Department News

**On the Water**

KU ENT was a dynamic presence at the AAO-HNSF annual meeting in Chicago on September 10-13. In addition to presentations and posters by KU faculty and residents, the ENT department celebrated with a sunset cruise on beautiful Lake Michigan.

Alumni, faculty, residents, and friends reflected on the successes of the past year, and worked together on the new resident mentorship initiative, Jayhawk Flight Academy. This exciting new program will incorporate personality measurements to best match residents with faculty, community and alumni mentors.

*Below and Right: KU ENT faculty, staff, alumni, and friends enjoy food and fellowship at the department cruise on Lake Michigan.*
From the Chair

Ninety Years of Excellence

Nearly 90 years ago in 1928, the United States was enjoying prosperous times after the First World War. Rapidly changing technology and innovation led to a lot of firsts taking place that year. In entertainment, the first regularly scheduled television programming began in Schenectady, New York (my home town!). Mickey and Minnie Mouse made their debut in the short film *Plane Trouble*, and the MGM lion roared for the first time at the beginning of the film *White Shadows in the South Seas*. We were at the height of the golden age of aviation; Charles Lindbergh was awarded a Medal of Honor for his transatlantic flight, and Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. The first loaf of commercially sliced and wrapped bread was sold on July 7, 1928.

A little bit closer to home, another first happened in 1928. The University of Kansas appointed the first ENT department chair, Dr. Sam Roberts. ENT care had been offered at the hospital since its founding in 1905, but in 1928 services were organized into their own department. A lot has changed since 1928, but one thing remains the same; the ENT department at the University of Kansas is dedicated to providing the best education to our students, the best patient care to those who come to us for their problems, and innovation in research and discovery.

As you read about the exciting things that are happening in the department—a new faculty/community/resident mentorship program, new department CME events to be held in KC, an international medical mission track embedded within the residency, and a research emphasis on hearing sciences, head and neck oncology, healthcare delivery and education, I hope you are inspired to remain connected with the University of Kansas as we work together to shape another 90 years of service and growth.

Alexander Chiu, MD
Russell E. Bridwell, M.D. Endowed Chairman and Professor

You should take great pride as partners of the KU ENT program. You are part of an elite group of doctors who helped to shape the department into the program it is today—a program nationally recognized as a leader in Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery and a training program that is among the best in the country.

Got News? Send newsletter items and suggestions to tquaethem@kumc.edu
Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Tollefson is a Professor and Director in Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at the University of California-Davis (UC Davis), where he specializes in cleft and pediatric craniofacial care, facial reconstruction and facial plastic surgery. His interest in the emerging field of global surgery and improving surgical access to care in low and middle income countries led him to complete an MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. Until the last decade, he is a lifelong Jayhawk from the University of Kansas through medical school and residency in otolaryngology-head & neck surgery, graduating in 2003. After an AAFPRS fellowship at UC Davis, he joined the faculty and focused research on clinical outcomes of cleft lip-palate, facial trauma, development of iPad games for adjuvant speech therapy and artificial muscle for reanimation of the face. He coedited (with Steven Goudy), Complete Cleft Care, an evidence-based textbook on team management of cleft lip-palate. He serves as a Faculty Educator for the AOCMF (Craniomaxillofacial), an international representative for the AO Alliance and has chaired multiple craniofacial reconstruction meetings. His research has received attention for development of an artificial muscle prototype for patients with facial paralysis. He serves as the Western States director-elect, chairs the Awards Committee for the American Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery and is on the editorial board for JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery journal.

Honoring Dr. Douglas Girod

On April 24, 2017, the ENT Department gathered to recognize and thank our former department chair, Dr. Douglas Girod. At the event, Dr. Alexander Chiu, the current department chair, unveiled the official portrait of Dr. Girod, which will hang in the newly remodeled Girod Conference Room in the ENT suite of offices.

ENT Department Chairs

From 1905-1928, the ENT department was a sub-department of the Health System. In 1928, it became its own specialty.

1905-1919 Dr. Joseph E. Sawtell
1919-1923 Dr. Edward P. Hall
1924-1950 Dr. Sam E. Roberts
1950-1980 Dr. Gunner O’Neil Proud
1980-1988 Dr. Charles Norris
1990-2002 Dr. Larry Hoover
2002-2013 Dr. Douglas Girod
2013-2016 Dr. Daniel Bruegger, Interim
2016- Dr. Alexander Chiu

In May, the Kansas Board of Regents announced Dr. Girod’s appointment as the 18th Chancellor of the University of Kansas. Prior to joining the University of Kansas Medical Center, Girod served as vice chairman and research director in the Department of Otolaryngology at the Naval Medical Center in Oakland, California. He served in the United States Navy Reserve from 1982, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander and later earning the Meritorious Service Medal.

Would you like to be featured in the alumni spotlight, or know someone who should be? Email tquaethem@kumc.edu
Faculty Spotlight

A conversation with Jennifer Villwock, MD

Where are you from? What made you decide to join the faculty at KU?

I grew up all over the place since my family immigrated to the United States from Belgium when I was two. Since then, I’ve lived in New York, Michigan, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma. I attended middle school and high school in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The longest I’ve ever lived in the same place was for residency at SUNY-Upstate in Syracuse, NY.

