# **OHNS Newsletter**



Fall/Winter 2022



#### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear faculty, residents, fellows, alumni & friends,

I want to wish all of you a joyous and blessed holiday season and a very happy and successful new year.

This has been a time of transition for our great department. I want to, once again, sincerely thank Dr. Ian Witterick for ten incredible years of

transformative leadership as chair. Under his stewardship our department flourished and achieved unprecedented success. I would also like to thank Dr. Paolo Campisi for ten wonderful years of service and remarkable leadership as the department's program director. Dr. Campisi established our training program as one of the best in the world. I am truly humbled and honoured to assume the George and Helen Vari Chair of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and will do my utmost on your behalf to build upon their success. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Vincent Lin, who was appointed the new Program Director, and Dr. Yvonne Chan, who was named vice-chair education.

After several years of virtual meetings, the 76<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery took place in Vancouver (October 1-3, 2022). It was a wonderful opportunity for otolaryngologists from across the country to come together. Once again, our faculty were instrumental in the meeting's success. Congratulations to Drs. Vincent Lin (Scientific Program Chair) and Yvonne Chan (CPD Director) for contributing to a fantastic program. This year the focus was planetary health and health care sustainability. Dr. David Suzuki gave a memorable keynote address. The department hosted a wonderful alumni reception at the Bayshore Hotel. The meeting was a marvelous success and a great opportunity to reconnect with friends.

Our incredible residents have been recognized with several honours. Drs. Chris Noel and John Lee were both recognized with prizes at this year's Poliquin Resident Research Competition. Additionally, Drs. Tanya Chen and Elysia Grose were awarded the 2022 CSCI/

Our newsletter is published twice annually in June and December.

Please send any items you would like included in subsequent issues to: ohns.chairsassistant@utoronto.ca

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#### Keep in touch! ohns.chairsassistant@utoronto.ca

Leading Innovation. Achieving Impact

CIHR resident research prize. Finally, all our candidates passed their Royal College exams. The department wishes them long and successful careers.

Another wonderful Faculty Development Day was held on November 11, 2022. Organized by Yvonne Chan (Otolaryngology), Najma Ahmed (Surgery), and Natalie Clavel (Anesthesia), the focus was on humanity in medicine. The day was an opportunity to reflect on the privilege of a career in academic medicine and was a resounding success.

The department continues to have global impact through humanitarian outreach. Drs. Lin and Monteiro went to Sioux Lookout and served the people of our First Nations. Dr. Ambrose Lee conducted ear camps in Cambodia and Zanzibar. Finally, Drs. Higgins and Enepekides, as part of the Canadian Ukraine Surgical Aid Program, went to Czeldaz, Poland, and provided surgical care to victims of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Sadly, the department lost two of its faculty members this year. Dr. Lorne Segall tragically passed away on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the young age of 49. Lorne was a tremendous otolaryngologist, beloved colleague, and friend to many and will be very missed. He is survived by his lovely wife, Dr. Trina Liew, and their three children, Jake, Jessica, and Robin. On July 21<sup>st</sup>, Dr. David Naiberg and his wife Sharon also very sadly passed away. David is remembered as a tremendous leader and gentleman. Finally, our own cherished colleague, Dr. Derek Birt, lost his wife Anne at the age of 89. May all our dear friends rest in peace.

I sincerely want to thank all the members of our executive for their commitment to our outstanding department. Most of all, I want to thank all of you, our faculty, residents, fellows, and alumni, for your contributions, dedication, and sacrifice on behalf of this great department. Our success is a collective achievement that we should all take pride in.

Again, I wish all of you and your loved ones happy holidays.

# Danny



The photo and plaque on the left is hanging in the office of the chair at the university office in honour of the generous endowment by the George and Helen Vari Foundation.

#### The plaque reads:

The University of Toronto gratefully recognizes the George and Helen Vari Foundation for their transformational gift to establish the George and Helen Vari Chair in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery to be held in perpetuity by the Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

The University office will be closed for the holidays starting December 21, 2022. We will reopen on Monday January 2, 2023 (office hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm)

# **Executive Committee Holiday Wishes**



Warm wishes for a happy and safe holiday season from the Departmental Executive

## **HAPPENINGS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

U of T ranked among the world's top universities by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy

U of T continues to occupy its highestever position since the ranking was first launched in 2003. Read more.



