

EMORY



# *The Scope*

A Newsletter by Emory Department of Otolaryngology & Head and Neck Surgery



## In Focus

- **Dr. Amy Y. Chen** was honored with the Helen Krause Trailblazer Award by the American Academy of Otolaryngology in September, 2023.
- **Dr. Sarah Wise** was recently elected to the American Board of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Examination Council.
- **Dr. Jennifer Gross**, Assistant Professor, received the Hidden Gem award by the Emory SOM given to faculty members nominated by their departments in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Emory or beyond.
- **Congratulations to our Platinum Providers**, Martha Ryan, NP, Michael Baddour, MD, Adam Klein, MD, Miriam Featherstone, AuD, **and Diamond Providers**, Kelley Dwyer, AuD, Jeanne Hatcher, MD, Sarah Holdsworth, NP, and Jason Yu, MD.



## In this Issue

Chair's Note

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Otolaryngology Team at Grady

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Resident News

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## ***Chair's Note: Tackling Healthcare Challenges Together***

Dear Colleagues,

I want to acknowledge the complex and ongoing challenges we face in the healthcare landscape. From staffing shortages and rising costs to ensuring access and utilizing new technologies effectively, we are all aware of the significant hurdles we need to overcome.

However, we are not alone in this endeavor. Our dedicated team is actively working on solutions, and I am incredibly encouraged by the progress we are making and the resilience we are demonstrating.

Here are some key areas where we are addressing these challenges head-on:

- **Investing in our faculty:** We are actively working with the medical school on a department wide compensation review, supporting professional development, and fostering a high-performance culture.
- **Embracing innovation:** We are exploring and implementing innovative technologies, such as telehealth, artificial intelligence, and robotics, to improve efficiency, accessibility, and overall patient care.
- **Promoting collaboration:** We are strengthening collaboration with various stakeholders, including patients, communities, and government agencies, to ensure that our efforts are aligned and address diverse needs.
- **Championing access:** We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to high-quality otolaryngology healthcare, regardless of their background or circumstances. We are actively working on initiatives to eliminate disparities and bridge access gaps.

This road will not be easy, and we are actively trying to anticipate the bumps along the way. However, I am confident that with our collective effort, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our patients, we can create a healthier future for all.

I encourage you to stay informed, continue to share your perspectives, and most importantly, never lose sight of the incredible potential we have to make a positive impact.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,

**C. Arturo Solares, MD**

Interim Chair, Department of Otolaryngology  
Emory University School of Medicine



C. Arturo Solares, MD, FACS



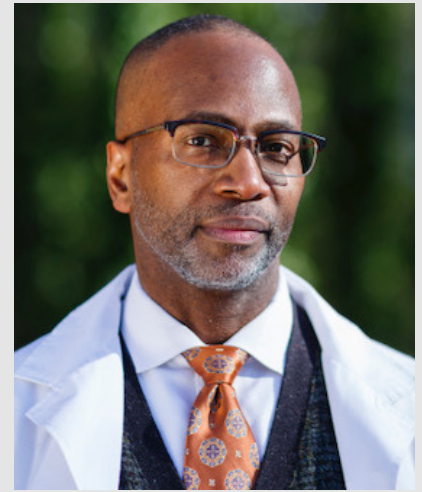
# Otolaryngology at Grady Hospital

## Our team at Grady Hospital

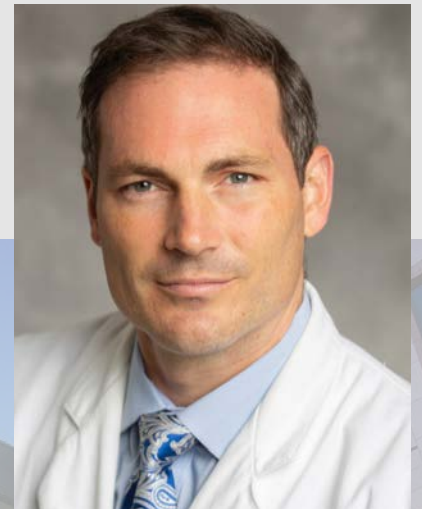
The Grady team includes Charles Moore, MD, James Hamilton, MD, and Tyler Halle, MD. The team is further strengthened by Evelyn Adesanya, NP, Ellie Seno, PA, Amanda Brandino, AUD and part-time faculty members Carrie Flanagan, MD (the latest addition to our part-time staff), Douglas Mattox, MD, David Chou, MD, and Andrew Tkaczuk, MD. We are also pleased to announce that Camilo Reyes, MD, will be joining our faculty in June 2024.

