

OHNS Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2023



Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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

Our world-class department has enjoyed another tremendous six months of academic and clinical excellence. Our collective achievements are highlighted in this newsletter and are a testament to all your incredible work.

This has been a very exciting and dynamic time for both our great department and the university. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Lisa Robinson as the new Dean of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, which is currently ranked 4th best in the world, and we look forward to her leadership and success. Our new divisions of Otology-Neurotology, Laryngology, and General Otolaryngology are up and running. I am extremely thankful to their respective leads, Drs. Adrian James, R. Jun Lin, and Janet Chung, along with all our incredible executive committee members for their hard work, leadership, and dedication. Dr. Andres Gantous had a very successful review of his first term as chief of the division of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. We look forward to his continued impact as he begins his second 5-year term. I am so grateful to our executive team which works tirelessly to create the environment that permits us to be one of the world's leading departments of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.

Our department's faculty have a long history of impactful leadership. The past six months have been no exception. Please join me in congratulating our very own Dr. Everton Gooden who was recently appointed CEO of North York General Hospital. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of his quality, and we are extremely proud. The department looks forward to Everton's success and the opportunity to celebrate his appointment at this year's Percy Ireland Academic Day where he will be our guest of honour. Additionally, our department was selected to host two major international meetings. Toronto will be the host city (led by Drs. Cushing and Gordon) of the 2027 International Congress on Bone Conduction Hearing and Related Technologies (OSSEO 2027) and the 2030 meeting of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (led by myself and Dr. Witterick). Both will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase Toronto, our department, and our world-class faculty.

Our newsletter is published twice annually in June and December.

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Keep in touch!

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Leading Innovation. Achieving Impact

This year's CSOHNS annual meeting was held in Toronto (September 9-10, 2023). The meeting was a wonderful success and an opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues from across the country. Congratulations to Dr. Yvonne Chan who was the Scientific Program Chair and Local Arrangements Chair.

Our incredible team of residents continue to be a great source of pride. This year, Drs. Tanya Chen, Elysia Grose, and Justine Philteos gave excellent presentations at the annual Poliquin Resident Research Competition. Congratulations to Dr. Tanya Chen who was the *2023 Poliquin Resident Research Award* winner and was given the *Chisholm Memorial Fellowship* by the university. Additionally, congratulations to Drs. Adam Kwinter, Chantal Li, Christopher Noel, Brian Shin, and Grace Yi for their successful completion of their Royal College Exams!

We should all take pride in the department's continued commitment to humanitarian outreach. Drs. Lin, Monteiro, and Campisi went to Sioux Lookout and served the people of our First Nations. Dr. Ambrose Lee conducted an ear camp in Cambodia. Drs. Gooden, Higgins, and Lin, along with our residents Drs. Garret Horton, Edward Sykes, and Grace Yi went on a surgical relief mission to rural Megori, Kenya. Drs. Enepekides and Joaquin Ulloa (Head and Neck Oncology Fellow), 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. Finally, Dr. Peter Adamson, along with Drs. Matthew Brace, Priya Kesarwani, and Jonathan Trites (Dalhousie University) bravely and selflessly provided surgical aid in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. I want to thank all those involved for their personal sacrifice and service.

As always, 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



2023-24 Departmental Executive Committee and their guests – Holiday Dinner held on December 5, 2023 (Faculty Club)



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Appointment of the new Dean of U of T's Temerty Faculty of Medicine

Lisa Robinson

a distinguished clinician-scientist and pediatric nephrologist dedicated to uncovering the molecular mechanisms of kidney disease and improving care for children with complex illnesses, has been named the new dean of the University of Toronto's Temerty Faculty of Medicine. Presently serving as the vice-dean of strategy and operations and as co-chair of the finance committee at Temerty Medicine, Robinson will begin her tenure as dean on July 1, 2024, for a period of five years.



Additionally, she has been appointed vice-provost, overseeing relations with health-care institutions, also for a five-year term.

To read the entire announcement , [click here](#)

University of Toronto ranked among the **top five** research universities in the world — and first among North America's public universities

(National Taiwan University Rankings)



#4 in Best Universities for Clinical Medicine

(photo by David Lee)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Faculty Promotions Celebration October 12, 2023 ♦ Massey College

Thank you to faculty, residents, fellows, family and friends who joined us at the promotions celebration!

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

We are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to their continued contributions to our department.



