



UNC

DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY/
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

HEADS

FALL 2013 • VOL. 15 • ISSUE 3

Up

TRIOLOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS TO UNC-OHNS

Two faculty members of the UNC Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery were presented with national awards on April 12th, 2013 at the 116th Annual Meeting of the Triological Society in Orlando, FL.

Adam M. Zanation, MD won the Triological Society's 2013 Harris P. Mosher Award for his candidate's thesis, "How Does Coordinated Multidisciplinary Care



Jesus Medina, MD presents Adam M. Zanation, MD with the Triological Society's 2013 Harris P. Mosher Award

Impact Head and Neck Tumor Treatment Planning? A Prospective Evaluation of a Multidisciplinary Tumor Conference." This award "recognizes excellence of a thesis in Clinical Research." Dr. Zanation's thesis was a prospective clinical trial evaluating the Multidisciplinary Tumor Conference and its impact on patient care in those with newly diagnosed head and neck tumors. This study enrolled and collected data on 468 patients whose stage, diagnosis and treatment plan was measured pre and post tumor board.

The findings show that over 40% of patients had a major treatment or staging change after the tumor conference. Higher stage disease and higher-grade tumors had significantly larger odd ratios of change. During the presentation, Dr. Zanation concluded, "This data supports the impact of tumor boards and the notion that comprehensive head and neck tumor treatment should involve a tumor board and multidisciplinary discussion as a best practice recommendation."

Dr. Zanation is the third member of the UNC Department of Otolaryngology to win the Mosher



Jesus Medina, MD presents Dr. Harold Pillsbury with the Triological Society Gold Medal

AWARDS continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Triological Society 2013 Awards • CASTLE & Adult Cochlear Events • Newton D. Fischer Society 2013 Vietnam Outreach • A Partner's Cancer Story • OHNS Announcements

Upcoming EVENTS

The 5th Annual CASTLE Fun & Fundraiser is September 8th from 4pm to 7pm at Chapel Hill's Southern Village Green, with special musical guests, the Nomads Band, and is open to the public. This is always a Family Fun outdoor event with music and performances by the CASTLE/ENT staff and even some CASTLE/CCCDP kids! There will be dancing, games, prizes, Silent Auction packages, a 50/50 raffle, and FUN for everyone on the beautiful Village Green.



Bring your family & friends, chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, coolers, (or enjoy the many fine restaurants of South Village around the Green) and plan now to attend.

Admission is FREE ... but tax-deductible donations are accepted and encouraged!

Sunday, September 8, 2013 4pm - 7pm

Southern Village on the Green, Chapel Hill, NC.

For more information, please visit supportcastle.org



Harold C. Pillsbury, MD
Professor and Chair

Chair's Corner

Fall of the year brings us to a point in our department where we reflect on things that we are accomplishing on a regional, national, and international basis. Certainly our efforts at supporting the needs of deaf children have been a continued devotion for us and source of great accomplishment through the years. We have proceeded

on a national basis to gain recognition for our faculty including the prestigious Mosher Award for Adam Zanation as well as the Gold Medal of the Triological Society for myself. I must say this was a great surprise, and a humbling experience.

Our continued effort screening people for head and neck cancer to prevent accelerated and advanced disease from taking the lives of so many North Carolinians is a responsibility that we enthusiastically embrace. The potential to help so many North Carolinians hinges on the capacity for early detection.

Finally, our Vietnamese Exchange Program has been nothing short of spectacular. Spearheaded by Brent Senior, we have been able to really deliver tremendous talent and expertise to the Vietnamese people and have been warmly embraced by them when they come to the United States. We also have significant interactions with them in educational venues and academic advances, both here and in Vietnam. No matter how Healthcare Reform evolves, the capacity to help our fellow man will always be an inspiration for our department at UNC.

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med.unc.edu/ent

Fall 2013 Heads Up is designed and edited by Nicolette DeGroot.

AWARDS *continued from cover*

Award. Dr. Harold Pillsbury won the award in 1986 and Dr. Craig Buchman in 2004. Dr. Zanation says "it is an honor to be awarded this from the Triological Society; and to be inducted into this esteemed organization of scholars with my mentors and family present is humbling."

During the opening ceremony of the same meeting, Dr. Harold Pillsbury was presented with the Triological Society Gold Medal. The medal was presented by Triological

Society President Jesus Medina, MD. Dr. Pillsbury is one of only five recipients in the history of the Triological Society to receive this honor, which was first bestowed in 1933. The Gold Medal represents recognition of life-long and far-reaching contributions to the specialty of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. The medal's inscription reads: "Exceptional clinician, mentor and leader; tireless advocate for residents and young otolaryngologists."

