ENT In the News
Terance Tsue, MD

Dr. Terance Tsue was recently featured on the cover of 435 Magazine. The January 2018 issue highlighted top doctors in Kansas City. Twelve doctors from KU Otolaryngology were featured.

Dr. Tsue is recognized for his expertise in head and neck surgery and reconstruction, including the treatment of thyroid and salivary gland tumors and cancers. He currently serves as Vice President and Physician in Chief of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, and the Douglas A. Girod MD Endowed Professor of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Vice Chairman for Administrative Affairs for the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. The article can be found at www.435mag.com.

Alexander Chiu, MD

Dr. Alexander Chiu, the Russell E. Bridwell, M.D. Endowed Chairman and Professor of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Kansas, was named editor of ENTtoday. Dr Chiu’s academic and clinical focus is in the field of endoscopic and minimally invasive surgery of the nose, sinuses, and skull base. Prior to his appointment at KUMC, Dr. Chiu served as the Founding Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Arizona and started his career on faculty at the University of Pennsylvania.

ENTtoday is the leading information source for otolaryngology-head and neck surgeons. The award winning newsmagazine publishes must-have, timely information that clinicians can use in daily practice. ENTtoday is a publication of the Triological Society, and can be found online at enttoday.org.
The KU ENT Student Interest Group (ENTSIG) educates medical students about the subspecialties of otolaryngology, ongoing advances in the field, and research opportunities available at KUMC. ENTSIG hosts events that allow students, residents, and faculty to interact in both academic and non-academic settings to promote a culture of integrated mentorship. Meetings focus on research, subspecialty information, or philanthropy and feature a presentation by a content expert on the night’s subject.

The ENTSIG group is unique among KU student groups for its shadowing matrix. Pioneered by KU faculty Dr. Carrie Francis and Dr. Shannon Kraft, interested students can request shadowing opportunities within the department. Additionally, the group serves as a conduit to help students find research opportunities in ENT at KU. The group recently formed an ENT Journal Club, where students analyze scholarly articles on topics discussed in the medical school curriculum.

The ENTSIG provides avenues for students to explore the many aspects of ENT practice, and provides opportunities for residents, faculty, and alumni to be involved with the department in a meaningful way.

Get Involved with ENTSIG: Alumni and local ENT practitioners are invited to attend a meeting, host an event, or present a session. For more information about the ENTSIG group or to get involved, contact current co-presidents Kai Simmons (jsimmons9@kumc.edu) or Jennifer Li (jli@kumc.edu).

KU KUDOS

Andrés Bur, MD

Andrés Bur, MD, Assistant Professor, received a grant to attend the G-I-N Scholars program in Manchester, UK. Only three grants are offered each year by the AAO-HNSF.

The G-I-N Scholars program provides opportunities for eligible physicians to enrich their understanding of guideline development, dissemination, and implementation.
Alumni Spotlight

Cristina Cabrera-Muffly, MD

What is your current position?
I am an assistant professor in the department of Otolaryngology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. I am Associate Residency Director and will transition into the role of Residency Program Director this spring. I completed residency at KU in 2009.

How did your time at KU help prepare you for your current position?
Before interviewing at KU, I had never set foot in Kansas or Missouri. I was so impressed during my interview that despite being a lifelong East Coaster, I took a leap of faith and convinced my husband (boyfriend at the time) to move to Kansas City with me for both our residencies. My residency experience at KU was one of the best times in my life. I not only felt well trained for independent practice, but developed strong relationships with faculty and fellow residents while there. Some of the mentorships I developed while I was at KU continue to be helpful in my career even now. Dr. Shnayder’s incredibly high expectations of me helped me to believe in my abilities, and dinners at Sol Azteca (try the Parilla Suiza) after flaps showed me the personal sides of Drs. Girod and Tsue.

