

OHNS Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2025



Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you are enjoying a wonderful and restful summer. I hope you have an opportunity to recharge.

The past 6 months have been remarkably productive. During this time several of our faculty have received very notable distinctions for clinical and academic achievement. I would like to congratulate Dr. Yvonne Chan on her successful promotion to the academic rank of full professor

in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. As we all know, this is no small feat and represents sustained excellence and scholarly contribution. Additionally, I would like to congratulate Dr. R. Jun Lin who along with Dr. Anthony Nichols from the University of London Ontario won the Casselberry Award from the American Laryngological Association for their work on transcriptomic predictors of recurrent idiopathic subglottic stenosis. Our Vice Chair Research, Dr. Alain Dabdoub was named the inaugural Koerner Chair in Hearing and Balance Regeneration at the Sunnybrook Research Institute and Temerty Faculty of Medicine. Additionally, several of our outstanding faculty were recipients of CIHR grant funding for their remarkable research. Please join me in congratulating Drs. John de Almeida, Christopher Yao, Andrew Dimitrijevic and Jonathan Irish for this wonderful achievement.

Our department has been home to many great leaders in the specialty. This year, we are very pleased to add two remarkable faculty to the long list. Dr. John de Almeida was recently named the new Chief of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery for the University Health Network. We look forward to his vision, energy, and success as he takes over from Dr. Ralph Gilbert. I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Gilbert for his tremendous leadership and service during his tenure as chief. Additionally, Dr. Tony Eskander was appointed the new Head of Surgical Oncology at the Odette Cancer Centre at Sunnybrook and the new Regional Surgical Oncology Lead for Ontario Health-Cancer Care Ontario. Tony is exceptionally talented and well positioned to lead surgical oncology in the northern half of the city over the next decade. It gives me tremendous pride to see Tony take over after my tenure. Congratulations to both of our wonderful new leaders.

In June of this year our own Dr. Jeremy Freeman was appointed to the Order of Ontario. This remarkable recognition of Dr. Freeman's impact in the specialty and most importantly for the province of Ontario is so well

Our newsletter is published twice annually in June and December.

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Leading Innovation. Achieving Impact

deserved. His dedication to education and the advancement of head and neck and endocrine surgery is a great source of pride for our department and for Mount Sinai Hospital. In addition to this tremendous accolade, Mount Sinai Hospital recently inaugurated the Jeremy Freeman Chair in Surgical Oncology.

In May we celebrated our 33rd Annual Percy Ireland Dinner and Academic Day. It was a privilege to welcome our visiting professor Dr. Gregory Farwell, the Gabriel Tucker Professor and Chair of the department of Otolaryngology at the University of Pennsylvania, to the department and to recognize our distinguished guest of honour, Dr. John Rutka. The event was an outstanding success and was highlighted by a remarkable research day that showcased the tremendous work of our residents, fellows, and postgraduate students. The long list of departmental awards is listed in this newsletter. I was very proud that the department was able to distribute almost \$200,000 in research support to our learners and faculty. The event saw the establishment of the Dr. William El Masri Award in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery by Dr. Tony Eskander. Dr. Bill El Masri himself was the inaugural recipient. We also named our Faculty Teacher of the Year. This year this special recognition was shared by Drs. Sharon Cushing and Bill El Masri. I would like to sincerely thank both for their contributions to our educational program.

Our department welcomed several new faculty. I would like to acknowledge our new clinical adjunct lecturers, Drs. Eric Arruda, Gian-Marco Busato, Mandeep Gill, Khrystyna Ioanidis, and Edward Sykes. Rose Kalathottukaren was appointed as a status only, lecturer. We look forward to their contributions. Additionally, our department successfully recruited Dr. Chris Noel. He will be rejoining the department as an Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the University Health Network. Chris is a highly sought after rising star in the specialty and we are very proud to welcome him home after his fellowship at the Ohio State University. We look forward to his continued remarkable academic productivity and his clinical contributions to our world-leading head and neck oncology program.

This year our department was blessed with several transformative philanthropic gifts. I would first like to thank our advancement officer Dr. Raymon Ng for his tireless work. This year the Lenny Wong Surgical Innovation Fund was established with a \$1 Million commitment. Mr. Wong is a remarkable philanthropist who was inspired to give to our great department. Additionally, the estate of the late Dr. Elizabeth McKee donated an additional \$2.3 Million to our department to advance our mission to lead innovation and achieve impact. Finally, a special thank you to Arron Barberian who hosted the 9th annual Harry Barberian Memorial Dinner on May 5th. This wonderful event has raised over one million dollars in research support for our faculty, residents, fellows and graduate students. These philanthropic gifts will help support and advance our collective work and are so greatly appreciated.

