled by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (see story at right), while the UCSF School of Medicine is #1 in NIH funding using the same accounting method.

But those numbers don't tell the entire story. The department also has grants from the Department of Defense, from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine that were not factored into the Blue Ridge Institute's compilation. Nor did the compilation include new grants that investigators like Matthew Spitzer, PhD, and James Bigelow, PhD, brought in to the

department. What's more, our senior investigators have submitted many other applications for grants that are pending review. We can be extremely proud of our areas of laboratory effort that include central auditory processing, nano-medicine, immunology, functional imaging, cochlear physiology, stem cell research, microbiome research, global surgery, tissue engineering, and cancer signaling. The teams are truly amazing and leverage the incredibly collaborative research environment at UCSF and at the University of California, Berkeley.

Clinically, it's no exaggeration to say our department is in a growth spurt. Rebecca M. Lewis, AuD, PhD, came to the department as Chief of Audiology in February. A few months earlier we welcomed Megan Durr, MD, FACS, as our interim chief of service at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. In addition, four other new faculty will be joining the department later

this year, including two otologists, a laryngologist, and an oncologic and reconstructive surgeon. We are close to opening several new facilities, including surgery centers in Berkeley and in San Francisco, and we anticipate further recruitment in the next few years. All that is in line with the growth envisioned by Suresh Gunasekaran, the new president and CEO of UCSF Health.

Our faculty has taken on numerous leadership positions. Steven Cheung, MD, is completing his two-year term as chair of the UCSF Academic Senate, and he is vice president-elect of the Western Section of the Triological Society. Andrew Goldberg, MD, will soon be president of the Triological Society. The Society's journal, *The Laryngoscope*, lists four of our faculty on its masthead: Daniel Knott, MD, is an associate editor for Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery; Jolie Chang, MD, is an associate editor for Sleep Medicine; and Megan Durr, MD, and Clark Rosen, MD, are on the editorial board. On the subject of editorial leadership, Patrick Ha, MD, is now editor-in-chief of *Head and Neck*, one of the top research journals in our field.

The UCSF OHNS residency program remains a jewel. Our team of residents is incredibly accomplished, and the placement of our recent class into fellowships and excellent jobs – academic or private practice – has been gratifying. But leadership is the glue that holds the program together. Program Director Steven Pletcher, MD, and Associate Program Director VyVy Young, MD, employ insight and innovation in keeping our educational culture fun and collaborative. The page 1 story in this issue of *Heads Up!* refers to a paper by Steve and Taylor Standiford, MD, concerning the signaling process in residency admissions, and I urge you to check it out.

Our very own Jennifer Grandis, MD, will deliver the John Conley, MD Lecture on Medical Ethics during this fall's meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery. I hope to see you there, and even sooner on June 17, when Dana Thompson, MD, will be our Sooy Visiting Professor. And plan to attend the UCSF Otolaryngology Update later this year at the Hotel Nikko in November.

Warmly,

Andrew H. Murr, MD, FACS
Professor and Chair

UCSF Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

Six is a Meaningful Number for UCSF Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

UCSF OHNS placed sixth in two recent lists: the national rankings for NIH grant funding for OHNS departments and the 2022 *US News* Best Hospital rankings for Ear, Nose and Throat Hospitals.

Based on the 2022 National Institutes of Health (NIH) rankings compiled by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, UCSF OHNS ranked sixth in the nation and received close to \$7.5 million of NIH funding in the department. The UCSF School of Medicine is ranked first among schools of medicine.

"The department's portfolio of bench research includes studies in central auditory processing, functional imaging, immunology, stem cell research, cochlear physiology, cancer signaling research, microbiome research and tissue engineering," said Dr. Murr.

"Our researchers also have impact in work regarding music perception, gender affirmation surgery, olfaction, participation in clinical trials and participation in global surgery initiatives through UCSF's Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia. Our environment at UCSF is incredibly collaborative and that is perhaps our most powerful hallmark," he said.

