

Summer 2006 Volume 8 Issue 3 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery

Hgads Up

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

Carolina Pointe: A Great Addition for UNC ENT!







Left to right: At the Carolina Pointe ENT Clinic, Pediatric Otolaryngologist Austin Rose, MD, with one of his patients; the waiting area, with Angel Jeffries behind the check-in window; and Cynthia Nabut, RN, one of our ENT nurses who spends some of her week at Carolina Pointe.

This has truly been an exciting year for the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery here at UNC. We were ranked #18 of all hospitals in the country in the category of best places to go for care of the ears, nose, and throat, in the "Best Hospitals 2006" issue of *US News and World Report*. Last year we were #19. Again we are #1 in North Carolina.

In addition to expanding the resident training program to four residents per year, the Department also hosted four residents from Louisiana State University displaced by Hurricane Katrina. We have also had the opportunity to welcome visiting students, residents and fellows to our service from countries all over the world including Korea, Vietnam, the U.K., Austria, Sweden, and Turkey.

Clinically, we continued to see rapid growth in demand for our outpatient services and, to meet this need, added a new community based clinic in addition to our main ENT clinic in the North Carolina Neurosciences Hospital. Located in the Carolina Pointe development at the intersection of Highway 54 and Interstate-40 in Durham, this new facility is open daily and offers the complete spectrum of ENT services including voice, allergy, speech and language pathology and audiology. Our goal has been to reach out to the community, offering the best possible access to our physicians and state-of-the-art services. Since its opening in April,

2006, the UNC Ear, Nose & Throat clinic at Carolina Pointe has played an vital role in helping us to achieve this goal.

The clinic has maintained a busy schedule from its first day forward, and both new and returning patients agree that it's very easy to find. According to Dr. Austin Rose, "Many of our patients have commented on how easy it is to see us at this location. It's a beautiful and fully-equipped facility with excellent parking just outside our front door." Dr. Harold Pillsbury agrees. "This office is a place where all of our doctors express their commitment to our patients to



make their experience seeing us as effortless as possible." No doubt, the members of the Department look forward to serving our patients as effectively and efficiently as possible both at Carolina Pointe and at the main ENT Clinic in Chapel Hill for many years to come.

The New Interns Are Here!

We are pleased to have four outstanding new interns join our program. They began their rotations on June 24th. Throughout their first year they will do rotations in ENT, general surgery, anesthesia, SICU, and Emergency Department.

Mitchell Gore, MD, PhD, is a UNC medical school graduate who is thrilled to continue on at UNC in his residency training. He completed his graduate training in the UNC Department of Chemistry and received his PhD in the field of Organic Chemistry. His interests include oncology research in molecular mechanisms in head and neck cancer.

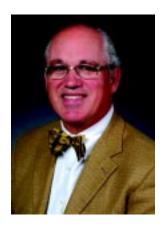
Paula Harmon, MD, having developed an outstanding record at the Morehouse School of Medicine, has an interest in international health. She has done medical volunteer work in Atlanta as well as in Nicaragua. A former basketball player at Spellman College, Paula brings a lot of energy to our program.

Mihir Patel, MD, is a UNC medical school graduate who was accepted to the 7 year research track program. After his first intern year, he will do two years of protected research on the Department's NIHT-32 training grant. His research interests are biochemical markers and tumor suppressors as they relate to head and neck oncology.

Michael Stadler, MD, is an outstanding graduate of University of Wisconsin Medical School. He is a well-rounded individual who has done medical volunteer work and acted on stage in summer theater on his breaks from medical school. His otolaryngology interests include head and neck cancer.

Chair's Corner

As we start the year again with another group of fantastic interns, I immediately recall the success of our last group of chief residents. Each one of them is embarking upon a career which will only enhance the reputation of our Department. Drs. Melroy and Das are pursuing fellowships in Rhinology. Dr. Hardy is



joining a practice in Wilmington, NC, and Dr. Hanemann is starting a career as a plastic surgeon. We have a tremendous amount of pride in their accomplishments and tremendous hope for their success in the future.

Outreach seems to be the order of the day in our Department, as you can see from the articles in this present issue. I have the highest esteem for our faculty and residents who undertake humanitarian activities both here at home and around the world. They have truly extended the reach and caring touch of our Program and the University through all of their efforts. We continue to expand our horizons with each year.