Our residents and faculty figured prominently at this year's outstanding annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery held in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Congratulations to Dr. Paolo Campisi who was re-elected Treasurer for the Society and to Drs. Yvonne Chan and Vincent Lin who are currently the first and second Vice President Elect of the Society respectively. This year the Society established new mentorship awards. I would like to congratulate our faculty members Drs. Paolo Campisi, Yvonne Chan, Michael Chang, Joel Davies, Tony Eskander, Ian Witterick and the late Dr. Forte for receiving this wonderful recognition. A special congratulations to Dr. Jessica Trac who was the only resident in Canada to receive this distinction. Our residents made us extremely proud at this year's Annual Poliquin Research Competition. Drs. Dorsa Mavedatnia and Jake Wihlidal did a spectacular job. Congratulations to Jake who was the recipient of one of the research awards.

Our remarkable residents and fellows are a tremendous source of pride. This year we graduated Drs. Garret Horton, Mark Levin, Justine Philteos, Ahmed Saleem, and Lily Wang. We look forward to their bright futures with pride and wish them tremendous success. I would like to thank all of the faculty who attended this year's graduation ceremony for our wonderful residents and fellows and made this such a special event for our graduates and their families. I would also like to welcome our incoming class of 2030. This year we were extremely happy to match six outstanding candidates who were the absolute cream of the crop in a very competitive field. Please welcome Drs. Michael Di Biasio, Ann Kang, William Kim, Abidur Rahman, Nikol Tretiakov, and Jenny Xiao to the department. We also welcomed a new class of fellows representing all aspects of the specialty. We look forward to their contributions to our clinical programs. I would like to thank Dr. Justine Philteos for her tremendous service as our outgoing Chief Resident and welcome Dr. Gian-Luca Sampieri as this year's Chief Resident.

I am so proud to be the inaugural George and Helen Vari Chair in Otolaryngology. Prior to her passing, the Helen Vari made it very clear that this gift is meant to support the next generation. As a tribute to her wish, we established the first annual George and Helen Vari Resident Development Day. This was a wonderful event held at the Faculty Club and was hosted by Cate Creede who is the Program Lead for the New and Evolving Academic Leaders (NEAL) Program at the University. The morning focused on leadership development and was extremely successful. We look forward to continuing this new tradition in the years to come.

This year our department suffered a tremendous loss. On January 6, 2025 we lost our dear friend and cherished colleague Dr. Vito Forte. He has been a fixture in our department for the better part of four decades. He was a friend, mentor, and caring physician for so many. He made remarkable contributions to our pediatric otolaryngology program and moved the specialty forward. Dr. Forte was commemorated at the annual Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Meeting in Fredericton. Drs. Sam Daniel, Paolo Campisi, John Yoo all spoke about the tremendous personal and professional impact Vito had. It was a very moving and appropriate recognition of his legacy. His larger-than-life personality, laugh, and academic curiosity will be very sorely missed but never forgotten. May he rest in peace.

This newsletter marks the end of my third year as the George and Helen Vari Professor and Chair of this world leading department. I am humbled and truly privileged to serve such a dynamic and incredibly talented faculty. Please take the time to read this newsletter which highlights the above-mentioned and so many more wonderful departmental accomplishments. As always, I am truly thankful to all of you, the members of our executive, our faculty, residents, fellows, and alumni for your contributions, dedication and sacrifice. Our success is a collective achievement that we should all take pride in.

Danny



Vito Forte

Our dear friend and colleague Dr. Vito Forte passed away on January 6, 2025.

Dr. Forte has been a cherished friend, mentor, and caring physician for so many. His larger than life personality, infectious laugh, inquisitive and creative mind, and candor have been a fixture in our department for more than four decades.

His quality has positively impacted the lives of so many trainees, faculty, and patients alike. There are no words that can adequately express the magnitude of this loss. He was a giant in our field and an exemplary leader and human being.

May Dr. Forte rest in peace and may his memory be eternal. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Forte family.



33rd ANNUAL PERCY IRELAND DINNER & ACADEMIC DAY

May 1-2, 2025

Our **Visiting Professor Dr. Greg Farwell** gave the **Percy Ireland Oration** on Friday May 2, 2025

Dr. John Rutka was our **Guest of Honour**.