In related news, UCSF OHNS placed sixth in the nation among Ear, Nose and Throat Hospitals, according to the 2022 *US News* Best Hospital rankings.

"This is the second year in a row that UCSF OHNS has placed in the top 10, and we are grateful to the faculty, staff, and trainees, whose continuous diligent work contributed to this honor," Dr. Murr said.

In sharing his appreciation for the entire department, he added, "We have a great team. It is certainly gratifying to be recognized by an external source for all the effort we put forth on behalf of our patients. Congratulations!"

UCSF Health and the UCSF Medical Center was ranked 12th overall on the *US News* Best Hospitals List. ■

Department Expands its Digital Communications

UCSF OHNS has a robust online presence that is growing to keep up with all the department has to offer.

■ A new interface designed to enhance the user experience is among many updates to the **department's website** (<https://ohns.ucsf.edu>). Using UCSF's brand identity package, the website incorporates a striking visual palate that enables visitors to move cohesively through the pages. While patients are the highest priority audience since they motivate all patient care, education, and research activities, the site also provides relevant information to prospective trainees, fellow medical professionals and scientists, donors, and the general public.

■ During the pandemic the department established a **Twitter account** (@UCSF_OHNS), which continues to provide updates on department courses, lectures, publications, individual professional milestones, and links to

timely otolaryngology topics. User analytics show the department's page is on par with industry peers. Since using Twitter to promote blog posts on the department webpage, there has been a steady increase in readership.

■ News about upcoming events and conferences is getting a boost from the department's new **LinkedIn account (UCSF Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery)**. By leveraging the network of otolaryngology professional peers for wider promotion of activities, the department is seeing greater attendance at Zoom Grand Rounds, hosted conferences, and other educational offerings.

■ Finally, **UCSF Health (ucsfhealth.org)** manages several affiliate OHNS pages. These patient-oriented sites give a concise overview of the clinic with appropriate contact and logistics information to maximize the efficiency of a patient's appointment. Be sure to bookmark or follow the department



Yasmine Castañeda (left) and Caroline Schlocker, MD

through these various sources for the latest department news.

■ Two department members, **Yasmine Castañeda** and **Caroline Schlocker, MD**, are leading the digital communications effort along with associated contractors for website redesign and Twitter content. Ms. Castañeda has an extensive background with a BA in Communications and a master's in Strategic Communication and Innovation with a Health Communications emphasis. Dr. Schlocker has a strong interest in digital outreach and brand awareness. ■

Welcome

Two New Faculty Members Join OHNS

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery welcomes Megan Durr, MD, FACS, and Rebecca M. Lewis, AuD, PhD, to the faculty.

Dr. Durr, an associate professor of OHNS and interim chief of Otolaryngology at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital came to UCSF in November 2022 following a faculty appointment as senior physician at Kaiser Permanente. Dr. Durr completed residency at UCSF OHNS after graduating from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

She was honored as a Kaiser Permanente Leadership Academy Selected Participant in 2021 and received the John Loftus Kaiser Permanente Innovation in Teaching Award in 2017. As a resident at UCSF OHNS, Dr. Durr received the Kelvin C. Lee UCSF Outstanding Resident Award.

In February, Dr. Lewis joined the department as Chief of Audiology and an assistant professor. She will partner



Megan Durr, MD, FACS (left), and Rebecca M. Lewis, AuD, PhD

with Payal Anand, AuD, the director of the Audiology Clinic at UCSF, and will bring research to that division.

