



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY

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FACULTY

Head and Neck Oncology

John Gleysteen, MD
Charissa Kahue, MD
E. Ritter Sansoni, MD
Scott Strome, MD

Laryngology and Swallowing

Sandra Stinnett, MD

Otology/Neurotology

Andrew Griffith, MD, PhD
C. Bruce MacDonald, MD
Robert Yawn, MD

Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery

Sanjeet Rangarajan, MD
E. Ritter Sansoni, MD

Pediatric Otolaryngology

Tom Long, MD
Jennifer McLevy, MD
Tony Sheyn, MD
Rosemary Stocks, MD, PharmD
Jerome Thompson, MD, MBA
Josh Wood, MD

Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery

Raj Dedhia, MD

General Otolaryngology

Neal Beckford, MD
Chris Hall, MD
Mac Hodges, MD

Sleep, Salivary, and Airway Surgery

M. Boyd Gillespie, MD, MSc

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

UPPING OUR "RESEARCH" GAME

UTHSC Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery has always prided itself as being an exceptionally strong clinical program with outstanding clinician-educators. Our resident case numbers are continually in the top quintile of all otolaryngology programs nationwide and cover the full-breadth of otolaryngology from PE tubes to multi-team skull base resections with microvascular reconstruction. I always conclude my presentation to residency applicants by stating that unlike some programs, UTHSC residents **do not need** to pursue fellowship training to become confident in their skills and be ready to go from day one.

Although research has always been important in the life of the department, it has nevertheless been a distant third to teaching and clinical care. One of the benefits of department growth is that growth provides the resources of personnel, space, and equipment to achieve goals that will increase the regional and national reputation of the department. It also allows us to bring promising interventions from novel cancer therapeutics to sleep apnea devices (**see Research**) to the patients of our region who would otherwise have to travel many miles to receive equivalent care.

Recognizing we are a department of busy surgeons, my first goal was to develop a vibrant division of clinical (patient-based) research. Clinical research requires less infrastructure since the clinic itself becomes the laboratory, and can be performed by clinicians who are afforded sufficient support. The main areas of clinical research include: (1) Clinical trials (human studies of new devices and drugs); (2) Outcomes research- prospective studies of our patients to observe which interventions maximize benefit while minimizing harm; (3) Health services research- the application of large patient databases to answer questions about specific disorders or interventions; and, (4) Novel device development- application of the principals of bioengineering to everyday surgical practice.

UTHSC Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery has made great strides in the creation of a clinical research division. The first priority was the recruitment of an able clinical research administrator who oversees IRB-applications; trial contract negotiations; supervision of clinical trial coordinators; assists in the writing of grants and scientific manuscripts; and provides support for the resident research rotations and curriculum. We were fortunate to recruit **Madhu Mamidala, PhD**, in 2017 to fulfill this role. Dr. Mamidala has a PhD in molecular biology, but was actively involved in several large, prospective epidemiological studies prior to coming to UTHSC. Her efforts have largely reduced the burdensome regulatory demands of research for our residents and staff and allowed us to concentrate on the fun aspects of research including hypothesis-generation; data acquisition; data analysis; and manuscript preparation.

The next goal was the recruitment of motivated clinical research scholars. Clinical research scholars serve as our boots on the ground on the research frontline. Clinical research scholars are responsible for recruitment of patients into clinical trials; tracking of clinical trial patients; abstracting research data from the electronic medical record; and writing first-drafts of book chapters, literature reviews, and meta-analyses. In general, this role has been filled by either a medical student who is interested in applying to the otolaryngology match but who wants to take a gap year to strengthen their application, or a recently graduated MD who seeks to re-apply in the otolaryngology match but needs a little help with their application. To date, we have had 8 clinical research scholars and are averaging 3 positions per year. Our current

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outstanding scholars are **Dr. Leighton Reed** (UTHSC Class of 2020); **Nicole Creepel** (MS III, Meharry Medical College); and **Timothy Fan** (MS III, Texas A&M). **(Figure)**



(Figure) Otolaryngology research team meeting.

Finally, we needed dedicated space to bring these efforts to fruition. In 2019, we opened **CLIENT** (Center for Learning and Innovation in Ear, Nose, and Throat). The CLIENT lab has dedicated state-of-the-art administrative office space; document storage facilities; meeting rooms and idea lounges; and a surgical training facility for hands-on subspecialty otolaryngology experiences. Plans are in the works for acquisition of a 3-D printer to allow development of phase 1 surgical devices and surgical simulation prototypes.