The Dinner was held at the University of Toronto's Faculty Club on the Thursday evening.

The Academic Day took place the following day at the Patient Support Centre, Hospital for Sick Children.



Annual Dinner - Thursday May 1, 2025 - University of Toronto's Faculty Club



Percy Ireland Academic Day, Friday May 2, 2025 - HSC Patient Support Centre



Dr. Farwell's Percy Ireland Oration:
Academic Otolaryngology-Head and Neck
Surgery in a "Rapidly" Changing World



Acknowledging our Supporters

CooperSurgical
GSK
HearingLife
Inomed Inc.
Karl Storz

NeilMed
Olympus
Southmedic
Stryker
TSG Medical

ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS ~ 2025

Percy Ireland Presentation Awards

Category 1 - Work undertaken by Graduate Degree Students: Awarded to **Boaz Ehiogu** for his project "Investigating Human Primary Auditory Neurons and Glial Cells at Single-cell Resolution"

Category 2 - Work undertaken by PGY2 Residents during clinical rotation: Awarded to **Dr. Carlos Khalil** for his project "Individualized Risk Assessment in Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Validation Study"

Category 3 - Work undertaken by PGY3 Residents during clinical rotation: Awarded to **Dr. Jake Wihlidal** for his project "Impact of Surgeon-radiation Oncology Dyads in Oral Cavity Cancer Outcomes"

Category 4 - Work undertaken by PGY5 Residents during clinical rotation: Awarded to **Dr. Garret Horton** for his project "Comparison of Treatment Outcomes of Blue Light and KTP Laser for Benign Vocal Fold Lesions: An Open Label, Randomized Controlled Trial"

Category 5 - Work undertaken by post-residency clinical/research fellows and postdoctoral fellows: Awarded to **Dr. Kevin Jer David** for his project "Robotic-Assisted Cochlear Implantation: From Cadaveric Study to Early Clinical Experience"

Resident Awards

Chapnik, Freeman & Friedberg Clinical Scientist Program Award....[Drs. Sharon Cushing & Pia Pace-Asciak](#)

Dr. Dale Brown Peer Wellness Advocate Award.....[Dr. Justine Philteos](#)

Dr. Ian Witterick Excellence in Mentorship and Innovation Award....[Dr. Gianluca Sampieri](#)

Dr. Ian Witterick Research Award in Otolaryngology-HNS....[Drs. Alessandra Ruaro and Jacob Wihlidal](#)

Dr. Kris Conrad Merit Award in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.....[Dr. Marc Levin](#)

Freda Noyek Otolaryngology Merit Award....[Dr. Mandolin Bartling](#)

Judy Chauvin Otolaryngology Resident Award....[Dr. Dorsa Mavedatnia](#)

Nimeck Otolaryngology Award.....[Dr. Emily Cheng](#)

Wharton Head & Neck Research Award....[Dr. Alessandra Ruaro](#)

Undergraduate Awards

Hugh Barber Scholarship in Otolaryngology.....[Dr. Michael De Biasio](#)

Teaching Awards

Alma Smitheringale Undergraduate Teaching Award...Dr. Thileep Kandasamy

Dr. William El Masri Award in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery...Dr. William El Masri

Resident Teacher of the Year Award...Dr. Justine Philteos

Fellow Teacher of the Year Award...Dr. Brigitte Routhier-Chevrier

Faculty Teacher of the Year Award...Drs. Sharon Cushing and William El Masri

Resident Advocate Award...Dr. Vincent Lin

Distinguished Alumnus Award...Dr. William El Masri

Research Scholarships

Raymond H. W. Ng Graduate Scholarship...[Tara Lazetic](#)

Raymond H. W. Ng PhD Scholarships...[Dr. Christopher Yao](#)

Wilfred Goodman Award in Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery...[Dr. Jason Lee Azzi \(U of Ottawa\)](#)

Research Awards for Collaborative Research Projects

[R. Jun Lin and Anthony Nichols](#)

A Phase I, Safety, and Tolerability Study of Pirfenidone for Idiopathic Subglottic Stenosis (iSGS)

(Institutions: St. Michael's Hospital and London Health Sciences Centre)

Research Awards for Research in Artificial Intelligence

[Shimin \(Mello\) Mo, Andrew Dimitrijevic, Claude Alain](#)

Potential Use of AI on Brain Activity to Predict Outcomes After Cochlear Implant Surgery

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

and

[Daniel Lee, Errol Colak, Yvonne Chan, John Lee, Zahra Shakeri](#)

The Use of Machine Learning to Automate Radiological Interpretation of Computed Tomography of Paranasal Sinuses

St. Michael's Hospital

and

[Jonathan Irish, Christopher Kopp, Mike Daly](#)

AI-Driven Margin Analysis in Oral Cancer Nanoparticle Theranostics

UHN GTx Lab

The logo for 'Save the Date' is written in a black, cursive script font. The words 'Save', 'the', and 'Date' are stacked vertically, with 'the' being smaller and positioned between 'Save' and 'Date'.