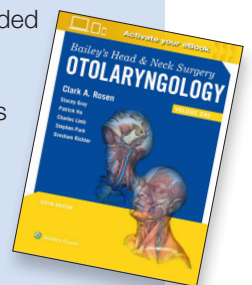
Dr. Lewis has dual doctorates in Audiology and Philosophy from the department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Washington, with her research completed at the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center. She has several years of experience as a research and clinical audiologist, and comes to UCSF from Whisper.AI in San Francisco, where she optimized hearing aid fitting outcomes using the Whisper Hearing System. ■

From the OHNS Bookshelf

Bailey's Head & Neck Surgery Otolaryngology, 6th Ed. (2022)

Dr. Clark Rosen led his selected editorial team that included Dr. Patrick Ha and Dr. Charles Limb in the

complete revision of this seminal otolaryngology textbook. A staple in trainees' libraries and a trusted reference, this two-volume text is current, useful, and evidence based. UCSF contributing faculty authors include Drs. Jolie Chang, David Conrad, Ivan El-Sayed, Jennifer Grandis, Daniel Johnson, Yue Ma, Anna Meyer, Andrew Murr, Steven Pletcher, William Ryan, and VyVy Young. Other UCSF contributing authors include graduated residents Drs. Elizabeth Shuman and Nicole Jian, chief resident Dr. Kara Brodie, and Sarah Schneider, SLP. ■



At UCSF and Beyond

Steven Cheung, MD, at the Helm of the Academic Senate

Professor Steven W. Cheung, MD, will conclude a two-year term as the Chair of the UCSF Academic Senate on August 31, 2023.

A noteworthy accomplishment during Dr. Cheung's tenure as UCSF Senate Chair and Presidential Search Committee Advisor to the Regents was the successful recruitment of Michael Drake, MD, as President of the UC System. Dr. Drake is an inspiration to physicians who wish to transform their careers from health care delivery to higher education leadership.

Several other recent accomplishments of the Academic Senate are advancing gender equity by identifying and exercising actionable items, strengthening shared governance with campus and UCSF Health leaders through intentional engagement, stewarding the Computational Precision Program and Post-Baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Practice Program proposals to timely systemwide approval, and delivering financial assistance to principal investigators who face unexpected budget gaps following recent agreements with graduate student and postdoctoral scholar bargaining units.

Works in progress include Human Resources faculty friendly procedures to recruit and hire staff, Human Research Protection Program overhaul to reduce backlogs and mitigate bottlenecks of IRB applications, and the Chancellor's Bridge Funding Program modification in its next 5-year cycle to serve better the needs of faculty, particularly those deeply impacted by COVID.

Dr. Cheung ascended to this leadership role by serving as a regular member on half a dozen Standing Committees and later as Chair of the Committee on Committees, Academic Planning and Budget, and Faculty Welfare before being elected as the Academic Senate Vice Chair in 2019.

Dr. Cheung has encouraged OHNS faculty participation in the Academic Senate, noting the service of Andrea Hasenstaub, PhD (member, Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools), Jennifer Grandis, MD (chair, Academic Planning and Budget), José Gurrola, MD (chair, Education Policy), Young-Wook Jun, PhD (member, Graduate Council), Steven Fletcher, MD (vice chair, Privilege and Tenure), and VyVy Young, MD (member, University Committee on Education Policy).

The Academic Senate has delegated authority bestowed by the UC Regents on matters of faculty advancements and promotions, curricula, degrees, and admissions. The Academic Senate also serves as the voice of the faculty in its advisory role on matters of budget priorities, faculty welfare, compensation, postemployment benefits, and outside academic and clinical affiliations. Faculty in the Ladder Rank, in Residence, and Clinical X Professor series are voting members of the Academic Senate.

As we go to press, Dr. Cheung was recently elected to the University of California Academic Assembly to serve as Vice Chair and Chair of the UC Systemwide Senate.

Head and Neck Journal Selects Dr. Ha as Editor-In-Chief

Patrick Ha, MD, the Irwin Mark and Joan Klein Jacobs Distinguished Professor and Chief of Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck

Surgery, has been named Editor-In-Chief of *Head and Neck*, a premier publication in the field of otolaryngology and the only one focused solely on head and neck cancer. It is Dr. Ha's hope that the journal can increase its relevance particularly with respect to basic science, where there is a real lack of journals that understand head and neck cancer.