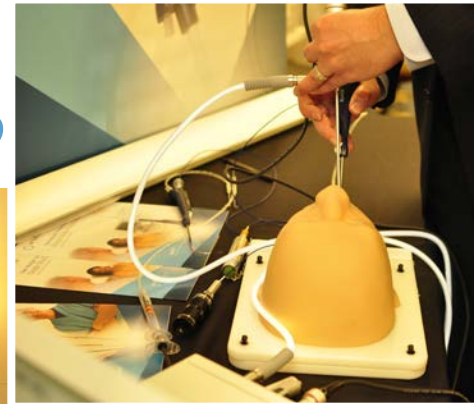
NEWTON D. FISCHER SOCIETY MEETING 2013

The great tradition of the Department's Newton D. Fischer Society Meeting continued this year on Saturday, June 1st at the Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center here in Chapel Hill. For many years, this annual meeting has served as a forum for both practical clinical updates and the presentation of newly discovered research findings, as well as a terrific opportunity for alumni of the residency program to reconnect.

In recent years, under the leadership of Course Co-Directors, Drs. Austin S. Rose and Charles S. Ebert, Jr., the meeting has grown to a fully CME accredited and sponsored annual meeting. This year's accompanying exhibit, the NC ENT EXPO, featured representatives

from Acclarent, Alcon, Brainlab, Entellus, Gyrus/Olympus, Meda Pharmaceuticals, Medtronic, Karl Storz, Stryker and The Medical Foundation of North Carolina. The Department greatly appreciates the continued support of all the sponsors of this annual and growing meeting. This year, EXPO participants were eligible for several prize drawings including a new Apple iPad mini. The lucky grand prize winner was one of our chief residents, Dr. Yu-Tung Wong, who has since completed his training at UNC and began his neurotology fellowship in San Diego, California.

The 2013 program included a number of excellent presentations, including a keynote lecture from Dr. Peter D. Costantino of the New York Head & Neck Institute on the *New Paradigms in Healthcare: Crossing the Chasm*. Dr. Costantino also participated, along with Drs.



TOP: Exhibitor at NC ENT EXPO gives a product demonstration. **LEFT:** Dr. Peter D. Constantino, of the New York Head & Neck Institute gives the keynote presentation. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Drs. Robert Buckmire & Trinitia Cannon, former UNC-OHNS resident, now Assistant Professor at University of Oklahoma.



Brent Senior, Charles Ebert, Adam Zanation and Brian Thorp, in a well-received Skull-Base Surgery Panel.

The annual Newton D. Fischer Society Meeting, along with the accompanying NC ENT EXPO, has now grown into the largest annual ENT meeting and forum for exhibitors here in the state of North Carolina – an achievement we hope will continue in the coming years.

Drs. Ebert and Rose have already begun planning next year's meeting. It will be held at the Rizzo Conference Center here in Chapel Hill, on Saturday, June 7th, 2014 – so save the date!



ENT Surgeons In Vietnamese Exchange

By Lily Lauer with Jeff Stebbins

It was a busy week in early April for the team of seven otorhinolaryngologists who served in Vietnam—and an adventure for Jeff Stebbins, who facilitated the trip. Jeff has a “Dr.” before his name, but he has a PhD in linguistics, not medicine. This was his first medical trip, so—besides offering his valuable skills in language, culture, logistical coordination, and ordering noodles—he was able to observe our very talented team of ENTs as they performed patient consultations, lectures, and surgeries.



Dr. Alexander Farag and Lorien Paulson

Jeff met Dr. Brent Senior, ENT team leader from UNC, Chapel Hill (in North Carolina) in Hanoi a few days before the rest of the team arrived. Dr. Senior flew into Vietnam from Indonesia where he had been working with a humanitarian mission. Dr. Senior has taken a whopping sixteen trips to Vietnam since 1998. During this trip he divided his time in Hanoi between National ENT Hospital and Bach Mai Hospital, where he performed three surgeries and lectured on the development of sinuses from embryo to adulthood. Brent operated on one of our friends, Dr. Dinh, an REI-Vietnam Fellow and head of the ENT Department at Bach Mai Hospital. Dr. Dinh's wife was moved by Dr. Senior's expert care for her husband, and her farewell to Brent was very touching.

