Message from the Chairman

We are pleased to present the Fall 2010 edition of Heads Up!, the UCSF Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery newsletter. This edition highlights several exciting developments including recent awards, an update on our basic science research program, an in-depth look at our pediatric division, an overview of the new and improved UCSF Cochlear Implant Center, and our annual resident graduation dinner and Sooy endowed lecture.

Please join me in welcoming our newest faculty members Ted H. Leem, MD, Dieter C. Gruenert, PhD, and Young-wook, Jun, PhD, to the department. Dr. Leem joined the department as faculty following his completion of the Bryan Hemming Head and Neck Oncology Fellowship at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. He specializes in the care and treatment of patients with benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck. Dieter C. Gruenert, PhD, has come from the Stem Cell Research Program at the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute and will work in collaboration with Dr. Lisa Orloff in the Sooy Society.

Irwin and Joan Jacobs Make Remarkable Gift to UCSF in Support of Endowed Chairs

Mr. Irwin Jacobs, the founder, retired CEO, and current board member of the telecommunications giant Qualcomm, and his wife, Joan, have given $6.5 million in support of the UCSF head and neck cancer and oncology program. It is believed to be one of the largest private gifts of its kind.

One morning, Mr. Jacobs noticed a bump at the back of his jaw he originally believed to just simply be a dental problem. Upon consultation Mr. Jacobs learned that the lump was an adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC), a rare cancer that typically originates in the salivary glands. In Mr. Jacobs, the tumor occurred in the parotid gland. Within weeks of his diagnosis Mr. Jacobs was under the care of the head and neck team in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

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Unlocking the Mysteries of Brain Impairments

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery’s research mission fulfills three categories: basic, translational and clinical. This issue will highlight basic research, which often deals with uncovering normal mechanisms and processes of the human body. This knowledge is necessary to devise strategies that help to understand and potentially remedy pathological conditions.

Our department enjoys a rich history in basic hearing research that began with the establishment of the Coleman Memorial Laboratory in 1921. The family of John C. and Edward Coleman, Cornish immigrants whose fortune was initially established in the California gold fields, was plagued by progressive, hereditary deafness. In an act of great foresight and generosity, the Coleman family established a laboratory to further understanding of hearing and its impairments. The work in the Coleman Laboratory is ongoing and two recent landmark studies have uncovered important insights into mechanisms that lead to normal hearing in the maturing brain and deterioration of hearing in the aging brain. Those studies set the framework to develop remedies to restore near normal hearing ability in pediatric and geriatric patients.

From Newborn...

Robert Froemke, PhD, a former post-doctoral fellow in the Coleman Laboratory, in collaboration with Christoph Schreiner, MD, PhD, leads efforts to determine how neurons in the auditory cortex establish their ability to respond to specific frequencies and sound intensities in the first few weeks after birth (Nature 2010, 465:932-936). In order to build a proper and stable representation of the auditory world in the brain, neonatal rodents exhibit a significant degree of plasticity of the cortical neural circuits, allowing for sensitivity to the pattern of acoustic inputs, such as speech sounds. During this time, neurons construct a receptive field, i.e., a specific sensitivity to certain aspects of sounds, that relies upon a particular balance of inputs that enhance cortical activity (excitation) and inputs that suppress cortical activity (inhibition). Immediately after the onset of hearing, sensory-evoked excitatory and inhibitory responses are equally strong, although inhibition is less stimulus-selective and mismatched with excitation. Over the first few weeks of life, experience-dependent refinement of inhibition was observed as the receptive fields develop.

The study points towards a fine adjustment of synaptic inputs as the force behind the production of mature receptive fields. This knowledge is crucial to understand how hearing impairment in young children can come about, e.g., in cases of chronic otitis media during the developmental process, and paves the way for the development of therapies targeting restoration of normal brain processes in young children.

To Aged...

Etienne de Villers-Sidani, PhD, a former visiting scientist from Montreal, in collaboration with Michael Merzenich, PhD, leads a series of studies that examined the effects of aging on brain mechanisms for hearing (Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, in press). Perceptual and cognitive decline are virtually a universal aspect of the aging process and yet their neurophysiological basis remain poorly understood. Such deficits frequently translate to slowed auditory processing and difficulty in accurately identifying auditory stimuli under challenging (noisy) conditions. The study found more than twenty age-related cortical processing deficits in the auditory cortex of aging rats compared to young rats. The basis for differences appears to be altered cortical inhibition. Aged rats were slower to master simple auditory behaviors and showed a high error rate in auditory discrimination tasks.