I joined the faculty at KU after completing my fellowship in Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery with Drs. Chiu, Beahm, and McClurg. From my first day at KU, I was blown away by how friendly and helpful everyone has been. In ENT, everyone is working towards a common goals of providing excellent patient care and strengthening the department. It’s great to be part of that energy and positivity.

What’s the most challenging part of your job?

For me, the most challenging part during my early career development is time management. There is so much that I am interested in and passionate about, that it’s hard for me not to over commit. Luckily, there are plenty of excellent mentors around who are helping me to make strategic decisions while I figure this out!

What’s the funniest thing that has happened at work?

Just the other day I was propping up some papers on my keyboard to try and maximize efficiency while working on charts at the VA. Unbeknownst to me, I accidentally hit some keys in the process. If you hit two particular keys at the same time (F9 and F11 in case anyone is wondering or also works at a VA and is unaware of this feature), this is the equivalent of pressing a panic button or calling 911. A silent alert with your name and location will be sent to the police.

Armed police officers will then rapidly approach your desk, saying your name, as you become increasingly confused and bewildered. Have you unknowingly committed some crime? You have been eating the Tums above your desk that aren’t yours, but no one had touched those in months. They might even be expired. Surely this does not warrant surprise police intervention.

Things will get sorted out as it becomes apparent that you did not try intentionally hit the panic keys. However, for the foreseeable future, all personnel who are aware of this incident will ask if you are ok, if anyone has been bothering you, etc. and if there is any reason to panic every time they see you.

Anything else you’d like to add?

Follow me on Twitter @docwock. I’m trying to get to 1000 followers by the end of the academic year.

What do you like to do in your spare time? Do you have a family?

I have a husband (Mark) and a 3 year old daughter. Her artwork decorates my office. Most of my spare time revolves around family time. Our current favorite activities include rock climbing, baking, and painting rocks. Believe it or not, there is a local group that paints and hides rocks around town (find on Facebook at Shawnee Kansas Rocks) and, lame as it sounds, it is actually quite fun.
Latest Research

Highlights from Kevin Sykes, Director of Clinical Research

• Using tax records to quantify the financial magnitude of short-term medical service trip efforts
  
  *To be presented by Kevin Sykes, PhD, MPH at the annual American Public Health Association meeting in Atlanta in November.*

  The decentralized nature of short-term medical service trips (MSTs) makes measurement of the collective effort to address healthcare shortages difficult. Previous research relies on survey data to measure the investments of MST-sending organizations; however, reporting and selection biases limit the value of these estimates. Our hypothesis for this study is that the investment made in MSTs is equivalent to many other areas of humanitarian aid, but oversight and regulation of these activities is limited to self-policing.

• Understanding and Improving Access to Dental Care in Head and Neck Cancer Patients
  
  *This is a project led by Chief Resident Andrew Holcomb, MD.*

  Access to dental care is crucial for patients with head and neck cancer that require treatment with radiotherapy. We are enrolling patient’s prospectively to assess their ability to access dental care prior to radiation therapy. We hypothesize that these barriers to care cause unnecessary delays that have a negative impact on oncologic outcomes.

• Using Word-Clouds to Re-envision Letters of Recommendation for Residency Applicants
  
  *This is a project led by Sinehan Bayrak, MD.*

  Many highly qualified medical students enter the residency match for otolaryngology every year. Identifying the best applicants to interview for the limited number of spots available is a resource intensive effort. Our study aims to test the hypothesis that a "word cloud"-based visual letter of recommendation (VLOR) is an equally valid and more efficient way to discern applicant quality when compared to standard narrative letters of recommendation (NLORs).
Get Involved: Opportunities in KC and Beyond

EMERGING IN-OFFICE and OPERATIVE TECHNIQUES in OTOLOGY: Application 2 Reimbursement

November 2-4, 2017

The Emerging Techniques in Otolaryngology: From Application to Reimbursement” course is a three day CME event being held at KU’s new health education building. We have invited content experts from around the country, including three former presidents of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS, to discuss new technologies for the operating room and in-office procedures, practical tips for coding and the reimbursement landscape. A welcome reception for registrants and faculty will be held at the Nelson Atkins Museum. Registration has been off the charts but there is still room to come join us. Registration cost is $295, and includes participation in a cadaver/vendor lab. 14.5 CME credits are available. www.kumc.edu/entcourse.

June 22, 2018

Graduation Day at KU ENT. Mark your calendar for this annual event that combines continuing medical education with KUMED graduation activities and department celebrations. Andrew Murr, M.D., Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-HNS at UCSF will be the guest speaker. Contact shall7@kumc.edu for more details.

January 26-28, 2018

Winter Meeting: Copper Mountain, CO. Alumni are invited to join in this weekend of learning, leadership, and laughter at this 24th annual event. Stephen Park, M.D., Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-HNS at the University of Virginia and Former President of the American Academy of Facial plastic Surgery will be the guest speaker. CME credits are available. Contact dreinert2@kumc.edu.

This newsletter is a publication of the University of Kansas Department of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery. You are receiving this publication because you are an alumni of the KU ENT Department or have previously asked to be included in our mailing list. If you do not want to receive future newsletters, reply to this email message with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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