What’s your best/funniest/most impactful story from your time at KU?
There are so many it is hard to pick just one. There was the time I almost took out Dr. Wei with the microscope during a tympanostomy at Children’s. Also, indoctrination by fire on my very first day of PGY-2 year at Children’s, when a two year old with papillomatosis almost died on the table and I got 9 consults by early afternoon. A lesson in life’s fragility when one of our beloved OR nurses passed away suddenly from leukemia. The day I had to convince Dr. Spake at St. Luke’s to let me leave early two days before my wedding so I could pick up my license and actually get married, and Luke Buchman coming over to cover for me. Oleg Militsakh telling me I was the only person who had ever made him blush after telling a bawdy joke. Singing “Feliz Navidad” on the way to work with Peter Gochee during a blizzard. One of my favorite memories is when the department had a Rodeo themed Holiday Party. There was a game where you had to sit on a fake bull and rope a wooden calf that shot out from under the bull. Despite having to do this side-saddle since I was wearing a skirt, I was the only resident to rope the calf.

Were there any challenges during your time here?
When I matched at KU, there were no other female residents in the program. While at first I did not know how this dynamic would work out, I was excited to find when I arrived that I suddenly had eight older brothers (there were only two residents per year when I began). Over time, with some potpourri and education, the resident room bathroom began to smell better. I will also never forget my first ski trip to Vail. With no other female residents, I was assigned to the female faculty condo with Drs. Holdcraft, Nicklaus, Wei, and Latz. I went to the residents’ condo to hang out, and noted that the higher your PGY level, the more likely you were to get your own bed. Jeremy Moore, who had managed to get his own room, gave it to me so I could stay with the men and have some privacy while doing so. He ended up having to share a room. There were many similar examples of kindness and collegiality during my residency.

Would you like to share some personal information?
I am married to Tyler Muffly, urogynecologist, OBGYN medical student clerkship director, and wonderful husband and father. We have two boys, Henry (8) and Lucas (4). The boys love to ski in the winter and be on swim team in the summers. We have an annual Cuban pig roast every summer, alternating ENT and OBGYN departments. We roast a 65 pound pig and serve it up with black beans and rice and coconut flan. It is a big hit every year and reminds me how important it is to foster relationships with the people who you work with.

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

I was born in a corn field and raised on basketball and racing cars in the great state of Indiana. (Basketball is the one with the hoop, right?) After graduating high school, I ran away to the big city of Chicago, where I completed my undergraduate studies at Northwestern University. My goal at the time was to become a bongo player in a reggae band, but it was the late 90's, and the unstoppable musical forces that were Puff Daddy and the Spice Girls meant there was not much of a market for mellow island music. So, I joined the Marine Corps. I returned to Indiana after completing my tour to attend medical school at Indiana University, where Matt Shew’s dad taught me everything I needed to know about human anatomy. In 2006, I arrived in Kansas City bright eyed and bushy tailed to begin residency (just kidding, I was sullen back then, too).

What made you decide to join the faculty at KU?

When I left KU to go to OHSU for fellowship, I had no inclination that I might be returning to join the faculty here. Otherwise, I probably wouldn’t have sold my house. But one rainy day (Portland, go figure) I got a phone call from Dr. Girod asking if I would be interested in interviewing for a faculty position as a Laryngologist. So, of course I said “yes,” because…well, Dr. Girod. I interviewed several places that winter, and I can honestly say there was nothing that compared to KU. It is a strong department, both clinically and academically. Above all else, the faculty are a collegial group who make coming to work fun. I have a great mentor and partner in Dr. Garnett. Our team (Jessica, Kelli, Lynn, Cheryl and Heather) are very close. I can’t imagine being in practice without them. I guess sometimes you have to run away from home for a while to appreciate what you had.

Tell me about yourself. What do you like to do in your spare time? Do you have a family?