In another aspect of the study, the investigators examined the effect of intensive behavioral auditory training on properties of the auditory cortex in these aged rats. Following training, a nearly complete reversal of the majority of previously observed functional and structural cortical impairments was found. These results suggest that age-related cognitive decline is a tightly regulated plastic process, and demonstrate that most of these age-related changes are, by their fundamental nature, reversible.

Building on Our Success

These examples illustrate how basic science can inform patients and clinicians about mechanisms underlying the development and deterioration of hearing processes over the course of a lifetime. With initiatives like these, UCSF Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery research laboratories are well positioned to unlock mysteries of brain impairments in hearing disorders and to develop new treatments for our patients. With further help from our friends, alumni, and philanthropic donors, we are confident that we will continue to build on the success of these recent exciting discoveries.
As we have reported in previous issues of Head’s Up, support for the department’s residency program is one of our top funding priorities. To bring more awareness to the cause, and to increase support for our talented residents, the Francis A. Sooy, M.D. Society has been created as the department’s focal point for providing support, strength, and mentorship for our residents.

One of the hallmarks of our department is the training we offer to the next generation of otolaryngologist – head and neck surgeons. Each year, our department “matches” three resident applicants for a five-year residency. Our residents train in a comprehensive training program, which covers the breadth of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in a wide array of clinical settings as well as research. This extensive training comes at a considerable cost.

The Sooy Society, which honors Dr. Francis A. Sooy’s legacy and the significant role he played in the department as Chairman from 1958 to 1972, will be the focal fundraising initiative for our department’s many resident alumni, fellowship alumni, faculty, and former faculty of the department. Contributions from this group will be directed to the Sooy Society Endowment Fund.

This year’s graduating chief residents were the first inductees of the Sooy Society at the department’s year-end dinner held in June. In bestowing membership upon the graduating chief residents, Dr. Eisele commented, “The training and guidance granted by support from the Sooy Society will ensure our residents become renowned leaders in all aspects of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.”

It is the Department’s goal to provide our residents with the very best educational opportunities. The Sooy Society will ensure that we support those who follow in our footsteps.

If you would like to speak with someone about how you can make a gift to the Sooy Society, please contact Regan Botsford at 415-502-1573 or rbotsford@support.ucsf.edu.

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New Sooy Society Supports Residency Program

On Saturday morning June 12th, the faculty, residents, alumni and friends of the department gathered for the 2010 Francis A. Sooy Lecture with guest speaker Mark A. Richardson, MD, Dean, School of Medicine and President of the Faculty Practice Plan at Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Richardson provided us with two very educational and entertaining lectures based on his extensive clinical experience. In his “Choanal Atresia: Evaluation and Management” lecture, he reviewed common surgical pitfalls and provided his recommendations for improving surgical success. In his second lecture, “Lympho-Venous Malformations: Current Treatment,” he stressed the advantages of a multi-disciplinary approach as well as the opportunities to improve quality of life in this patient population.

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery’s Annual Year-End Dinner was held on the evening of the Sooy Lecture. During the dinner, the department honored graduating Chief Residents Harry S. Hwang, Krista M. Rodriguez-Bruno, and Betty S. Tsai, together with graduating clinical Fellows, Sumana Jothi and Ted Leem. Other highlights of the evening included the presentation of special awards. This year’s Roger Boles, MD, Award for Excellence in Clinical Faculty Teaching was conferred to Andrew H. Murr, MD, and the Francis A. Sooy, MD, Award for Clinical Excellence was awarded to Andrew N. Goldberg, MD. Dr. Betty Tsai received the Kelvin Lee Resident Award for outstanding and meritorious service and team leadership.

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Annual Resident Graduation Dinner and Sooy Lecture
State-of-the-Art Care for Children and their Families

In the Summer of 2009, the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery opened its doors to a new freestanding pediatric practice located on the 3rd floor at 2330 Post Street in San Francisco. Our new family-centric environment features a large, comfortable waiting area filled with toys and games to keep our young patients entertained. Our new Pediatric practice is contiguous with the UCSF Primary Pediatric Practice at the Mt. Zion campus. This close proximity of primary care and specialty otolaryngology care has already proven to be very beneficial to both patients and the UCSF pediatric providers with regard to the collaboration and coordination of care.

