

# Heads Up

A newsletter for alumni, colleagues, and friends of the Department

## Pediatric Airway Team in Action

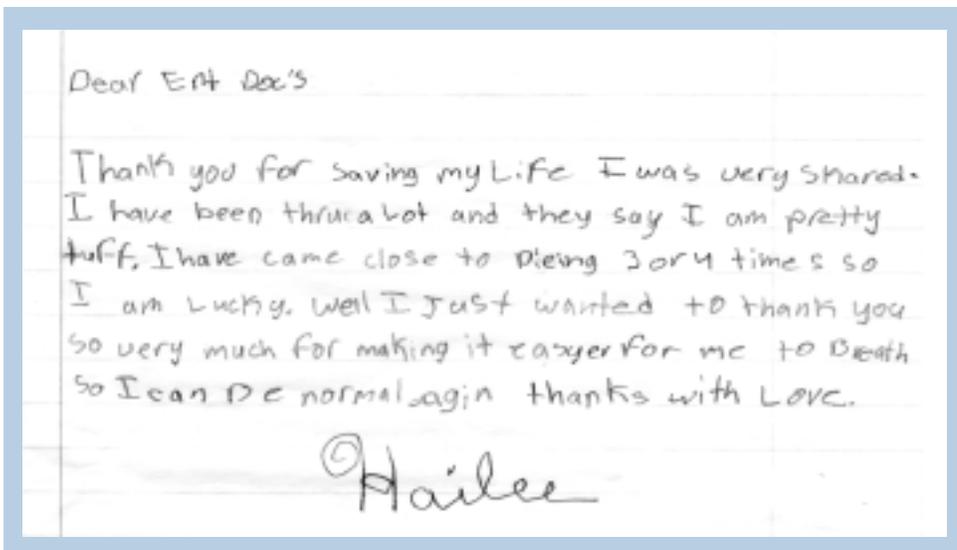


Members during the monthly pediatric bronchoscopy conference in which individual patients are discussed. Left to right: Stephanie Davis, MD; Marianne Muhlebach, MD; George Retsch-Bogart, MD; Amelia Drake, MD; Carlton Zdanski, MD; W. Tom Harris, MD; Kathy Abode, RN. Not pictured: Austin Rose, MD; Cynthia Reilly, PNP; Terry Noah, MD; Margaret Leigh, MD; Marianna Henry, MD; Chuck Ester, MD, PhD; Elizabeth Dellon, MD; and Stacey Peterson-Carmichael, MD.

The Pediatric Airway Team has grown from an informal tête-à-tête on management of difficult airway cases to a more formalized discussion of individual patients' airway needs, with a multidisciplinary group assessing the work up and management of such patients.

Pediatric patients with airway problems or tracheostomies are increasingly complex patients, having had a significant medical history either of prematurity or other surgical interventions, typically upon presentation. Many of these children arrive from other institutions around the state, as UNC has developed a significant referral base. Cynthia Reilly, NP, the pediatric trach nurse, helps both teams in Pediatric Pulmonary and Pediatric Otolaryngology follow patients with active airway problems through a database, clinic visits, and a newsletter done with the help of wonderfully-involved parents. Coordination of medical and surgical care whenever possible is the goal.

Hailee is a 9 year old patient of ours who, until about 9 months ago, was completely healthy. Since that time she has become very sick, and as you can tell from her letter, she has had some very close brushes with death. She developed ulcerative colitis and nearly exsanguinated. Following this, she developed a pulmonary embolus, and subsequently infarcted a large portion of her lung. She was intubated for a lengthy period. Unfortunately she developed life-threatening subglottic stenosis and re-presented to the hospital and required tracheotomy. She is one tough and inspirational child, and we feel fortunate



A letter from a patient to ENT Doctors at UNC, part of the Team who helped save her life.

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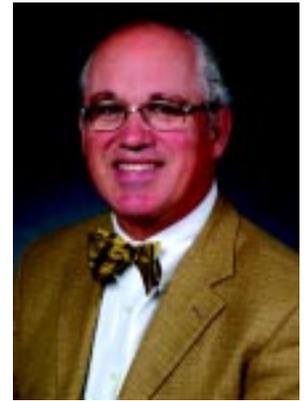
to have met Hailee and are happy that we could participate in her care along with other physicians at UNC Hospitals. We look forward to the day when she is healthy and we can work toward removing her tracheostomy tube.

