



Department of Otolaryngology UPDATE

What's Happening Cochlear Implantation with Brian Kellermeyer, M.D.

The Otolaryngology Department is excited to continue offering cochlear implants to both adults and children in West Virginia and the surrounding areas.

Cochlear implants are a surgically implanted device to restore hearing in those with severe to profound hearing loss which is not able to be helped with traditional hearing aids.

Without this amazing technology, children born with severe hearing loss would lose the ability for speech development. In adults who are no longer benefiting from hearing aids, cochlear implants are an option to restore hearing and speech understanding, which has shown to greatly improve quality of life. In adults with hearing loss that is not treated appropriately, there is an increased risk of onset of dementia, social isolation and cognitive decline.

Stephen Wetmore, M.D., performed the first cochlear implant in West Virginia at West Virginia University in the late 1980s. Since then, the department has continued to provide this surgery for adults and children. Currently, there are three providers specializing in cochlear implantation: Brian Kellermeyer (Otology and Neurotology); Amy Hwang (Otology and Neurotology); and Johnathan Castano (Pediatric Otolaryngologist).

The providers offer all three major cochlear implants, including Cochlear Americas, Advanced Bionics and Med El. In the past few years, there has been an increase in cochlear implantations performed at WVU. Since 2017, the department has performed more than 150 implants in children and adults, ranging in age from one to more than 90 years-old.

"We are fortunate to have an excellent staff of clinical audiologists who truly enjoy working with cochlear implants," said Brian Kellermeyer, M.D., "Our team cherishes the opportunity to help provide hearing to the first time in children and see them join their peers in speech development. We also enjoy restoring hearing in our older population so they can be active in their social lives and talk on the phone for the first time in years."

SAVE THE DATE!

The Department of Otolaryngology's annual **ALUMNI CONFERENCE** will be held June 13, 2020 at the Waterfront Marriott located in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The 2020 guest speaker will be Hadi Seikaly, M.D. Seikaly is the professor of the departments of Surgery and Oncology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He is the director of the Division of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery and the Edmonton Zone Clinical Section Head for Alberta Health Services.

We are delighted to have his expertise in Oncology medicine at our conference this year.

**CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION WILL
OPEN IN APRIL.**

A Note from the Chair



This year marks my five-year anniversary as Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. As I look back and reflect, I am grateful for all of the achievements and opportunities that we have had.

We have been able to recruit young, fellowship-trained otolaryngologists in the fields of H&N, Robotics, Skull Base and Pediatrics. Our priority continues to be recruiting outstanding clinical and research talent.

With the help of existing faculty, we have been able to expand and offer new services in the fields of sleep, skull base, robotic surgery, reconstructive surgery and cochlear implants.

We have tripled the number of cases for reconstructive surgery after advanced H&N cancer resections, as well as tripled the number of cochlear implants performed for adults and children with hearing loss.

We were the first in the state to implant a device that will help patients with sleep apnea. We have also been a leader in offering robotics surgery for a multitude of diseases. Further, we have been able to provide advanced anterior skull base approaches for patients with advanced skull base disease.

Several of our graduates who left for fellowships were recruited to come back and join the department as faculty, and more will be joining us this summer. This has been a strategy adopted by the department, and we will continue that effort to bring back our graduates.

Over the last five years, our department has expanded its research efforts, presentations, publications and clinical trials. We boast more than 80 peer reviewed publications and numerous invited publications and book chapters.

These efforts have bolstered our plan to expand the residency training program back to three per year to be successful. Effective July 2020, we will be able to recruit three residents for the PGY1 position.

I have been blessed to be a member of this department for 30 years, and am now truly honored to serve the department to build on our vision and academic mission.

*Hassan Ramadan, M.D., MSc. FACS,
Professor and Chairman
Department of otolaryngology H&N Surgery
West Virginia University*

Research Update

Rusha Patel, M.D.

Since starting at WVU four years ago, I have been encouraged by the breadth of both clinical and basic science research available to clinicians. Like many young investigators, I had little experience with grant writing and clinical trials.

Somatostatin-based imaging

Through the help of our departmental research coordinator, I have been able to start my own investigator-initiated trial examining the use of somatostatin-based imaging in head and neck cancer patients. This trial is partially supported by an institutional grant through the WVU Cancer Institute. Since its inception, we have accomplished nearly half of our recruitment goals. The early results are extremely promising and were submitted to the annual Head and Neck Cancers Symposium.