These initial efforts are beginning to bear fruit. In 2017, the department had a total of 7 published papers; 10 national research presentations; and 0 grants or sponsored studies. In 2019, this had increased to 33 publications (plus one textbook); 54 research presentations; and 9 funded research studies. A giant leap forward occurred with the recruitment of **Dr. Andrew Griffith** (see faculty profile) as the new UTHSC Senior Associate Dean for Research. Not only is Andy an accomplished basic scientist and administrator, he is also an affable and able otolaryngologist. His keen insights and feedback are already informing the way we think about research within the department. Phase Two will involve the development or recruitment of otolaryngology surgeon scientists. The best is yet to come!

Stay tuned and stay well,

M. Boyd Gillespie
Professor and Chair
UTHSC Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

DR. ANTHONY “TONY” SHEYN PROMOTED

At its 2020 spring meeting, the UTHSC Board of Directors promoted Dr. Anthony “Tony” Sheyn to Associate Professor **(Figure)**. Dr. Sheyn has been a valued member of this department since July 2015. Dr. Sheyn is the primary mentor for medical students who seek a residency match in otolaryngology and has assisted numerous students in required research projects greatly exceeding the faculty average in this area. He serves as the **Director of Resident Research** within the department, overseeing the research projects of residents during their research rotation; organizing the monthly resident research conference; and the annual Ed Cocke Jr. Research Symposium. His efforts helped to establish the ACGME-approved complex pediatric otolaryngology fellowship at Le Bonheur hospital, and serves as the site director for this fellowship at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



(Figure) Dr. Tony Sheyn on the red carpet.

Since coming to UTHSC in 2015, Dr. Sheyn has given over 40 national clinical research presentations; published 37 peer-reviewed manuscripts; and 3 book chapters. His experience in pediatric thyroid cancers at St. Jude has resulted in national recognition. He currently serves as a liaison on this topic with the American Head and Neck Society and the American Academy of Clinical Endocrinology. His work on the management of aspirated foreign bodies in children has led to an international role as consultant to toy maker Ferrero Roche in an attempt to design safer, aspiration-resistant toys.

Dr. Sheyn is first and foremost a clinician. He is the current Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology at the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. His practice focuses on the management of pediatric head and neck tumors; pediatric sinus disorders; pediatric trauma; and pediatric OSA. Dr. Sheyn has developed an international reputation as pediatric head and neck surgeon in his role at St. Jude, supervising international pediatric head and neck tumor board presentations in Malaysia, Vietnam, Peru, and Burma. Dr. Sheyn participated in the MLH Physician Leadership Academy in order to improve his leadership skills in his present role as hospital division chief. The department is proud of Dr. Sheyn and his accomplishments, and hopes that he continues at long and fulfilling career at UTHSC.

DONOR CLOSE-UP

RANDE LAZAR, MD



Rande Lazar, MD, has been a major presence in the Memphis otolaryngology community for years. Originally from New York City, Rande finished his otolaryngology training at the Cleveland Clinic followed by a pediatric otolaryngology fellowship at Le Bonheur under Dr. Charles W. Gross. As Dr. Gross' first fellow in 1984, Dr. Lazar participated in the first repair of a laryngeal cleft defect, and the first cricoid split and rib grafts in the Memphis region. Their team

helped pioneer the application of functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS) in children with publication of an initial case series of 54 children undergoing the procedure followed by numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and presentations. Rande eventually took over the pediatric fellowship, training approximately 25 fellows, many of whom have gone on to prominent careers in both private practice and academia including Ron Mitchell, Kevin Perreira, Ramzi Younis, Evelyn Kluka, Norman Friedman, and our very own program director Rosemary Stocks. Rande was a founding member of the Southern Pediatric Otolaryngology Education Group which has held educational retreats over the past 33 years, most recently in Palm Beach over the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. The meeting regularly draws over 60 attendees from multiple states to south Florida for interactive learning, fun, and fellowship.