Harold C. Pillsbury, MD Department Chair



On Orientation Day, June 21st, the new interns stop by the office of Residency Program Coordinator, Kari Corker. Left to right: Mitchell Gore, MD, PhD; Michael Stadler, MD; Mihir Patel, MD; and Paula Harmon, MD.

UNC Hospitals Expands Audiology Services to Meet Community Needs

In an effort to provide North Carolinians with more efficient access to world-class Otolaryngology, Audiology, and Speech Pathology services, the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology in cooperation with the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, opened the UNC Hospitals Hearing and Voice Center at Carolina Pointe in April 2006. This community-based ENT, Audiology and Speech Pathology clinic is conveniently located at 5915 Farrington Road adjacent to the intersection of Highway 54 and Interstate 40.

The facility is staffed by two full-time audiologists who received their training from top-ranked graduate programs and have experience in nearly every specialty area within the field of Audiology.

Gregory Smith joined the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology in September 2005 after spending the past four years working as a staff Audiologist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He received his B.A. in Speech and Hearing Science in 1999 and his M.A. in Audiology in 2001 from The University of Iowa. "After spending the past four years practicing Audiology in a major medical center like Mayo Clinic, it's rewarding to have the opportunity to take my work out into the community," says Smith. "And our patients have been extremely happy with the convenient location, the comprehensive ear, nose and throat care, and the free, front-door parking."

Dr. Paula Johnson joined the staff in July 2006 after completing a one-year externship with UNC Hospitals. She graduated with her B.A. in Psychology and Linguistics in 2001 and her Au.D. in 2006 from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Johnson has a special interest in both children and adults with hearing loss and is committed to providing her patients with the compassionate care, information, and technology they need to communicate more effectively.

The UNC Hospitals Hearing and Voice Center is able to provide hearing evaluations for pediatric through adult patient populations. They offer complete impedance testing including tympanometry and acoustic reflexes. Additionally, they are able to assess otoacoustic emissions in patients of all ages. This test provides objective information about outer hair cell function in the inner ear.

"Every hearing loss is different and everyone's listening needs are unique," says Dr. Johnson. Because of this, hearing aids come in a variety of levels of technology, sizes, styles and colors. The audiologists at UNC Hospitals Hearing and Voice Center provide each patient with an individualized hearing aid evaluation to determine the hearing instrument which best meets their needs. And they offer exceptional service after the sale. "The bottom line is that we want our patients to be satisfied with the product they choose," says Smith. Patients are allowed 30 days to evaluate their hearing aids and the purchaser may return their hearing aids for any reason during the evaluation. Additionally, Smith developed an aural rehabilitation program for adults designed to help new hearing instrument users and their significant others understand hearing loss, develop communication strategies, and learn how to properly care for their hearing aids. All hearing aids purchased at the Hearing and Voice Center come with a minimum one-year warranty, which also includes loss and damage coverage. Recognizing that cost may be a concern for some patients, UNC Hospitals offers payment plans that can be arranged prior to the hearing aid purchase. Patients are encouraged to bring in hearing aids that are broken or in need of service, regardless of where they were originally purchased.

Solutions for patients with normal hearing are also available. Just this year Starkey Laboratories introduced the SoundPort. This is the world's first custom-fit headset for Bluetooth® enabled cellular phones. It is a small, lightweight system that connects directly to a custom earpiece for clear, hands-free and wireless telephone communication.

A variety of custom earmolds can be obtained through UNC Hospitals Hearing and Voice Center. They now sell custom iPod® earbuds designed to direct music comfortably into the user's ear while providing a much better fit than standard earphones. Additionally, they offer cusom-fit earmolds for hearing protection, musician's earplugs, anesthesiologist molds, stethoscope molds, pilot molds, TV communication molds, inhelmet sets for motorcycles/race cars, and swimmolds.

The field of Audiology has expanded to meet the growing needs of a technologically-driven society. "Because the hearing aid industry has made some giant leaps forward in recent years, this is an exciting time to be an audiologist, and a great time to be a patient at the UNC Hospitals Hearing and Voice Center," adds Smith.

The UNC Hospitals Hearing and Voice Center is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information regarding available services, appointments or referrals, please call (919) 490-3716.



Gregory Smith examines a patient's ears.



Dr. Johnson prepares to test a patient's hearing.