Team meetings provide a forum for discussion of the multidisciplinary needs of children with complex airway management issues. Input from Otolaryngologists, Pediatric Pulmonologists, and nurses who specialize in the care of these children promotes development of a focused, organized plan for medical as well as surgical management. Through utilization of a multidisciplinary approach, the airway team has been able to provide patients with integrated diagnostic services such as clinic visits with both ENT and Pulmonology on the same day, focused evaluations including sleep studies and swallow studies, as well as combined examinations under anesthesia by both ENT surgeons and Pediatric Pulmonologists. Collaborative work is also possible in areas of mutual research interest.

Immediate post-operative management of children following tracheostomy as well as complex airway reconstruction procedures is enhanced by involving Pediatric Intensivists and PICU nurses, ENT surgeons, Pediatric Pulmonologists, and a Nurse Practitioner in the care of these children. The airway team meetings provide a forum for development and periodic review of comprehensive management plans that enhance the quality of patient care.

The Pediatric Airway Team is thus far an informal collaboration and is not recognized as a Center within the hospital. Future plans include development of a Pediatric Airway Center at UNC with a multidisciplinary clinic facility, a broad reaching referral center, and a database to enable multicenter studies for unusual airway conditions.

## Chair's Corner



One of the things I love the most about our Department is its capacity to join people in various ventures to accomplish more than any of us could individually. This takes place among our residents on a regular basis, whether it's on a research project, a clinical challenge, or going to a baseball game in the middle of the Academy.

As you can see from this issue of *Heads Up*, the attendings are often involved in these ventures. We continue to have a vibrant group of faculty and residents who continually push the frontiers to accomplish great things in our field. I always look forward to seeing how they handle problems on a daily basis.

I am most pleased by the diversity of our group, for while they all come from different backgrounds, they are indeed the first-born valedictorian sons and daughters of America. I hope you enjoy this issue.

Harold C. Pillsbury, MD  
Department Chair



After a day of scientific sessions, Academy meeting attendees enjoy a night out at the Toronto Blue Jays Stadium to watch the New York Yankees win the game. Front row: Krishna Patel, Allen Marshall, Kathleen Balliu, Austin Rose. Back row: Luke Richey, Paul Bryson, Carlos Ebert, Deidra Blanks, Rose Eapen, Adam Zanation, Raymond Cook, Mike Ferguson, Derek Leight, and Josh Surowitz.

# Academy Meeting: A Resident's Perspective

by Deidra A. Blanks, MD

In September 2006, the residents of the UNC Department of Otolaryngology were offered the chance to attend the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada. During this time, many other organizations were also having their annual meetings. This presented an opportunity for residents to attend workshops from the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy (AAOA), American Head and Neck Society (AHNS), American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS), and American Neurotology Society (ANS).

The AAOA conference, held September 14-16, offered a variety of topics including chronic otitis media, sublingual immunotherapy and allergic skin disease. Residents giving oral presentations at the AAOA conference were Deidra Blanks, MD, on *The Role of Transtympanic Immunomodulatory Oligonucleotides in the Prevention and Treatment of Eustachian Tube Dysfunction*, and Alisha West, MD, on *Eotaxin: A Target for Chronic Rhinosinusitis*.



Alisha West, MD, and Deidra Blanks, MD, each gave oral presentations at the meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy. Here they enjoy dinner at the 360 Restaurant at the CN Tower.

The AHNS presented an oncology review course free for residents on Saturday September 16th. Courses were taught by Terry Day, MD, Jesús Medina, MD, and Mark Wax, MD, and included topics such as oral cancer, skin cancer/melanoma and thyroid/parathyroid disorders.

The AAFPRS offered a free facial plastics workshop on Sunday, September 17th. Examples of topics included cutaneous lesions and flaps by Stephen Park, MD, rhinoplasty by Dean Toriumi, MD, and browlift and blepharoplasty by Tom Wang, MD.

