

ENT UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY & COMMUNICATIVE SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

Fostering a Culture of Service

The benefits of volunteerism for both the mind and the body have long been touted by experts and evidenced in clinical research. Giving back of time and service combats depression, provides a greater sense of purpose and even protects against cognitive and physical decline. For those in the medical industry, volunteering helps to reduce burnout and reignite a passion for clinical service.

The Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences has made a concerted effort to engage in outreach opportunities for department members, medical students in the otolaryngology student interest group, family members and friends.

Events range from on-campus screenings to overseas trips to operate in underserved regions in the Caribbean and Central America.

February 9th was our 2nd Annual Day of Giving at the Mississippi Food Network. Approximately 65 faculty, staff, residents and medical students came together on a Saturday morning to pack 4,320 backpack meals for children who may otherwise go hungry during the weekends.

“It’s nice to give back to the community when we can, we have to study all the time as medical students and these events provide an opportunity to get back to our roots”, said Ashley Kraft, a fourth-year medical student.

In addition to supporting the local community, faculty and residents participate in international medical missions. Recent outreach locations include Honduras and Guatemala, and in November of this year residents and faculty members will travel to Kenya.

Dr. Mark Reed recently returned from an annual mission trip to Honduras. He was accompanied by fellow UMMC physicians, residents, and medical students, as well as family members.

“As a team, we did 68 surgeries. Of those, Brandon (Brandon ShepZMD, PGY-3) and I completed 21 surgeries”, Dr. Reed noted. “We had multiple opportunities to minister outside of the OR delivering rice, beans, and water to several communities. It’s an utterly humbling experience that you never get over”.

Not only are these trips extremely fulfilling for our physicians, and the patients served, they help to provide a necessary break from their daily routines.

The encouragement and organization of philanthropic projects and activities can have profound benefits for the individual, the team and the practice. Follow us on Facebook to see pictures and read posts from past events, and to keep abreast of upcoming events you can participate in. ■



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Chairman's Message

We received an email recently from the chief resident on the medicine service thanking our APPs, residents, and faculty members for the outstanding consultation service provided in terms of timeliness, quality of care and communication.

The efforts of our team illustrate our goal of constantly pursuing excellence in all we do. This edition of our newsletter highlights many other aspects of this same theme whether it is in serving the community, providing outstanding clinical care, discovery, or education.

This team which also includes a fantastic group of nurses, staff, and administrators, goes above and beyond the call of duty every single day working in the very challenging health care environment in a state with great needs and limited resources.

I could not be more proud to be associated with these people that make a difference every day in all they do. We seek to provide that same service to you and your patients when you need us to collaborate with you in their care.

As always, please reach out to me with any questions, concerns or suggestions for improvement. We hope you and your family have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Scott P. Stringer, M.D., M.S. Professor and Chairman sstringer@umc.edu
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Kudos to last year's graduates, Dr. David Kowalczyk, Dr. Andrew Robichaux and Dr. Jon Sorrel. They all passed their oral board exams and are now officially board certified. We are thankful for the continued support and dedication of our program and our residents who continue to set the bar high.

Department News and Highlights

- We were honored to host guest lecturer Dr. M. Boyd Gillespie, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Dr. Gillespie presented "Gland-Preserving Salivary Surgery: Are Scopes Needed?" on January 17th and "Current Techniques for Airway Stenosis" on January 18th.
- Dr. Matt Ryan, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Education and Quality at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center joined us as a guest lecturer in February. Dr. Ryan presented "The Allergic Fungal Sinusitis Story", February 21st and "Clinical Decision Making in Rhinology" on February 22nd.
- On March 4th, members of our audiology department provided free hearings screenings for senior citizens at the City of Brandon Senior Center.
- A dozen members of our Student Interest group hosted their annual dinner event at the Ronald McDonald Charity House on March 18th. The group prepared and served dinner to several families staying at the Ronald McDonald house.
- Our Annual Free Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Screening event took place April 10th at the Flowood Family YMCA, we screened 65 individuals and referred 6 for further evaluation.
- Department faculty, physician assistants and nurse practitioners covered a variety of topics during the annual ENT for the Advanced Practice Provider conference on April 26th. This 5-hour course provided both AMA and Nursing Continuing Education Credits to 40 participants.
- We partnered with the MIND Center on April 27th to offer free hearing screenings to community participants aged 65 and over. Together we screened 58 individuals; 48 were hearing referred, 13 scheduled follow-up appointments and the ACHIEVE study took in 9 participants.
- Department members were honored to provide free hearing screenings for athletes at the Special Olympics held in Biloxi, MS on May 11th.
- M2 students Drew S. Morgan and Nicholas A. Bosworth were both awarded the Alpha Omega Alpha Student Research Award for their work in Dr. Spankovich's lab during the 58th annual honors day this May.

Congratulations, Graduates!



Dr. Laura House Christopher earned her medical degree from the University Of Mississippi Medical Center. After graduation, Laura and her husband, Wade, will relocate to Los Angeles, California where she will complete an Otolaryngology/Neurotology Fellowship at the House Ear Institute.