Jeff and Brent met the rest of the ENT team in Ho Chi Minh City. Dr. Harold Pine, pediatric



Dr. Brent Senior and Alexander Farag

ENT from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, is also a veteran traveler, with ten trips under his belt. He brought his colleague, Dr. Dayton Young, an Assistant Professor at UTMB, and two residents, Dr. Eugene Son and Dr. Viet Pham, who has traveled with Dr. Pine on two previous trips. Dr. Lorien Paulson, a Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellow, and Dr. Alex Farag, both from UNC Chapel Hill, rounded out the team. Because of a blizzard on the east coast, Dr. Farag didn't arrive in Ho Chi Minh City until hours before the team began their first day of work. Nevertheless, he dove into a full schedule of patient consultations.

Upon arriving, most of the doctors had two days to recover from jet lag and explore nearby shopping. Over the weekend, Drs. Pine, Pham and Young, and Dr. Young's brother, Aaron (in Vietnam after a business trip in Korea), went on a bike and boat expedition in the delta south of Ho Chi Minh City. Dr. Young was surprised to see many children run outside their home to shout “hello” as they rode by on their bicycles. Arriving at the different hospitals, Drs. Pine and Senior were welcomed by old friends. They were able to reconnect with

numerous REI-Vietnam Fellows including Drs. Dinh, Luong, Ha, Huong, and Huy, and they met a new Fellow, Dr. Tran (who is currently in the United States on a REI Fellowship).

Drs. Harold Pine and Lorien Paulson worked at No. 1 Children's Hospital throughout the week. The other doctors divided time between Number One Children's Hospital, Gia Dinh Hospital, HCMC's ENT Hospital, and Nguyen Tri Phuong Hospital. Most of the doctors spent the first part of the day in patient consultations, often with cases specially chosen by our Vietnamese colleagues for their difficulty. The doctors performed surgery in the afternoon on selected patients. Dr. Dayton Young, in particular, was given some challenging surgeries. He specializes in repairing large perforations of the ear drum. He often receives referrals of cases where previous surgery, sometimes multiple surgeries, have been unsuccessful. In Vietnam, he demonstrated a lateral graft technique to successfully close these large holes. There were roughly fifteen doctors observing in the operating room and up to sixty additional doctors watching in another room via live video stream. After surgery, he lectured on the technique to the doctors who had watched the surgery earlier.

Dr. Senior performed sinus surgery on a very special patient who is so dear to us: Mrs. Lien, REI-VN's Representative for Vietnamese Relations. *(VIETNAM CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)*



Dr. Brent Senior and Lien

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO THE DEPARTMENT!

In the present health care environment, clinical income and federal grants are no longer adequate to meet the overall mission of our Department. Additional private and corporate funds are needed to ensure our future growth. Private gifts allow us to continue making research breakthroughs that form the foundation of new and improved methods of patient care. They also make it possible for us to attract and retain the best teachers, clinicians and promising scientists to train future surgeons. There are many giving options available to support the efforts of our Department. Please contact our Director of Development for more information on how you can help.

Leslie H. Nelson, Director of Development // The Medical Foundation of North Carolina | 880 MLK Jr. Boulevard | Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2600 | 919-843-5734 | Leslie_Nelson@med.unc.edu



SCREENING SAVES LIVES:

By Rich Rivera

The Department held its annual Head and Neck Cancer Screening Day on April 25, 2013: a free event that allows attendings and residents the opportunity to participate in community cancer outreach, and is open to the public. Rich Rivera, a volunteer for the event graciously offered to share the story his partner, Bart Queen. For more information about Bart's recovery, please visit go.unc.edu/a8MFd

I am often asked what were my initial reactions and thoughts when my partner and I learned that he had stage four throat cancer. Our first reaction, like many who have unexpectedly been diagnosed with a life threatening illness or ailment, was simply, disbelief. Bart, who was in his early 50s at the time had never smoked or used tobacco products. Anyone who has met Bart knows of his extraordinary active lifestyle, combining his busy professional life as a speaker and communications trainer with a disciplined exercise regimen at the gym, and strenuous chores on the farm.

The idea of Bart having throat cancer was something he and I never anticipated. After our initial period of disbelief, we agreed that only through our combined acceptance, perseverance and faith would we succeed in the many battles during the next several months to win the war over cancer! The oncologists along with the patient team at the Cancer Clinic were methodical and precise in the treatment plan that included radiation and chemotherapy.



The medical team at the Cancer Clinic agreed upon a treatment plan that would provide the greatest assurance of eliminating the cancer cells while striving to pre-

serve and protect Bart's ability to speak. It was a delicate balance of "not too much" treatment and "not too little" treatment. We quickly learned that the side effects of the treatment felt ten times worse than the cancer itself. Overcoming the occasional nausea, frequent digestive issues, excruciatingly persistent pain in the mouth and throat became a daily battle.