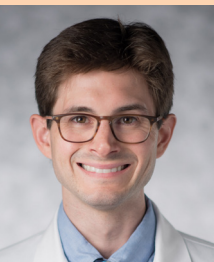
Dr. Ha received more good news with an anonymous gift of \$500,000 to support his research and the Division of Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery. In addition to supporting basic research through tissue banking and salary support of basic scientists, the gift will be used to help support incoming surgeon-scientists as they begin their careers.

UCSF Expert on Live TV to Discuss Over-the- Counter Hearing Aids

Payal Anand, AuD, director of Audiology and assistant clinical professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, appeared on KTVU Fox 2 Live last October to discuss over-the-counter hearing aids. The FDA recently approved over-the-counter sales of hearing aids, meaning people can now purchase these devices online or in stores without a prescription or the guidance of an audiologist or otolaryngologist.

In her interview, Dr. Anand said that over-the-counter aids are designed for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss. "However, it's important to note that over-the-counter aids are unsuitable for individuals who experience sudden hearing loss, have asymmetrical hearing loss, or have ear pain. These symptoms could indicate a medical emergency. While the new availability is a positive step, it's still advisable to consult a hearing professional before purchasing a hearing aid," she said. ■

Spitzer Lab Receives New Research Funding



OHNS Associate Professor Matthew Spitzer, PhD, recently received two new grants to support research in his lab. The Spitzer lab focuses on understanding how the immune system responds to cancer and developing new cancer immunotherapies for improved cancer treatment. His group discovered that activation of immune cells called T cells from outside the tumor, especially in draining lymph nodes, is an important driver of effective cancer immunotherapy, first in mouse models, and more recently in patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinomas.

Dr. Spitzer was recently awarded a Research Scholar Grant from the American Cancer Society to further develop our understanding of how immunotherapy acts on immune cells outside the tumor.

In addition, Dr. Spitzer received an Era of Hope Scholar Award from the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, which will provide financial support for his lab's studies in breast cancer. With this research support, the Spitzer lab will investigate how current cancer immunotherapies impact the systemic immune response outside the tumor in patients treated in the context of a well-established and pioneering clinical trial called *Investigation of Serial Studies to Predict Your Therapeutic Response with Imaging and Molecular Analysis 2 (I-SPY2)*. ■

Having a Positive Impact Globally

Programs in Africa and South America showcase how UCSF's Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is making a difference for the better around the world.

■ Case Conference and Ongoing Collaborations in Tanzania –

Members of the UCSF Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Department are building upon the collaborations with the Otorhinolaryngology Department at Muhimbili National Hospital/ Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. On February 13, 2023, the first of a series of virtual case conferences were held over Zoom, with more than 30 attendees discussing a pediatric airway case. Dr. Baraka Musimu, a third-year resident from Muhimbili, presented a case that was prepared in collaboration with third-year resident Michael Lindeborg, MD. UCSF OHNS attendees included Lia Jacobson, JoAnn Czechowicz, Jordan Virbalas, Andrew Goldberg, and Mary Jue Xu, MDs.

In April, Jeffrey Sharon, MD, will lead onsite otology training in Tanzania at a newly built temporal bone lab. Another capacity building collaboration in April was the first virtual case conference between the speech language pathology teams in Tanzania and UCSF.

■ **Cleft Lip and Palate Repair Trip to Ica, Peru** – Every year since 2017 (aside from the pandemic), members of UCSF OHNS have participated in an annual surgical mission to Ica, Peru to treat patients with congenital craniofacial anomalies. The next trip is planned at the end of 2023. The Peruvian patients seeking care often travel as much as 48 hours from deep within the Amazonia region to reach the Hospital Regional de Ica. Jordan Virbalas, MD, a pediatric otolaryngologist, has participated in each trip accompanied by UCSF otolaryngology residents or fellows in partnership with the Healing the Children charity organization.