Rande and his wife Linda, a pediatric gastroenterologist at Le Bonheur, came to Memphis with the intent of staying one

year only to have it turn into a lifetime. Memphis was the first place they owned a home, and was where their child Lauren, currently an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Gastroenterology UT Southwestern in Dallas, was born. Rande's community activities have centered on the arts. He served on the board of the Memphis Development Corporation for over 15 years, and was chairman of the board during an \$8 million dollar renovation of the Orpheum Theater. A little known fact is that the Orpheum has presented more Broadway plays on its stage than any theater in the United States. He continues to serve on the past presidents committee. The Lazars' have endowed scholarships in honor of their parents at the Mississippi State School of Veterinarian Medicine and the Department of Biology at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (CUNY). In addition, Rande has served on the board of directors of the Memphis College of Art, and as Chief of Surgery at Le Bonheur and Chairperson of Otolaryngology at Methodist. He continues to support numerous non-profits with an endowment at the Community Foundation, and supports the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery (AAO-HNSF) with a biannual \$10,000 research grant. Rande served as the first chairperson of the pediatric otolaryngology subcommittee of the AAO-HNSF as well as chair of the practice management committee, and has received both Honor and Distinguished Service Awards from the AAO-HNSF.

Closer to home, Rande is a dedicated financial supporter of UTHSC Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. Rande states he supports Dr. Gillespie's "vision and energy to create a world class department in Memphis that is long overdue." Rande doesn't care for the term "giving back" because we are really *giving forward* to our young people and patients who are our ultimate legacy. The department is particularly grateful to have the ongoing friendship and support of Dr. Lazar.



DR. LANGSDON RETIRES

Phillip Langsdon, MD, retired from UTHSC at the end of June 2020. Dr. Langsdon served the department for 30 years as director of facial plastics and reconstructive surgery. During his time with the department, Dr. Langsdon taught trauma and maxillofacial reconstruction at Regional One Medical Center and facial plastics aesthetic surgery at the Langsdon Clinic in Germantown, TN. Numerous residents and medical students, many of whom went on to careers in facial plastic surgery, learned the principals of facial plastics under Dr. Langsdon. Dr. Langsdon, who was a prolific lecturer and published author in facial plastic surgery, is Past-President of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. We thank Dr. Langsdon for his years of service and wish him well as he concentrates on his private practice in Germantown.

DR. BOBBY YAWN

NAMED DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF OTOTOLOGY, NEUROTOLOGY, AND LATERAL SKULL BASE SURGERY

For the past two decades, UTHSC otology/neurotology was a division of one led by master teacher and surgeon **Dr. C. Bruce MacDonald**. More recently, the division has built on that foundation with the addition



of **Dr. Josh Wood** at Le Bonheur, and **Dr. Bobby Yawn**, Director of UT Methodists University Hearing and Balance Center (Figure 1). Dr. Yawn was recently appointed director of the newly formed **UTHSC Division of Otology, Neurotology, and Lateral Skull Base Surgery**. The mission of the division is to provide personalized hearing and balance care for all adult and pediatric patients in the mid-south. According to Dr. Yawn, the division achieves this by treating every patient with respect and holding to its core values: clinical excellence, innovation, and integrity. Dr. Yawn states, "An academic neurotology division must successfully function in three core areas: clinical service delivery, education of resident physicians and medical students, and research. Clinical service is listed first because that's the foundation of everything that we do. We offer tertiary subspecialized care in otology and neurotology. This means we can offer the full spectrum of hearing care from simple procedures such as ear tubes to complex skull base surgeries like surgical excision of vestibular schwannomas."

In order to provide tertiary services, the division has partnered with other professionals in Memphis that treat complex hearing and balance disorders. Dr. Yawn's efforts include the recent establishment of the **Memphis Cochlear Implant Collaborative**, a multidisciplinary cochlear implant team with the **University of Memphis** that offers advanced adult and pediatric cochlear implant services and fosters collaborative research endeavors. In addition, Dr. Yawn created a skull base team with neurosurgical partners at the Semmes Murphey Clinic which is actively presenting joint research projects at national meetings including the North American Skull Base Society. As the division continues to grow clinically, it fosters increasing exposure for resident physicians



(Figure 2) The chief residents recognize Dr. Yawn (second from left) with the 2020 Faculty Teaching Award.

and medical students in advanced techniques for chronic ear surgery, cochlear implantation, and endoscopic ear surgery. By equipping the next generation of ear surgeons with the latest techniques, Dr. Yawn hopes to ensure future generations of patients will have outstanding care. The impact of Dr. Yawn's teaching on resident education is evident by the fact that he was awarded the **Faculty Teaching Award** by the residents after only 8 months with the department (Figure 2).