UCSF Pediatric Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery provides care for a variety of head and neck disorders in children including chronic tonsillitis, recurrent ear infections, hearing loss, chronic sinusitis, neck masses and airway disorders such as snoring, stridor, hoarseness and sleep apnea. We offer innovative diagnostic techniques such as pediatric sialendoscopy, and sleep endoscopy in addition to advanced hearing treatments including cochlear implants and surgically-implanted hearing aids. Dr. Kristina Rosbe and Dr. Anna Meyer work closely with their pediatric colleagues at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital to provide state-of-the-art care for children and their families and strive to make the surgical experience as safe and positive as possible.

Following are some recent exciting developments in the Pediatric Otolaryngology Division:

- **Pediatric Sleep Endoscopy**
  UCSF Children’s Hospital is one of the only institutions in Northern California offering advanced diagnostic testing for pediatric patients with persistent snoring and sleep problems after tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. Our pediatric otolaryngologists work closely with pediatric pulmonologists in directing the dedicated Pediatric Disorders Laboratory. Our surgeons use innovative diagnostic testing, including sleep-induced airway endoscopy, to precisely identify sites of continued upper airway obstruction and to tailor surgical treatment options.

- **BAHA for Single-Sided Deafness**
  Children with unilateral hearing loss have more trouble in school, have difficulty localizing sounds and have difficulty hearing in situations with lots of background noise. Treatment for unilateral deafness has traditionally involved bulky headphone style hearing aids which were often incompatible with a child’s active lifestyle. UCSF’s Pediatric Otolaryngology Division now offers a surgically implanted hearing aid that is relatively compact and attaches behind the ear. This hearing aid allows sounds to be transferred from the deaf ear to the hearing ear through skull vibrations. Our Pediatric Otolaryngologists work with their pediatric audiology colleagues to identify appropriate candidates, and are conducting some of the first clinical research studies on the use of these devices in children with unilateral hearing loss.

To learn more about hearing loss in children and the services we offer, visit: [http://ohns.ucsf.edu/peds](http://ohns.ucsf.edu/peds)

More information about our Pediatric Sleep Disorders Lab can be found at: [www.ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/clinics/sleep_disorders/](http://www.ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/clinics/sleep_disorders/)
Clinical Trial, Patient Study, Annual Picnic

The Department’s Cochlear Implant Center was relocated in July 2009 to the first floor of the Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery building at the northeast corner of Sutter and Divisadero Streets in San Francisco. This building is now the new home for the Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery clinics at the UCSF Mt. Zion Campus. The newly renovated offices were designed with expanded space for patient care and an observation room for evaluation, training and education of audiology externs, parents and other professionals. A new sound booth was installed that is fully equipped for hearing evaluations and analysis of hearing aid function. Special attention was given to create a space that would accommodate both adult and pediatric patients and their families. Infants as young as a few months of age receive evaluations to determine whether they are candidates for cochlear implants. With early intervention and evaluation, eligible infants may receive cochlear implants as early as nine months of age.

The Center is in full swing with the Hybrid S12 cochlear implant clinical trial. This new technology can help a sizeable number of adults with a condition that is often referred to as “ski-slope” hearing loss. With this type of hearing loss, patients experience minimal to moderate loss in the low frequencies and severe to profound loss in the high frequencies. These individuals have too much hearing in the low frequencies to meet candidacy criteria for conventional cochlear implants, yet hearing aids are unable to provide adequate speech understanding. With the Hybrid implant, acoustic and electric hearing is combined in the same ear. Since low frequency hearing is preserved during surgery, a conventional hearing aid amplifies the low frequencies while the shorter electrode array resting in the base of the cochlea stimulates the high frequencies electrically. This approach offers the possibility of restoring hearing for all speech sounds making speech easier to understand, with better music perception than conventional cochlear implants. Four patients have been implanted with the Hybrid cochlear implant at UCSF by Dr. Lawrence Lustig. Candidates are still being considered for inclusion in this study.

In another study, we are investigating patients’ perceptions about the psychological services provided by the UCSF cochlear implant team. UCSF Cochlear Implant Center is one of the few implant centers in the world to offer psychological services as part of the evaluation process. This is the first study to explore patient’s perceptions of whether psychological services are helpful to them as they go through the cochlear implant process. Approximately 100 people will take part in the study. Fifty patients will be sought to participate from the UCSF Cochlear Implant Center and fifty patients will be selected from a cochlear implant center that does not provide psychological services prior to cochlear implantation.

