The C.W. Norris Honored Lecturer Series

After his retirement, Dr. Norris was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma, and received a stem cell transplant from The University of Kansas Cancer Center. He regained his strength and learned to navigate without a wheelchair or walker. Dr. Norris passed away September 1, 2011. To honor Dr. Norris, his wife, Linda, established the Charley W. Norris Education Fund at the University of Kansas.

This year, our department graduation day will take place on June 21, 2019. We are pleased and honored that Linda Norris will be present to meet the 2019 Norris Lecturer. To find out how to attend or to make donations to the CW Norris fund, contact shall7@kumc.edu.

CW Norris, 1933-2011

Each year in June, the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery at The University of Kansas Health System hosts a graduation celebration to honor our graduating residents. This is also a day on which we welcome our alumni back to campus. The day features presentations by our chief residents, department awards, and a celebration dinner.

The highlight of the day is the CW Norris Honored Lecturer, named for Charles Norris, MD, who joined the ENT faculty in 1971. Dr. Norris developed the Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology program, and served as chair of the ENT Department during the 1980s. He was Chief of Staff of the KUMC Hospital for three years before retiring in 1998 as an emeritus professor.
What is your role at KU ENT?

I am the Director of the Head and Neck Surgery Division and a Co-Director of the Head and Neck Surgery Fellowship.

I started my seven-year-long medical education in Odessa, Ukraine, which was interrupted after three years when my family and I immigrated to New York City. I later graduated summa cum laude from Brooklyn College (CUNY) with a B.S. in Biology and obtained my medical degree at the New York University School of Medicine where I also completed my Otolaryngology residency training.

I joined our department as an Assistant Professor in 2006, after a year of fellowship training in Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction at the University of Miami. Drs. Girod, Tsue, and Durham recruited me at the 2005 AAO-HNS annual meeting, and it was impossible to say no! Jokes aside, I really liked the faculty and residents when I visited, and was excited to be offered a job at KU.

What’s the best part of your work? The most challenging?

The best part of my work is also the most challenging! My days are never boring. Even the most straightforward head and neck cases may present a diagnostic, management or a technical challenge as well as a learning opportunity. I like working with smart and motivated people every day including residents, staff and faculty. I enjoy learning something on a daily basis from faculty in other specialties. The most gratifying aspect of my job is that I get to form long-term relationships with most patients for at least five years due to their surveillance follow ups. When I was choosing my career path within medicine, I wanted to find one that will never let me fall into a mundane routine and be bored. Well, I certainly chose wisely as I still love coming to work every day after all these years.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have so many hobbies and so little time! Experiencing all aspects of food including cooking, finding new restaurants, and learning about new cuisine. Traveling, learning about other cultures, customs and people around the world. And, of course, attending classic rock concerts.

Do you feel any additional responsibility as a female working in a male-dominated field?

I have been fortunate to be supported and promoted by many wonderful mentors and role models, both male and female, throughout my professional career. I am glad to see more and more female medical students interviewing for Otolaryngology residency positions and more female Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery as viable careers for female medical students and Oto-HNS residents. So many female medical students are counseled against surgical careers by well-meaning advisors and friends because of the demands of training. It is possible to have a fulfilling career and life outside of work, but you definitely have to have a supportive work family and a supportive life partner. I also feel responsibility to nominate, promote, and support qualified women for leadership positions within our institution and at the American Head and Neck Society level.
With the help and support of numerous University of Kansas (KU) and Children’s Mercy Hospital (CMH) faculty, during the month of November I participated in an international research collaborative with Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore, India. CMC is a 2,234-bed academic and tertiary referral center that provides care to patients from all over the world and boasts a robust ENT department with multiple subspecialty divisions.

Inspired by my mentor at CMC, Dr. Naina Picardo, our project centered on understanding barriers to tracheostomy education, qualifying the caregiver experience, and identifying methods to improve quality patient care. Providing care to patients with tracheostomy requires specific expertise and carries risk of significant morbidity and mortality. All over the world, patients with tracheostomy are often cared for by staff who have little, if any, of the specialist skills required to manage these patients. However, some hospitals have shown dramatic improvement in tracheostomy care through collaborative interventions. Our primary aim is to investigate the quality of life of pediatric tracheostomy patients and their caregivers at both CMC and CMH. In this partnership, we challenged ourselves to grow beyond the method of retrofitting Western medical practices to a non-Western country and to understand what patients and medical providers on other side of the world may have to teach us here in Kansas City.

My month was filled with patient and caregiver interviews as well as taking inventory of current tracheostomy care at CMC. I met with hospital leaders and observed direct patient care in the Pediatric (PICU) and Neuro (NICU) ICUs as well as the Rural and Urban divisions of College of Nursing Community Health (CONCH). Over the course of the month, we were able to begin patient enrollment and provide preliminary data surrounding outcomes and experiences of pediatric patients that are tracheostomy dependent. After review of our findings, the pediatric ENT department at CMC was prompted to draft a new tracheostomy protocol emphasizing a multi-disciplinary approach to enhance both provider and caregiver/patient education and incorporating input by providers from the ENT, PICU, and NICU departments. One strength of CMC is their extensive community health network, so as an additional goal the department now aims to integrate post-tracheostomy care into these programs.

