Medical Mission Trip To Guatemala

After an exciting and challenging week in the town of Antigua, Guatemala, members of our ENT team provided much needed specialty care to patients at Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, the hospital and church that has embraced the Medical Missions Foundation teams for the past 11 years. While the quality of care is always of foremost importance, the week was one of record. Despite longer OR times and more demanding surgeries, the ENT and Urology staff completed a combined 95 surgeries with 145 patients seen throughout the clinic. Additionally, Audiology was able to treat an impressive 174 patients, and as a result of their substantial fundraising efforts and donations, they were able to purchase and distribute a record 139 hearing aids.

It is reported that Guatemala is one of the poorest nations in the world yet its people are consistently ranked among the countries with the happiest individuals. After a single day among the patients and staff, one might readily recognize the truth behind this trend. Whether it was Augusto, a seven-year-old boy who was taken back to the OR for a tonsillar re-bleed or another older gentleman suffering from a massive neck tumor of unknown etiology, their smiles and gratitude were infectious. Despite patient hardships and financial worries, they continued to maintain a positive outlook and expressed genuine appreciation for the bond forged between caregiver and patient.
Thoughts from the Interim Chairman

As I reflect on the 2012 academic year, the word “change” comes to mind. Change in positive and proactive forms. First, Dr. Doug Girod was named the Executive Vice Chancellor of The University of Kansas Medical Center. He assumed those duties February 1, 2013. Second, the University, Hospital, and physicians group entered into an agreement to merge into a healthcare system. Many man-hours were devoted to working out the complexities of this agreement. Third, the School of Medicine, Hospital, and Children’s Mercy announced plans to integrate the pediatric programs. There were attempts at this in the past, but now there is strong support to see this to fruition. In the 27 years that I have been a member of our Department, I have not seen so many major changes occurring simultaneously.

Having been a participant in the growth and development of our Department as a resident, faculty member and section chief, my role as Interim Chairman is to “keep the ball rolling.” In 2012, we added three new clinical faculty members and recruited a new PhD researcher. Another laryngologist will join our faculty in Fall 2013. Our residency complement continues to expand as we transition from three to four positions per year. Research efforts continue to progress, including innovative partnerships with private industries in a time of waning federal and state support. All these strengths were recognized by the U.S. News and World Report when they recently ranked our program number 21 nationally among other otolaryngology departments. We look forward to further progress and changes in the coming year.

Alumnus Honored

The University of Kansas Medical Center Alumni Association recently created a display in the student center in honor of former Department resident Dr. Yogi Williams. Throughout his time at KUMC, Dr. Williams was well renowned for his medical skills, as well as his skills as an artist. This second set of skills prevailed in 1941 with the creation by Dr. Williams’s evolved version of the University’s mascot, the Kansas Jayhawk. With his drawings, he opened the beak and the eyes of the Jayhawk and also shortened the legs. Williams came to the medical school after his service in WWII.

In 1951, he directed his artistic talents at the KUMC campus with the original creation of the JayDoc complete with lab coat, head mirror and stethoscope. He completed his set of school mascots with the drawing of the JayNurse.

After graduating from the Department’s residency program in 1958, Dr. Williams established a career in private practice in Phoenix, Arizona and El Dorado, Kansas. He died in 1979 but he left a rich tradition in the history of The University of Kansas.
Head & Neck Cancer Tasting Event

On the evening of April 24th, the KU Head & Neck Support group sponsored its third annual tasting event to raise awareness and support for head and neck cancer. This event also was a chance to honor the caregivers who have been so vital in the recovery process for our head & neck patients. Restaurants from around the city donated their time and goods to make the annual tasting a success. Over 200 guests attended, raising money for three charities associated with cancer of the head & neck, including our new Head & Neck Research program. On behalf of our Chairman and the entire head and neck cancer team, we would like to thank all of those people involved with this event.

Department Hosts International Guests

Christian Medical College, CMC, located in Vellore India and KUMC have many ties that extend back several decades. In 2006 with the generous support of KUMC alumni, the University created a scholarship program to send School of Medicine, Nursing and Health Professions students to CMC for clinical rotations. Two years later the Modale Scholars Program was created to bring junior faculty from CMC to KUMC to enhance their research training.