With God's grace, those battles would be taken on a day by day basis. As Bart's partner and caregiver, I often prayed that I could bare the burden of his pain and discomfort to allow him the energy, strength, clarity and focus to fight the cancer. That was not possible. Being at his side, being supportive and being an advocate for his care was my role and my focus during those six months of treatment and post treatment recovery. Many other family members and close friends also assumed vital roles to help us and we are eternally grateful for their unwavering love, support and prayers during those challenging months.

A Partner's Story



Hazel Hampton, RN, BSN, Glenda Blackwood, and Laura Miller with Rich Rivera

A few months following the completion of treatments, the nausea and digestive problems slowly began to subside. The pain became tolerable and the feeding tube inserted into his stomach and used for intake of water and liquid nutritional supplements was removed almost six months to the day of his first chemotherapy/radiation treatment.

In November, Bart and I waited anxiously, yet hopefully, for the results of the first post treatment full body PET scan and were absolutely joyful and thankful that all traces of cancer were gone. He and I had much to share and be grateful for during the Thanksgiving Holiday with our families. Nine months have passed since that first post-treatment PET scan and Bart is healthy and free of cancer. We celebrated the One Year Anniversary of the completion of his treatments in May and remind ourselves often of our blessings of his good health.



Doctors on hand at the 2013 Head & Neck Cancer Screening event: Joe Roche, Mark Weissler, Anand Dugar and Baishakhi Choudhury

Bart is gradually gaining back much of the strength and stamina lost during the treatment and post-treatment recovery period. We know that our acceptance of the situation, perseverance to complete the painful and discomforting treatment plan and our belief in our faith got us through this difficult time. Bart has been and continues to be an inspiration to many. His triumph over cancer has renewed his strength and faith.

LOUD & Clear

The UNC
Department of
Otolaryngology/
Head and Neck

Surgery, in conjunction with UNC Healthcare Department of Audiology, hosted the **Third Annual Sounds of Celebration: UNC Cochlear Implant Patient Picnic** on Saturday, April 27th. The event was held at the UNC Business School's Latane Plaza, and was a collaboration between the Adult Cochlear Implant Program, the Carolina Children's Communicative Disorders Program (CCCDP), and the Center for the Acquisition of Spoken language Through Listening Enrichment (CASTLE).



Adult and pediatric patients, along with family members and friends, joined the cochlear implant program team members for an afternoon of food, games, and an opportunity to share experiences with fellow cochlear implant recipients. There was a lot of activity this year: the Bouncing Bulldogs entertained with their jump rope and fancy footwork; patients posed for pictures in the photo booth; and the UNC cheerleaders energized the crowd, while UNC mascot, Rameses, posed for pictures with excited fans. Cochlear implant manufacturer booths

offered patients an opportunity to meet and ask questions of their company's representatives.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Advanced Bionics, Cochlear, and Med-EL Corporation; and to the student volunteers from the UNC Doctorate of Audiology Program.



We celebrated our **Second Annual CASTLE Breakfast** on April 18th. It was a wonderful morning to celebrate the remarkable success of children with hearing loss in the UNC Ear and Hearing Center. We heard from Ben Smith, a CASTLE board member who has bilateral cochlear implants. He shared about his academic success and his plans following his high school graduation in June. We heard from Summer Allison, a parent of a 12-month-old with hearing loss that lives in Western, NC and is able to receive services through our REACH services. We also heard from Matt Maciejewski, a CASTLE board member and parent of a son with bilateral cochlear implants that has received services from UNC Ear and Hearing and CASTLE.

Thank you to all our table captains and guests who helped us raise over \$20,000 to support children with hearing loss to learn to listen and talk!



The **First Annual CASTLE Golf Tournament** on May 12th was a huge success. The tournament was held at Sedgefield Country Club Dye Course in Greensboro, NC. The day kicked off with beautiful weather and 17 teams hitting the links. Drs. Pillsbury, Chikes and Ebert were there representing the great golfing skills of our department!

We would like to thank our sponsors and players that helped us raise over \$16,000 for the CASTLE program. A special thank you goes to Holly and Michael Shoun for all their help in planning the event!



VIETNAM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

She had been suffering for months and had been hospitalized several times. Her husband, Dr. Long, traveled to Ho Chi Minh City to support her. The surgery was obviously successful as Mrs. Lien was back to work within 24 hours.

Several members of the ENT team were also able to observe a former REI-VN Fellow, Dr. Son of Number One Children's Hospital, perform an otoplasty on a child born with all the requisite parts of the inner ear, but missing the external cartilage of the visible parts of the ear itself. He removed a piece of cartilage from the patient's ribcage, traced the shape of the child's good ear onto the cartilage, and then inserted it under the skin where the child's ear should be. It will take several surgeries to achieve 'the final product.'