This partnership, envisioned in the spirit of improving patient care through collaborative research, continues even after I have returned home. While Dr. Picardo and her team continue to collect data and work towards improved outcomes at CMC, I will begin research with pediatric patients at CMH with the aim of identifying our own areas for improved patient care.

I am grateful for the friendships and colleagues that I made in Vellore, as well as for the hospitality, sincerity, and enthusiasm that has continued beyond my brief time abroad. I would like to thank the Department of Otolaryngology and the International Program Office at the University of Kansas for their support of this trip, through both funding and mentorship opportunities. I would also like to thank the ENT departments at Children’s Mercy and Christian Medical College for their continued fellowship and support of this collaboration.

If you would like to read more about Dr. Katzer’s experience or the Global Health/Community Outreach Track in the KU ENT Residency Program, you can do so here: http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/otolaryngology/international-outreach/global-health-blog.html.

Draf IIB with superior septectomy: finding the “middle ground” Bhalla V, Sykes K, Villwock J, Beahm D, McClurg S, Chiu A. International Forum of Allergy & Rhinology 2018 12 December


Finding the leader within Villwock, J. Association of Women Surgeons 2018 12 Nov

**KU KUDOS**

**Denice Penn, APRN**

Denice Penn, APRN, was awarded The University of Kansas Health System’s Advanced Practice Provider Excellence Award. Penn is one of more than 245 nurse practitioners at the health system, and is part of the surgical team in Otolaryngology. Criteria for the award included mentorship, professional excellence, positive cultural change, and commitment to collaboration.

**Jacob Lucas, MD**

Jacob Lucas, MD, received the Outstanding Resident of the Quarter Award at The University of Kansas Health System. The award is based on a resident’s professionalism, patient and family care, and quality. Lucas received his MD from the University of Arkansas for Medical Science and is in the second year of his five-year Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery residency.

**Helena Wichova, MD**

Helena Wichova, MD, was selected to receive one of two AOS Resident Research Travel awards. Her submitted manuscript was titled *Utility of Perilymph microRNA Sampling for Identification of Active Gene Expression Pathways in Ostosclerosis*. Two awards are given to the best clinical and basic science paper in Otology submitted by a resident in the field of Otology.
Two New Clinic Locations

KU ENT is now offering specialized Otolaryngology—Head and Neck services at two new locations. The Hays clinic, served by Dr. Justin Bond, expands our services to western Kansas. The Corporate Medical Plaza location, near the Indian Creek Campus in Overland Park, offers general otolaryngology and specialized services in a convenient location with quick access to Interstate 435.

KU ENT in the Community

The KU ENT faculty and clinic staff joined together to bring cheer to a Wyandotte County family this Holiday Season. Sponsored by the Health System’s HERO (Health System Employees Reaching Out) program, the Adopt-A-Family event helped 33 community families. Our department collected household necessities, clothing, and winter coats for a family of five. Each child received a toy, and the family was provided a grocery store gift card to purchase their holiday dinner. We even provided holiday wrapping paper, tape, and bows so that the family could wrap their gifts. Approximately one in four Wyandotte County residents live below the federal poverty level. KU ENT is privileged that we were able to brighten the holiday season for a local family.

Over 150 volunteers from The University of Kansas Health System, including ENT Department staff, participated in Wreaths Across America at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. This national event was established to remember our fallen US veterans, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom. Volunteers honored each service member by name before placing a wreath on the grave.

Top left: The KU ENT Adopt a Family Donations were part of an entire gym full of holiday joy at the Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, KS, which has been providing resources to the community for 101 years. Bottom Left: Decorated graves at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery, placed by volunteers from The University of Kansas Health System.
ENT Grand Rounds

A monthly event showcasing new techniques and therapies, recent research findings, and exploration of clinical and scientific issues, ENT Grand Rounds is held in the Sudler Conference Room at the main KUMC campus. Dinner is provided, and continuing education credits are available. For more information about upcoming sessions, contact tquaethem@kumc.edu.

Chief Resident Presentations

February 18, 2019
Tomoo Iwakuma, MD, PhD
Frank B. Tyler Professor of Cancer Research, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, The University of Kansas Medical Center

March 4, 2019
Rakesh Chandra, MD
Professor of Otolaryngology and Division Chief for Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

April 15, 2019
Stacey Ishman, MD, MPH
Surgical Director, Upper Airway Center; Professor, Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, The University of Cincinnati

Upcoming Speakers

Andrew Holcomb, MD
Ethics in Surgical Decision Making on International Outreach Missions

Tran Le, MD
The Role of Biologics in the Medical Management of Chronic Rhinosinusitis

Matthew Shew, MD
New Advances and Controversies in Cochlear Implantation

Sreeya Yalamanchali, MD
Best Practices in Otolaryngology
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