## Violence Intervention Program

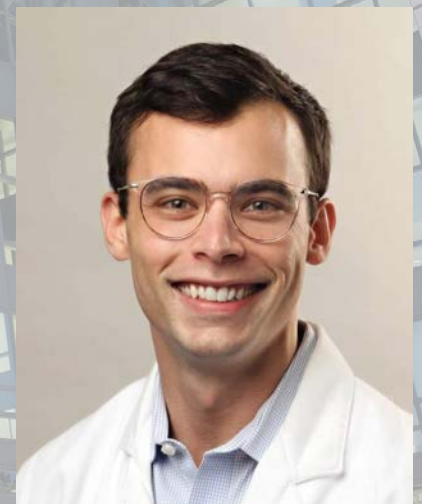
Grady is the most active level 1 trauma center in the country. We have partnered to create a program to help mitigate gun violence in the metropolitan Atlanta area. The program includes meeting patients at the bedside, providing wrap around services in the hospital and extending those services to the patients' respective communities.



Charles E. Moore, MD



James Hamilton, MD



Tyler Halle, MD



ENT Clinic Team at Grady



## ***Tobacco Cessation Program***

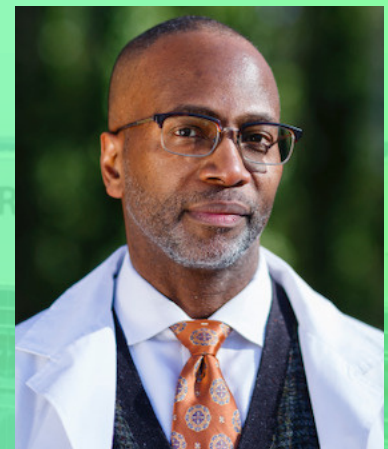
Started in the ENT clinic at Grady, the program trains hospital employees to be tobacco cessation facilitators. It has expanded to now also train students at Richmond University to be able expand this service to the community.

## ***Dr. Charles E. Moore: Climate and Health Equity Fellow***

Initiated in 2021 through a collaboration with the National Medical Association (NMA), the Climate and Health Equity Fellowship addresses climate change as a critical health emergency and a significant issue of health equity. Recognizing the urgent need for diverse leadership in climate and health and a more concentrated effort on equitable climate solutions across the U.S., the Fellowship aims to equip doctors of color from communities disproportionately affected by climate impacts and underrepresented in the medical field to lead in education, advocacy, and policy-making for climate and health equity.



CLIMATE &  
HEALTH  
EQUITY  
FELLOWSHIP



Charles E. Moore, MD





## Launching the ASP-1929-301 Trial at Grady

We have opened Grady as the only Georgia site for a global randomized controlled trial. - ASP-1929-301 - a Rakuten sponsored study of photoimmunotherapy - a light-activated chemotherapy that elicits rapid and selective necrosis of tumor cells in locoregionally recurrent squamous cell carcinoma. Offering enrollment in this trial addresses the growing need for diverse representation within clinical trials that is critical to improving health outcomes for patients of all backgrounds.

## Laryngectomy Support Group: Community, Care, and Connection

We were recently joined by the Grady CEO John Haupt at our laryngectomy support group. Mr. Haupt took part in the monthly support sessions moderated by Dr. Hamilton and Caroline Boggus, SLP to bring patients together to voice their concerns, inspire and comfort one another, and support those who are newly diagnosed or have recently undergone surgery. The group has led to new friendships, increased access to care, and next month will bring these patients together to view a documentary about a choir form entirely of laryngectomees.

## MOVE FOR GRADY

ON APRIL 27, 2024

Prepare to make a difference with every stride and pedal at Move For Grady on April 27, 2024! By registering for this event, you're not just embarking on a physical challenge; you're supporting a noble cause to ensure access to quality healthcare for our community.

**More information at**

<https://www.moveforgrady.com>







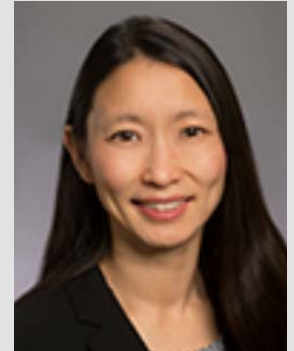
# Otolaryngology at Atlanta VA Medical Center

## Otolaryngology at the VA

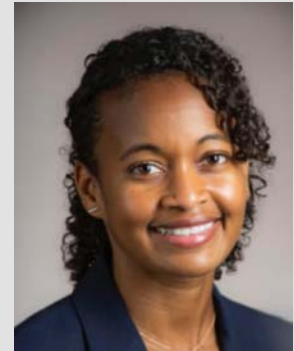
The VA team prior to October 2023 consisted of Dr. Flanagan, Dr. Merry Sebelik, Dr. Candace Hobson, Dr. Michelle Cullen, Mr. James Conley, PA, Ms. Donna Crawford, PA, and Ms. Alfreda King, nurse case manager.