34th Annual Percy Ireland Dinner and Academic Day
April 30-May 1, 2026

Harry Barberian Scholarship Recipients

The Harry Barberian Fund is supported by the Harry Barberian Memorial Dinner, held in May annually to honour the memory of Mr. Harry Barberian, founder of Barberian's Steak House and iconic Toronto personage. This event is held through the generosity of the Barberian Family.

The purpose of the fund is to support the research activities of residents, fellows, graduate students and junior faculty in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, University of Toronto.

The most recent recipient are:

Recipient (Supervisor)	Project Title
Kevin Jer David (Joseph Chen, Vincent Lin)	Enhancing Diagnostic Capability of Wideband Tympanometry for Ear Pathologies through Machine Learning
Karen Gordon, Sharon Cushing, Vincent Lin & Jennifer Siu	Long Term Successes and Challenges Experienced by Youth with Hearing Loss
Carlos Khalil (Nik Wolter)	Surgical Management of Pediatric Subperiosteal Abscess: Volumetric Analysis and Predictive Score Development
Daniel Lee, Yvonne Chan & John Lee	Automating Eosinophil counts in Histopathology of Patients with Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyps
Ben Levy (Joel Davies)	A Prospective, Single-Arm Study on the Impact of a Novel 3D-Printed Device on Mouth Opening and Jaw Function in Patients with Trismus
Alice Liang (Alain Dabdoub)	Deciphering Regenerative Pathways of the Human Balance Organ with Single-nucleus Multiomics
Kimya Manouchehri (Christopher Yao)	Enhancing Patient Education and Postoperative Monitoring in Paramedian Forehead Flap Reconstruction using a Multimedia Tool and Remote Monitoring
Jessica Trac (Nik Wolter)	Understanding Language Environments in Children with Tracheostomy: Prospective Observational Study
Jake Wihlidal (Eric Monteiro, Joel Davies)	The "Entrustment Gap": A Retrospective Analysis of EPA Usage in Otolaryngology

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Promotion



Congratulations to Yvonne Chan

for her academic promotions to Full Professor

This great honour represents the culmination of tremendous work, impact, and prominence in the field.

A celebration will be planned for the Fall.



Newly Appointed Faculty

Clinical Adjunct, Lecturers

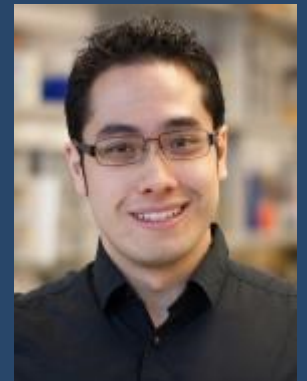
Eric Arruda

Khrystyna Ioanidis

Gian-Marco Busato

Edward Sykes

Mandeep Gill



Status only, Lecturer

Rose Kalathottukaren



Welcome to the department



Christopher Noel



Joined the Dept of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at University Health Network. He also has an appointed at the University of Toronto at the rank of Assistant Professor.

Dr. Noel's extensive research and clinical experience will be a tremendous asset to our Department, our medical students and residents.

Dr. Noel has an impressive academic and professional record, beginning with his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Concurrent to completing a residency in Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery, also at the University of Toronto, Dr. Noel completed a Clinician Investigator Program and received his PhD in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research from the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation in 2022. His thesis was awarded the Claire Bombardier PhD Platinum Award, the highest such recognition at our institution.

Paolo Campisi was re-elected to the position of Treasurer.

Yvonne Chan and **Vincent Lin** are the 1st VP-elect and 2nd VP-elect



They will assume the presidency of the Society in 2028 and 2029 respectively.

Their service is greatly appreciated. These accomplishments are a testament to their commitment to the Society and their quality.

Alain Dabdoub

Has been appointed the

Inaugural Koerner Chair in Hearing and Balance Regeneration

jointly shared by Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto.



Joel Davies

Has been named the Hold'em for Life Early Career Professor in Cancer Research17, a University Named Chair, for the term July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028.