This summer, the Center held its annual picnic which is eagerly anticipated by our implanted patients, cochlear implant candidates and their families. With an average of 100 attendees, there is ample opportunity for candidates to meet cochlear implant recipients, recent recipients to show off and try out their new hearing, and old friends to catch up with one another. The three device manufacturers, Advanced Bionics Corporation, Cochlear Corporation and MED-EL support the event displaying products, conducting demonstrations and providing literature. This year’s picnic was held in beautiful Tilden Park in Berkeley, California.

Remarkable Gift

Continued from page 1

Mr. Jacobs’ tumor in his parotid gland was removed preserving his facial nerve. Mr. Jacobs also received post-operative radiation therapy at UCSF. As positive as his experience was at UCSF, he admits that it wasn’t easy. “It’s an unusual tumor,” Dr Eisele commented. “We don’t understand very well why they occur and we don’t understand the variability of their behavior from patient to patient. We’re very interested in the molecular underpinnings and the behaviors of these tumors so we can come up with more effective therapeutic strategies. The Jacobs’ generosity will help us in our effects to better care for patients with these tumors.

The Jacobs’ commitment creates two endowed positions at UCSF, which were filled this past fall. Dr. David Eisele holds the Irwin Mark Jacobs and Joan Klein Jacobs Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Cancer in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Jeanne Quivey holds the Irwin Mark Jacobs and Joan Klein Jacobs Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Radiation Oncology in the Department of Radiation Oncology. At the completion of the Jacobs’ gift commitment, both positions will be funded to achieve the Distinguished Professorship level.

If you would like to support the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, or know someone who would, please contact Regan Botsford, Senior Director, Medical Development, at 415/502-1573 or rbotsford@support.ucsf.edu.
The Department Welcomes Three New Faculty

Dieter C. Gruenert, PhD

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is pleased to welcome to the department faculty, Dieter C. Gruenert, PhD. Dr. Gruenert previously served as a Senior Scientist and Head of the Stem Cell Research Program (2003–2010) at the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute. He received his undergraduate degree (BA) in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and his PhD in Biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley. His postdoctoral studies (1982–1984) were in the Department of Carcinogenesis at the Swiss Institute on Experimental Cancer Research in Epalinges/Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dr. Gruenert’s work has led to the development of novel diagnostic and oligonucleotide-based therapeutic strategies to ameliorate disease pathology as well as numerous human epithelial cell systems now used in academic and industrial labs throughout the world. His most recent work focuses on the development of adult as well as embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cells for the study of disease progression and development of regenerative therapies. Dr. Gruenert has more than 150 publications (peer-reviewed and book chapters/reviews) and holds 5 patents: two on an oligonucleotide-based gene therapy strategy to replace mutated sequences in disease genes, one on the evaluation of the effectiveness of chemical DNA delivery systems, one on approaches to expedite isolation of novel disease-related full-length cDNAs, and one to detect expression of therapeutic DNA in tissue sections.

Dr. Gruenert has a secondary appointment as Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at UCSF as well as an Adjunct Professorship in the Department of Medicine at the University of Vermont. In addition, he was a European Respiratory Society Visiting Professor at Necker Sick Children’s Hospital in Paris (2009) and holds an ongoing Visiting Professorship at Tor Vergata University in Rome.

In the Department, Dr. Gruenert’s research will focus on four main goals: the development of tumor specific cell systems from head and neck cancers, the correlation of specific genetic factors with neoplastic progression, the development of induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells from patients for tissue repair, and the development and assessment of novel therapeutic interventions for treatment of neoplastic disease. These studies will be carried out in collaboration with Dr. Lisa Orloff and will focus on the mechanisms underlying endocrine cancers and the directed differentiation of patient-specific IPS cells into parathyroid and thyroid cells.

Ted H. Leem, MD, MS

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our faculty in the Division of Head and Neck and Endocrine Surgery. Dr. Ted H. Leem, a fellowship-trained head and neck surgeon, joined the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in August 2010 as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Leem sees patients and performs surgery at the UCSF Mount Zion and Parnassus campuses, and at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Hospital. His clinical interests focus on the care and management of patients with benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck. He has comprehensive experience in both minimally invasive and traditional surgical approaches for the treatment of oral cavity, oropharyngeal, laryngeal, salivary gland, and thyroid and parathyroid neoplasms. He is also in the process of developing the Robotic Head and Neck Surgery program at UCSF.