The team has grown in the last several months with the addition of Dr. Max Kligerman and Dr. Norman Lester. Dr. Kligerman completed a head neck fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering in 2023. Dr. Norman Lester has worked in private practice, as well as military and VA systems as a general otolaryngologist.

The VA continues to provide comprehensive otolaryngologic care in almost all subspecialty areas. The otolaryngology service has recently added point of care fine needle aspiration, molecular testing, and radiofrequency ablation of thyroid nodules. We also provide extensive evaluation and counseling for patients who have hyposmia or anosmia. Dr. Michelle Cullen has a telehealth clinic that is dedicated to taste and smell disorders for patients across the country.



Carrie E. Flanagan, MD



Candace Hobson, MD



Merry E. Sebelik, MD



Norman Lester, MD



Maxwell Kligerman, MD



Michelle Cullen, MD





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## ***Comprehensive Head & Neck Cancer Program at the VA***

The VA takes pride in providing holistic head and neck cancer care. Patients have easy access to multiple subspecialists soon after cancer diagnosis and throughout treatment and surveillance including speech language, pathology, nutrition, palliative care, psycho-oncology, and occupational therapy with specialization in lymphedema therapy.

## ***Research at the VA***

From a research perspective, The VA is a participating site in a nationwide Head & Neck cancer quality improvement project and a multi-site head and neck cancer AI project. Additional projects are on the horizon.