In Peru, the U.S.-based team partners with Peruvian physicians, surgeons, anesthesiology residents, surgery fellows, and medical students from the Universidad Nacional Mayor

de San Marcos. Over the course of eight days, the team will assess up to 140 patients and perform 60 to 75 surgeries such as cleft lip repair, cleft palate repair, pharyngoplasty for velopharyngeal insufficiency, cleft rhinoplasty, and microtia repair using costal cartilage.

■ Early Detection and Intervention for Congenital Hearing Loss in Lima, Peru –

Universal newborn hearing screening is standard practice in most high-income countries. Implementation of early hearing detection and intervention programs in low or middle-income countries presents unique challenges and opportunities. Hospital San Bartolomé (HSB) is among the largest maternal and pediatric hospitals in Lima, Peru, with over 5,000 births per year.

JoAnn Czechowicz, MD, is partnering with a research team including staff of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima to evaluate the past five years of data from more than 20,000 patients on screening and diagnosis of congenital hearing loss at HSB as well as qualitative interviews on attitudes and knowledge around congenital hearing loss.

■ Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Bootcamp Week in Rwanda –

With only 23 OHNS providers for a population of 13 million people in Rwanda, there is a critical need to train general practitioners to provide care for head and neck diseases in that nation. Mary Jue Xu, MD, is aiding that effort through work with the University of Global Health Equity, a new medical school in Rwanda whose senior-most medical students began their subspecialty training in OHNS in January 2023. The training began with a one-week bootcamp that was followed by three-week rotations in OHNS departments. Mary Jue Xu, MD, a co-director of the bootcamp week, worked with Rwandan and international faculty to support development and implementation of the curriculum. Additionally, residents Gaelen Stanford-Moore and Michael Lindeborg, MDs presented a virtual lecture during the week.



Top photo: Jordan Virbalas, MD, with Sean Alemi, MD, (former UCSF OHNS resident) performing a cleft lip repair in Ica, Peru.

Bottom photo: Mary Jue Xu, MD, demonstrates flexible nasolaryngoscopy at the University of Global Health Equity campus in Butaro Rwanda.

■ **UCSF Global Health Research Program and Fellowship** – UCSF's Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia (CHESA) has a year-long fellowship program for surgical and anesthesia providers dedicated to improving perioperative health equity throughout the world. Co-directed by Lia Jacobson, MD, from the OHNS department, this multidisciplinary, global surgery fellowship program provides global health curriculum, research and project support, mentorship and a community cohort for fellows participating in health equity work in their respective countries or hospitals.

In OHNS, there is a funded clinical track for U.S. licensed surgeons to participate in clinical/surgical work at UCSF and clinical instruction at a partner hospital in Cambodia during the fellowship year. OHNS residents and physicians from all countries are eligible to apply for the research/project track and can complete the fellowship year remotely. ■

Residency Application Process Evolves

Continued from page 1

As virtual interviewing became an inevitability during the 2020-2021 application cycle and away rotations were eliminated because of COVID-19, an already extremely competitive program became even more competitive.

"Everyone was struggling with how to review applications in a reasonable way," Dr. Pletcher said.

As part of an Otolaryngology Program Director Leadership Council, he promoted a signaling process adapted from the American Economic Association. That process calls for graduate students to notify their top two prospective employers of their interest. Although there had been discussion and modeling of signaling in graduate medical education, no specialties had committed to the process.

"The pandemic tipped the balance to implement this," Dr. Pletcher said. Working with his colleagues, he engaged with medical student deans, students, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and other stakeholders to develop and implement a signaling system that enabled prospective students to alert their top five choice residency programs of their particular interest at the time of application submission.

Preference signaling allows applicants a credible and consistent method to inform programs of student interest early in the process and before interviews are offered. Each program receives a list of students who sent a signal.

"When we're reviewing applications and we have two applications that seem similar but one signaled us, we use the signal to break the tie."

— Steven D. Pletcher, MD

The results of this initial signaling experience demonstrated a powerful impact of signals on the ability to obtain interview offers for applicants. The results were reported by Dr. Pletcher and colleagues in "The Otolaryngology Residency Program Preference Signaling Experience" in the May 2022 issue of *Academic Medicine*. Importantly, the

study showed that both the most competitive applicants and those who struggled most to receive interview offers benefitted significantly from signaling.