The AAO-HNS offered residents the opportunity to attend multiple mini-sessions on a wide variety of topics. Free instructional course tickets were also given to the residents, allowing everyone the chance to participate in smaller groups with many hands on activities. The AAO-HNS also hosted the OTO EXPO with representation from hundreds of companies demonstrating and explaining their products.

*Heads Up*

Presenting posters this year at AAO-HNS included Charles “Carlos” Ebert, Paul Bryson, W. Derek Leight, and Allen Marshall. Congratulations to Carlos Ebert for winning the resident poster contest for his research on the use of *Immunomodulatory Oligonucleotides in the Prevention of Nasal Allergen Induced Eustachian Tube Dysfunction*.

Faculty attending the meeting included Harold Pillsbury (miniseminar on *Sleep Medicine Certification*), William Shockley (courses on *Reconstruction of the Auricle: Practical Tips* and *Eyelid Injuries: Anatomy and Repair*), Brent Senior (courses on *Surgical Anatomy of the Paranasal Sinuses*, and *Minimally Invasive Pituitary Surgery*), Craig Buchman, Raymond Cook, Marion Couch, Amelia Drake, Michael Ferguson, and Austin Rose. Resident physicians attending the conference were Krishna Patel, Adam Zanation, John Alldredge, Charles “Carlos” Ebert, Paul Bryson, W. Derek Leight, Allen Marshall, Deidra Blanks, Alisha West and Rose P. Eapen. Attending the Society of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Nurses conference (SOHN) were Shelvy Riley, Elaine Hinkle, and two OR nurses, Kathleen Balliu and Lorily Regnault. Kathy Harris assisted Dr. Senior with his responsibilities as secretary/treasurer of the Christian Society of Otolaryngology and secretary of the American Rhinologic Society, and Anna Bradshaw, one of our Otolaryngology Surgery Coordinators, also attended.

Receiving travel grants from the AAOA were Carlos Ebert, Alisha West and Deidra Blanks. AAO-HNS travel grants recipients were Paul Bryson and Krishna Patel.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support. We had a terrific time and thank you for showing us Toronto. Sponsored events included Hy’s Steakhouse (Medtronic), reception at Fairmont Hotel (Gyrus), 360 Restaurant at the CN tower (Brainlab), Arriba restaurant at Toronto Blue Jays stadium (Stryker), and Skybox at Toronto Blue Jays stadium (Karl Storz).



Carlos Ebert, MD, MPH, who won the President’s Award for his poster presentation, with Krishna Patel, MD, PhD, and Adam Zanation, MD, at the Toronto Blue Jays Stadium.

## Weissler Bikes for MS

For over 10 years, Dr. Mark Weissler has ridden in the MS 150 Bike Tour sponsored by the Eastern North Carolina Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to raise money for research and assistance to North Carolinians living with MS. For the past several years the tour has left from New Bern, North Carolina. The standard tour is two 75-mile rides on each of 2 weekend days, with an option each day for a “century” or 100-mile ride. Dr. Weissler generally rides 100 miles the first day and 75 the second.

This year Dr. Weissler joined over 1500 riders to help end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis, a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that strikes people in the prime of life. Over 1 million dollars was raised this year.

Dr. Weissler says he’s always looking for interested people to help “pull” (definition: to pull is to takes one’s turn at the front leading the group. The person at the front uses as much as 30 percent more energy than people behind so taking a pull is usually only done for a short period of time) him over the challenging distance. Any one interested in riding the tour or starting a UNC OHNS team is welcome to contact Dr. Weissler.



In his free time, Dr. Weissler enjoys training for bike tours.

## Hube Awarded for Extra Effort and Excellence



Linda Hube (left) is presented a cake as part of her PlusPeople Award by Stephanie McAdams

On October 10, 2006, Linda Hube, a speech pathologist working in the UNC Voice Center, was awarded a “PlusPeople Award” from UNC Health Care. This award was developed “to honor those who give an extra effort, who excel at what they do, who help to make the Hospitals a productive, efficient and caring place.”

Linda is an employee who clearly meets these criteria on a daily basis. She has been involved in the development of the UNC Voice and Swallowing Center and this clinic is thriving due in large part to her dedication and professional flexibility. She is often called our most versatile employee and this has served her well as she transitioned from an acute care therapist to a leader in our outpatient clinics. Linda is considered an expert in the area of Spasmodic Dysphonia and has presented at the local, state and national level. It is not unusual to see her fielding calls and emails from clients and other professionals from around the country.

