

OHNS Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2024



Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I want to wish all of you a joyous and blessed holiday season and 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 of your incredible work.

The past six months have seen our departmental family grow. I would like to again welcome our three new full-time academic faculty: Drs. Daniel Lee, John Lee, and Sharon Tzelnick to our faculty. These three remarkable individuals are wonderful new additions to our department and will help advance not only our clinical programs but our educational program tremendously. On behalf of the entire department, I wish them tremendous successes as they begin their exciting careers here at the University of Toronto.

Our remarkable faculty continue to provide impactful leadership at all levels. I want to congratulate Dr. Paolo Campisi who was appointed the new Perioperative Services Associate Chief, Internal Operations at the Hospital for Sick Children. I also wish to congratulate Dr. Jon Irish who was elected as a Fellow to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. This extremely well-deserved honour and this recognition reflects his sustained excellence in research. Congratulations to both.

Three of our illustrious departmental programs underwent external reviews over the past six months. Please join me in congratulating Drs. Blake Papsin, Ralph Gilbert, and Ian Witterick for their tremendous leadership and service. These reviews were universally positive and highlighted the absolutely outstanding clinical programs at the Hospital for Sick Children, University Health Network, and Mount Sinai respectively. After completing their terms as chief of service both Drs. Gilbert and Witterick will be stepping away to make room for our next generation of leaders. I want to sincerely thank them both for their sacrifice, energy, and vision. They have been truly remarkable. We will be holding a celebration in their honour in the new year at which point in time we can express our gratitude in person. Dr. Papsin was successfully reappointed for an additional term of two years at the Hospital for Sick Children. I wish to congratulate Dr. Eric Monteiro who, after a very competitive search, was recently appointed the new Otolaryngologist-in-Chief at

Our newsletter is published twice annually in June and December.

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Leading Innovation. Achieving Impact

Mount Sinai Hospital. I look forward to his leadership and energy.

Our remarkable residents continue to be a great source of pride. At this year's American Academy of Otolaryngology Annual Meeting Jake Wihlidal, Nicole Crimi, Tanya Chen, and Elysia Grose all presented their wonderful work. Congratulations to Jake who won the best scientific oral presentation in the pediatric otolaryngology section and to Nicole who won the best of pediatric otolaryngology poster award. I also want to congratulate their mentors at the Hospital for Sick Children. Our five graduating residents Drs. Justine Philteos, Garret Horton, Marc Levin, Ahmed Saleem and Lily Wang all successfully completed their Royal College examinations. The department is so proud of all five and we look forward to their bright futures.

In October we had a wonderful promotions celebration for Drs. John de Almeida and Kevin Higgins who were successfully promoted to the rank of full professor. These promotions were extremely well deserved, and the evening was a heartfelt celebration of their accomplishments. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with friends and family. Five of our faculty were also awarded the *MD Program Teaching Excellence Award* for Undergraduate Medical Education. These include Drs. Grewal, Hacker, Kandasamy, RJ Lin, and Witterick. Additionally, four of our residents received the same award. Congratulations to Mandolin Bartling, Pouyan Namavarian, Jake Wihlidal, and Chantal Li (who is now faculty). We are so thankful to all of you for your commitment to education.

Our research programs continue to have tremendous impact. I want to congratulate Dr. Jon Irish, Gang Zhang, and Brian Wilson along with their entire team for receiving a \$7.5 million grant in support of their remarkable work on next generation nanoparticles. This is one of the largest grants that the Terry Fox Research Institute has awarded. We look forward to the group's continued success and continued innovations.

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.

Once again, I wish all of you and your loved ones happy holidays. I hope all of you have an opportunity to disconnect and recharge and come back to a new year full of possibility.

Danny



2024-25 Departmental Executive Committee Holiday Dinner held on December 3, 2024 (Cluny Bistro)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Faculty Promotions Celebration October 22, 2024 Massey College

PROMOTIONS
CELEBRATION

OCT 22, 2024
6 PM
MASSEY COLLEGE,
JUNIOR COMMON
ROOM



Thank you to faculty, residents, fellows, family and friends who joined us at in celebrating the promotion of
Drs. John de Almeida & Kevin Higgins
to the rank of Professor

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



Dr. Paolo Campisi has been appointed the new Peri-Operative Services (POS) Associate Chief, Internal Operations at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Paolo's vision for the role includes enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical operations by implementing innovative strategies and fostering a culture of service excellence. He aims to improve patient care and satisfaction by streamlining processes and promoting teamwork.