John de Almeida

Has been appointed the new Department Head of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery for the University Health Network!

This is wonderful recognition of John's leadership, quality, vision, and energy. As a world-renowned expert in the field, he is positioned to take this department to new heights, and we all look forward to his success.

We would also like to sincerely thank Dr. Ralph Gilbert for his 12+ years of service and leadership. We will be in his debt for the wonderful contributions he made during his tenure.



Tony Eskander



Has been appointment as the new Head, Surgical Oncology at the Odette Cancer Centre and as the new Regional Surgical Oncology Lead, Ontario Health - Cancer Care Ontario.

Dr Eskander will assume his new role as of July 1, 2025, and we all look forward to his tremendous success, vision, and energy.

This is a very proud moment for our department as yet another of our faculty assumes an important regional leadership position.

This highlights our department's quality and impact.

Jeremy Freeman

Has been appointed to the Order of Ontario. This prestigious honour is a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding contributions to our community and his dedication to making a positive impact.



Ceremony photo, June 16, 2025 with the Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont

Dr. Freeman's leadership, passion, and tireless efforts have not only inspired those around him but have also created lasting change that will benefit future generations. This honour is a testament to his commitment to excellence and service.

The Order of Ontario is reserved for exceptional individuals who have made a lasting impact in our province, country and the world. Members of the Order embody the finest qualities of our province, come from all walks of life and represent many fields of endeavour, including public service, medicine, skilled trades, business, technology, mining, sports, the arts, health care, science and many more.

Patrick Gullane

We are proud to announce the inaugural inductees into the Princess Margaret Hall of Fame. Eight clinicians are being recognized for their visionary leadership and decades of ground-breaking contributions in cancer care, research, and education.

Our very own Dr. Patrick Gullane is one of the eight – Congratulations !



Congratulations also to Drs. Bernard Cummings, Steven Gallinger, Armand Keating, David McCready, Donna Reece, Gary Rodin, and Frances Shepherd.

Your dedication to your patients, global impact, and commitment to innovation have transformed cancer care and inspired the next generation of leaders.

This Hall of Fame recognition celebrates your extraordinary achievements and enduring legacy in oncology.

Jong Wook Lee



We're proud to share that Dr. Lee was awarded the ICORL 2025 Travel Grant for Outstanding Achievement in Otology Research!

He recently attended the International Congress of ORL-HNS 2025 in Suwon, Korea - a well-deserved recognition of his impactful work in the field.

R. Jun Lin and Dr. Anthony Nichols

Won the Casselberry Award from the American Laryngological Association for their work on transcriptomic predictors of recurrence in idiopathic subglottic stenosis.



Breakthrough Research in Idiopathic Subglottic Stenosis

We are so thrilled for our world leading research in idiopathic subglottic stenosis (iSGS) to be published in two companion publications in eBioMedicine (impact factor 11).

This was an amazing collaboration Co-led by [Dr. R. Jun Lin](#), Dr. Kevin Fung (not pictured below), Dr. Anthony Nichols, Dr. Peter Zeng and brilliant MD PhD student. Also invaluable contributions from Dr. Amanda Hu of UBC ENT and our amazing research associates Halema Khan, Krista Joris and Lama.



Advancement



The Estate of Dr. Elizabeth McKee

We are deeply honored to recognize Dr. Mary Elizabeth McKee and her generous legacy, as the Department has recently received the full gift from her estate.

Dr. McKee was a distinguished otolaryngologist who dedicated her career to Women's College Hospital and the University of Toronto. After earning her MD from U of T in 1954 and completing postgraduate training in 1961, she joined Women's College Hospital's Otolaryngology Department in 1962. She was appointed Head of the Division of Otolaryngology in 1996 and served in that role until her retirement in 2002.

Dr. McKee passed away in 2018 at the age of 87.

This meaningful estate gift reflects Dr. McKee's enduring commitment to the Department's mission. Through her generosity and thoughtful legacy planning, she has created a lasting impact that will support research, education, and clinical excellence for years to come.

We are profoundly grateful for Dr. McKee's dedication and the powerful example she sets in giving back to the community that shaped her career.