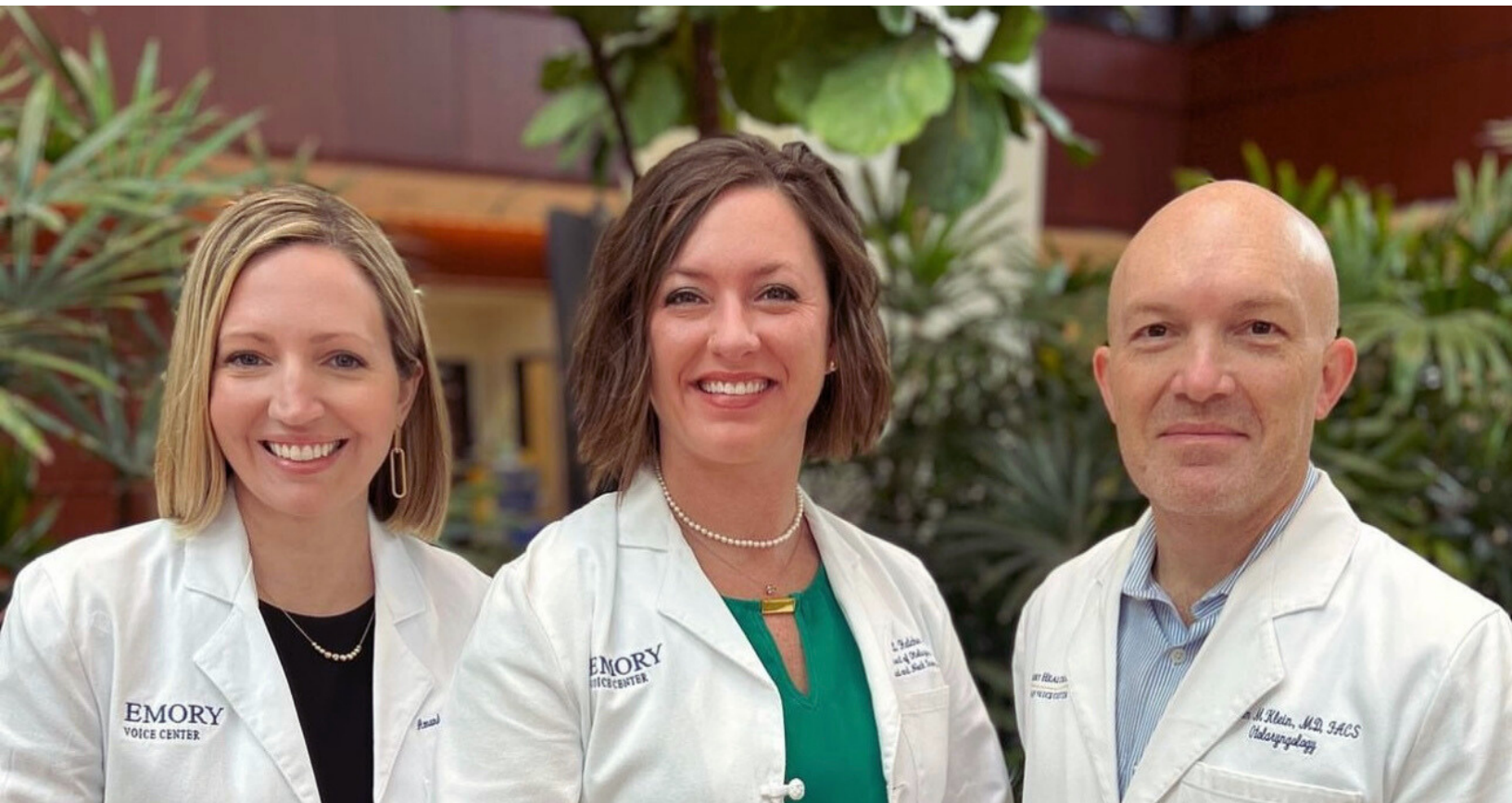
# Laryngology

## 20th Anniversary of the Emory Voice Center

Founded in 2003, the Emory Voice Center (EVC) is celebrating its 20th Year Anniversary! In its infancy, we specialized in diagnosing and treating voice disorders. As we have grown, we have expanded our services to address laryngology conditions of all types, including problems affecting swallowing and upper airway-related breathing difficulties using a multidisciplinary care model. The EVC team now consists of 5 fellowship-trained laryngologists and 7 sub-specialized voice therapists. We offer year-long clinical fellowship programs in laryngology and speech pathology.

### New Clinical Offerings!

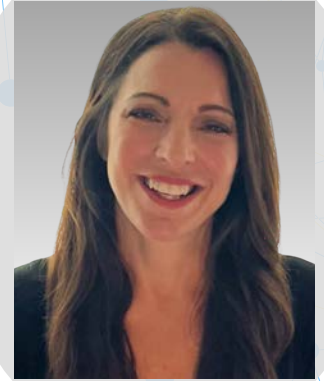
The EVC continues to provide comprehensive voice care for ALL voice users, but also understands the unique demands of professional performers. We have ongoing relationships with venues and theaters throughout metro-Atlanta, and are always available to help your professional voice users in a pinch! We continue to offer workshops and lectures as outreach to the voice community in an effort to educate people on proper vocal care and how to protect and preserve their voices. In addition to the comprehensive dysphagia care offered by our team, the EVC now has new developments in collaborative care for functional upper digestive disorders, like functional belching and rumination.





## ***New member of the Emory Voice Center Team!***

The Emory Voice Center is thrilled to announce the recent addition of a new team member! Joey Laus, CCC-SLP is a Georgia State licensed speech-language pathologist and board-certified specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders with expertise in the evaluation and treatment of voice and swallowing disorders across a diverse range of medical etiologies. Prior to moving to Atlanta, she was recognized for her clinical expertise as a senior speech-language pathologist at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Medical Center's Voice & Swallowing Center and the Head & Neck Cancer Center. Here, she specialized in the interdisciplinary care of complex dysphagia management in people with neurologic and oncologic disease for 14 years. She has co-developed and facilitated patient care pathways to help improve patient access to care and functional outcomes. Her therapeutic approach is rooted in evidenced based practice and patient centered, with quality of life and patient autonomy prioritized. She has earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Georgia and a Master's Degree in Speech Language pathology at Nova Southeastern University. Her professional affiliations include the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), ASHA's Voice and Voice Disorder Special Interest Group SIG 3, ASHA's Swallowing and Swallowing Disorder Interest Group SIG 13, American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders, and Dysphagia Research Society.



Joey Laus, CCC-SLP







# Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery

## ***New Rhinology and Skull Base Center***

As of October 30 the Rhinology and Skull Base divisions have moved into a new clinical space on the 10th floor of the Medial Office Tower. This space includes a dedicated "Skull Base Center" in conjunction with our Neurosurgical colleagues. This center is designed to foster a multidisciplinary approach, streamlining patient care by integrating the expertise of both rhinology and neurosurgery specialists.

## ***ADAPT Clinical Trial***

With the support of a multimillion dollar grant from Sanofi, Emory Rhinology recently launched a new multi-site, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial investigating the impact of dupilumab on post-operative outcomes in patients with allergic fungal rhinosinusitis (AFRS). The multi-year study aims to enroll over 100 patients. If you have patients considering surgery for AFRS who are interested in starting dupilumab post-operatively.

**The ADAPT clinical trial is now open and enrolling patients**

Please contact Emory site PI, Dr. Thomas Edwards, at [thomas.edwards@emory.edu](mailto:thomas.edwards@emory.edu) for more information.



# Cranial Base Surgery Course 2023

The three-day course held from November 30 to December 2, 2023 was a gathering of renowned faculty and a diverse group of attendees, including residents, fellows, and attending physicians. The course's comprehensive curriculum, delivered by expert skull base ENT surgeons and neurosurgeons, covered the anatomical background of traditional skull base microsurgical and endoscopic approaches. The workshop offered a unique opportunity to put theory into practice, allowing simulation of surgical procedures on cadaveric specimens.