# The Times Higher Education World University Rankings

has put

the University of Toronto among the top 20 universities in the world – and among the top two public institutions in North America.

Read more.



The University of Toronto has been ranked second in the world and first in Canada in the inaugural QS World University Rankings:
Sustainability, which assesses universities for their environmental and social impact.

The new ranking, released this week by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds, placed U of T second out of 700 post-secondary institutions around the world. Only the University of California, Berkeley ranked higher.

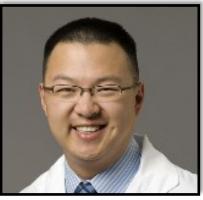
Read more.

#### **Yvonne Chan**

#### **Vincent Lin**

# New Education Leads





Dr. Chan was appointed as the new Vice Chair Education and Dr. Vincent Lin as the new Program Director, PGME (effective July 1, 2022).

They will certainly build upon the great successes of our past outstanding Vice-Chair Education and Program Director Dr. Paolo Campisi.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**



#### **Alain Dabdoub**

Dr. Dabdoub has been awarded a 5-year grant for his work on 'multiomic approaches to identify regenerative pathways for the treatment of inner ear disorders' from CIHR totaling \$880,000.

This is very well deserved and the culmination of tremendous work.

#### **Danny Enepekides**

Dr. Enepekides was the 2022 Visiting Professor for Memorial Sloan Kettering's Division of Head and Neck Oncology. He is pictured below with Drs. Ashok Shaha, Richard Wong, Kodaganur Gopinath, Jatin Shah, Ian Ganly, and Snehal Patel.









#### e-Poster Prize - Honourable Mentions

Du YJ, Fu R, Levinsky J, Kamalraj P, Chan K, Parmar A, **Eskander A,** Smoragiewicz M, Toronto, ON.

"Nivolumab for Recurrent or Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma:

A Tertiary Single Centre Real-world Experience"

8

Patel A, Suryavanshi P, Madou E, Dzioba A, Strychowsky J, London ON, Hu A, Vancouver BC, **Chan Y**, Toronto ON, Graham ME, London ON.

"Exploring Diversity in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Journal Editorial Boards"



#### **Kevin Higgins**

Dr. Higgins was awarded the 2022 Dr. William Dixon Surgical Teaching Award. This award is given to the Sunnybrook surgeon from any of the operative specialties who has made the biggest impact for residents and fellows on their development and evolution as surgeons. Kevin's nomination stood out with residents highlighting his technical expertise and willingness to pass on that expertise in spite of the complexity of his cases and the time constraints we all work under.



#### John Lee

Dr. Lee recently received a donation of \$50,000 for his rhinology research. Cumulatively, this donor has now given \$350,000 towards his research over the last several years.



Fei-Fei Liu

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research named Professor Fei-Fei Liu as its new scientific director. In this role, Dr. Liu will develop and advance research and training initiatives that address cancer research priorities in Canada. Dr. Liu holds a cross-appointment in our department.

Click here for full article



**Molly Zirkle** 

Is the weight-lifting champion at the 2022 IWF World Masters Championship! She won Bronze overall and placed first in snatch!



#### Staff Announcement - Ivy Zhang

It is our pleasure to announce that Ivy Zhang was selected to fill our permanent full-time Administrative and Events Assistant position, this role was previously a part-time 3-year contract.

lvy's previous work experiences in several administrative roles where she hosted events and conferences as well as created social media content makes her the perfect fit as our new Events Assistant. She received her Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto in 2016.

Welcome to the team!

Ivy can be reached at events.ohns@utoronto.ca



## POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

# Poliquin Resident's Research Competition 2022

Congratulations to the 2022 Poliquin Resident's Research Competition winners:





#### **Dr. Christopher Noel**

for his research "Development and Validation of a Machine Learning Algorithm Predicting Emergency Department Use and Unplanned Hospitalization in Patients with Head and Neck Cancer"

&

#### Dr. Jong Wook (John) Lee

for his research "Cigarette Smoking Cessation, Duration of Smoking Abstinence, and Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Prognosis"

#### 2022 CSCI/CIHR Resident Research Prize

Tanya Chen & Elysia Grose

have been awarded the 2022 CSCI/CIHR Resident Research Prize for their research project entitled "National Trends in Gender Diversity Among Trainees and Practicing Physicians in Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery in Canada".