The division goals are to expand cochlear implant surgeries to over 100 annually and vestibular schwannoma/lateral skull base tumor volume to over 50 cases annually. Educational expansion includes the addition of an extra temporal bone dissection course and endoscopic ear surgery course to the annual curriculum. The otologic educational curriculum for residents in being reformatted to include high-yield articles across the national and international literature. Research endeavors include sound-localization and healthcare disparities research with the **University of Memphis**, otologic device/prosthesis development, and clinical skull base research with Semmes Murphey. A temporal bone trauma database and otologic trauma algorithm for screening and treating post-traumatic hearing loss and facial nerve injury patients is under development at Regional One Hospital.

FACULTY RECOGNITION AND HONORS

M. Boyd Gillespie

- Collaborative for Advanced Sialendoscopy Education (CASE), 10/21/2020
- Snoring 2020. American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Meeting, 8/26/2020.
- Visiting Professor, Temple University Grand Rounds (Virtual), 11/4/2020.
- Gulf States Regional Otolaryngology Conference, Point Clear, AL, 10/30/2020.
- Sociedad Iberoamericana De Cirugia De Sueno, 8/22/2020.
- Siesta Medical Hypopharyngeal Obstruction Webinar, 8/18/2020.
- Great Lakes Otolaryngology Consortium, Resident Teaching Webinar, 4/13/2020.
- Visiting Professor, Stanford University Grand Rounds, 3/12/2020.

John Gleysteen

- AHNS 2020 International Conference planning committee
- AHNS 2021 International Conference planning committee
- AHNS CME Committee member 2020-2023
- AHNS Cancer Prevention Committee member 2020-2023
- Methodist University ENT OR Service Line Liaison
- Methodist University Robotics Committee
- UTHSC ENT Medical Student Teaching Award 2020.

The Hodges Center
Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
at UT Methodist

John "Mac" Hodges

- UT Methodist Otolaryngology Clinic named The Hodges Center in honor of its founder and benefactor.
- Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Living Award-Physician Inspiration in Faith and Health

Jennifer McLevy

- AAO-HNSF Airway and Swallowing Committee

- AAO-HNSF Pediatric Otolaryngology Committee
- Le Bonheur Operative and Invasive Committee
- Lecturer, UTHSC Women in Medicine, Sh-ENT-A Surgeon's Perspective, 09/2020.
- Le Bonheur Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds.

Sanjeet Rangarajan

- Fellow, American Rhinologic Society, 2020.
- Co-Chair, North American Skull Base Society (NASBS) Website Committee
- NASBS Value Based Healthcare Committee
- Visiting Professor (Virtual), Thomas Jefferson University, 4/30/2020.
- Visiting Professor (Virtual), Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, 4/8/2020.
- UTHSC Ophthalmology Grand Rounds, 2/21/2020.
- ENT in a Nutshell Podcast, Allergic Fungal Rhinosinusitis, 4/14/2020.
- AAO-HNSF Dissection Video FLEX Curriculum, Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyposis.
- Section Co-editor, Rhinology DosedDaily Online Question Bank Subscription.

Anthony Sheyn

- UTHSC Pediatric Surgery Grand Rounds
- UTHSC Pediatric Emergency Department Grand Rounds
- Member, St. Jude Tracheostomy Care Task Force
- Canadian National Pediatric Surgery Lecture
- Great Lakes Otolaryngology Collaborative Grand Rounds Webinar
- American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) Global Outreach Committee
- AHNS Survivorship, Supportive Care & Rehabilitation Service Committee.
- AHNS Pediatric Endocrine Committee.
- AAO-HNSF Head and Neck Surgery Endocrine Committee.

Sandra Stinnett

- Board of Directors, Visible Music College, Memphis, TN
- UTHSC CORNET Grant, Assessing Aerosolization during Breathing, Speaking and Singing

- Fellow, American Broncho-Esophagological Association
- Member, Bluff City Medical Society
- Member, National Medical Association
- Member, Black Women in Otolaryngology
- 2020 ASHA Lecturer, Vocal Fold Paralysis in Pediatric Population.
- Lecturer (Virtual), Applying to Residency During COVID, Black Women in Otolaryngology.
- Presenter, Laser Ablation of Blastomycosis of the Vocal Folds, Fall Voice 2020.
- Guest Lecturer, University of Memphis School of Speech and Communication Disorders.

