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A New Look for ENT

The ENT offices in Delp, Sudler, and Eaton buildings have a new look, thanks to Arizona photographer Roni Ziemba. Capturing the faculty in action in the operating room, research lab, and clinic, Ziemba’s photography illustrates the intricate and varied facets of Otolaryngology through visual media.

Ziemba travelled to Kansas City on two occasions to fully capture the breadth of the department. Her photos not only enhance the updated ENT offices, but are featured in our website, publications, and promotional materials.

Roni Ziemba

Roni Ziemba is a photographic artist and adventurer who specializes in extreme situations and behind-the-scenes photography. Her lens is often found beyond the yellow caution tape of public safety, wearing scrubs in surgical operating rooms or rappelling off the side of a 17-story building telling the stories few ever get to experience or witness.

Currently 118 pieces of her medical and public safety modern pieces are permanently installed in hospitals, fire stations, training centers and police stations throughout the country.

http://ziembaphoto.com/
Introducing Jayhawk Flight Academy

Mentorship for Residency and Beyond

This year at AAO-HNS, the Department launched its new mentorship program: Jayhawk Flight Academy. This innovative take on mentorship aims to create a network of mentorship and support to provide our residents and graduates the resources they need for success during residency and after.

Residents and faculty recently completed a series of personality tests. Using an algorithm designed by Dr. Jennifer Villwock, residents were paired with potential faculty mentor matches based on motivations and interests.

We and are excited to have our Alumni and Partners engage with KU residents as a part of Flight Academy in the next iteration of the Program. If you would like to be a part of our Jayhawk network, and haven’t yet had the opportunity to add your name to the growing list of volunteers, please email a copy of your CV and a brief description of your practice to tuaethem@kumc.edu.

Medical Missions: Global Health Track

If you completed your residency at KU in the last 20 years, chances are you participated in a medical mission. The Department continues to support residents who choose to go on a medical mission. Last year, Dr. Brandon Johnson (’17), Dr. Paul Porter (’17) and Dr. Joel Jones (’18) participated in missions in Uganda, the Philippines and India, respectively.

This year, the Department is building on our tradition of medical outreach by unveiling the Global and Public Health Track. One of many education initiatives, the GPHT has been designed to promote a more in-depth exploration of challenges in global and community health delivery.

Just last month, Dr. Sreeya Yalamanchali returned from Vellore, India, where she worked alongside local otolaryngologists to explore the use of a mobile audiology platform for the delivery of hearing-related health care in rural India for her GPHT capstone project. You can read about Dr. Yalamanchali’s experience on our website at http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/otolaryngology/international-outreach/global-health-blog.html
Alumni Spotlight

Jeffrey Jorgensen, MD

What is your current position/practice?

Associate Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology at the University of Missouri. I completed residency at KU in 2008, and a Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction Fellowship in 2009.

How did your time at KU help prepare you for your current position?

I felt that we worked hard during residency and fellowship and as a result I was very comfortable when I started my practice. I was still nervous about the big cases and the possibility of complications – as we all should be. However, my training gave me confidence that I could work through the problems. There is no doubt that I continue to learn every single day but my training prepared me very well.

What’s your best/funniest/most impactful story from your time at KU?

There were so many entertaining moments during my four years as a resident and my year as a fellow it is hard to choose one. I always laugh when I remember Peter Gochee taking the largest abdominal fat graft I had ever seen or when he took 5 cm margins on a small skin lesion on the leg (Tsue almost puked). I remember the (mostly inappropriate) pranks that Andy Celmer tortured his co-residents with. I remember that Oleg Militsakh was and always will be the best surgeon in history who never had complications (or a tonsil bleed). I remember how difficult it was to get a free lunch from Tsue and how he always had forgotten his wallet. But most importantly, I have countless memories of bonding moments with my co-residents during the long days/late nights, flap dinners and on the ski trip.

Were there any challenges during your time here? How did you overcome them?

There were always challenges because we were very busy at times. Trying to balance clinical responsibilities, reading/studying, clinical research and family will probably always be difficult for residents and fellows. I will never forget a sinus case I did with Dr. Hoover during my third year. He always liked to clean the superior ethmoids with a curved, image-guided suction along the skull base. We were doing this routinely when our surgical tech (Karen Kitchen) informed us urgently that her eye was bulging. I had never seen Dr. Hoover move that fast. He performed a canthotomy and an inferior and medical orbital decompression in a blur. The patient ended up doing well. Afterwards, Dr. Hoover reassured me that I had done nothing wrong, probably one of the ethmoid arteries had retracted into the orbit during that part of the surgery. He perhaps was simply being supportive. However, that case terrified me as a young resident. The fact that we could be doing a routine surgery in a responsible manner and such a potentially debilitating complication could still occur lead me to an important realization. Surgery is an immense responsibility and the potential risks need to be remembered and respected. I think there were times during my residency that I was numb to these facts because I spent so much time with surgeons who were experienced and calm.