# Our PGY5 residents passed their Royal College Examination!

Congratulations Amr Hamour, Jong Wook (John) Lee, Vincent Wu, Weining Yang, Hedyeh Ziai and Neil Verma who successfully passed their Royal College exam.

This is a huge accomplishment that requires a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication.

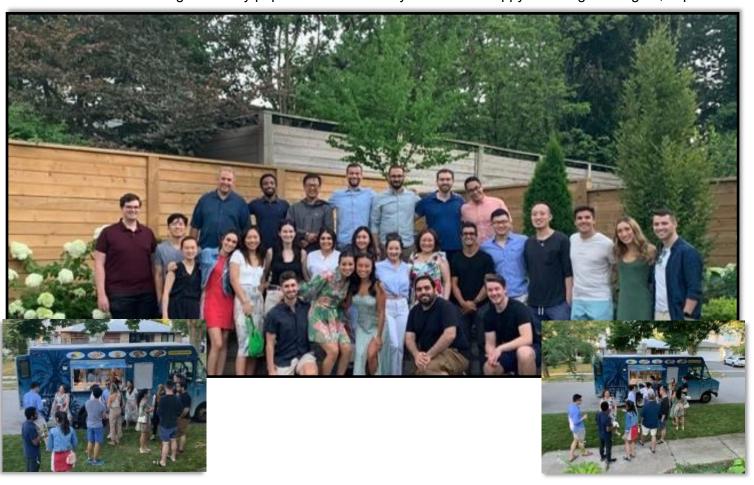
We are extremely proud of this very important success and milestone in their careers.



## Welcome BBQ 2022

The annual welcome BBQ for the incoming PGY1s took place on August 10, 2022 at the Enepekides residence.

The food truck was brought back by popular demand! Everyone was so happy to be together again, in person!





# CaRMS INTERVIEWS: Friday February 17, 2023

Information sessions were held on November 29, December 1 & 5 where the medical students met with the Chair, Vice Chair, Program Director and Residents and were able to ask any questions they had.









# Resident's Holiday Celebration 2022

December 10, 2022

# **2022 Postgraduate Research Awards**

The Postgraduate Awards Committee at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine has awarded

**Christopher Noel** 

the Heidi Sternbach Scholarship, Chisholm Memorial Fellowship and the Timeposters Fellowship.





Marc Levin

the *Miriam Neveren Memorial Award.* 



# Mentorship **Program Session**

Dr. Yvonne Chan hosted a mentorship session on December 14, 2022 for Elysia Grose, Tanya Chen, and Gianluca Sampieri





# **Visiting Professors & Guest Lecturers (virtual Grand Rounds)**



October 7, 2022 - Ramandip Grewal, PhD

Scientist at Public Health Ontario
PhD in Public Health and Epidemiology
Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

HPV Vaccination in Canada: Focus on Ontario



October 14, 2022 - Laura Snell, MD, MS, FRCSC

Assistant Professor, Dept of Surgery, University of Toronto
Co-Director, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Dept of Surgery,
University of Toronto

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

The Integration of the Principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) into Surgical Practice and Training: Where Do We Start?



November 4, 2022 - Boban M. Erovic MD, PD, MBA

Chief Surgeon
Institute of Head and Neck Cancer, Evangelical Hospital
Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery
Medical University of Vienna

Serratus Anterior Free Flap



#### November 25, 2022 - Dr. Fei-Fei Liu, MD, FRCPC, FASTRO

Chief, Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Head, Department of Radiation Oncology, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Scientific Director, Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Cancer Research

Senior Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Research Institute

What Have I Learned in my First 90-Days in this New Job at CIHR?

# **Annual Faculty Development Day - Friday November 11, 2022**

This year's event was sponsored by the Departments of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery & Surgery.

The theme was "Humanity in Medicine - Physician Burnout or Joy: Rediscover the Rewards of a Career in Academic Medicine"



#### Keynote Speaker: Nirit Bernhard, M.Sc., MD, FRCPC



Dr. Nirit Bernhard is a general paediatrician and assistant professor with the Department of Paediatrics in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She holds a Hon BSc and MSc from the University of Toronto and completed her Medical Doctor degree from the University of Western Ontario in 2003. She completed postgraduate training as well as a year of chief residency with the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto. Nirit is involved in medical education through her role as faculty lead, portfolio in the MD program and post graduate medical education and is regularly involved in teaching of medical students and resident doctors. She channels her passion for working with children with different health needs and abilities through her work in the down syndrome clinic and work at SickKids and Women's College Hospital. Nirit proudly lives in a multigeneration home with her family in Toronto.