Congratulations Sharon Cushing and Evan Propst for their promotion to full professors



Congratulations

Congratulations to Tony Eskander, Trung Le, and Nik Wolter for their promotion to associate professors



Yvonne Chan was the Scientific Program Chair and Local Arrangements Chair for the CSOHNS annual meeting held in September 2023.



Tony Eskander and **Kevin Higgins** completed their first radiofrequency ablation (RFA) case as part of the Interventional Thyroidology Program.



Vinay Fernandes was the recipient of the *Best Mentor Award* in the 2022-23 Surgical Foundations Quality Improvement Curriculum.



Everton Gooden has been appointed President and CEO of North York General Hospital effective December 1, 2023. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Everton's tremendous quality and leadership.



Eric Monteiro crushed it at the Lake Placid Ironman and advanced to the Ironman World Championships in Nice, France.



On November 22, 2023 **Ambrose Lee**, **John Rutka**, and the entire UHN Neurology Group gathered for a delightful dinner, creating a memorable evening while enjoying delicious eats.



A massive round of applause and heartfelt congratulations to **Dr. Joseph Chen** and the entire remarkable team.

The Cochlear Implant Team at Sunnybrook has achieved an incredible milestone
by successfully completing their 3,000th cochlear implant.

As Canada's premier adult cochlear implant program, this achievement highlights their dedication and expertise
in enhancing hearing and improving quality of life.



Dr. Ralph Gilbert (center), Dr. Joaquin Ulloa (right), and our former fellow Dr. Felipe Cardemil participated in a dynamic panel discussion at the Chilean Head and Neck Surgery Congress November 21-24, 2023.

Kudos to OtoSim!



Named a Top 10
Simulation Technology
of 2023
by Medhealth Review.

Congratulations **Dr. Vito Forte** and **Dr. Paolo Campisi** for their innovative contributions to healthcare education.
For more details on their achievement and the technology, visit <https://www.medhealthreview.com/otosim/>

Newly Recruited Faculty

Clinical Adjunct



Priya Kesarwani
Lecturer



Philip Lai
Lecturer



Daniel Lee
Lecturer



Pia Pace-Asciak
Assistant Professor

Status only



Mostafa Eldaebes
Lecturer



Valerie Simard
Lecturer

Welcome to the department

#WHYOHNS



"What I love most in Otolaryngology is the diversity and intersection to many other specialties. At the same time you will encounter surgical emergencies, guide your oncologic patients along their struggling path, and we are rewarded by restoring a patient's hearing with a cochlear implant. It is the multifaceted nature that makes Otolaryngology so unique."

Jennifer Spiegel, Clinical Fellow



"I chose otolaryngology because I am someone who loves a balance between using the left and right sides of my brain! Otolaryngology is artistic, visual and creative. Our reconstructive surgeries require an element of design, surgical planning, hand dexterity and anatomical knowledge of the head & neck. There are many different approaches to learn. Otolaryngology also has incredible applications of technology in medicine. It amazes me how we can perform surgeries to connect cochlear implants to bypass our natural circuits and restore hearing. The interventions we perform are meaningful and can have a lasting impact on how our patients interact with their loved ones and the greater society. It is truly a privilege to train in this field."

Jessica Trac, PGY1

On to their Next Chapters....



Congratulations to **Ian Witterick** on His Appointment as Surgeon in Chief at Sinai Health System

Please join me in congratulating our immediate-past chair, Dr. Ian Witterick, on his appointment as the new Surgeon-in-Chief for Sinai Health, effective January 2, 2024. This wonderful achievement is a tremendous acknowledgment of his quality and leadership ability and is a very proud moment for our department. We wish Ian continued success and look forward to his contributions to Mount Sinai and the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network.

A distinguished surgeon-oncologist, Dr. Witterick has been an integral part of Mount Sinai Hospital since 1993. His tenure as Sinai Health's Otolaryngologist-in-Chief has set a benchmark for excellence.

In his new role, Dr. Witterick will be instrumental in optimizing operating room capacity, and ensuring the highest standards in patient care, research, and education in surgical specialties. His responsibilities will include developing surgical and perioperative strategies, fostering partnerships, and focusing on physician wellness and diversity initiatives.

Moreover, Dr. Witterick will serve as the MD Program Director for the Surgery and Oncology Program, collaborating with Lisa Wayment, Senior Clinical Program Director, to promote operational and clinical excellence.

Dr. Witterick's appointment reflects his exemplary leadership and expertise, and we are excited about the positive impact he will bring to Sinai Health and the medical community at large. Congratulations, Dr. Witterick!

Jeffrey Mendelsohn concluded his distinguished clinical practice career at the end of October 2023.