Dr. Jonathan Irish has recently achieved two significant professional accomplishments!



1. The Terry Fox Research Institute has awarded a \$7.5 million grant to the Princess Margaret Team led by Gang Zheng, Jonathan Irish and Brian Wilson. The Porphysome-focused PPG received renewal funding (from the Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Project Grant) for the project that will begin clinical trial, study metastasis, and explore "next-gen" nanoparticles. The vision is to establish Porphy-some-enabled interventions as the fifth pillar of cancer treatment to be used alongside existing therapies. The new technology offers hope for a future where minimally invasive treatments will significantly improve the survival and quality of life for cancer patients in Canada and beyond.

2. Dr. Irish has been elected as a Fellow to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences for 2024. The honour is well-deserved and recognition for his dedication and excellence in the field of cancer care. Election to Fellowship in the Academy is one of the highest honours in the Canadian health sciences community, reflecting a commitment to serve the Academy and advance health sciences across all disciplines.

Newly Appointed Full-time Faculty



Dr. Daniel Lee has officially joined the Dept of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery as a new otolaryngologist at both Unity Health Toronto – St. Michael's Hospital and North York General Hospital. Dr. Lee holds appointment at the University of Toronto as a Lecturer.

Dr. Lee's clinical focus will be in sinonasal disorders, aspirin-exacerbated respiratory diseases and endoscopic skull base surgery in addition to provision of general OHNS. His academic focus will be in the application of artificial intelligence and clinical outcomes in rhinology and skull base surgery.

Dr. John Lee has joined the Dept of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital. He is also appointed at the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Lee will be advancing our adult otology program in the downtown core and will clinically focus on the management of middle ear pathology. He brings to the department his newly acquired expertise in endoscopic middle ear surgery.



Dr. Sharon Tzelnick has joined the Dept of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at UHN (TGH). She is also appointed at the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor.

Her clinical focus will be in thyroid and parathyroid disease, airway reconstruction and mucosal head and neck malignancy. Her academic focus will be in Quality Improvement and Clinical Trials in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology.





Dr. Eric Monteiro has been appointed as Otolaryngologist-in-Chief for Sinai Health, effective January 1, 2025. He has been a staff physician within the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital since 2015.

Dr. Monteiro brings an exceptional track record of expertise, innovation and leadership to our organization. With a career dedicated to advancing quality improvement, patient safety and medical education, Dr. Monteiro is a highly regarded colleague in the field of Otolaryngology. As Otolaryngologist-in-Chief, Dr. Monteiro will be responsible for leading the department in achieving excellence in clinical care, education and research, while also working collaboratively to advance Sinai Health's clinical and operational goals.

As a highly skilled surgeon specializing in advanced head and neck oncologic surgery, minimally invasive skull base surgery and rhinology, Dr. Monteiro exemplifies Sinai Health's commitment to providing exceptional care to our patients. His research interest focuses on quality and patient safety, and his work has influenced national and international standards. Recent projects have included developing quality indicators for the surgical management of thyroid cancer, as well as for the management of sinusitis. He has also led the development of guidelines for *Choosing Wisely Canada*, focusing on resource stewardship. With 100 peer-reviewed publications under his belt, Dr. Monteiro has been awarded more than \$500,000 in research funding. He is also a prolific speaker, having delivered more than 180 presentations and lectures across Canada and abroad.

Dr. Monteiro has been the recipient of more than 50 awards and distinctions throughout his academic and professional career. His passion and excellence in teaching and advocacy have been recognized through a number of awards including the 2022 Alma Smitheringale Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, the 2017 Faculty Teacher of the Year award, the Resident Advocate award (2023, 2021, 2017), and the 2016-17 Wightman-Berris Academy Individual Teaching award in postgraduate medical education. In 2024, he was the recipient of the Heart of Gold Award, one of Sinai Health's annual surgeon awards, and in 2023 he was awarded Sinai Health's Collaboration in Education Award.

Dr. Monteiro's collaborative approach, innovative mindset and unwavering dedication to excellence are sure to set him up for success, and we look forward to the to the impact he will continue to make on our organization, our patients and the broader health-care community. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Monteiro and welcoming him to his new role.