# ALUMNI NEWS - WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW ...

#### **JUNE 2022 GRADUATES**



#### Islam Alzayadneh

As I have spent the past couple years living with a wonderful family and learning from the best here in Toronto, I am excited to start my own practice in Amman in a few months.

My heart misses Toronto already!

#### **Neil Arnstead**

This summer was busy moving back to Saskatoon, getting married, and setting up our new house.

We're settling in now in our lives and jobs. I'm practicing as a generalist with a focus in head & neck oncology and difficult endoscopic sinus/skull base cases. I know many people want an update on our dog - Poppy is thriving!



# Sonder

#### **Justin Cottrell**

The fellowship experience is incredible, really enjoying my time here.

Wishing everyone in the UofT family an amazing holiday season!



Spending two years of fellowship with the otolaryngology family at U of T was an incredible experience. I'm currently working on the following steps in my career. Wishing happiness for everyone and hoping our world will be at peace with no tyranny and brutality.





#### Valerie Dahm

I moved back to Vienna and started working at the Medical University of Vienna. In October, I graduated from my PhD program; the completion of my habilitation is scheduled for December.

Luckily, I can still hear the guiding voices of Dr. Le, Lin and Chen in my head when I operate.

#### **Timothy Eviston**

I'm back in Australia where I've been able to reconnect with family, explore "The Outback" and enjoy Aussie sport in between rural surgical locums.

From a clinical perspective I've had the privilege of returning to work with the esteemed Professor Bruce Ashford (Sunnybrook Alumni) in Wollongong while I work towards my main goal of expanding head and neck oncology services in Ipswich (South East Queensland).



#### **Terence Fu**



I started a busy but rewarding general otolaryngology practice in Ajax-Pickering, while Tina and I try to keep up with our 3 month old, Kieran!

I'm back in Israel, working in my old hospital (a tertiary academic center) and in the private sector. Most of my practice is rhinology skull base surgery and facial plastic surgery.

I'm very happy with work and life but I do miss Canada, the department and UofT and will keep in touch.

**Eran Glikson** 





#### **Zachary Farhood**

I've started my practice as a facial plastic surgeon in Minneapolis. I'm incredibly grateful for my fellowship with Dr. Asaria at the University Toronto!

#### Yelda Jozaghi

In 2022, I completed my fellowship with Dr. Gantous in facial plastic surgery. I had a phenomenal experience and developed new skills. I am now looking forward to building a broad practice at Michael Garron Hospital.





#### **Daniel Joonil Lee**

I'm now near half-way point into my rhinology and skull base surgery fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. It has been quite busy but rewarding. I am learning that the training I received at U of T has prepared me well for the fellowship!

Toronto people visiting Philadelphia during the AAO!



#### **Anne-Sophie Prevost**

I just started my practice at the Université de Sherbrooke where I am starting a pediatrics OHNS service. I am thankful to have done my fellowship SickKids, at I feel well prepared and ready to now treat children closer to home.

#### **Shireen Samargandy**

I got married on June 23, 2022, in the last week of residency. We then moved with our 2 cats from

Toronto to Tucson. I am currently half-way through a rhinology & skull base surgery fellowship at the University of Arizona.





#### Jennifer Siu

Things are going well on the west coast and I am enjoying my fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at Seattle Children's Hospital! Things have been busy and the clinical exposure has been excellent. I have been particularly enjoying my experience with open airway surgery, particularly slide tracheoplasty and laryngotracheal reconstruction. Outside of work, life in the pacific northwest is beautiful, and my fiancée and I have loved exploring the mountains and ocean when we can.

#### **Neil Verma**

I'm about halfway through my rhinology and skull base fellowship at the University of Montreal. It has been an amazing learning experience clinically and surgically with great mentors here. Missing the UofT family and looking forward to catching up in person!