To honor his remarkable journey and numerous contributions, a retirement party was held on October 16, 2023, where colleagues, and friends gathered to celebrate his achievements and wish him well in his new chapter.



L to R, back row: Drs. Karim Nazarali, Weining Yang, Jeff Mendelsohn, Adam Toth, Vincent Wu, Aman Grewal, Andrew Ma. Front Row: Janet Chung and Yvonne Chan



Vicky Papaioannou gave the Annual Krista Riko Lecture on Friday October 20, 2023 entitled "The View From My Shoulders: Reflections Over 30 Years to Guide and Inspire"

After an illustrious three decade-long career at The Hospital for Sick Children, Vicky Papaioannou has taken on the role of an educational audiologist for the Peel District School Board. Her contributions to the department will be long-lived. She will be very missed and hard to replace.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Congratulations !



On behalf of our department, we want to congratulate **Drs. Adam Kwinter, Chantal Li, Christopher Noel, Brian Shin, Edward Sykes and Grace Yi** on their successful completion of their Royal College Exams.

We are all so proud of you and look forward to hearing about your future successes!

We would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all the Faculty for their dedicated teaching during the Fellowship Study Course & throughout the residency program.

Congratulations



Congratulations **Tanya Chen (PGY3)** for clinching the *Poliquin Resident Research Award* at the 2023 CSO-HNS Annual Meeting.

Her study is titled: "Socioeconomic Status as a Risk Factor for Pediatric Esophageal Foreign Body Ingestion"

AND

In December 2023, Tanya was awarded a PGME Research Award - ***Chisholm Memorial Fellowship!***



CaRMS INTERVIEWS: Friday February 2, 2024

Information sessions were held on November 29, December 6 and 12, 2023. Medical students had the opportunity to meet with the Chair, Vice Chair, Program Director and Residents and were able to ask any questions they had.

Our fellows did very well at the recent flap course held in Columbus Ohio.
Drs. Leba Sarkis and Joaquim Ulloa were among 40 AHNS fellows from Canada/US in attendance.
Joaquim received a 3rd place tie on his reconstruction.



L to R: Leba Sarkis, Matt Old (OSU), Chad Zender (Cincinnati), and Joaquim Ulloa. Front: Tony Eskander



Yvonne Chan
(right) with our
PGY2 residents
Hugh Kim,
Jacob Wihlidal &
Emily Cheng, at
the CSOHNS in
September 2023
(Toronto)

SAVE THE DATE

OTOLARYNGOLOGY UPDATE 2024

and OMA Annual Otolaryngology
– Head & Neck Surgery
Section Meeting

Saturday, February 3, 2024

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

*Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning
686 Bay Street, Toronto*

To watch IG promo reel,
[Click Here](#)

[Click here to register online](#)

Fees/Registration:

Practicing Physician on or before Jan 19/2024
.....\$195 (plus HST)

Practicing Physician after Jan 19/ 2024
.....\$225 (plus HST)

Allied Health Professional and all
Non UofT Resident/Fellow\$115 (plus HST)

For registration enquiries and cancellations: facmed.registration@utoronto.ca (416-978-2719)

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

32ND ANNUAL PERCY IRELAND DINNER & ACADEMIC DAY

MAY 2 & 3, 2024

Dinner Venue: Faculty Club

Academic Day Venue: Bahen Centre, U of T

**SAVE
THE DATE**



Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Visiting Professors & Guest Lecturers (Grand Rounds)



September 22, 2023 - Jonathon O. Russell, MD, FACS

Associate Professor
Division Director, Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Johns Hopkins Medicine

Thyroid Management 2023



October 6, 2023 - Sam J. Daniel, MDCM, FRCSC, CPC(HC)

Chair, Department of Pediatric Surgery, McGill University
Surgeon-in-Chief, The Montreal Children's Hospital, McGill University Health Centre
Professor, Departments of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and Pediatric Surgery, McGill University

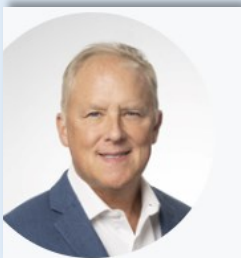
Leveraging Coaching and CPD to Advance Surgical Innovation and Professional Fulfillment



November 10, 2023 - Clint T. Allen, MD

Chief, Head and Neck Section and Chief, Surgical Oncology Branch
National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

Harnessing Therapeutic Vaccination for the Immunological Treatment of Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis



November 17, 2023 - Terry Day, MD, FACS

National Director, Head and Neck Oncology, Sarah Cannon National Group
Director, Head and Neck Oncology/Head and Neck Specialists
South Atlantic Division
North Charleston, SC

Cutaneous Melanoma-Does Site Matter?