Dr. Leem was born in Seoul, South Korea and immigrated to Colorado at a young age. He attended the University of Colorado – Boulder where he received both BA and MS degrees. Not venturing too far, he then attended medical school and completed his residency training in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Colorado – Denver. While a resident, Dr. Leem found that he had a specific interest in head and neck oncology. As a result, following the completion of residency, he further pursued this interest by completing the Bryan Hemming Advanced Head and Neck Oncology Fellowship at the UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Leem is actively involved in teaching in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery residency program and the UCSF School of Medicine. Dr. Ted H. Leem will be a welcome addition to our center for patients with benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck.

Young-wook Jun, PhD

We would like to welcome Dr. Young-wook Jun, a nanotechnologist, to the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Jun will apply his knowledge of the physical sciences and nanotechnology to create novel ways to research, diagnose and treat head and neck cancer.

Dr. Jun has expertise in the innovative field of nano-bioscience. He earned his degree in chemistry from Yonsei University (1999) and his PhD from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) (2005), where he studied nanoparticles for ultrasensitive MR imaging of breast cancer. Afterwards, he moved to UC Berkeley for postdoctoral research under the supervision of Professor Alivisatos, with the focus of plasmonic nanosensors for single biomolecule imaging. He has published 37 peer-
reviewed papers, including 7 review papers and 5 journal cover pages, in prestigious journals such as Science, Nature Medicine, PNAS, Acc. Chem. Res., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., Nano Lett., and J. Am. Chem. Soc. During the last ten years, his publications have been cited more than 3,000 times by other scientists, reflecting the high-impact his research has had on the scientific community. His major accomplishments in this field include the development of the most sensitive magnetic nanoparticle contrast agent (1,000 times better than conventional ones) for ultrasensitive MRI cancer diagnosis (tumors 2mm in size) and the development of a new single molecule imaging technique for cell signaling events at early stages. He received the IUPAC Honorable Mention Award in 2005.

Dr. Jun will establish a new nano-cancer research program in the department that broadly investigates novel nanoparticle systems for advanced cancer diagnosis and therapy. Furthermore, through collaborations with other clinical researchers in our department, he envisions to make the translation from “fundamental research-level” nanoscience to the “clinical” diagnosis and therapy possible. Specifically, his research will focus on single molecule imaging of cancer markers, angiogenesis, and personalized patient genome sequencing. In addition, Dr. Jun will join Ivan El-Sayed, MD, an established nano-cancer expert in the department, to form a translational nano-cancer program at UCSF capable of moving ideas from concept to clinical care. As part of this team, Dr. Jun will help develop novel therapeutic probes capable of targeted drug and gene delivery, and photo and radiation based therapy.

For more information or to contact our faculty, please visit our website at http://ohns.ucsf.edu. For referrals or consultations, please call the UCSF Department of Head and Neck Surgery at 415/885-7528.

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Honors and Awards

Basic Science and Clinical Awards

Mark S. Courey, MD, received a new subaward from North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health for the clinical trial “Celecoxib therapy for patients with recurrent respiratory papillomatosis.”

John F. Houde, PhD, received a new NIH RO1 grant award for his research on “Neuroimaging of Speech Motor Control.”

Osamu Tetsu, MD, PhD, received a new American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) Pilot Grant for his research on the “Improvement of EGFR targeted therapy for salivary gland adenoid cystic carcinoma.”

Faculty Honors

David W. Eisele, MD, was recently appointed as President of the American Head and Neck Society, Director of the American Board of Otolaryngology, and President of the UCSF Medical Staff.

Staff Changes

Holly Wong is welcomed into a new role as Department Manager and Chief Financial Officer after eight years of dedicated department service. She has proven herself to be an inspirational leader and team builder with a superb comprehension of health care financial matters. Major accomplishments since assuming this new role in September 2009 include the restructuring of central administration, reduction of expenses, and increase in overall revenue.

Emerald Light, Human Resource Manager, accepted a promotion as Manager of Academic Personnel for UCSF Academic Affairs in May 2010. Her tremendous efforts had a huge impact in the development of our department’s human resources and marketing functional areas. Her disarming sense of humor in challenging times coupled with her high standards for excellence, made her a remarkable team member.

Katherine Rollins-McLean, Practice Manager of Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, and the Voice and Swallowing Center, accepted a promotional opportunity in September 2009 as Manager of Women’s Health and Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her dedication to the department, and her kind and amiable disposition were highly recognized by our faculty and staff.