Rosemary Stocks

- Member, Otolaryngology Program Directors Organization (OPDO) Signal Committee
- Society of University Otolaryngologists (SUO)
- Association of Academic Departments in Otolaryngology (AADO) Jerome Thompson
- Member, Tenure Review Committee.
- Member, Le Bonheur Sr. Peri-operative Director Search Committee.
- Member, Le Bonheur Executive VP of Operations Search Committee.
- Visiting Professor (Virtual), IAP Emirates Neonatal Chapter and Zulekja Healthcare Group, Dubai.
- UTHSC Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds.

Jerome Thompson, MD, MBA

- Member, Tenure Review Committee.
- Member, Le Bonheur Sr. Peri-operative Director Search Committee.
- Member, Le Bonheur Executive VP of Operations Search Committee.
- Visiting Professor (Virtual), IAP Emirates Neonatal Chapter and Zulekja Healthcare Group, Dubai.
- UTHSC Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds.

Josh Wood

- AAO-HNSF Pediatric Otolaryngology Education Committee.

PEDIATRIC OTOLARYNGOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS

The Le Bonheur pediatric otolaryngology fellowship is now in its third year under the direction of **Dr. Jerome Thompson**. This fellowship focuses on all aspects of Pediatric Otolaryngology. The pediatric otolaryngology service is responsible for over 4000 surgeries and almost 16,000 outpatient clinic visits in the last year. Our fellows are expected to lead the inpatient team and enhance the residency training experience. The fellow is exposed to open and endoscopic airway procedures, otologic procedures, sinus and skull base procedures, and head and neck tumors. The fellow also has taken control of running the NICU for the ENT service, including leading the novel ENT/NICU virtual rounds twice a week. Our goal is to train future leaders in the Pediatric Otolaryngology community.



Dr. Ahmad Abualsoud

The current Le Bonheur fellow is **Dr. Ahmad Abualsoud**. As a physician who was born in Palestine, grew up in Jordan, graduated medical school in Egypt, and completed a residency in Qatar, Dr. Abualsoud's goal is to use his knowledge and growing experience to serve the less fortunate, especially refugees and underprivileged communities. This has already manifested in his becoming an active member in many

organizations that support refugees and co-founding a non-profit organization that supports medical education and services in Jordan. Dr. Abualsoud's passion for training in various disciplines has motivated him to seek experiences in different hospitals in several countries around the world. So far, he has received training in Australia, Qatar, India, and the United States. These experiences have broadened his knowledge in multiple distinct fields of otolaryngology and led him to see diverse schools of practice. In addition, his experience overseas has allowed him to live in different parts of the world, meet great people, learn a lot about each respective country's history, socialize with different cultures, and make many friends all over the world.

The St. Jude Children Research Hospital's pediatric otolaryngology-head and neck fellowship is now in its second year under the direction of **Dr. Anthony Sheyn**. The Pediatric Otolaryngology service was responsible for over 300 surgeries and 700 outpatient visits in the last year. This fellowship is available for trainees who have completed a Pediatric Otolaryngology fellowship or a Head and Neck Fellowship and wish to focus on the treatment of

pediatric head and neck malignancies and complications of treatment of childhood cancer. Fellows are exposed to one of the largest malignant thyroid programs in the country in addition to a variety of other rare pediatric head and neck malignancies and patients with hematologic disorders. This fellowship develops skills for creating multi-disciplinary teams for the treatment of complex pediatric disease. Additionally, there's a large research component to the fellowship year with the expectation of two or more journal articles to be completed by the end of training. This includes multi-institutional studies with similar training programs around the country. The goal of this fellowship is to train additional practitioners of the nascent Pediatric Head and Neck sub-specialty.



Dr. Gustavo Rangel

This year's SJCR center fellow is **Dr. Gustavo Rangel**. Dr. Rangel was born in Brazil, into a family of doctors, and early in his life, was determined to follow his dad's steps as an otolaryngologist. He completed his medical education at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Rangel pursued his otolaryngology training at Public Federal Servants Hospital, and the head and neck surgery training at Brazilian National