Linda endorses a holistic approach to treatment that is very much appreciated by her patients. Her passion for her field is evident in all that she does. A recent graduate student stated that Linda was the best clinical instructor she has ever had. This student further stated that her working experience with Linda was so positive that she was “changing” her plans to direct her career in a manner consistent with Linda’s practice.

Linda consistently acts as a strong role model for students and colleagues. We are lucky to have her representing us here at UNC. Congratulations, Linda!

# UNC Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Trials Expand

Over the past several years, the number of clinical trials offered to head and neck cancer patients has grown. In 2006, 3,417 patients were seen in the Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery (OHNS) clinics for cancer-related problems. This includes over 660 new consultations for patients with head and neck cancer-related problems. This does not include visits to radiation oncology, medical oncology, dental medicine, dental prosthetics, nuclear medicine, or radiology for PET/CT and thyroid scanning. This represents a significant increase in the volume of head and neck cancer patients seen in our department.

In conjunction with the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the General Clinical Research Center, many clinical trials have been approved and are underway. These trials are run in conjunction with Dr. Mark Weissler (Head & Neck Division Chief, OHNS), Dr. Marion Couch (OHNS), Dr. Carol Shores (OHNS), Dr. William Shockley (OHNS), Dr. David Neil Hayes (Hematology/Oncology Division, Department of Internal Medicine), Dr. Julian Rosenman (Radiation Oncology Department), Dr. David Morris (Radiation Oncology Department), and the Protocol Office staff such as Dale Flowers, RN. Reorganization of the Protocol Office has allowed the Head and Neck disease group to work closely with the Lung disease group, lead by Dr. Mark Socinski, which has allowed us access to resources that will enable us to continue to expand our portfolio of clinical trials that can be offered to our patients. Indeed, our goal is to be able to offer each patient a clinical trial. With the support of the Cancer Center Director, Dr. Shelton Earp, and the Protocol Office Executive Committee Chairman, Dr. Richard Goldberg, we are working together toward that important goal.

Listed on the right are some of the head and neck clinical cancer studies that are available at UNC for patients with carcinomas of the head and neck. This list includes phase I and novel treatment approaches; however it is only a partial list of available trials. For a complete listing, please go to the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center (LCCC) website at <http://cancer.med.unc.edu/ct/> to search for the studies available for these and other patients by disease type.

For appointments, please call Laura Lyndon Miller and Sean Gallagher, RN, Nurse Coordinator (919-966-9717; 866-838-0270 toll-free; 919-843-5016 fax). For clinical trial queries, please call Dale Flowers, RN (919-966-4432; 919-962-2621 fax).

LCCC0523 – Phase I Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of the Effect of Temporary Dietary Antioxidant Depletion on Tumor Growth and Cachexia in Head and Neck Cancer Patients.

GCRC2254ORC – Efficacy of Celebrex on cancer cachexia syndrome

05SURG1019 – Infrared imaging of reconstructive tissue flaps.

05SURG1224ORC – Metabolomic Analysis of Cachexia in Head and Neck Cancer Patients

01-SURG-631-ORC - Molecular Analysis of Head and Neck Cancers

20020402 – A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Weekly Doses of Palifermin (Recombinant Human Keratinocyte Growth Factor, rHuKGF) for the Reduction of Oral Mucositis in Subjects with Advanced Head and Neck Cancer Receiving Radiotherapy with Concurrent Chemotherapy (RT/CT)

ZCC00204 – Phase II trial of Hyperfractionated Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy with Concurrent Weekly Cisplatin for Stage III/IVa Head and Neck Cancer (NCI03018).

05-MED-891-ORC - FavId-11: A Phase III Double Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of FavId (Id/KLH) and GM-CSF following Chop-Rituximab as first line therapy in Subjects with High/Intermediate and High-Risk, Diffuse Large B-Cell NHL.