Hearing loss prevention

We recently enrolled in another trial examining the use of a study medication in preventing hearing loss for patients receiving platinum-based chemotherapy. I'm currently determining the feasibility of participating in a trial looking at treatment outcomes for head and neck cancer patients with HPV-related tumors who receive a combination of HPV-related peptide therapy in combination with PD-1 immunotherapy. Participating in any clinical trial is a feat of resources and paperwork. I've been fortunate that our department has the resources to help with both.

Collaborative research

As a head and neck treatment team we have also been involved in a collaborative project with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) looking at patient preferences for chemo radiation versus surgery for early stage oropharyngeal/laryngeal cancers. We have also been active in the design of a head and neck cancer patient database to help streamline retrospective studies. Several members of our team serve on national committees and have been active in collaborative research projects. I recently completed a study looking at platelet values and free flap surgery outcomes.

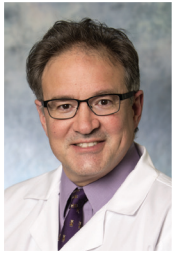
Having a multidisciplinary treatment team has been essential in the development of our research protocols. These efforts are the start of what we hope to continued investigations into how to provide the best care for our patients.

A FIRST IN THE STATE

The Department of Otolaryngology performed the first in both Robotic procedures and sleep apnea surgery.

- Robotics team performed first trans-maxillary approach for treatment of nasopharyngeal cancer, which is traditionally treated with radiation due to lack of surgical accessibility.
- Our sleep surgeon performed the first twelfth nerve implantable device for treatment of obstructive sleep apnea.

Faculty



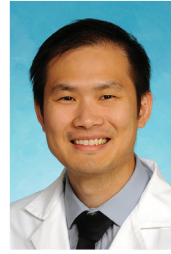
Mark Armeni, MD



Christopher Bailey, MD, PhD



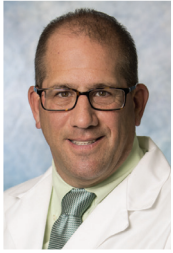
Johnathan Castano, MD



Jefferson Chung, MD



Steven Coutras, MD



Joedy Daristotle, MD



Tanya Fancy, MD



Charles Haislip, MD



Michael Hurst, MD, DDS



Amy Hwang, MD



Brian Kellermeier, MD



Paul Malone, MD



Jason McChesney, MD



Matthew Oliverio, MD



Rusha Patel, MD



Hassan Ramadan, M.D., MSc. FACS



George Snider, MD



Meghan Turner, MD



Stephen Wetmore, MD



Ronald Wilkinson, MD

2019 Graduate Residents

Adam Bender-Heine, MD

Facial Plastics
Microvascular Oregon
Health Sciences University,
Portland, OR



Scott Shapiro, MD

Neurotology
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, OH



William Stokes, MD

Head & Neck /
Microvascular
Reconstruction,
Vanderbilt Medical Center,
Nashville, TN



Welcome New Faculty



Chadi Makary, MD
Rhinology & Skull Base
Fellowship Augusta GA
WVU Residency



Monika Freiser, MD
Comprehensive
Otolaryngology
UPMC Residency



2019-2020 Residents

Top Row, Left to Right:

Norman Orabi, MD, PG-Y1, Maxwell Newby, MD, PG-Y3,
Adrian Williamson, MD, PG-Y2, Noah Shaikh, MD, PG-Y2,
Christopher Roberts, MD, PG-Y3, Garrett Jones, MD, PG-Y1

Bottom Row, Left to Right:

Levi Stevens, MD, PG-Y4, Habib Zalzal, MD, PG-Y5, Daniel
O'Brien, MD, PG-Y5, Phillip Purnell, MD, PG-Y4



OTOLARYNGOLOGY LOCATIONS

Physician Office Center

1 Medical Center Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506

Suncrest Towne Centre

1065 Suncrest Towne
Centre Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505

Fairmont ENT

1712 Locust Avenue
Fairmont, WV 26554

Uniontown ENT

10 Highland Park Drive
Uniontown, PA 15401

Support WVU Otolaryngology

by giving a gift:

give.wvu.edu/Otolaryngology

You can designate your gift to the following funds:

- Hassan Ramadan Otolaryngology Resident Enrichment and Alumni Engagement Fund
- Otolaryngology Pediatrics Fund
- Department of Otolaryngology Program Fund
- Stephen J. Wetmore Fund

Thank You for your support!