At this time we also extend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Ian Witterick for his remarkable contributions as Otolaryngologist-in-Chief over the past 12 years, including this past year during which he performed a dual role as Surgeon-in-Chief while we completed the search for his successor.

Congratulations

Newly Appointed Faculty

Clinical Adjunct, Lecturers



Chantal Li



Dongho (Brian) Shin



Adam Kwinter

Status Only



Melania Lebed
Audiologist

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT

MD Program Teaching Excellence Award Recipients 2023-24 Academic Year

Faculty



Aman Grewal



David Hacker

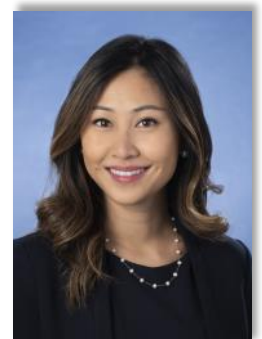


Thileep
Kandasamy

Residents



Mandolin Bartling



Chantal Li



R. Jun Lin

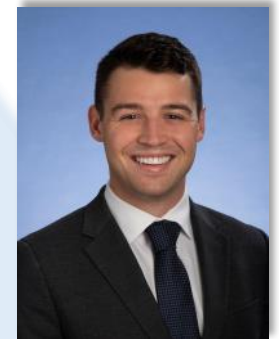


Ian Witterick

Congratulations



Pouyan
Namavarian



Jacob Wihlidal

Congratulations to the residents!



On behalf of our department, we want to congratulate
Drs. Garret Horton, Marc Levin, Justine Philteos, Ahmed Saleem, and Lily Wang
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



CaRMS INTERVIEWS: Friday February 7, 2025

Information sessions were held on October 15 & 30 and November 7, 2024
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.

WELCOME BARBECUE FOR PGY1S

The Annual Welcome BBQ for the incoming PGY1s took place on August 15, 2024 at Dr. Vincent Lin's residence!

Welcome to the program!



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Congratulations to our residents that presented at the American Academy of Otolaryngology Annual Meeting on September 28-29, 2024.



Jake Wihlidal: Novel Button Battery Coating Materials for Prevention of Esophageal Injury
Won Best of Scientific Orals
Pediatric Otolaryngology Section



Nicole Crimi: Foreign Concepts in Pediatric Esophageal Foreign Bodies: A Health Knowledge Study
Won Best Pediatric Otolaryngology Poster



Tanya Chen: The Role of Sustainability and Regionalization of Esophagoscopy for Pediatric Esophageal Foreign Bodies
Late-Breaking Scientific Oral Presentation



Elysia Grose: Olfactory Outcomes Following Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
Late-Breaking Scientific Oral Presentation

Jake Wihlidal, Nicole Crimi, and Tanya Chen were all mentored by Dr. Nikolaus Wolter and the SickKids team.

Elysia Grose was mentored by Dr. Yvonne Chan and Dr. John Lee, St. Michael's Hospital.



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This year's Faculty Day was a joint collaboration with the Department of Surgery and the Department of Ophthalmology & Vision Sciences, University of Toronto.


An excellent engaging in-person program was put together.

 Ophthalmology & Vision Sciences UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO	 Surgery UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO	 Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY DAY		
Date:	Monday, November 11, 2024	
Time:	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	
Location:	Delta Hotel - 75 Lower Simcoe St. Toronto, ON M5J 3A6	

Coming up in 2025....

SAVE THE DATE
OTOLARYNGOLOGY UPDATE 2025
and OMA Annual Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
Section Meeting
Saturday, February 8, 2025
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
and Alumni and Friends Reception (Complimentary)
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning
686 Bay Street, Toronto

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

 33RD ANNUAL PERCY IRELAND DINNER & ACADEMIC DAY Percy Ireland Dinner Thursday, May 1, 2025 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Faculty Club-University of Toronto Percy Ireland Academic Day Friday, May 2, 2025 8:00 am - 4:30 pm SickKids Patient Support Centre	Visiting Professor Dr. D. Gregory Farwell Gabriel Tucker Professor of Otorhinolaryngology Chair, Department of Otorhino- laryngology-Head & Neck Surgery University of Pennsylvania & Guest of Honour Dr. John Rutka Professor, Department of Otolaryngology -Head & Neck Surgery University of Toronto
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**SAVE
THE DATE**



Visiting Professors & Guest Lecturers (Grand Rounds)



September 20, 2024 - Jonathon Clark, AM, MBBS(HONS), BSc (MED), MBiostat, FRACS

Lang Walker Family Foundation Professor and Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Reconstructive Surgery, The University of Sydney.