These initial results have led to a rapid expansion of signaling, and preference signaling has now been adopted by 18 specialties. In the 2024 National Resident Matching cycle, it is estimated that more than 90% of applicants will participate in preference signaling programs.

With the rapid expansion of signaling, Dr. Pletcher and his colleagues felt it was extremely important to ensure that this new initiative did not hinder groups of applicants who are historically underrepresented within otolaryngology. Teaming up with researchers from the AAMC, Dr. Pletcher and his colleagues found that signals benefit applicants from across gender and racial/ethnic groups that are underrepresented in medicine. This important finding was published in "Interview Invitations for Otolaryngology Residency Positions Across Demographic Groups Following Implementation of Preference Signaling" as an original investigation with Dr. Pletcher as the lead author in the March 7, 2023 issue of *JAMA Network Open*.

These results are particularly exciting as preference signaling supersedes a system of informal signals with a high potential for inequity.

"It replaces a system that was set up for bias," Dr. Pletcher said. Prior to a formal signaling process, students would ask mentors and influential people from their medical school to convey interest in a program. Those applicants from medical schools without an otolaryngology residency program, who are more likely to be from underrepresented back-

grounds, were left without the advocacy and mentorship required for effective informal signals.

The otolaryngology experience also shows that preference signaling results in a better distribution of interview offers across the spectrum of applicant competitiveness. Working with Dr. Pletcher and his colleagues, UCSF Otolaryngology Resident Taylor Standiford, MD, modeled the distribution of interview offers with and without signaling (*see figure below*) and found a 30% increase in the number of interview invitations received with signaling among applicants who struggled most to receive interview offers.

This year the orthopedics residency, which is similar in size and number of applicants to otolaryngology, is participating in signaling for the first time. However, instead of five signals, orthopedics is using 30 signals, and Dr. Pletcher says he will be watching closely to see how it turns out.

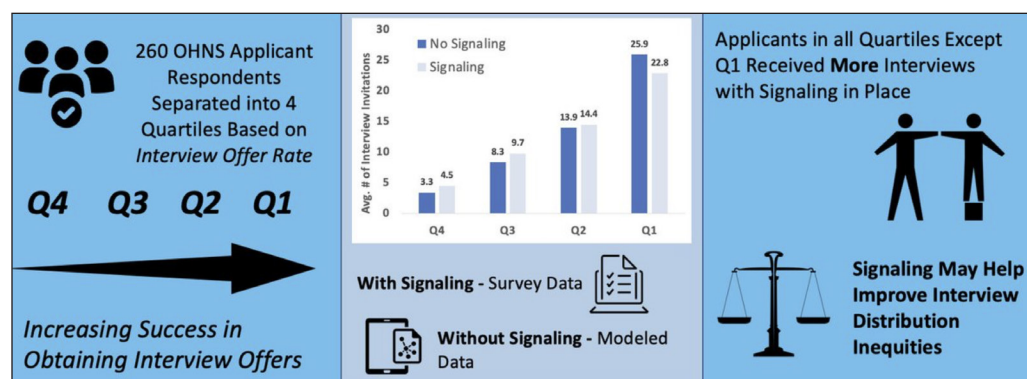
"It changes the dynamics to the point where you likely won't get an interview unless you signal," Dr. Pletcher said.

He suspects that all orthopedics programs will fill with residents, that it will be very rare for people to match at a program they don't signal, and that the number of applications people submit in the following year will decrease. "It breaks the race to the bottom to submit more and more applications," Dr. Pletcher said. It also removes unnecessary competition for interview slots from excessive applications.