The full-house attendance is a testament to the high caliber of the workshop. It was not just a learning experience but also an opportunity to connect with peers and experts from around the world.







## Emory Skull Base at NASBS 2024

The Emory skull base team showcased their expertise and active participation at the recent North American Skull Base Society (NASBS) 2024 meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia. The team's involvement began with a pre-meeting course at the Emory skull base lab, expertly directed by Dr. Pradilla and Dr. Thorp from the University of North Carolina (UNC). This course provided attendees with the unique opportunity to learn directly from esteemed members of the Emory faculty, including Dr. Arturo Solares, Dr. Emily Barrow, Dr. Esther Vivas, Dr. Candace Hobson, Dr. Jackson Vuncannon, and Dr. Tomas Garzon-Muvdi.

Throughout the NASBS meeting, the Emory team demonstrated their significant contributions to the field with over 30 poster and oral presentations. Their active participation underlined the team's dedication to advancing skull base surgery knowledge and practices. In addition to these presentations, Dr. Arturo Solares, Dr. Gustavo Pradilla, and Dr. Michael Baddour enriched the meeting's agenda with insightful lectures.

Dr. C. Arturo Solares was recently appointed as the new Treasurer of the North American Skull Base Society.



C. Arturo Solares, MD



Gustavo Pradilla, MD





# Otology

## Otology Mini-fellowship

The Emory Otology Observational Mini-Fellowship focuses on providing a comprehensive understanding of temporal bone and lateral skull base pathologies. During this one-month fellowship, participants interact with a comprehensive clinical team and understand the collaborative approach in otologic patient care. This includes observing the audiology team's diagnostic procedures like audiometry, VNG, and cochlear implant assessments. Fellows also witness various surgical procedures, including myringotomy, tympanomastoid surgeries, and skull base tumor resections, gaining insights into the complexities of these surgeries from experienced faculty. The program also offers exposure to a busy practice of implantable hearing devices. In addition, fellows have the opportunity to access to the Emory University Hospital Midtown's surgical dissection laboratory, allowing hands-on practice with cadaveric specimens.

## Emory Temporal Bone Surgical Dissection Course

The Temporal Bone Surgical Dissection Course by the Department of Otolaryngology took place from November 6 to 10, 2023. This intensive five-day journey was a deep dive into some of the most complex otology procedures. The course meticulously covered the surgical anatomy of the temporal bone, offering invaluable insights of the current surgical management of ear diseases. The course also integrated cochlear and bone-anchored implant surgery, along with intact canal wall and canal wall down mastoidectomy, providing a comprehensive learning experience. The inclusion of radiology and histology of the temporal bone further enriched the curriculum, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the subject.





## ***Special invitation to the Central American Congress of Otolaryngology***

We are proud to share that Dr. Esther X. Vivas was recently invited as a distinguished participant in the Central American Congress of Otolaryngology, held in Panama from November 16-18, 2023. The congress was an excellent platform for Dr. Vivas to collaborate with fellow experts and discuss the latest advancements and innovations in the field of otology.



Esther X. Vivas, MD

## ***External Ear Disease, An Issue of Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America***

In the latest edition of Otolaryngologic Clinics, guest editors, Dr. Esther X. Vivas and Dr. Matthew Hanson featured a comprehensive issue dedicated to the critical topic of External Ear Disease. The issue opens with an insightful editorial from the renowned Dr. Frank Lucente, setting the stage for a series of in-depth discussions. Featured articles explore a spectrum of pertinent topics, including the intricate management of foreign bodies in the ear canal, a detailed examination of neoplasms of the ear canal, and an analysis of radiation-induced pathology of the ear. Additionally, the issue addresses the challenges of acquired stenosis of the ear canal, sheds light on fungal infections, and highlights emerging pathogens in the field.





# Audiology

## Emory at AAA 2024 + HearTECH Expo

Audiologist, Dr. Dana Libman’s lecture on Ototoxicity Monitoring as Part of a Head & Neck Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic, has been selected for conference AAA 2024+HearTECH Expo, April 17-20, 2024 in Atlanta, GA!



Dana Libman, AUD

## Audiology Externship 2024-2025

2024-2025 Audiology Externship has been filled by Keijanna Dessalines from Cal State Northridge and will join our team for the last year of her AuD in June 2024!



Keijanna Dessalines

## Emotional Health at Burgess Peterson Academy

Audiologist, Dr. Miriam Featherstone participated in the Emory Elementary Pediatric Health Curriculum where she traveled to Burgess Peterson Academy and taught students about Emotional Health. This is the 5th year that Emory has used this program to increase outreach to the community and consists of sessions every month from August to April with topics for students ranging from Healthy Sleep to Avoiding Injury. Great work, Dr. Featherstone!