Training Surgeons From Around the World

Two Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgeons have come from half way around the world to spend some time at UNC with Dr. Brent Senior, specifically for the purpose of expanding their knowledge and surgical techniques in rhinology and sinus surgery.

Dr. Senior has been involved with REI-Vietnam (Resource Exchange International) for nine years, traveling to Vietnam every spring to teach, lecture, and operate with Vietnamese surgeons and residents for two weeks. Luan Tran Viet, MD, who practices in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), has known Dr. Senior for years through the Vietnam Program, and was invited to spend a month at UNC to participate in a "mini-fellowship" in rhinology and sinus surgery.

Do-il Kim, MD, who is in private practice in Anyang City, South Korea, had read about Dr. Senior and his work in the American Journal of Rhinology and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He wrote Dr. Senior, expressing his interest in pursuing a two-year fellowship in rhinology and sinus surgery at UNC.

For both surgeons, the experience of an observational fellowship has been excellent. "The best part has been working with Dr. Senior," notes Dr. Kim. "He's an amazing teaching surgeon." Dr. Luan adds, "There are so many procedures we just don't do in Vietnam because we lack the modern machines. Being able to use the 3-D technology of BrainLAB here is incredible." Dr. Kim also acknowledges how much he has learned about frontal sinus and sphenoid surgery, as well as pituitary surgery.

What impressed both surgeons most was how much better overall patient care is in the United States. "Back home, for a consult, doctors may spend 3 to 5 minutes with a patient, but here, it's more like 15 to 30 minutes," says Dr. Kim. "Such detailed care, and all the time

spent communicating with the patient, I wasn't used to that, but it's inspiring." Dr. Luan observes, "The team care here, with doctors of different specialties discussing a patient's case together, cooperating in their care of the patient, is also something we don't see in Vietnam."

Although Dr. Luan is only spending a month at UNC, and Dr. Kim is finishing up his second year, both have traveled in the United States, attending professional meetings as well as for pleasure. They both have found Chapel Hill to be a great place to live, and especially enjoy the convenience of public transportation. "There's a lot less pollution here, less traffic, and everything is huge!" exclaims Dr. Luan. Since he is only spending a month here, he has been living with Dr. Senior and his family. Dr. Kim's wife and their two school-age children are living in an apartment. He was amazed at how protective our society is of children who ride the bus to school, with all traffic required to stop as the bus is loading or unloading.

Upon his return to Vietnam, with the knowledge and skill gained at UNC, Dr. Luan plans to continue his practice with his colleagues in Ho Chi Minh City. Dr. Kim has plans to put his talents to work on the mission field, either in Cambodia, China, or North Korea. He is already planning to join Dr. Senior and Dr. Luan in Vietnam next summer. "We've become good friends now," Dr. Luan smiles. Dr. Kim nods, "I feel that this experience with Dr. Senior at UNC is an answer to prayer. I had prayed for many years for a chance like this, to come to the United States, to be able to work with and learn from a rhinologist who is not only an excellent teacher and surgeon, but a good Christian as well." Dr. Luan agrees, "It couldn't have been more perfect."



Drs. Kim, Senior, and Luan outside the Operating Room.

4 www.unc-ent.org

Physician Travels from Vietnam to Chapel Hill for Surgery by UNC Otolaryngologist

9,198 miles separate the doctors of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at UNC from the ENT Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Different cultures, different lives, but a common discipline. For the last nine years, Dr. Brent Senior, Associate Professor and Chief of Rhinology, Allergy, and Sinus Surgery, has been building on that common discipline bridging the gaps, traveling to Vietnam with a team of otolaryngologists assisting the Vietnamese surgeons to advance otolaryngology in their country to better serve their people.

Over the years, many friendships have developed. Last year, one of those friends, Quynh Lan Nguyen, the Chief of Rhinology at the largest ENT hospital in the south of Vietnam, told Dr. Senior that she was suffering from very severe headaches and was found to have a large non-secreting pituitary adenoma. Dr. Senior and his partner in the Division of Neurosurgery, Dr. Matt Ewend, are world-renowned experts in minimally invasive pituitary surgery (MIPS). Knowing this, Dr. Lan wanted her tumor removed by them at the University of North Carolina. Needless to say, the obstacles were many, but Dr. Senior later commented "Dr. Lan is such an outstanding surgeon and a friend whom I have come to know very well over the last several years. I couldn't imagine not trying to make this happen, both for her and for her family."