# Alumni Reception - October 1, 2022 (Vancouver BC)

@ The Westin Bayshore Hotel
Our first Alumni event since 2020 (before the pandemic) was a great success
with approximately 40 alumni in attendance.

















A group of alumni also gathered for dinner at Royal Seoul House

# **HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH**

#### Ear Camps - Dr. Ambrose Lee



#### Cambodia

Dr. Ambrose Lee spent two days at the Chey Chumneas Hospital and two days at the Preah Andong Hospital in Phnom Penh.

Of the surgeries conducted, 13 were tympanoplasties, 2 hemithyroidectomy, 2 modified radical mastoidectomy as well as an examination of the ear under anesthesia (core, bilateral), a biopsy of lesion of external ear, and a myringotomy and grommet (and bilateral).

Not bad for a community otologist, eh?

#### Zanzibar

Dr. Ambrose Lee completed an ear camp at the Mnazi Mmoha Hospital in Zanzibar, Tanzania from December 5-8, 2022.

Numbers were a bit lower because students are still studying for exams and therefore not willing to come out to have surgeries.





Despite this, Dr. Lee did some challenging cases:

- Massive retrosternal goiter without having to split the sternum. Not easy for a community otologist.
- 20 cm thyroic colloid cyst.
- Cholesteatoma eroding through the mastoid cortex in a 9 year old. No facial palsy afterwards.



#### Sioux Lookout - Drs. Vincent Lin & Eric Monteiro

This fall Drs. Lin and Monteiro continued their semi annual trips to Sioux Lookout to continue providing care to the most northern reserves in Ontario. Drs. Li and Sampieri (residents) joined them and together they assessed over 250 patients and performed approximately 12 cases including septorhinoplasty, endoscopic tympanoplasty, functional endoscopic sinus surgery and tonsillectomy. At the end of the busy week we even hiked up Sioux

Mountain for a breathtaking view of the region.





#### Canadian Ukraine Surgical Aid Program - Drs. Danny Enepekides & Kevin Higgins

Drs. Danny Enepekides and Kevin Higgins joined the Canadian Ukraine Surgical Aid Program on a mission to Czeldaz, Poland, from November 24 to December 4, 2022. A 42 member team including plastic surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensivists, hospitalists, ward nurses, PACU nurses, ICU nurses, and logistical staff provided critical care to military and civilian casualties of the conflict in Ukraine. The head and neck team performed very needed complex microvascular and craniofacial reconstructions. The mission was a resounding success. The team is scheduled to return in March 2023.





## IN MEMORIAM

#### Dr. Lorne Segall passed away on July 17, 2022, at the age of 49.



Lorne graduated from McGill University in 1999 and completed residency in otolaryngology-head & neck surgery at the University of Toronto in 2006. Shortly after completing his residency he joined Sunnybrook Hospital as a clinical associate staff member and joined Trillium Health Partners in 2007. He served as Chief of Otolaryngology at Trillium Health Partners between 2016 and 2017.

Lorne was an outstanding, compassionate clinician and a superb surgeon. Quality patient-centred care was at the centre of Lorne's focus. Always the consummate gentleman and an all-around great person, he truly embodied the spirit of teamwork.

He will be forever remembered by his patients, colleagues and his friends. We will remember his kindness, his intelligence, and his laid back and easy going demeanor. We will miss the chats about his kids, his cars and his fitness routine. His Air Jordan collection remains unrivalled. His passion and commitment to his practice and his patients was always present and will always be remembered.

Lorne is survived by his wife Dr. Trina Liew and their three children, Jake, Jessica, and Robin.

#### **Dr. David Naiberg** and his wife Sharon passed away on July 21, 2022.



Dr. Naiberg was faculty in our department from 2011 to 2016. He was the former Chief of Otolaryngology at Scarborough General prior to his retirement in 2014.

"He was a terrific leader, superb surgeon and a true gentleman."



# Dr. Derek Birt's wife, **Anne Birt,** passed away at home on October 27, 2022 at the age of 89.

She had a long and happy life, and was full of love for her family and of kindness to everyone. She trained as a doctor in London, England, and met her husband when they were both doing the same house job. They married in 1960. After the family moved to Canada in 1970, she joined the staff at Baycrest Hospital, a hospital and care home for aged persons of the Jewish faith; some of her patients were Holocaust survivors. On her retirement, she was named a "Treasure of Baycrest."





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