### ***Helen Krause Trailblazer Award***

Dr. Chen's expertise and dedication have placed her in prominent roles, serving on both the American Board of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery and the American Board of Surgery Adult Complex Thyroid Surgery Focused Practice Designation Exam Committee. She has co-edited a book that will be officially released in Feb 2024: Thyroid and Parathyroid Disease. This is part of the Otolaryngology Clinics of North American series. Dr. Chen was honored with the Helen Krause Trailblazer Award by the American Academy of Otolaryngology in September, 2023.

### ***Celebrating our Inaugural fellow!***

We are thrilled to spotlight the incredible achievements of our inaugural fellow, Dr. Meredith Lilly, who is having a phenomenal year. Dr. Lilly's exceptional dedication and hard work have truly set the bar high, exemplifying the excellence we strive for in our fellowship program.



Amy Y. Chen, MD



Merry E. Sebelik, MD



Meredith Lilly, MD



### ***Congratulations to Dr. Amy Y. Chen***

Dr. Chen was honored with the Helen Krause Trailblazer Award by the American Academy of Otolaryngology in September, 2023.



## Treat and Train

In October 2023, a team of U.S. otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons and nurses, led by Jagdish Dhingra of Tufts University and Merry Sebelik of Emory University, collaborated with local professionals in Kigali, Rwanda, to provide ENT care. The mission started at Kibagabaga Hospital, where 34 patients were screened and 22 underwent surgeries, primarily for goiter. The team worked closely with Dr. Ernest Munyemana, the Medical Director, and Dr. Etienne Ndamiyumva, the hospital's only ENT specialist, ensuring the project's success and long-term patient follow-up.

Dr. Sebelik also mentored Rwandan medical students during surgeries. The week involved rigorous surgery schedules in two operating theaters and daily patient rounds with University of Rwanda students. The team also conducted educational sessions on post-surgical care, thyroid anatomy and physiology, and concluded with an ultrasound workshop focusing on thyroid gland identification and vocal cord motion assessment.



## Treat and Train

Medical Missions for Children (MMFC), a non-profit organization dedicated to sending medical teams to under-resourced communities worldwide, made this trip possible.



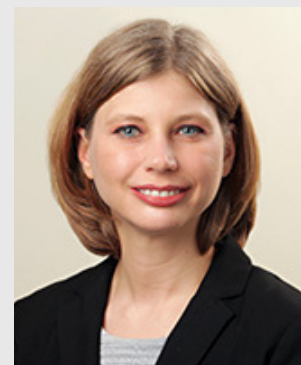
## **Emory's Head and Neck Division: Clinical Trials**

The head and neck division was awarded a U01 grant (PI: Nicole Schmitt) to lead a randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial to see if atorvastatin mitigates cisplatin-induced hearing loss in head and neck cancer patients. The study is based on a long-term collaboration with Dr. Lisa Cunningham at the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). The trial will be conducted at 4 sites (Emory, NIDCD, University of Maryland and University of Rochester) and is expected to open in early 2024.

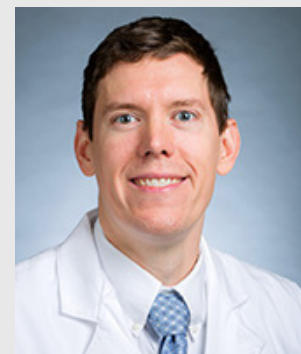
Dr. Schmitt is also leading a first-in-human trial of radiation combined with tolinapant, an IAP antagonist, for patients with head and neck cancer who are not eligible to receive standard cisplatin chemotherapy. Although IAP antagonists have been tested in clinical trials for head and neck cancer as an additive therapy to standard chemoradiation, ours is the first trial to use a drug in this class with radiation while omitting chemotherapy. Enrollment in this trial is 70% completed, and we expect to present the results in 2024. The Schmitt lab is currently investigating immune changes in the blood during the course of therapy.

## **Emory Team featured at Medical Events**

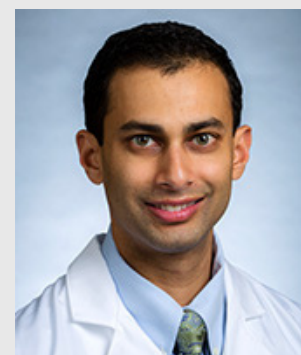
- Dr. Brian Boyce lectured at the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology winter meeting on “Advances in Head and Neck Reconstruction”.
- Dr. Azeem Kaka lectured at the 2nd Annual Charleston Head & Neck Oncology Symposium on “Advances in Free Flap Reconstruction of the Head & Neck”.
- Lauren Ottenstein, Lead Speech-Language Pathologist for the Division of Head and Neck Surgery and Tiffany Barrett, Manager of Winship Dieticians presented on “Empowering SLPs to Impact Treatment Optimization of Patients with Head & Neck Cancer” along with Dr. Sebelik and Dr. Baddour at that annual American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Annual Convention.