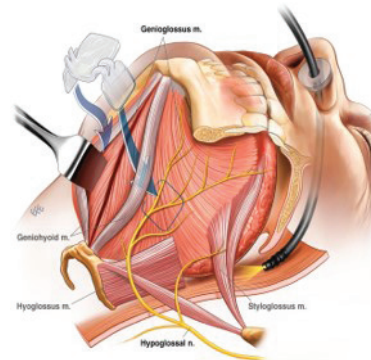
Cancer Institute. During this time, he was awarded a grant to conduct an international skull base course. After his graduation, he was sponsored by the Ministry of Health to achieve a mini-fellowship in Skull Base at CHU-University of Bordeaux. Dr. Rangel served as 1st Lieutenant physician in the OHNS department at Army Central Hospital. After completing his training, he joined State University of Rio de Janeiro, where he assisted the development of the Skull Base Surgery Program and dissection courses. He joined The Ohio State University for a post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Ricardo Carrau, during which time he was appointed as the coordinator of the Anatomy Laboratory Toward Visuospatial Innovation in Otolaryngology and Neurosurgery (ALT-VISION). During this period, he developed an interest in the Pediatric Skull Base Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital and decided to pursue a clinical fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology. As a result, Dr. Rangel, his wife and six children moved to Memphis in order to pursue a Pediatric Head and Neck Oncology Surgery fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

RESEARCH

THE DREAM STUDY

Untreated obstructive sleep apnea causes poor sleep quality and daytime sleepiness and may lead to accelerated coronary vascular disease, stroke, hypertension, and metabolic syndrome. Although CPAP is effective treatment for OSA, up to 30% of patients are unable to tolerate CPAP due to side-effects of treatment such as facial discomfort, nasal congestion, or claustrophobia. Therefore, novel therapy is needed to help address this sizable population of untreated OSA patients.

UTHSC Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is a leading center in the United States for hypoglossal nerve stimulation (HGNS) for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). HGNS has demonstrated safety, effectiveness, and a high-rate of patient satisfaction in patients with moderate-to-severe OSA who have failed CPAP therapy. Currently, there is only one FDA-approved device (Inspire) for HGNS which although effective, requires three incisions for placement. In an effort to minimize the complexity of the surgery, Nyxoah, a Belgian company, has developed a HGNS system designed to be placed through a single incision beneath the chin. Once placed, the patient will use a rechargeable external attachment each night that has been programmed to maximize the opening of the upper airway with bilateral stimulation of the hypoglossal nerves.



The Nyxoah implant fits over the genioglossus muscle to stimulate the distal hypoglossal nerve.

The Nyxoah device has demonstrated promising preliminary results and is currently under investigation as part of a phase III FDA-trial.

The **Dual-side Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation for the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (DREAM) Study** will be offered at UT Methodist under the direction of principal investigator **M. Boyd Gillespie, MD, MSc.**

Eligible patients include willing participants with a BMI ≤ 32 with moderate-to-severe obstructive sleep apnea (apnea-hypopnea index, AHI 15-65) who have failed a trial of CPAP therapy. The study will cover all costs of implantation and will closely follow subjects over a 12-month period to determine the effect of therapy.

Please contact Dr. Gillespie at **901.272.6051** or mgilles@uthsc.edu if you or a patient would be interested in being a DREAM study subject.

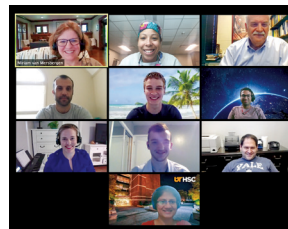
DR. SANDRA STINNETT AND TEAM RECEIVE CORNET GRANT

COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the lives of everyone across the globe. The disease itself has revolutionized our daily routines, from children to adults, both professionally and personally. It has changed the way we conduct our spiritual activities, family gatherings, recreational activities as well as our practice of medicine – shifting from personal interactions to cyber engagements. And the most challenging part of all, it has taken the lives of countless loved ones all over the world.

This pandemic has forced us, as clinicians, to be innovative while providing the same quality of care to our patients in need, despite the associated increased risk. As otolaryngologists, and specifically a laryngologist, this creates a conundrum. We have witnessed the “super-spreading” of the virus at musical events and among choral groups in the United States and overseas.

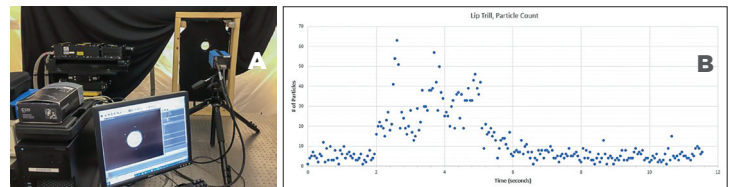
This virus has hampered the art of medicine in otolaryngology and the art of performance through one simple concept – the high exposure to aerosolized particulates originating from the oral cavity through breathing, speech and singing. Interestingly, there is little data on the aerosolization and particle emission with activities such as singing, and the data that does exist is divergent and inconsistent.