Head and Neck Oncologists, Drs. Marion Couch, Carol Shores, Mark Weissler, and William Shockley

# Whatever happened to... Dr. Paul Camnitz?



The Camnitz family: Jill, Will, Paul, and Kate, at Tswalu Game Reserve, Northeastern South Africa

Since leaving the ENT Program in Chapel Hill in 1979, I have been in private practice in Greenville, NC, and associated with the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. It was tough to decide between Charlotte, Raleigh, and Greenville, but the prospect of joining a new medical school drew me to Greenville. Part of Dr. Fischer's mantra was "giving back to the system" and I decided to fulfill this by teaching at ECU.

Professionally, it's been a great choice. There are six partners in our practice, all of which practice general ENT. Four are fellowship trained in otology, facial plastic, oncology, and voice. Over 50% of our patients are from outside of Pitt County. We have approximately one half of the third year medical students rotating with us during their surgery rotation, as well as many fourth year students taking an elective. Residents, including family practice, medicine, surgery, ED, pediatrics, and dental, rotate with us from a few days up to a month at a time. We use the same template for training that I learned in Chapel Hill. I feel that I have the best of both worlds – being in private practice, and having the opportunity to teach.

One of the nice things about coming to Greenville during the formation of a new medical school was that it gave me the opportunity to become involved as the medical school and hospital grew. I have been on the Admissions Committee, served as Chief of Staff of the hospital, have been on the hospital board for the past nine years, and am a Clinical Professor and head of the Otolaryngology Division of the Department of Surgery in the Brody School of Medicine.

My wife, Jill, has now been on the Pitt County School Board for 10 years. She was the first female to serve as chair of that board. She was also one of the three founding members of Literacy Volunteers of Pitt County. Will, our oldest, is a third year medical student (we all remember what that was like) here in Greenville. Kate is in her first year as a third grade public school teacher in Charlotte. She's working twelve hours a day for pennies. Her classroom is in a trailer. She loves it. We are incredibly proud of both of them.

My main interests include travel, sports and photography. We take one or two trips overseas each year, and most recently have been to southern Africa, Switzerland, and Easter Island and Peru. Next on tap is New Zealand for a second time. Part of this wanderlust can be traced to Dr. Fischer - if you can believe it, during my chief resident year in 1978, he allowed me to go to China for three weeks. This is the man who was rumored to give residents extra call if we came in with a suntan from a weekend off.

There have been four men who have affected me professionally. When I was a third year student, Ed Garrabrant was an attending on staff, and it was his example that first got me interested in otolaryngology. During training and afterward, Paul Biggers was someone who I could talk to with knotty problems, and he seemed to always have the answer. My senior partner in Greenville, Bill Bost, was the best surgeon I ever saw, and he taught me many of his techniques. The most important of all was Dr. Fischer, who taught me how to be the physician I am.

# Announcements

(Just a few more of the many exciting things happening in our Department)

## Weissler Elected to Serve on ACS Board of Regents

**Mark C. Weissler, MD**, was elected as Regent of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) at the group's annual meeting in Chicago earlier this month. Weissler, the J. P. Riddle Distinguished Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, and Chief of the Division of Head and Neck Oncology, has been an ACS fellow since 1990. He has served as a governor to the ACS from the American Laryngological Association, on various ACS committees, including the Advisory Council for Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and the Pre- and Post-operative Care Committee, and is a past president of the North Carolina Chapter of the ACS.

The ACS, with more than 64,000 fellows—including more than 3,700 fellows in other countries and over 5,000 associate fellows, is the largest organization of surgeons in the world. It was founded in 1913 to improve the quality of care for the surgical patient by setting high standards for surgical education and practice.

The 19-member Board of Regents governs the ACS. A geographically balanced and specialty-representative Board of Governors elects regents. The other new regents appointed this year were Julie A. Freischlag from Baltimore, MD, and Raymond F. Morgan, MD, from Charlottesville, VA. Weissler will serve an initial three-year term as regent.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Carolina Course in Sinus Surgery  
and Facial Plastic Surgery

April 13-14, 2007

Savannah, GA

(not a typo - stay tuned!)