Mr. Lenny Wong



Mr. Lenny Wong is a remarkable philanthropist and self-made entrepreneur. He escaped Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge and arrived in Canada over 4 decades ago as a refugee. His drive, perseverance, and entrepreneurial spirit have since firmly established him as a tremendously successful business leader in Canada and Asia. His deep appreciation for community is evident in his many philanthropic endeavors. Today, Lenny participates in over ten organizations, including Vietnamese Cambodian Laotian Community Services Association (Honorary Life President), For People Community Support Association (Hon Life President), Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club (President, 2019-21), Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (Hon Advisor), Alpha Education (Hon Advisor), Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation (Hon Advisor), Mon Sheong Foundation (Hon Governor), Support Enhance Access Service Centre (Board Director of

Foundation) and Toronto Police Service Chinese Advisory Council (Consultant).

Mr. Wong's gift to the department is received with heartfelt thanks and a commitment to realize its full potential. A special thanks to our outstanding Advancement Officer, Dr. Raymond Ng, for facilitating this remarkable gift.

Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery



A huge congratulations to the 8 incredible individuals from U of T who received the CSOHNS Mentorship Award this year!

This award honors those who have shown a consistent and impactful commitment to mentoring trainees in Otolaryngology. We're incredibly proud to see such strong representation from our community.



Paolo Campisi, Yvonne Chan, Michael Chang, Joel Davies, Tony Eskander, Vito Forte, Ian Witterick and Jessica Trac, the ONLY resident to receive this distinction!!



Save
→ *the* →
Date

Annual Faculty Development Day
November 11, 2025
Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre

2025 Mentorship Sessions

Thank you all for generously volunteering their time to host mentorship sessions for our residents.

Your guidance, experience, & commitment play a vital role in their professional growth & development. We appreciate your dedication to fostering the next generation of otolaryngology-head & neck surgeons.

Peter Adamson
Sumeet Anand
Yvonne Chan
Michael Chang & Scarborough Group
Janet Chung
Tony Eskander
Artur Gevorgyan
Amr Hamour, Vincent Wu & Weining Yang
Kevin Higgins
Mark Korman & Brampton Group
Lukas Kus & Chris Hong
John Lee

Daniel Lee, Jong Wook Lee & Chris Hong
Vincent Lin
Eric Monteiro, Joel Davies & Jong Wook Lee
Sharon Morong
Pia Pace-Asciak
Michael Roskies
Brian Shin & Edward Sykes
Jennifer Siu & Florence Mok
Sharon Tzelnick
Al Vescan
Ian Witterick

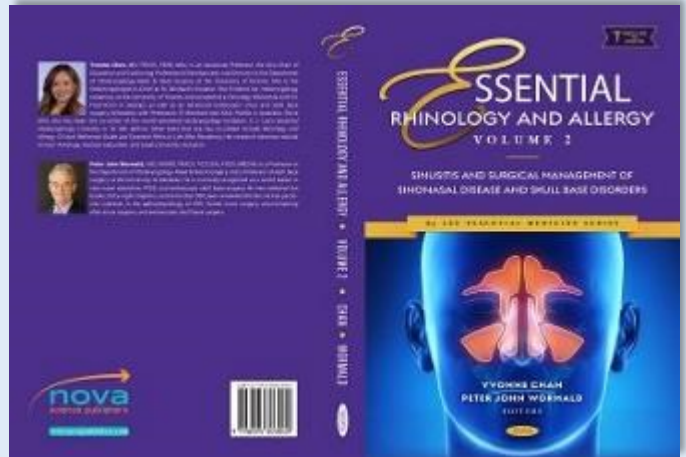
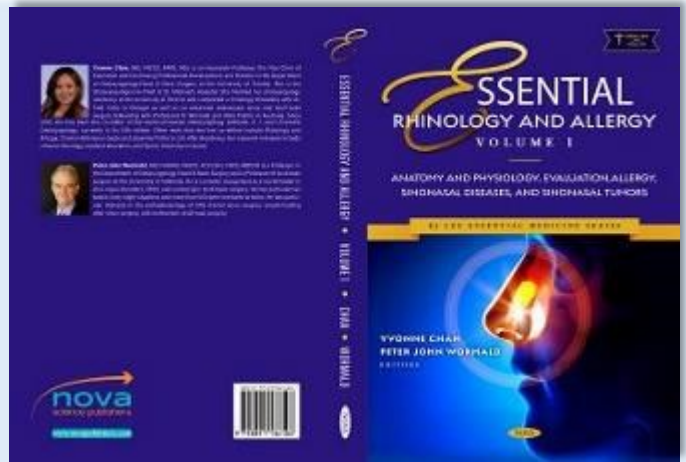
We are thrilled to announce the release of Essential Rhinology and Allergy, Volumes 1 & 2, edited by our very own **Yvonne Chan** and Dr. Peter John Wormald!