These issues brought the UTHSC Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and University of Memphis School of Communication Disorders and Sciences and School of Engineering together. **Dr. Sandra Stinnett**, Laryngologist along with **Dr. Miriam Van Mersbergen**, Speech Language Pathologist serendipitously collaborated with **Dr. Jeffery Marchetta** (Mechanical Engineer) and their respective colleagues in designing a study to assess particle emissions using a novel methodology that has not



(Figure 1) Zoom meeting of CORNET grant collaborators.

been applied to date (**Figure 1**). Measuring aerosolization and emission trajectories using a laser beam during various phonatory/speech and singing tasks as well as various breathing techniques will allow us to determine transmission and distribution of droplets with each activity (**Figure 2 A & B**). Given the enormous public health consequences that singing has had on the spread of COVID-19, we feel that it is our obligation as researchers and clinicians to contribute to mitigating the spread through upper airway emissions in order to bring back some semblance of normalcy to the performing arts and the art of medicine.



(Figure 2) The laser particle detector (A) can determine particle creation by various vocal tasks (B).

The grant proposal **Aerosolization of Emitted Particles in Multiple Breathing, Speech and Singing Activities** was awarded a \$50,000 UTHSC CORNET grant. The goal is to provide seed funding for multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional projects. Our group hopes to transform this effort into an NIH-funded project as well as additional future collaborations.

NEW FACULTY



Dr. Raj Dedhia grew up at the heart of Silicon Valley in Cupertino, California prior to obtaining his undergraduate degree in Bioengineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He went to medical school at the Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California (USC) and was elected into Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society for his academic performance. He completed his internship and

residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California. Dr. Dedhia then did an American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS) fellowship under the mentorship of Drs. Russell Ries, Scott Stephan and Mark Clymer at Vanderbilt University. During residency and fellowship, Dr. Dedhia received extensive training in cosmetic surgery of the face and neck (including brow, eyelid, rhinoplasty, and facelift procedures), as well as complex reconstruction in patients with facial trauma, facial paralysis, and head and neck cancers.

Dr. Dedhia is excited to join the growing UTHSC Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and continue to improve the access to world-class Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for Memphis and the surrounding region.



Dr. Andrew Griffith was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley in the greater Los Angeles area. He received a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of California, Davis. He received M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale where he worked on molecular cloning and characterization of lupus autoantigens. He completed his general surgical internship and residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Michigan. As part of his training

at Michigan, he conducted NIDCD T32 grant-supported research on the molecular genetics of inner ear disorders in the Department of Human Genetics.

In 1998, Dr. Griffith joined the NIDCD intramural research program in Bethesda, Maryland, where he conducted research on the clinical and molecular manifestations of hereditary loss of hearing and balance. He was a member of the Senior Staff of the NIH Clinical Center, the world's largest hospital solely dedicated to biomedical research. He served as Director of the NIDCD Intramural Research Program from 2009 to 2020 and NIH Deputy Director of Intramural Clinical Research from 2016 to 2020.

Dr. Griffith was recruited to the UTHSC College of Medicine to serve as **Senior Associate Dean of Research**. He was

attracted to the opportunity to grow research across the entire College of Medicine, including but not limited to important research on public health issues such as COVID-19, prevalent chronic diseases such as diabetes and obesity, and minority health and health disparities. Dr. Griffith is pausing his clinical Otolaryngology activity and research program while he initially focuses on service to the College of Medicine. He looks forward to a traditional university department home in Otolaryngology and the opportunity to interact with faculty, fellows, residents, students, and staff.

Dr. Griffith lives with his wife, Pauline, and two Labrador retrievers in east Memphis. They are the parents of three adult daughters at various stages of education or careers in engineering and physics. He is elated at the abundance of golf courses in Memphis. He and Pauline have already grown fond of the hospitality and livability of Memphis.



Dr. Charissa Kahue is a fellowship-trained head and neck oncologic and microvascular reconstructive surgeon who joined the UTHSC Otolaryngology faculty as an Assistant Professor in September 2020. Dr. Kahue grew up in a military family and has called many places "home" over the years, but considers Honolulu, Hawaii to be her home away from Tennessee. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Chaminade University of Honolulu

and then completed a two-year research fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD. She went on to receive her medical degree at Vanderbilt University (2014), where she also stayed to complete her residency in otolaryngology (2019). She completed an American Head and Neck Society fellowship in head and neck oncologic and microvascular reconstructive surgery at the University of Kansas (2020).