November 24, 2023 - Dheeraj Rajan, MD, FRCPC, FSIR, FACR

Head and Professor, Div. of Vascular & Interventional Radiology
Department of Medical Imaging, University of Toronto.
University Health Network
Toronto, Canada

Thoracic Duct Embolization to Treat Chylous Effusion



December 15, 2023 - Vitor Pereira, MD, MSc

Director of Endovascular Research and Innovation
Schroeder Chair in Advanced Neurovascular Interventions
Lead Scientist, RADIS lab, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute
Professor of Surgery and Medical Imaging, University of Toronto
Division of Neurosurgery - Department of Surgery, St Michael's Hospital

New Insights on Pulsatile Tinnitus: A Close Look into the Venous System

What are they up to now...



Mohammad Alomani

I have been really busy here in Kuwait! I'm a specialist ENT at Zain Hospital doing simple and complex rhinoplasty and nasal reconstruction with Rib grafts.

I'm also starting my private practice here in Kuwait and soon a visitor surgeon in Dubai as well. Also participating as a speaker in different facial plastic meetings in Europe and the middle east.



Demir Bajin

I recently started a new practice at Western University (London, Ontario) as a staff otologist. I'm settling in nicely. I have amazing colleagues and a very supportive department. I'm doing both adult and pediatric cochlear implants and providing tertiary otology neurotology care for patients.



John Lee

I am currently in Sydney, Australia doing a fellowship in Otology/ Neurotology. It has been incredible and rewarding experience so far and we are enjoying as much as this beautiful country as to offer! We look forward to coming back to friends and family next summer.



Chew Lip Ng

Former Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery fellow mentored by Drs. Philip Solomon & Richard Rival, has been awarded the *Claus Walter Award* for achieving the highest score on the exam for the International & European Board of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.



Vincent Wu

It has been a busy yet rewarding time starting my general otolaryngology practice at Trillium Health Partners. I thoroughly enjoy my work and the wonderful people I am surrounded by every day. Beyond my professional life, I recently completed the Toronto Marathon and am now hooked, eagerly planning for more races in the future!

HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH



Mission Videos

January 2023 Mission to Nepal

These mission trips primarily serve underprivileged patients in developing countries who would not otherwise receive certain surgical or medical care. The teaching done by the missions is very important because that's one of the sources of our learning.

https://youtu.be/FQI_PoNsVeg?si=9ok1LjtmQQwi8Ht

March 2023 Mission to Ukraine

The focus of the mission was to treat soldiers and civilians who had suffered severe head and neck war injuries as well as to educate and train Ukraine surgeons and nurses in the management of these complex cases

<https://youtu.be/j3KRbo5S62Y?si=C-NJNgx6ZNdTGIXL>



Canadian Ukraine Surgical Aid Program

Dr. Danny Enepekides and Dr. Joaquin Ulloa joined the Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program once again, offering consultations and surgical reconstructions to patients with complex traumatic defects. Their mission extends vital care to military personnel and civilians who might otherwise lack access to treatment. To learn more, visit: <https://cusap.ca/>





Everton Gooden, Kevin Higgins, Vincent Lin, plus residents Garret Horton (PGY4), Edward Sykes (PGY5), and Grace Yi (PGY5) embarked on a relief mission to Kenya this fall, dedicated to serving the community.
[@kenyarelieff](https://twitter.com/kenyarelieff)



Ambrose Lee and the local team in Cambodia during his recent Ear Camp. A total of 39 procedures were done, 27 of which were tympanoplasties, 4 tympanomastoidectomies and other procedures including an excision of lesion on external ear, an adenotonsillectomy, canalplasty, excision lesion on nose with reconstruction, laryngoscopy +/- FB removal, septoplasty, and tracheostomy.



Vincent Lin, Eric Monteiro, Elysia Grose (PGY3), and **Brian Shin** (PGY5) provided care to our northern communities in Sioux Lookout, Ontario.

Our faculty have consistently demonstrated the true meaning of compassion, selflessness, and expertise. Their commitment to providing medical care to those in need, irrespective of geographic or economic boundaries, reflects the noblest ideals of our profession.

Their commitment to the betterment of lives is a beacon of light.

A huge Thank You for embodying the spirit of compassion and for being a source of hope for so many.





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