Would you like to share some personal information?

We now have four children; Emery (age 8), Everett (age 7), Elliot (age 5), Elin (age 3). We are very happy in Columbia.
What made you decide to join the faculty at KU?
I’m originally from western Massachusetts and grew up in a college town called Amherst. My medical training took me to Philadelphia and then Atlanta, where I completed my fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology. I joined the faculty at KU largely because of the culture, which strongly encourages research and innovation in Otolaryngology. Additionally, there was ample opportunity to build a busy clinical practice in Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery here at KU.

What’s the best part of the department?
The most challenging?
The best part of the department would have to be the people. Because the culture encourages innovation and improvement, all members of the team are committed to providing the best experience for our patients. No one is afraid to speak up when they see that we could be doing things better, which is a great thing. The biggest challenge has been adjusting to the way things are done at a new institution. Fortunately, with each challenge comes an opportunity to improve the care of our head and neck cancer patients!

What do you like to do in your spare time?
My wife, Selina, and I have a 3 year old son Javier. We enjoy spending time outside whether it be hiking, biking or just relaxing in our backyard. I also enjoy traveling, however this has taken a back seat since we have a toddler. My family and I are looking forward to exploring Kansas City and the surrounding area.

What’s the most inspirational thing you’ve seen at work?
One of the things that I enjoy most about Head and Neck Oncology is taking care of patients with cancer. I care for a wide range of patients from all walks of life. My patients’ resilience and determination to not only survive their cancer diagnosis, but to maintain their quality of life throughout and for many years after treatment continues to amaze and inspire me.

Anything else you would like to add?
I’m thrilled to join the KU Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery team and my family is excited to call Kansas City home. It’s an honor to join a world-class multidisciplinary head and neck oncology team here at KU. My hope is that I can contribute some of the expertise that I have acquired through my training to improve head and neck cancer care in the Kansas City region. I am particularly interested in building our transoral robotic surgery program to help patients with early cancers of the tonsil and base of tongue avoid some of the long-term side effects of radiation and systemic therapy.
Highlights from Sufi Thomas, PhD

We previously reported that cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) facilitate head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) progression. Recently, Dr. Thomas’ group reported in the leading cancer journal Cancer Research that primary HNSCC-derived CAFs have a higher level of basal autophagy compared to normal fibroblasts (NFs) from cancer-free patients. The autophagy process within the CAFs contributes to the secretion of tumor promoting factors. The group identified these factors and the mechanism whereby tumors induce autophagy in stromal fibroblasts. Further, their data show an increased propensity for tumor kill on mitigating autophagy in both the tumor and CAF cells. They used preclinical models including primary human cells, carcinogen-induced and xenograft HNSCC animal models to arrive at these findings. Further, they validated the preclinical findings by interrogating patient tissue samples and the TCGA database.

In the spirit of translational research and interdepartmental collaboration, Drs. Thomas, Bruegger and Hoover together reported a new finding on the biology of nasopharyngeal angiofibroma can points to a new therapeutic intervention. Juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma (JNA) is a benign tumor that presents in adolescent males. JNA tumors are composed of fibroblasts and vascular endothelial cells. The team identified the expression of fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in JNA-derived fibroblasts. FGFR influences fibroblast proliferation and VEGF is necessary for angiogenesis. The team reported that targeting FGFR would mitigate JNA fibroblast proliferation, invasion, and migration, and that targeting the VEGF receptor would attenuate endothelial tubule formation.
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.

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.

ENT Grand Rounds

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 tracy.quaethem@kumc.edu.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Sufi Thomas, PhD</td>
<td>Associate Professor, the University of Kansas Medical Center</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>Dwight Jones, MD</td>
<td>Professor and Chairman, the University of Nebraska Medical Center</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>Martin Citardi, MD</td>
<td>Professor and Chairman, the University of Texas at Houston</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Robert Kern, MD</td>
<td>Professor and Chairman, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Blake Simpson, MD</td>
<td>Professor and Director, the University of Texas Voice Center</td>
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