After a year of "obstacle hurtling," planning, and fund raising, Lan arrived in Chapel Hill in mid May along with two of her family members and the surgery was performed a few days later. Success! The tumor was removed without complication and two days following brain surgery, she was discharged to home ...Dr. Senior's home! "I have to say that this is the first time that I have had a patient recover in my home after I performed surgery on them, but it does make post-op rounding much easier!" laughs Dr. Senior.

Dr. Lan currently continues to recover with extended family in California and plans to return to Vietnam in July. She says "I am so thankful for the Dr. Senior, Dr. Ewend and the team at the University of North Carolina. You have changed my life. Oh, and 'Go Heels!"

UNC Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery: Bridging the gaps. Maybe 9,198 miles isn't so far after all!



The day after her surgery, Dr. Lan gets a visit from Dr. Senior.

Give a Gift to Carolina ENT Outreach Today!

Help physicians like Drs. Kim and Luan continue to expand their knowledge of surgical techniques in rhinology and sinus surgery.

Your gift will support the overseas humanitarian efforts by the Department of Otolaryngology/ Head and Neck Surgery. Through your support, Dr. Senior and his residents can continue to give hands-on training to Vietnamese physicians and help them continue to expand their knowledge and surgical techniques in rhinology and sinus surgery.

For more information please contact Holli Findt, Director of Development at (919) 843-5734 or Holli_Findt@med.unc.edu.

Heads Up 5

Fischer and Residents Honored Together

The Department's two most important events of the year were held on the same day this year, June 10th, at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill.

The annual meeting of the Newton D. Fischer Society, in honor of our first Chief of the then Division of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, included a full day of scientific presentations followed by a business meeting. The invited guest speaker this year was Paul Lambert, MD, from the Medical University of South Carolina. The Society was founded to acknowledge Dr. Fischer's contributions to the field of Otolaryngology/ Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Fischer's daughter, Amelia F. Drake, MD, carries the title of Newton D. Fischer Distinguished Pro-



Dr. Drake and her father, Dr. Fischer, enjoy a break during the Fischer Society meeting at the Carolina Inn.

fessor, and is Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology. Dr. Pillsbury has recently named her the Director of the Residency Program.

That evening, the Fischer Society meeting attendees were invited to a reception and dinner, which was also given in honor of the chief residents. Subinoy Das, MD; Stuart Hardy, MD; and Chris Melroy, MD, completed their residency training here at UNC, and Michael Hanemann, MD, joined them at the podium, although he is officially a graduate of the LSU program. Dr. Das and Dr. Melroy

have both obtained Rhinology fellowships: Das with Dr. Kountakis at the Medical College of Georgia, and Melroy with Dr. Kuhn at the Medical College of South Carolina. Dr. Hardy will be joining former resident George Brinson, MD, in private practice in Wilmington, NC. Dr. Hanemann will be pursuing a two-year Plastic Surgery fellowship here at UNC.

This year there was special recognition of the four residents from Louisiana State University who continued their training with us in

the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. They presented Dr. Pillsbury with a plaque in appreciation of the Department's hospitality and commitment to furthering their educational and medical careers. John Alldredge, MD, and Jeff LaCour, MD, will stay on in our program, and Sachin Parikh, MD, will continue at Stanford University.

The evening was a time of celebration and entertainment, with junior residents roasting the chiefs, and the chiefs roasting junior residents and attendings. Despite the abundance of banter, it was also a time for residents to express their gratitude and admiration of the attendings, and for the attendings to convey their confidence in having trained some of the best Otolaryngologists in the country. Dr. Pillsbury presented the four chiefs with certificates signed by each faculty member, and Dr. Drake inducted them into the Newton D. Fischer Society.



The Four Chiefs : Drs. Chris Melroy, Stuart Hardy, Subinoy Das, and Mike Hanemann

GWU Applauds Pillsbury's Achievements



Harold C. Pillsbury, MD, was among six recipients of the highest honor bestowed by the George Washington University President and Alumni Association. The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award was presented at a ceremony on May 20, and the winners were recognized during the GW Commencement on the National Mall on May 21.

