



Division of Rhinology

Dr. John Lee (Head)

Members: Saf Banglawala, Yvonne Chan, Al Chiodo, Dustin Dalgorf, John de Almeida, Rick Fox, Artur Gevorgyan, Jack Kolenda, Randy Leung, Eric Monteiro, Al Vescan, Jeffrey Werger, Ian Witterick, Nik Wolter, Jonathan Yip.

This past year has marked an incredibly productive time period for the Division of Rhinology despite still adjusting to the new challenges of the pandemic. While all of us have had to deal with the stresses of temporary clinical closures/slow-downs due to the pandemic waves, our divisional members have remained committed to the academic mission of our department. Our fall divisional meeting was held virtually on September 24, 2020 which was well attended by all members and served as a great springboard to the upcoming year as well as to catch up “virtually” with one another. This led the way to a busy year with many of our faculty delivering numerous teaching sessions, talks and publishing several papers in the field of rhinology/skull base surgery. Below are some of the highlights.

Education Activities

The previous year was the first time in over a decade that the annual resident sinus surgery dissection course was cancelled due to the pandemic. Thankfully, due to vaccinations and careful planning, we were able to re-unite and organize an in-person cadaveric dissection course on April 17th, 2021. By dividing the trainee cohorts into morning and afternoon sessions to maintain adequate social distancing, the residents thoroughly enjoyed being able to have their own individual dissection station

with many of our faculty to provide hands-on teaching (Drs. Lee, Witterick, Chan, Vescan, Monteiro, Gevorgyan, Fox, Werger, Wolter, Yip, Banglawala, Dalgorf). This was a tremendously successful event that was enjoyed thoroughly by both residents and staff who had not gotten together in-person for over a year. As we adapt to living in the pandemic, being innovative in how we deliver educational courses may in fact provide even greater experiences to our trainees.

This past academic year also saw many of our faculty help deliver teaching sessions for the rhinology core lectures which are given to the PGY2-4 residents. This year, Drs. Lee, Vescan, Chan, Witterick, Yip, Wolter, Banglawala and Dalgorf all gave virtual lectures to the residents during the Friday morning teaching sessions. This takes many hours of preparation from our faculty so I am grateful for all their continued dedication to our educational mission.

Academic Activities

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has continued to have a huge impact on academic activities as clinical in-person research was on-hold for much of the academic year. Nonetheless, our members have continued to find ways to be academically productive and continue to be involved in many of the national and international meetings. Firstly, at the 2020 Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Annual Meeting (virtual), a total of two scientific oral presentations were given by trainees and supervised by three of our faculty

members (Drs. Lee, Chan, Yip). In addition, Dr. Chan was an instructor during the frontal sinus masterclass workshop. At the 2021 North American Skull Base Society Virtual Symposium, Drs. Monteiro, Lee, Witterick and Vescan supervised a trainee scientific presentation on the management of internal carotid artery injury during transnasal endoscopic surgery. And finally, at the 2021 American Rhinologic Society Spring Meeting at COSM (virtual), Dr. Lee supervised a trainee presentation on the risks of HPA-axis suppression and intranasal corticosteroids. Overall, 23 manuscripts were published this past academic year in the fields of rhinology/skull base surgery by several of our faculty members (Drs. Banglawala, Chan, Dalgorf, de Almeida, Gevorgyan, Lee, Leung, Monteiro, Vescan, Witterick, Yip). This level of productivity continues to show the academic commitment shown by both our academic and community affiliated members. I am excited to watch our division continue to grow especially as we are finally anticipating the resumption of clinical research activities this upcoming academic year.