Dr. Kristen DeYoung Pitts earned her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. After graduation, Kristen, her husband Chandler and their daughter Mary Chandler will relocate to Spartanburg, South Carolina where she will join a private practice, Spartanburg Ear, Nose and Throat.



Dr. Erin Johnson Smith earned her medical degree from the University Of Mississippi Medical Center. After graduation, Erin, her husband Lee, their daughters Amelia, Stella and Charlotte will relocate to Beverly Hills, CA where she will complete a Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship with Nassif MD Plastic Surgery and Center of Plastic Surgery.

Interesting Case: Endoscopic Ear Surgery

A six-year-old boy was referred from an otolaryngologist in Southeast Mississippi for conductive hearing loss and middle ear mass. He had a distant history of ear tubes but no recent infection or ear drainage. Computerized tomography of the ear demonstrated a right middle ear mass with incus erosion but no extension into the mastoid (Figure 1).

The child was taken for endoscopic resection and tympanoplasty with total ossicular chain reconstruction as the stapes superstructure was eroded. Cholesteatoma was resected intact using endoscopes.



Figure 1: CT scan showing right middle ear mass in the sinus tympani.



Figure 2: Preoperative ear (left) and intraoperative photo with eardrum lifted up and cholesteatoma sac visible in middle ear.

No postauricular incision was used. The posterior drum was reconstructed with a cartilage graft over the ossicular reconstruction prosthesis.

Postoperatively, he has had no drainage and has a mild to moderate hearing loss in the right ear at nine months after surgery. He is doing well without a hearing aid.

Endoscopic ear surgery (EES) has grown in popularity over the past decade. Advantages of this technique include improved visualization, diminished pain and morbidity by avoiding large incision, and potentially better cholesteatoma recidivism rates.

The unique advantages of telescopes over microscopes allow wide-angle viewing around corners and into spaces such as the sinus tympani and the attic.

Since the telescope is held by the surgeon, only one instrument is used at a time so standard microscopic procedures may be needed in the case of bleeding, active infection, or a very small ear canal.



Figure 3: Six-month postoperative photo of posterior eardrum with white cartilage graft to the upper left. No evidence of cholesteatoma is seen.

EES has been used at the University of Mississippi Medical Center for the past few years and we are expanding its use as much as possible for tympanic membrane perforation, cholesteatoma, and ossicular chain reconstruction. ■

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Neal Burkhalter was born in Griffin, GA. He attended the University of Georgia and Mercer University School of Medicine (2008) prior to graduating from his Otolaryngology residency at UMC in 2013.

After residency, Neal and his family moved to Columbia, SC to begin practice. Five years ago he transitioned into a hospital employment position with Lexington ENT & Allergy. The practice covers all aspects of Otolaryngology and has just added a new physician. He enjoys private practice in General Otolaryngology with specific interests in Rhinology, Pediatrics and Endocrine surgery.

Neal and his wife, Kathryn, have five daughters ranging from two to eight years old. Kathryn keeps their life going, juggling all of the things come from having five young kids and a forgetful husband. He also spends a



part of every week doing campus ministry to the local medical school through Medical Campus Outreach (MCO). It has been a great joy in their family to host student and have meaningful relationships around the medical community in Columbia. He travels with the medical students each summer to the developing world, hoping to teach medical students what its like to merge faith and medicine. His most recent trip was to Cusco, Peru in May 2019 - the highlight of which was having his oldest daughter on the trip!

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Several speech-language pathologists presented at the annual MSHA Conference held in Biloxi, MS on April 1st. Presenters included Josie Alston, Angie Brunson, Caroline Murray, Jenna Nassar and Rachel Tyrone.
- Our department was well represented at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings, held in Austin, Texas May 1-5, 2019. During this meeting, Drs. Jeff Carron, Lauren Buck (PGY-4) and Cindy Moore (PGY-2) won the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology PedsVideoto Presentation Contest for their video titled "Surgical Approach to Juvenile Nasopharyngeal Angiofibroma". The conference featured 4 resident posters, 1 resident oral presentation and a presentation from faculty member Dr. John Schweinfurth.
- Faculty and residents attended the annual MSO meeting May 24-26, 2019. This year's event was held in Point Clear, AL where Drs. Thomas Eby, Claude Harbarger, Andrea Lewis and Scott Stringer were featured speakers. Resident presentations were given by 4th year residents Drs. Lauren Buck, Steven Curti and Amrita Ray.
- Congratulations on the successful fellowship matches for Drs. Lauren Buck, Amrita Ray and Steven Curti. Dr. Buck will be completing a Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Dr. Ray will be completing a Rhinology and Skullbase Fellowship with Columbia and Cornell in New York. Dr. Curti will be completing a Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship with Drs. Mittelman, Lieberman & Parikh in Palo Alto, CA.

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Welcome, Resident Interns



Dr. Kelsey Bounds
University of Mississippi
Medical Center



Dr. Hunter McMullen
Louisiana State University-
Shreveport



Dr. Ben Stevens
University of Mississippi
Medical Center



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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