The Rise of Virtual Interviews

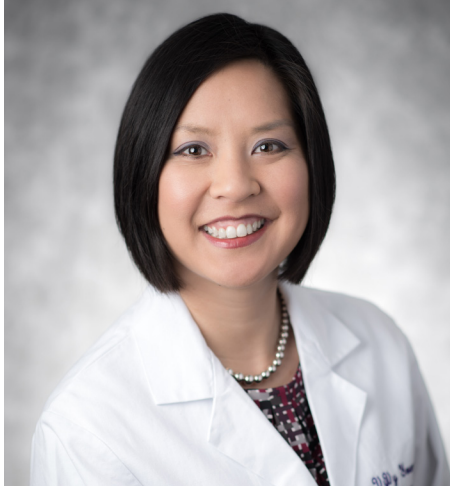
Another major change in the process of applying for otolaryngology residencies is a shift to virtual interviews. In 2021 the shift felt inevitable from a safety

Impact of Preference Signaling on Residency Interview Distribution



UCSF Otolaryngology Resident Taylor Standiford, MD, modeled the distribution of interview offers with and without signaling – published in the *Journal of Surgical Education*.

Standiford et al. @JSurgEduc 2023 | © 2023 Elsevier, Inc. All Rights Reserved



"I think we have a responsibility to showcase our program, our department and our institution as candidly as we can. I think it's important for us to be forthright – particularly for the students who haven't been here." — VyVy Young, MD

perspective, said Associate Residency Director VyVy Young, MD. "By the time we were gearing up for residency interviews, we were months into the pandemic and already quite facile with virtual platforms like Zoom," Dr. Young said.

While she doesn't think the shift to a virtual format has impacted the quality of residents who end up coming to UCSF, she prefers the ability to connect with prospective students in person. The UC system has mandated that admissions interviews for all of its programs remain virtual in 2023, and the AAMC has recommended that programs conduct virtual interviews for all applicants including local applicants.

"I think people have a love/hate relationship with virtual platforms," Dr. Young said. "They love the convenience of sitting in front of a computer in sweatpants and fuzzy slippers, but also recognize the things they miss out on."

In virtual interviews, honesty is important on both ends.

Dr. Young and her team spent a lot of time examining the department website to make sure the information was up-to-date, accessible, easy to navigate, and comprehensive in addressing the questions they thought students might have. They also developed a video to showcase current residents' insights into life at UCSF as well as their experiences in the program and living and working in San Francisco.

"We've had to adapt, grow, and adjust – and we've had to change the way we approach things," Dr. Young said. In spite of the changes, the quality and caliber of residents remains the same. "Fundamentally, we have a great program with tremendous opportunities, and that attracts amazing people." ■

Honors for UCSF OHNS Faculty

■ **Chase Heaton, MD**, has been named ENT section chief at the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVAMC). Dr. Heaton, associate professor of Clinical Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, has been a long-time contributor to the SFVAMC since joining the UCSF faculty in 2015. He is a head and neck oncologic surgeon with expertise in head and neck endocrine surgery and microvascular free flap reconstruction in addition to his ablative practice. In addition, he is also the director of the UCSF OHNS student rotation, OHNS 140.05, and has been a confidential student advisor for UCSF students seeking a career in OHNS for many years.

■ The *Journal of Neuroscience* featured an image from an article by **Andrea Hasenstaub, PhD**, and **Tim Olsen, PhD**, on its cover. The cover image is of a coronal section of the Sst-cre; Ai232 mouse in which Cre recombination is controlled by the somatostatin promoter; it allows expression of a fluorescently tagged channelrhodopsin. The image is from "Offset Responses in the Auditory Cortex Show Unique History Dependence," which ran in the September 28, 2022 issue. Dr. Hasenstaub is an associate professor of Otolaryngology and Dr. Olsen is a postdoctoral scholar.

For more information, see the article by Olsen and Hasenstaub. (Vol. 42, Issue 39, pages 7370-7385).