Her academic interests include barriers to cancer care, development of patient/caregiver education materials, and patient survivorship. She has participated in several global health trips to Nigeria, Kenya and Haiti that provide head and neck care to patients as well as educational advancement to local otolaryngologists. She hopes to continue these efforts at UTHSC.

Dr. Kahue's practice involves removal of tumors and malignancies of skin of the head and neck, aerodigestive tract, salivary glands, thyroid/parathyroid glands, and parapharyngeal space, transoral robotic surgery, and locoregional and free tissue reconstruction of head and neck defects. She believes in both multidisciplinary and patient/family-centered care to achieve optimal oncologic and quality of life outcomes. She is excited to join the UTHSC Department of Otolaryngology to help train the next generation of otolaryngologists as well as provide increased access to head and neck cancer care in the region.

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

UTHSC Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery bid farewell to three terrific chief residents during a scaled-down, pandemic-approved ceremony at Chickasaw Country Club on June 20, 2020 (Figure). Due to the rushed good-bye, we wanted to take a moment to check in on our newest alumni and what has changed in their world:



Dr. Nic Beckmann joined Colorado ENT and Allergy in Colorado Springs, CO. Dr. Beckmann writes “Being out, even for just a short amount of time has made me realize our surgical

education is excellent. Our access to not just education in rhinology and head and neck - but to sleep and salivary has been incredibly valuable in my young practice. It has really allowed me to take off and run in a direction to build my own niche within a large practice. This has been very rewarding even just a few months in.” Dr. Beckmann states that he misses the resident camaraderie of an excellent group of young physicians that were able to learn, get the job done, and have a good time together. This connection with his peers made his experience so much more enjoyable. He also misses the ease of access to every single subspecialty and young faculty who cared about resident education and were constantly seeking to improve it, in addition to seasoned faculty who were comfortable with residents having more autonomy and taking more of a leadership role in cases and patient care. On the other hand, Dr. Beckman doesn’t miss the stifling summer heat; the MED cafeteria; logging duty hours; the parking at Methodist; and long OR turnover times.



Dr. Steve Cox recently started work with Grand Rapids ENT in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Steve states “I did my first total thyroidectomy yesterday and it went well.” He writes that his

wife Nicole, an OB-GYN physician, is currently expecting their first child any day. Dr. Cox misses fellow chiefs Nic Beckmann and Steve Larson and the incredible group of junior residents who are eager, hardworking,



(Figure) Chief residents receive their graduation certificates.

intelligent and capable. He also misses Dr. Thompson’s amazing and hilarious stories/teaching rounds; having donuts and virtual reality on rhinology with Dr. Rangarajan; Wednesday morning teaching rounds with Dr. Beckford; talking sports and learning advanced sleep surgery with Dr. G; Memphis BBQ; the trip to Nashville with Dr. Yawn for the Vandy T-bone course; and running along the Mississippi river.



Dr. Steve Larson is currently a fellow in laryngology under Dr. Greg Postma at the Center for Voice, Airway, and Swallowing at Augusta University in

Augusta, GA. He writes “Dr. Postma is a great guy and I am learning a lot.” He hopes to find a practice position closer to family in Utah next year. He states that he misses resident and faculty friends; Memphis food and BBQ; Overton Park; the Big River Crossing; the Peabody Hotel Rooftop; the pride and identity of Memphians; and having faculty to watch out and protect him. What he doesn’t miss is 2AM nosebleed consults; residency hours; and crazy Memphis drivers.



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The UT Hearing and Balance Team are COVID-ready.



Golf tourney runner-up Steve Larson (left) and champion Andrew Maroda (right)



Dr. Gillespie with clinical scholar Kimberly Coca



Dr. Stinnett shows her support.



UTHSC faculty and students support racial justice.



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7TH ANNUAL JOHN SHEA JR. MEMORIAL TEMPORAL BONE COURSE

Friday, November 6, 2020

Zoom Conference

Registration: jwalla10@uthsc.edu

Guest Professor

Daniel J. Lee, MD, FACS

Associate Professor

Harvard Medical School

UTHSC RESIDENT SINUS DISSECTION COURSE

Sanjeet Rangarajan, Course Director

Saturday, December 5, 2020

CLIENT Lab

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