I am something of a workaholic, so mostly I sleep in my spare time. I have been known to go for a run, which is not so much “running” as it is “painful lumbering with occasional wheezing.” My better half is a retired Marine and is currently teaching in Missouri with Teach for America. I have 20 children (the residents) and two cats. If I have gone too long without taking some time off, one of my work wives (#1 = Cheryl, #2 = Sam) tells me to go on a vacation. When that time comes, I love to travel abroad. In 2015, I spent two weeks driving around Scotland. The weather was horrible. The food was worse. But the people and the whisky were awesome! I am currently planning a trip to Japan. A baseball game, a sumo tournament, and possibly Ninja school are on the to-do list.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I finally laid my reggae dreams to rest a few years ago. My current long-term goal is to get a food truck and travel the music festival circuit selling beer and artisanal tater tots. I am calling my truck “Tots ‘N Hops.” (Shout out to Sinehan Bayrak for the truck name.)
Hearing loss is the most common neurodegenerative disease in man, affecting up to 15% of children, and most individuals over 65. Depending on the level of severity it can be treated with hearing aids or cochlear implants. My research program has focused on developing molecular therapeutics for hearing disorders and features several drugs in various stages of development ranging from the lab to human clinical trials. Since my arrival at KUMC, my lab has been working on hair cell regeneration and we have optimized the combination of viral vector, promoter and delivery conditions to regenerate hair cells (Fig 1). This project has progressed to human studies and we are currently in the final stages of a phase I trial of a gene therapy drug to restore hearing in profoundly deaf patients (Fig 2). At the conclusion of this cohort of patients we will start to enroll patients with a history of sudden sensorineural hearing loss and normal hearing in the contralateral ear. These studies demonstrate that the inner ear can be directly manipulated and dosed with medication, suggesting that other molecular therapeutics, i.e. gene therapy for genetic hearing loss will be possible. Based on the techniques that we have developed in this study, we have also developed a means of sampling human perilymph for diagnostic analysis. We hope that in the future, this will help us segment patients into more discrete treatment groups.

In the research lab, we are continuing to develop improved methods of gene and drug delivery to the inner ear. We are working on long term gene therapy approaches to improve the health of spiral ganglion neurons for cochlear implantation, and are developing a new gene therapy approach to treat patients with an adult onset genetic deafness that is responsible for about 2-5% of deafness requiring adult cochlear implantation. These studies are currently in the early stages of development but could be developed into preclinical programs over the next 2-3 years. Additionally, in partnership with Orbis Biosciences (www.orbisbio.com) we are testing an improved means of delivery of pharmaceuticals to the inner ear via a transtympanic injection. We have tested two products in a large animal model and hope to move the medications into clinical trials in the next year.

The research and clinical trial infrastructure available at KU have led to a diverse range of partnerships that allow our research program to act as a bridge between discovery and therapeutics. The hearing and balance research program also presents a great opportunity for medical students and residents to get involved in research from the bench to the clinical trial.

Regeneration of mouse vestibular hair cells using a supporting cell specific promoter. Hair cells were ablated in animals using aminoglycosides. The mice were then treated with an adenovirus containing the atoh1 gene and the gfp promoter. Within 4 weeks, regenerated functional hair cells (green) that were innervated (red) could be seen.

Infusion of CGF166

Delivery of CGF166 in a patient enrolled in our clinical trial. A specially designed catheter is placed into a stapedotomy. An adenovector using human atonal based on the experiments shown in Fig 1 is infused into the inner ear.
Graduation Day at KU ENT

June 22, 2018

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.

ENT Grand Rounds Series

KU ENT hosts a monthly continuing medical education series for all interested physicians, residents and students. Dinner is included at this free event, and CME credit is available. Grand Rounds is held in the Sudler Conference Room at KU Medical Center. For more information on upcoming events contact tquaethem@kumc.edu.

| March 19 | Martin Citardi, MD | University of Texas, Houston |
| April 16  | Robert Kern, MD     | Northwestern University     |
| May 21    | Blake Simpson, MD   | University of Texas, San Antonio |

Mentorship Opportunities

Contact Dr. Shannon Kraft, ENT Residency Director, at skraft3@kumc.edu for information about the Jayhawk Flight Academy mentorship program.

Get Involved: 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.