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Alumni Newsletter
The University of Kansas Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery
JULY/AUGUST 2018 VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

20th Annual Graduation Day Celebration

Above: Dr. Andrew Murr, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine was the CW Norris Honored Lecturer. Below: Dr. Andrew Holcomb, ENT resident, received the Jacquelyne Holdcraft Award for Clinical Excellence.

Above: Dr. Terance Tsue and Dr. Joel Jones, graduating resident, showcase their signature bow ties. Below: An evening celebration was held at Boulevard Brewing Company in Kansas City, MO. More graduation photos on page 2.
Graduation continued from page 1

Clockwise from Top Left: Dr. Sameer Alvi presents his research; a full house at the new Health Education Building for ENT graduation lectures; inclement weather didn’t prevent the department from taking the annual Graduation Day photo; Graduating residents Dr. Tommy Muelleman, Dr. Joel Jones, Dr. Nina Lu, and Dr. Sameer Alvi congratulate Dr. Hinrich Staecker for receiving the Faculty Teaching Award; Dr. Chiu presents the Clinical Support Award to Denice Penn, APRN.
Sufi Thomas, PhD

We recently published two seminal papers demonstrating the role of stromal fibroblasts in tumor progression and response to therapy (New J et al Cancer Res 2017 and Kumar et al Cancer Res 2018). Ongoing projects will delineate the mechanisms that regulate secretory autophagy in the stromal compartment. Further, we will elucidate the mechanisms that regulate tumor and stromal cell metabolism. More recently, we have begun uncovering the mechanisms involved in immune suppression in head and neck cancer. In addition, we continue to develop a better understanding of the pathophysiology behind juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma.

KU KUDOS

Sufi Thomas, PhD, recently received a National Institute of Health ROI grant to the National Cancer Institute titled The Role of Autophagy in the Tumor Microenvironment. The grant was scored at a 4th percentile, with a requested amount of $250,000 per year for five years.

Data demonstrate that reciprocal signaling between the tumor and cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) facilitates tumor progression. The proposal will elucidate the mechanisms regulating secretory autophagy in CAFs, its impact on had and neck cancer growth, and response to therapy.

Hinrich Staecker, MD, PhD and Matthew Shew, MD, received a AAO-HNSF CORE Research Grant for their project Meniere’s: Evaluation of microRNA profile of human inner ear perilymph. The Centralized Otolaryngology Research Efforts grants program is a collaboration of several societies, foundations, and industry supporters focused on providing support for research in the field of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery. Since 1985, CORE has awarded more than 600 grants and $10 million dollars in research funding.

In their preliminary work, Dr. Staecker and Dr. Shew were the first to show that miRNA can readily be isolated and used as diagnostic markers for various inner ear pathologies. Their central hypothesis is that miRNA profiles related to Meniere’s disease are reflected in the perilymph and serum of patients. By analyzing the miRNA profiles in patients with Meniere’s disease, they aim to understand and elucidate what may be occurring on a molecular level and possible aberrant pathways. They also aim to describe the miRNA profile in the perilymph has any correlation with the blood serum, which may ultimately serve as a diagnostic marker.
Recent Speakers

The KU ENT Grand Rounds Series is a monthly event showcasing new techniques and therapies, recent research findings, and exploration of clinical and scientific issues. Recent speakers included both KU faculty and nationally renowned experts. For more information about upcoming sessions, contact tquaethem@kumc.edu.

Robert Ferris, MD
Hillman Professor of Oncology and Director at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
*Rational Deintensification for*

C. Blake Simpson, MD
Director of the University of Texas Voice Center
*Endoscopic and Office–Based Treatment of Airway Stenosis*

Robert C. Kern, MD
Chairman, Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Feinberg School of Medicine
*Etiology and Pathogenesis of CRS*

Upcoming Events

Dianne Durham, PhD
The University of Kansas Medical Center
July 16, 2018

Jeff Myers, MD, PhD
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
August 20, 2018

David Brown, MD
University of Michigan Medical School
October 22, 2018
Welcome

Three new fellows joined the department on July 1, 2018.

Amit Bhojwani, DO
Head and Neck Surgery

Dr. Bhojwani completed his residency at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. He has a Masters Degree in Biomedical Sciences, and received his undergraduate degree at William Paterson University.

The Head and Neck Fellowship is a comprehensive one-year fellowship featuring a full spectrum of Head and Neck Oncology, interdisciplinary management of head and neck cancer patients, with clinical research involvement.

Program Co-Directors
Lisa Shnayder, MD
Kiran Kakarala, MD

Daniel Carlton, MD
Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery

Dr. Carlton completed his residency at Mount Sinai Hospital. He attended medical school at the University of Chicago, and has a bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University.

The rhinology fellowship facilitates exposure to a large volume of procedures, including primary and revision endoscopic sinus surgery, complicated frontal sinus procedures, endoscopic and open approaches for benign and malignant sinonasal tumors, and skull base procedures in partnership with neurosurgery.

Program Co-Directors
David Beahm, MD
Alexander Chiu, MD

Sunthosh Sivam, MD
Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Dr. Sivam completed his residency and medical school at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and received his undergraduate degree at Trinity University in San Antonio.

The Facial Plastic fellow is exposed to both reconstructive and cosmetic cases, including extensive experience in rhinoplasty and nasal reconstruction, Mohs surgery, trauma, facial reanimation, and exposure to microtia repairs. Cosmetic rhinoplasty, aging face surgery, and injectables are also well represented.

Program Co-Directors
David Kriet, MD
Clint Humphrey, MD
Opportunities in KC and Beyond

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.

SAVE THE DATE

ENT in the Desert
January 31 - February 2, 2019

ENTINTHEDESERT.ORG

Scottsdale Marriott at McDowell Mountains
Scottsdale, Arizona

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