The ENT team was very appreciative of a generous donation of equipment from Karl Storz, Ltd. Tino Demmler and Philippe Lux, Product Specialists for Karl Storz, provided the team with equipment for navigation and

endoscopy, both in Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh City. Surgeries were much easier and more effective with this generous gift of equipment.



FRONT (left to right): Drs. Lorian Paulson, Alex Farag, Viet Pham, Brent Senior, Harold Pine. **BACK** (left to right): Drs. Dayton Young, Eugene Son

During their downtime, the team was able to enjoy delicious food at banquets provided by our friends at Gia Dinh Hospital and Nguyen Tri Phuong Hospital. They enjoyed rich

fellowship with their Vietnamese counterparts from each of the hospitals during other meals, as well. A highlight was the team's enjoyment of the Rooftop Garden Restaurant at the Rex Hotel, where international correspondents dined during the war in the 1960s. Just before leaving, Dr. Paulson proudly noted that she had managed to avoid eating any western food during the entire trip.

Dr. Young related that he especially appreciated the friendliness and welcoming disposition of the people of Vietnam. He found them to be "gracious, bright, and hard-working." He appreciated the time the Vietnamese doctors would take to get to know the team over a cup of tea before the busyness of the day began, as well as their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Team members had fun socializing with colleagues outside of the hospital after work. They cultivated delightful

relationships within the team and with Vietnamese doctors, and they look forward to future trips when they can reconnect with their new friends.

OHNS Announcements

Dr. Douglas Fitzpatrick will host visiting professor, Dr. Charles Liberman on September 17th at 5pm. Dr. Liberman is a Professor of Department of Otology & Laryngology from Harvard Medical School and the Director of Eaton-Peabody Laboratory of Massachusetts Eye & Infirmary. The presentation *New perspectives on noise-induced and age-related hearing loss: putting the "neural" back in sensorineural hearing loss* will be at the Kirkland Auditorium, Koury Oral Health Sciences Building.

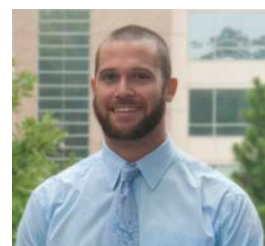


Donations are currently being sought for a surgery for Baby Adam: the deformed baby that was adopted at 8 weeks old by a couple in Florida, and has captured the hearts of many. Adam (left with little brother, Elliot) was abandoned in India at birth due to a rare genetic disorder that caused multiple birth defects including an absence of eyelids, severe cleft palate and lip, absent fingers, and significant webbing of his legs and is absent external nasal structures. Despite having a healthy heart, brain, and other internal organs, multiple surgeries did not seem possible. When

it seemed like there were no options left, and after hearing Adam's story, a team of highly specialized physicians at UNC Hospitals, led by plastic and reconstructive surgeon Dr. John Van Aalst, including **Dr. Amelia Drake**, agreed to help repair Adam's external defects. Dr. Van Aalst is a pediatric plastic surgeon who specializes in craniofacial surgery, cleft lip and palate. Many of the surgeries need to be done quickly due to risks for long term damage. The surgery is scheduled for this fall. **ONLINE EXTRAS:** go.unc.edu/Gn6q8

Each year since 1979, The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship has selected four third-year medical students to spend three months working as

Fellows at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon on clinical rotations. As a 2013 Medical Fellow, **Mathieu Forgues** worked as a junior physician on the Internal Medicine service, with autonomous responsibility for patients in the inpatient service, in the outpatient clinic and in the ER. Mathieu is a 4th year UNC medical student who worked in **Dr. Douglas Fitzpatrick's** lab, and spent May from July in Gabon, which was covered by a grant that he received. More info can be found here: schweitzerfellowship.org/features/lamb/



Mathieu Forgues, MS4

Dr. Pat Roush was a co-author on a paper which was written as a result of the *Outcomes of Children with Hearing Loss* study. The article, *Factors Influencing Follow-Up to Newborn Hearing Screening for Infants Who Are Hard of Hearing*, was selected for the 2012 Editors' Award for the American Journal of Audiology.



Blues singer Bill McCulloch (Photo by Capitol Broadcasting Company)

Dr. Robert Buckmire was featured in local news affiliate WRAL in July. Dr. Buckmire's treatment for blues singer Bill McCulloch, or Windy City Slim, restored the voice he lost during chemotherapy treatment for a tumor in 2011. Speech pathologist **Ellen Markus** was also featured. **ONLINE EXTRAS:** go.unc.edu/y4QHd



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