These comprehensive books feature insightful chapters by our faculty and former trainees from our program.

A huge congratulations to:

- John M. Lee
- Daniel J. Lee
- Jonathan Yip
- Shireen Samargandy
- Arif Janjua
- Doron Sommer

We are incredibly proud of their contributions to this important resource for rhinology and allergy!



John de Almeida and Christopher Yao

who, together with Dr. Scott Bratman as the PI, have been awarded a **CIHR grant** for their research looking at dose de-escalation of RT guided by ctDNA and followed by TORS for HPV-mediated OPC. The project is titled "The TITRATE (Tailored Intensity of Treatment with Radio(chemo)therapy After Timely Evaluation) study: Toward personalized de-escalated multimodal therapy for oropharynx cancer."

&

Andrew Dimitrijevic and Jean Chen (at the Rotman)

who, together with Dr. Claude Alain as the PI, have also been awarded a **CIHR grant** for their project titled "Linking Age-Related Hyper-Excitability in Sensory Cortex to Cognitive Aging."

&

Jonathan Irish

who, together with H AbdelQadir as the PI, have also been awarded a **CIHR grant** for their project titled The JUdicious Surveillance for Trastuzumab Induced Cardiotoxicity in the First Year (JUSTIFY) Randomized Controlled Trial

Congratulations



UME Skills Night–May 14, 2025

A big thank you to everyone who made our UME Skills Night a success!

Thank you to our fearless leader Dr. Ambrose Lee, the amazing assistant UME director Dr. Pia Pace-Asciak, our talented chief resident Dr. Gianluca Sampieri and skilled PGY 1 resident Dr. Elizabeth Siciliani for your dedication and support of this event!

We're also grateful to all the medical students who attended. Your enthusiasm and curiosity made the evening truly rewarding!



Thank you to all the faculty who volunteered as examiners for the 2025 OSCEs

Priya Kesarwani

Brian Shin

Philip Lai

Edward Sykes

Daniel Lee

Vincent Wu

Chantal Li

Jason Xu

Jack Shahin

Weining Yang

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Graduation Ceremony June 11, 2025

Congratulations to all our Residents and Fellows! Thank you for all that you have done for our department and patients.



Garret Horton, Lily Wang, Marc Levin, Justine Philteos, Ahmed Saleem



Gia Gill, Alessandra Ruaro, Jennifer Spiegel, Michael Xie, Robert Calvisi, John Curran, Alon Perner



Brigitte Routhier-Chevrier & Alessandra Maria Cataldo Russomando



Hani Alanazi



Abrar Al Jassim & Jumana Hussain



Ethan Moritz



John Curran

**Fellow graduate
not pictured above:**



*Eunice Dawn
Kwa*

Graduation Dinner for PGY5s May 23, 2025

Congratulations to all our PGY5s!
Thank you for all that you have done for our department and patients.



Head & Neck Fellowship Farewell Dinner June 19, 2025

We recently gathered to celebrate our outgoing Head & Neck Surgery Fellows at a special farewell dinner. It was a wonderful evening recognizing their hard work, dedication, and the contributions they've made.

Wishing each of them continued success as they move forward in their careers. Congratulations!



New PGY1s - July 1, 2025



Michael De Biasio
University of Toronto



Ann Kang
Queen's University



William Kim
University of Calgary



K.M Abidur Rahman
Trinity College Dublin
School of Medicine



Nikol Tretiakov
University of Toronto



Jenny Xiao
University of
British Columbia

New Fellows - July 1, 2025



Thamer Albilasi
Al Jouf University

Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Solomon Nazer and Facial Surgery Center
Riviera Facial Plastic Surgery



Sama Alolah
King Saud University

Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Toronto Facial Plastic Surgery



Seamus Boyle
National University of Ireland

Medical & Surgical Otolaryngology/Neurotology
University Health Network



Deepak Chandrasekharan
Oxford University

Pediatric Otolaryngology
Hospital for Sick Children



Nuwan Dharmaswardana
Flinders University of South Australia

Head & Neck Surgical Oncology
University Health Network
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Lukas Graf
Basel University

Neurotology-Skull Base Surgery
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Christopher Kopp
University of Vienna

Head & Neck Surgical Oncology
University Health Network
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Rui Han Liu
Johns Hopkins University

Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
FACE Toronto



Keyon Mohebbad
The University of Texas Medical Branch
[UTMB] at Galveston

Head & Neck Surgical Oncology
University Health Network
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Ross O'Shea
University College Cork