Newton D. Fischer Society meeting  
combined with a banquet in honor  
of our Chief Residents

Saturday, June 16, 2007

Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel

## Audiologists Earn Doctoral Degrees



Audiologists Corinne Macpherson, AuD; Marcia Clark, AuD (Dec. '06); Sarah Martinho, AuD; and Jill Ritch, AuD

In recent years the professional Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree has replaced the master's degree for entry to practice in clinical audiology. Although audiologists with a master's degree are not required to earn the doctorate, several members of the UNC Hospitals Audiology staff have recently earned their doctoral degree. Audiologists **Sarah Martinho** and **Corinne Macpherson** earned the AuD from the University of Florida in 2005 and 2006, and audiologist **Jill Ritch** earned her degree from the Arizona School of Health Sciences in 2005. **Marcia Clark** recently completed requirements for the AuD from the University of Florida and will receive her degree in December of this year. **Holly Teagle** and **Pat Roush**, faculty members in the Dept. of Otolaryngology, earned their doctoral degrees from the University of Florida in 2005. Congratulations to these members of the UNC team who took the initiative to earn this advanced degree!

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**Charles ("Carlos") Ebert, MD, MPH**, was awarded first prize, the President's Award, at the American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery annual meeting in Toronto, for his poster presentation, "Immunomodulatory Oligonucleotides in the Prevention of Nasal Allergen-Induced Eustachian Tube Dysfunction."

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**Paul C. Bryson, MD**, was asked to serve on the Voice, Speech, and Swallowing Committee of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He is the only resident on the committee.

Comments, suggestions, or questions about *Heads Up?* Contact Elizabeth Perry, 919-966-8926, or [eaperry@med.unc.edu](mailto:eaperry@med.unc.edu).

*The Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery is proud of its skilled faculty and staff who are committed to providing patients with the highest quality health care. Get to know us!*

#### **The Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery**

Harold C. Pillsbury, MD, FACS, Chair, Thomas J. Dark Distinguished Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery  
William W. Shockley, MD, FACS, Vice Chair, W. Paul Biggers Distinguished Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery  
Carolyn Hamby, Clinical Academic Departmental Administrator

#### **The Division of Head and Neck Oncology, Cancer Research**

Mark C. Weissler, MD, FACS, Professor and Chief, Joseph P. Riddle Distinguished Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery  
William W. Shockley, MD, FACS, Professor  
Scott D. Meredith, MD, FACS, Associate Professor (WakeMed ENT, Chief)  
Carol G. Shores, MD, PhD, FACS, Associate Professor  
Marion E. Couch, MD, PhD, FACS, Assistant Professor  
Andrew F. Olshan, PhD, Research Professor  
Brian K. Kanapkey, Speech Pathologist

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Austin S. Rose, MD, Assistant Professor

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Raymond D. Cook, MD, Assistant Professor (WakeMed ENT)

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Harold C. Pillsbury, MD, FACS, Professor  
Oliver F. Adunka, MD, PhD, Clinical Instructor

#### **The Division of Rhinology, Allergy, Sinus Surgery**

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Brett E. Dorfman, MD, Assistant Professor (WakeMed ENT)  
Michael O. Ferguson, MD, Assistant Professor (WakeMed ENT)

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Mark C. Weissler, MD, FACS, Professor  
Ellen S. Markus, MA, Coordinator  
Linda F. Hube, MS, Speech Pathologist

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Carlton J. Zdanski, MD, FACS, Assistant Professor  
Carolyn J. Brown, MS, CCC-SLP/A, Clinical Assistant Professor, Program Director  
Holly Teagle, AuD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Clinical Director

#### **Residents:**

John W. Alldredge, MD	Trinitia Y. Cannon, MD	Deidra A. Blanks, MD	Gregory J. Basura, MD, PhD	Mitchell R. Gore, MD, PhD
Marc K. Bassim, MD	Joshua C. Demke, MD	Paul C. Bryson, MD	Keith M. Ladner, MD	Paula J. Harmon, MD
Charles S. Ebert, MD, MPH	Karen A. Kölln, MD	W. Derek Leight, MD	Rose J. Payyapilli Eapen, MD	Mihir R. Patel, MD
Krishna G. Patel, MD, PhD	Jeffrey B. LaCour, MD	Allen F. Marshall, MD	Alisha N. West, MD	Michael E. Stadler, MD
Adam M. Zanation, MD	Steve C. Lee, MD, PhD			

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