Starlene Mangonon-Luhman, after assuming the role previously held by Katherine Rollins-McLean, as Practice Manager of Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology and the Voice and Swallowing Center in addition to managing the Faculty Practice, she recently accepted a promotional opportunity as Administrative Director of UCSF Primary Care. Her professionalism was held in high regard by faculty and staff. We are truly grateful for all the contributions made by these individuals. With deep appreciation, a huge CONGRATULATIONS to them all!

Upcoming Events

- 17th Annual Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Apnea and Snoring Feb. 18-20, 2011 / Orlando, Florida
- American College of Surgeons Thyroid and Parathyroid Ultrasound Skills-Oriented Course / Feb. 19-20, 2011 / Waikiki, Hawaii

For more information about these and other continuing education offerings, please visit http://ohns.ucsf.edu and http://cme.ucsf.edu.
investigating the role of stem cells in endocrine cancers. Young-wook Jun, PhD, a nanotechnologist from UC Berkeley, joins the department and will work with Dr. Ivan El-Sayed to develop novel ways of using nanotechnology to research, diagnose and treat head and neck cancer.

In this edition, we also feature the UCSF Cochlear Implant Center and the Pediatric Otolaryngology Division. The Cochlear Implant Center is in full swing with a new location and a new Hybrid cochlear implant clinical trial. In addition, the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology has opened a new freestanding pediatric practice which works closely with the UCSF Primary Pediatric Practice at the Mt. Zion campus to provide coordinated and comprehensive care for their young patients.

June is a very special time of year when we hold our graduation dinner and Sooy endowed lecture. This year, Mark A. Richardson, MD, Dean, School of Medicine and President of the Faculty Practice Plan at Oregon Health and Science University, was our Sooy Visiting Professor and lectured on the treatment of choanal atresia and lympho-venous malformations. Our graduation dinner was enjoyed by all and was widely attended by our faculty, residents, fellows, alumni, friends, and family. In this issue of Heads Up! we are also extremely pleased to update you on recent honors and accolades shared by our faculty and residents in both the basic and clinical research arenas. I hope you enjoy the expanded size, new look and features of our Fall 2010 newsletter edition.

Sincerely,

David W. Eisele, MD
Irwin Mark Jacobs and Joan Klein Jacobs Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Cancer
Department Chairman

On Friday, June 11, the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery held our 8th Annual Resident Research Symposium. The presentations of the residents’ year-long research efforts highlighted the Department’s diversity of scientific investigation to an audience that included otolaryngologist–head and neck surgeons and researchers from UCSF and throughout the region.

Three residents were recognized for the quality of their research and presentation. First place went to Krista Rodriguez-Bruno, MD, for her investigation of the toxicity of surface-modified nano-particles in squamous cell carcinoma cell lines. Jolie Chang, MD, was awarded second place for her studies of bone ossification markers in cochlear development. Third place went to Betty Tsai, MD, who presented her research examining hearing loss and histopathology in mice unable to produce matrix metalloproteinase 13, a protein with an apparent role in cochlear bone remodeling.

Matthew Russell, MD, examined changes in body weight and body mass index in advanced head and neck cancer during and following chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Follicular thyroid cancer – specifically clinical characteristics of the more and less invasive subtypes – were the focus of the research of Gerald Kangelaris, MD.

Jonathan George, MD, MPH, presented the novel concept of “number needed to harm” to reflect the risk of serious side effects in head and neck cancer patients who receive chemotherapy in combination with radiation, along with data from randomized trials to estimate these risks. Eli Groppo, MD, described his work considering the role of human papilloma virus in oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma, similar to the relationship to cervical cancer in women.

Patients with salivary gland stone disease also have an increased likelihood of cigarette smoking and diuretic use compared to the general population, according to the study led by Kevin Huoh, MD. Megan Durr, MD, compared smoking status and multiple factors in oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma patients and showed improved survival in non-smokers.

Pressure ulcers in hospitalized patients have received growing attention at the state and national level, and Harry Hwang, MD, identified potential risk factors for ulcers related to tracheotomy, including lower body mass index, severity of illness, and the percutaneous procedure technique. Kevin Burke, MD, completed the day of presentations with an examination of the relationships of the skull base, hard palate, and high cervical spine, relationships that have important implications for skull base surgery.

David W. Eisele, MD
Irwin Mark Jacobs and Joan Klein Jacobs Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Cancer
Department Chairman