■ The Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators gave its Academy Service Award to **Anna Meyer, MD**. The award recognizes faculty who have made extraordinary contributions to the Academy, contributions that make a qualitative difference, and that rise above and beyond defined work within specific roles. Dr. Meyer was recognized for taking the lead in designing and co-facilitating "*Cultivating courageous leadership to advance DEIA*," a breakout session during "Healing ourselves through reflection, reframing and courage in the face of student activism," a series of Academy meetings focused on courageous leadership and faculty wellbeing. Dr. Meyer is a professor of Clinical Otolaryngology, director of Medical Student Curriculum, director of Otolaryngology Curriculum for Primary Care Pediatrics Residency, and director of the Cochlear Implant Interconnect Program in UCSF OHNS.

■ The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) renewed its funding to UCSF's Sound and Music Perception Lab, under the direction of **Charles Limb, MD**. A \$150,000 grant from the NEA will be used to continue studies to identify neural substrates for creativity across a range of art forms. Dr. Limb is the Francis A. Sooy Professor and Chief of the Division of Otology, Neurotology, and Skull Base Surgery as well as the Director of the Douglas Grant

Cochlear Implant Center at UCSF and the Medical Director of Cochlear Implantation at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Oakland.

■ **Andrew Goldberg, MD, MSCE**, was named the 127th president of the Triological Society at the Society's Annual meeting in early May. Dr. Goldberg has served the Triological Society in the past as vice president of the Western Section as well as on organizational committees, program committees, and nominating committees, and he has guided many candidates through the process of becoming a Triological Fellow. He was a founding editor of TrioBP which provides guidance to physicians on Best Practices in clinical medicine.

One of the newest Fellows of the Triological Society is Megan Durr, MD, associate professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and interim chief of Otolaryngology at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

In addition, Dr. Durr was appointed with Jolie Chang, MD, as co-associate editors for sleep surgery/medicine for *The Laryngoscope*, an official Triological Society journal and one of the premier journals for Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

UCSF's leadership in the Triological Society also includes Andrew H. Murr, MD, FACS, who is Treasurer of the Society's Council. ■



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Upcoming Events

Resident Research Symposium

June 16, 2023

Byers Auditorium, Genentech Hall

The Francis A. Sooy Lectureship

June 17, 2023

*Dana Thompson, MD, Head of
Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck
Surgery Division, Northwestern
University Feinberg School of Medicine*
Byers Auditorium, Genentech Hall

Roger Boles, MD

Endowed Lectureship

September 21, 2023

11:30 am – 1:30 pm Resident Session
5:00–6:00 pm Main Lecture

UCSF Otolaryngology Update

November 9–11, 2023

Hotel Nikko, San Francisco

29th Annual Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring

February 16–17, 2024

Grand Hyatt, San Francisco

UCSF/TAMC Pacific Rim Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Update

February 17–20, 2024

Moana Surfrider, Honolulu, Hawaii

*For further information about CME
courses and current travel information,
please go to cme.ucsf.edu.*

*For more on Grand Rounds and
departmental events, please visit
ohns.ucsf.edu or contact Yasmine
Casteñeda at yasmine.casteneda@ucsf.edu*

Pediatric OHNS at Redwood Shores

Pediatric Otolaryngology with David Conrad, MD, and Grace Banik, MD, now has a presence on the Peninsula with the opening of the UCSF Redwood Shores Specialty Clinic in Redwood City. This location is part of a larger strategy effort to deliver excellent pediatric and adult otolaryngology care to the Silicon Valley region and expand our footprint in the Bay Area.

The Redwood Shores facility contains six dedicated OHNS exam rooms, on-site laboratory testing, ultrasonography, and an audiology suite to offer same day audiologic testing. All the procedural capability of clinics at UCSF Benioff Mission Bay and Children's Hospital Oakland is available as well.

The facility draws families from Half Moon Bay, Palo Alto, San Carlos, San Mateo, Burlingame, Redwood City and San Jose. Currently, surgeries are completed at Mission Bay, and newly acquired block time has improved patient access to surgery. ■

HeadsUp!

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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.

News from the UCSF Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery | ohns.ucsf.edu