In January 2013, a team lead by Dr. Doug Girod traveled to Vellore to visit CMC with the intention of creating a resident research rotation for the Department. In June 2013 while on a two week tour of the United States, Dr. Sunil Chandy (Cardiology), the Director of the Christian Medical College and his wife Dr. Achamma Chandy (OB/GYN) visited the KUMC campus. They toured our research and clinical facilities and concluded their visit with a reception hosted by the Department.

Dr. Mani Mani, Dr. Sunil Chandy, Dr. Achamma Chandy, Thomas Thomas & Dr. Sufi Thomas.
Alumni Day

The Department’s 15th Annual Alumni Day events, held on June 7th-8th, 2013, included a day of research talks, a graduation and awards dinner and a memorial golf tournament. In addition to a series of talks presented by the Department’s fellows, residents and a KUMC medical student, the Department also hosted two special guest speakers. Dr. Robert Ossoff, the C.W. Norris honored lecturer presented two talks: “Historical Development of Microflap Surgical Techniques” and “Helpful Hints in Managing Non-Neoplastic Laryngeal Problems: Case Studies.” Dr. Oleg Militsakh, the Distinguished Alumni Speaker presented “The Psychology of Decision Making.”

The Boulevard Brewing Company played host to the Department’s evening events which consisted of a dinner and graduation program. This year’s graduates included Pediatric Fellow Dr. Liz Dunham, who will be joining the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center in Wenatchee, Washington, and Head & Neck Fellow Issam Eid, who will be joining the faculty of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The graduating chief residents included: Dr. Jill Arganbright, who will be starting a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at the University of Colorado in Denver; Dr. Laura Neff, who will be moving to Boston to start a Pediatric Fellowship at Children’s Hospital of Boston; and Dr. Daniel Sleve, who will be joining the ENT Associates of Greater Kansas City in Lee’s Summit.

2012-2013 Award Winners

School of Medicine Outstanding Student in Otolaryngology Award
Nolan Seim, MD

Department of Otolaryngology Faculty Teaching Award
David Garnett, MD
Justin Bond, MD

Department of Otolaryngology Resident/Fellow Teaching Award
Allison Rasband, MD
Brian Rodgers, MD

Debra Park Research Award
Jill Arganbright, MD

Department of Otolaryngology Basic Science Award
Justin Bond, MD

Jacquelyn Holdcraft, MD Award for Clinical Excellence
Brian Rodgers, MD
Jill Arganbright, MD

Devaiah Award for Excellence in Scientific Contribution
Brian Rodgers, MD
Lynn Norris, MA

Oscar T. Pinsker, MD Award for Excellence in Otology
Beverly Adkins

Department of Otolaryngology Clinical Support Award
Jill Arganbright, MD

Department of Otolaryngology Administrative Support Award
Dan Sleve, MD
John Harbison, MD

In-Service Performance Awards
Brian Rodgers, MD
Naweed Chowdhury, MD
Christopher Kandl, MD
Debra Park Golf Tournament

On June 8th, the Department’s Debra Park Alumni Golf Tournament, comprised of faculty, residents, alumni and friends, was held at the Falcon Ridge Golf Course. The tournament was a 46 person, best-ball scramble with a shot gun start. The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed a beautiful day of golf with the winning team of Dr. Doug Girod, John Grant, Drew Lethem and Bob Page bringing home the first place trophy with a score of 12 under par. Dr. Ralph and Andrew Park were in attendance with Andrew assisting in awarding the prizes.

In 2009, the Department turned the Park Tournament into an actual fundraising event. For the past five years the proceeds from the tournament have generated a total over $72,000 for the Debra Park Clinical Research Fund. This fund is shared by both the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and the Department of Speech & Hearing.

The Department would like to thank all of those who have supported not only the Debra Park Fund but all of our resident education funds in 2013.