Director of Head and Neck Cancer Research Chris O'Brien Lifehouse

Director of Translational Research Royal Prince Alfred Institute of Academic Surgery

If You Come to a Fork in the Road, Take It



October 4, 2024 - Wytske J. Fokkens, MD, PhD

Professor

Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Amsterdam University Medical Centres, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Biologics, End of Surgery?



October 18, 2024 - Christopher Booth, MD, FRCPC

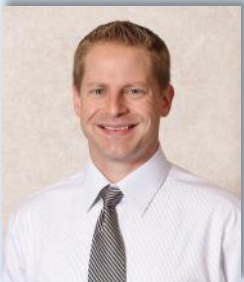
Professor of Oncology and Public Health Sciences

Canada Research Chair in Population Cancer Care

Director, Division of Cancer Care and Epidemiology

Queen's University and Kingston Health Sciences Centre

Common Sense Oncology: Moving back to the outcomes that matter



November 8, 2024 - Aaron C. Moberly, MD

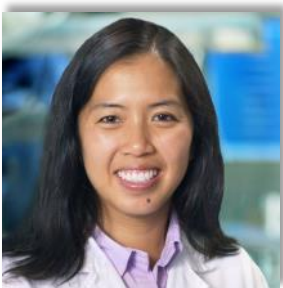
Guy M. Maness Chair in Otolaryngology

Associate Professor of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery

Division of Otolaryngology/Neurotology

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Predicting Adult Cochlear Implant Outcomes



November 22, 2024 - Julina Ongkasuwan, MD

Professor, Chief of Laryngology

Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

Baylor College of Medicine | Texas Children's Hospital

Vocal Fold Movement Impairment or There and Back Again



November 29, 2024 - Taher Valika, MD, FACS, FAAP

Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Medical Director, Aerodigestive Program

Director, Upper Airway Surgery

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Innovation in Otolaryngology



David Tomlinson Lecture

December 5, 2024 - Michael J. Ruckenstein MD, MSc, FACS

Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-HNS
Director Division of Otology & Neurotology
Director PSN-OTO
University of Pennsylvania Health System

Confessions of a Vestibular Burnout

IN MEMORIA



It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Brian Tatham, who served Scarborough Hospital and community with remarkable dedication for so many decades.

Dr. Tatham was not only a superb physician and surgeon but also an invaluable leader in our medical community. He served as Chief of Otolaryngology (ENT) for two terms, guiding our department with integrity and vision.

Dr. Tatham was widely respected as a mentor, inspiring and supporting many otolaryngologists in Scarborough throughout their careers. Beyond his professional achievements, he was known for his passion for golf, often sharing stories from the course with those around him.

We understand that this news may be difficult for many of you who knew and worked closely with him. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and all who were touched by his kindness, wisdom, and authenticity.



What are they up to now...?



Waleed Alshehri

I'm happy to share that I'm currently working as a staff at a public hospital while also working part-time at a private hospital, primarily focusing on my subspecialty training. Additionally, I'm excited to be starting a new role as adjunct assistant professor at one of the top universities in the country. It's been a fulfilling experience balancing these roles and continuing to grow both professionally and academically.



Ben Dixon

I have been recently appointment as the inaugural Garnett Passe Rodney Williams Professor of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Melbourne. This is a new position and a great opportunity to increase our Head & Neck research in the University of Melbourne affiliated hospitals including St. Vincent's Hospital (where I am director of the ENT H&N service), Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Royal Melbourne Hospital. I would not have had the opportunity to apply for such a role without the wonderful training and opportunities I had in Toronto - and for that, I will be forever grateful. I want to particularly thank Jonathan Irish and Ian Witterick who were referees and helped me in securing this new position.

Christopher Noel

I'm having an amazing time as the head and neck fellow at The Ohio State University—where the tumors are big! My wife and I are also celebrating the birth of our first daughter, Amelia—born a Buckeye!



Grace Yi

After our honeymoon in Spain, Nikolas and I are settled in Vancouver! I am happy in my role as a general otolaryngologist, working at St. Paul's Hospital and Mount St. Joseph Hospital, and being part of the Residency Competency Committee. Recently I've started doing outreach clinics and OR in Terrace (northern BC), inspired by the trips I did in residency.

Wishing you all



Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
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