Medical & Surgical Otolaryngology/Neurotology
University Health Network



Teeraya Piyajarawong
Srinakharinwirot University

Medical & Surgical Otolaryngology/Neurotology
University Health Network



Ahmed Saleem
King Saud University

Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Solomon Nazer and Facial Surgery Center
Riviera Facial Plastic Surgery



Leermik Sarkissian
University of Wollongong

Head & Neck Surgical Oncology
University Health Network
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Nadim Saydy
University of Montreal

Head & Neck Surgical Oncology
University Health Network
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Noemie Villeneuve Poliquin
Laval University

Rhinology, Skull Base and Head & Neck
Oncology
Sinus Health



Mara Walsh
Cardiff University

Pediatric Otolaryngology
Hospital for Sick Children

RESIDENTS WELCOME BARBECUE 2025

Hosted by Dr. Enepekides

**THURSDAY, JULY 24
6PM — 8PM**

Welcome to the program!



Dorsa Mavedatnia and **Jake Wihlidal** both did a spectacular job presenting at this year's CSOHNS Poliquin Research Competition.

Jake was the recipient of one of the research awards.

Congratulations to our amazing PGY1 residents **Ben, Alyssa, Gar-Way, Kimya, and Elizabeth** for winning Best Project at the QI Surgical Foundations Competition!

Special thanks to Dr. Vinay Fernandes and Dr. Sharon Tzelnick for their outstanding guidance and mentorship.



Noemie Villemure-Poliquin

Has received a CIHR Doctoral Research Award: Canada Graduate Scholarships competition for her research entitled "Treatment Delays in Head & Neck Cancers: A Multi-Methods Approach".



Gianluca Sampieri



Justine Philteos

We are delighted to announce that **Gianluca Sampieri** has been elected by his peers to serve as the **2025-26 Chief Resident** for the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.

Congratulations Gianluca! Your strong leadership and advocacy skills have been recognized by your peers.

We look forward to working with you in your new role as Chief Resident.

We would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank **Justine Philteos** for her service as 2024-25 Chief Resident.

Dr. Philteos diligently and effectively served the residents and the Department over the past year. Thank you, Dr. Philteos, for your hard work and numerous contributions!



On **March 8, 2025** we honoured the incredible contributions of women in healthcare and beyond.

From doctors and researchers to nurses and frontline workers, women continue to shape the future of medicine, science and education with dedication and resilience.



Canadian Residents' Temporal Bone & Ear Surgery Course

March 5-7, 2025 @ Skills Lab



held on Thursday March 25, 2025
@ Sin & Redemption Pub, Toronto

WINNERS!

Huge Congratulations to The Snot Squad!

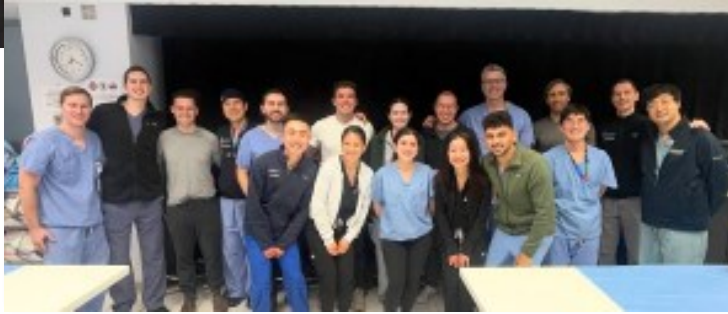
Ryan Daniel, Yvonne Chan, Elizabeth Siciliani, Lily Wong & Manish Shah. You were incredible!

Many thanks to everyone who participated & made the evening unforgettable.

A round of applause to our fantastic quiz master, Vincent Lin!



Rhinoplasty and Sinus Surgery Courses 2025 Skills Lab, April 7-8, 2025



Inaugural Vari Learner Development Day 2025 Faculty Club, June 20, 2025

We were proud to host our annual Vari Learner Development Day on June 20th – a meaningful morning focused on leadership and learner support.

We were honoured to welcome Dr. Cate Creede, who led an inspiring session on Foundations of Leadership for Clinicians, and to introduce Dr. Pia Pace-Asciak as the department's new Ombudsman.



Thank you to all residents and guests who participated & helped make the day a success!

NOTE:

GRAND ROUNDS

WILL RECOMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER 2025

SAVE THE DATE ...

ANNUAL OTOLARYNGOLOGY UPDATE

Saturday February 7, 2026



Stay Safe & Stay Well



Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
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