Alcon
Dr. Brian Andrews
Mr. James Lewis
Dr. David Rouse

Dr. Dan Bruegger
LifeCell
Shawnee Medical

Dr. Don Carter
Meda
Dr. Stuart Smith

Dr. Dianne Durham
Med-EL
Mrs. Brenda Sollner

Dr. Joe Edmonds
Dr. Jeremy Moore
Dr. Van Spake

Dr. Joe Guastello
Dr. Adam Morgan
Stryker

Dr. Jackie Holdcraft
Dr. Cristina Cabrera-Muffley
Synthes

Dr. Clint Humphrey
Dr. Paul Neis
Dr. Travis Tollefson

KSL
Dr. Ralph Park
Dr. Roger Wehrs

Dr. Chris Larsen
Dr. Randy Regehr

Bob Freyaldenhoven, Kevin Sykes, Dr. Clint Humphrey & Dr. John Harbison at the Debra Park golf tournament.
New Head & Neck Cancer Research Program Unveiled

The Department will host an event on Monday, September 16th to introduce Dr. Sufi Thomas to the Kansas City community. Dr. Thomas joined the Department in July 2013 and will present her first official Grand Rounds talk regarding her research in the area of Head & Neck Cancer. This talk will provide Dr. Thomas the opportunity to present information regarding her research as well as how this research will be linked with the efforts of our head and neck clinical team. Combining the basic science and clinical divisions will provide our patients extended healthcare opportunities that very few academic centers can offer.

After the Grand Rounds presentation there will be tours of the new head & neck research facilities followed by a reception. Invitees will include all of those who have generously donated to make the research program a reality. Others interested in attending can contact the Chairman’s office at 913-588-6719 to confirm their reservation.

Dr. Shnayder Helps Establish New Tumor Board

With the support of the KU Cancer Center, Dr. Lisa Shnayder has helped create an interdisciplinary melanoma tumor board here at KUMC. This board is comprised of a group of medical experts from a range of specialties including: surgical oncology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, dermatology and pathology. The group will meet monthly to discuss patient treatment plans and the latest advances and options in their respective healthcare fields. This group also has incorporated a nurse navigator into their team to work directly with melanoma patients to help navigate the Medical Center’s system.

The Cancer Center plans to apply for certification as a Melanoma Center of Excellence. This center would be the first of its kind in the geographic area and would expand the number of clinical trials and treatments currently available to patients with advanced melanoma. Early awareness is key in the treatment process so the goal of the tumor board is to raise awareness and expedite early treatment options.

Laryngology Department Branches Out

In conjunction with the return of Dr. Shannon Kraft in October 2013 to the Department, the Speech Pathology Division continues to extend their services throughout the Kansas City community. On June 9th, Jessica Barton, MA, CCC-SLP, presented “Summer Conservatory for Singers” as part of the UMKC Conservatory. This was a hands-on workshop for young singers from the bi-state area.

The focus of the program was to raise awareness regarding normal anatomy and physiology of the speaking and singing voice. The program also covered occupational risk and hazards, vocal hygiene and resonant voice. The overriding focus of this event was to educate these students by developing healthy habits which should prevent them from incurring future injury.
Welcome to the Department

Shannon Kraft, MD
Assistant Professor
MD: Indiana University
Residency: KUMC

Lynn Roh, MD
Assistant Professor
MD: University of Nebraska
Residency: University of Nebraska

Sufi Thomas, PhD
Director
PhD: University of Mumbai-Mumbai, India

Levi Ledgerwood, MD
Head & Neck Fellow
MD: Mount Sinai
Residency: University of CA-Davis

Steven Dyer, MD
Pediatric Fellow
MD: OSU Health Sciences
Residency: Detroit Medical Center

Sameer Alvi, MD
PGY-1 Resident
MD: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Joel Jones, MD
PGY-1 Resident
BA: Vanderbilt
MD: Drexler

Nina Lu, MD
PGY-1 Resident
BS: Northwestern
MD: Northwestern

Tommy Muelleman, MD
PGY-1 Resident
BA: University of Southern CA
MD: University of Nebraska
Saying Goodbye to Dr. Wei

The Department hosted a going away party for Dr. Julie Wei on May 17th. Dr. Wei accepted the position of Division Director for the Pediatric Otolaryngology Department at Nemours Children’s Hospital in Orlando, Florida. This event celebrated over a decade of dedicated service that Dr. Wei provided the Department through her clinical and research efforts. Interim Chairman, Dr. Dan Bruegger, presented her with a plaque to recognize her superior service to the Department and her patients. We will always consider Dr. Wei a member of our extended faculty family and wish her the best of luck in her new role.