Nicole Schmitt, MD



Brian Boyce, MD



Azeem Kaka, MD





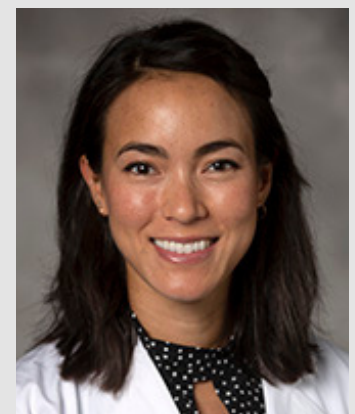
# ***Pembrolizumab and cabozantinib in recurrent metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma: a phase 2 trial***

Published in Nature Medicine and featuring contributions from Emory's Head and Neck faculty, Dr. Patel and Dr. Schmitt, this article details a phase 2, multicenter, single-arm trial of pembrolizumab and cabozantinib in patients with recurrent head and neck cancer who had Response Evaluation Criteria and no contraindications to either agent. This work was a team effort sponsored by Winship and led by Dr. Nabil Saba. The recorded data on progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) imply that the cabozantinib and pembrolizumab combination improved PFS and OS beyond what has been seen with single-agent treatments in the past, paving the way for additional research into this therapeutic pairing for RMHNSCC.

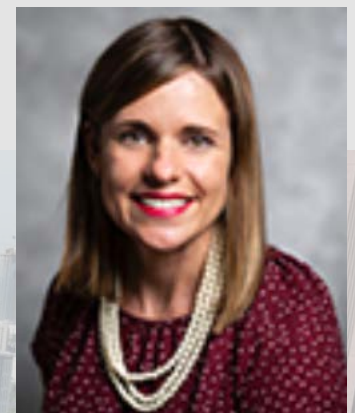
Saba NF, Steuer CE, Ekpenyong A, et al. Pembrolizumab and cabozantinib in recurrent metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma: a phase 2 trial. Nat Med. 2023;29(4):880-887. doi:10.1038/s41591-023-02275-x



Mihir R. Patel, MD



Jennifer Gross, MD



Kelly Summers, PA

## ***Honoring Excellence***

- Dr. Jennifer Gross, Assistant Professor, received the Hidden Gem award by the Emory SOM given to faculty members nominated by their departments in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Emory or beyond.
- Kelly Summers, PA, Lead Advanced Practice Provider (APP) for the Division of Head and Neck Surgery, was awarded the Unsung Hero award by The Office of Advanced Practice Providers and the APP for her remarkable leadership skills.



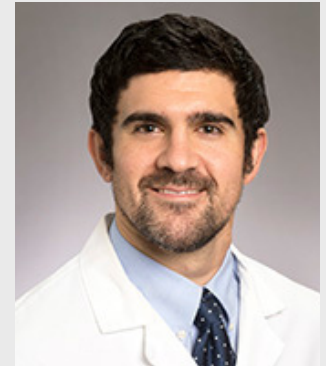


## Emory Platinum Providers

Martha Ryan, NP and Michael Baddour, MD received the designation of Platinum Provider by Emory Healthcare Physician Group Practice, for reaching 90th percentile within their respective specialty for survey question “Likelihood of Recommending Care Provider”.



Martha Ryan, NP



Michael Baddour, MD

### Pearls from Your Peers: Depressor Anguli Oris Myectomy

Explore recommendations for DAO myectomy.



**Interviewee**  
**H. Michael Baddour, Jr., MD**  
Director, Emory Facial Nerve Program



**Interviewer**  
**G. Nina Lu, MD**  
Director, University of Washington  
Facial Nerve Center

## AAO-HNS Bulletin

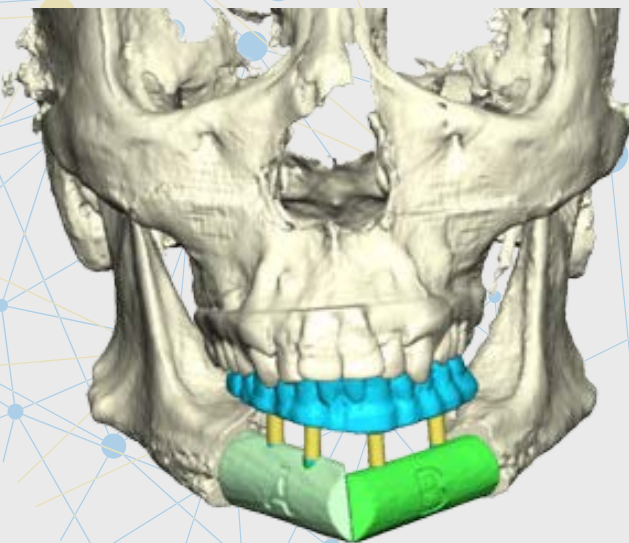
Dr. Baddour was interviewed for the Bulletin: Official Content Hub of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery regarding the latest treatments in facial paralysis. “Pearls for your Peers: Depressor Anguli Oris Myectomy.”