"Rarely have we had the honor of bringing together such a distinguished group of leaders in areas as diverse as public service, industry, politics, law, and medicine," said Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, President of the University. "This year's recipients serve as extraordinary models for the graduating class of 2006."

Dr. Pillsbury received his B.A. in 1970 (Pre-Medicine) and his M.D. in 1972 from George Washington University. The other five recipients were Thad Allen, M.P.A. ('86), Michael B. Enzi, B.B.A. ('66), Jordan M. Hadelman, M.A. ('78), Barbara Joan Pariente, J.D. ('73), and Frederick (Fritz) J. Scheuren, M.A. ('71), Ph.D. ('72).

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is the highest form of recognition given by the University and The George Washington Alumni Association to alumni on an annual basis. Each recipient has made a lasting impact on society through outstanding professional, voluntary, or philanthropic accomplishments. Prior recipients include Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State; J. Edgar Hoover, former FBI director; Allyn E. Kilsheimer, CEO of KCE Structural Engineers; Zelda D. Fichandler, founder of Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.; and Joseph Prueher, former U.S. Ambassador to China.

Announcements

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

On May 20, 2006, Amelia F. Drake, MD, was presented a medal as the recipient of the Gabriel F. Tucker Award for her significant contributions to the field of pediatric laryngology at the annual meeting of the American Laryngological Association in Chicago, Illinois. This award was established in 1987 in memory of Gabriel F. Tucker Sr., and Gabriel F. Tucker, Jr., and commemorates a man and his son who made major contributions not only to pediatric laryngology, but to laryngology and brochoesophagology in general. Dr. Drake is Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology at UNC and is a pediatric airway specialist.

Steve C. Lee, MD, PhD, won third prize in the Clinical/Transitional category for his poster presented at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Retreat on May 15th. This poster, titled "Cross Platform Validation of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Tumor Subtypes Found by Expression Profiling," was co-authored by Xiaoying Yin, MD; Adam M. Zanation, MD; Marion E. Couch, MD, PhD; Carol G. Shores, MD, PhD; and D. Neil Hayes, MD.

Three residents received \$500 travel grants from the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery to be used for travel to the Annual Meeting in September, which will be held in Toronto, Ontario, this year. Those recipients are Drs. Krisha Patel, Carlos Ebert, and Paul Bryson.

On August 1st, Sylvia H. Wrenn, RN, BSN, retired after 22 years of state service. Sylvia started at UNC Hospitals as a staff nurse on 5 Bed Tower in 1984 and worked her way up to Nursing Educational Coordinator on 5 West and eventually the Head Nurse there. In 1993 she joined what was then the Division of Otolaryngology/ Head and Neck Surgery under the Department of Surgery as a Clinical Nurse. In January of 2000 she began coordinating the Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Oncology Program, working

closely with our head and neck oncologists in the care of our patients. Sylvia will be greatly missed by everyone! Her plans are to relax for a few months before going back to school to earn her Masters in Nursing Education. She also would like to travel and spend time with her grandchildren. This photo was taken on July 27th at a reception given by the Multidisciplinary Oncology Program in Sylvia's honor.



Comments, suggestions, or questions about *Heads Up*? Contact Elizabeth Perry, 919-966-8926, or eaperry@med.unc.edu.

Heads Up

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

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Scott D. Meredith, MD, FACS, Associate Professor (WakeMed ENT, Chief)

Carol G. Shores, MD, PhD, FACS, Assistant Professor

Marion E. Couch, MD, PhD, FACS, Assistant Professor

Andrew F. Olshan, PhD, Research Professor

Brian K. Kanapkey, Speech Pathologist

The Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology

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 Distinguished Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery
 Carlton J. Zdanski, MD, FACS, Assistant Professor
 Austin S. Rose, MD, Assistant Professor

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The Division of Rhinology, Allergy, Sinus Surgery

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Linda F. Hube, MS, Speech Pathologist

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John H. Grose, PhD, Professor

Charles C. Finley, PhD, Research Associate Professor

Douglas C. Fitzpatrick, PhD, Research Assistant Professor

Emily Buss, PhD, Research Assistant Professor

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Patricia A. Roush, AuD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Director of Pediatric Audiology

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Carolyn J. Brown, MS, CCC-SLP/A, Clinical Assistant Professor,

Program Director

Holly Teagle, AuD, Clinical Assistant Professor

Residents:

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

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