## EM-ProLEAD

Dr. Boyce and Dr. Baddour completed the year long Emory Professional Leadership Enrichment and Development Program (EM-ProLEAD) designed to develop and enrich leadership skills and enhance business knowledge for clinicians.

## Jaw in a Day

The head and neck reconstructive surgery team performed the first “Jaw in a Day” procedure at Emory. This complex procedure simultaneously involves jaw resection, fibular free flap reconstruction, dental implants and teeth, all in one surgery. Dr. James Jeong is leading the effort to bring this service to our head and neck patients.





# Pediatric Otolaryngology

## ROSATA

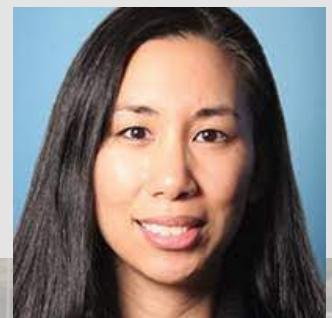
Refractory Obstructive Sleep Apnea after Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy (ROSATA) multidisciplinary clinic at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) provides care for non-syndromic and syndromic patients with persistent sleep apnea. The multidisciplinary team consists of: Dr Clarice Brown and Dr. Nikhila Raol (Otolaryngology), Dr. Roberta Leu (Sleep Medicine), and Dr. Kelli-Lee Harford (Sleep Psychology). Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) is the one of several pediatric hospitals across the nation currently enrolled in the both Inspire® trials for Trisomy 21 patients with refractory OSA after previous T&A: Effects of Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation on Cognition and Language in Down Syndrome and Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Post-Approval Registry. We are also evaluating the role of Vitamin D deficiency in patients with OSA undergoing T&A. If you have any families interested in having their child evaluated for the Inspire® device, please contact CHOA site PIs, [clarice.brown@emory.edu](mailto:clarice.brown@emory.edu) or [nikhila.p.raol@emory.edu](mailto:nikhila.p.raol@emory.edu) for additional information.



Clarice Brown, MD



Nikhila Raol, MD



Roberta Leu, MD



Kelli-Lee Harford, PhD

## Highlights

Dr. Alfonso and Dr. Govil are the Medical Co-Directors of Hearing Loss for CHOA.

Dr. Alfonso, Dr. Goudy, Dr. Brown, Dr. Govil, and Dr. Prickett are double board certified in Otolaryngology-head and neck surgery as well as Complex Pediatric Otolaryngology.

Welcome to  
Children  
Healthcare of Atlanta





## Emory ENT Pipeline Program

Emory University Department of Otolaryngology held its inaugural pipeline program event targeted to underrepresented in medicine (URiM) medical students interested in ENT. This event was held on August 19th, 2023 and consisted of a morning lecture session and an afternoon simulation session moderated by Dr. Clarice Brown. 17 URiM medical students from the following institutions: Emory University School of Medicine (SOM), Morehouse SOM, Mercer SOM, UNC SOM, FSU SOM were in attendance. Majority of these students were either in their second or third year of medical school. During the program activities, students had the opportunity to network with several Emory ENT faculty and private practice ENTs: Dr. Candace Hobson, Dr. Steve Goudy, Dr. Aisha Harun, Dr. Thomas Edwards, Dr. Jennifer Gross, Dr. Anthony Law, MD. Dr. Tanisha Hutchinson (FACE Atlanta) and Dr. Frederick Durden (Cancer Center).

Dr. Kaitlyn Brooks, Dr. Nathaniel Neptune, Dr. Ben Wibonele provided guidance during the skills session. The skills session consisted of several simulation stations including: ear tube simulation, craniofacial plating (Strkyer), suturing/knot tying, sinus navigation (Medtronic/Storz), coblation (Smith and Nephew), and bronchoscopy with foreign body aspiration (Storz). Post survey results showed 88% of students expressed the program was helpful and had a better understanding of the ENT application process. In addition, all students expressed interest in applying to ENT and receiving emails periodically regarding ENT-related resources and future opportunities. If you are interested in participating the pipeline program this year, please contact [clarice.brown@emory.edu](mailto:clarice.brown@emory.edu).







## Sleep Surgery

### ***Milestone Achievement and Educational Advancements in OSA Treatment***

Since 2021, our dedicated team has successfully implemented over 50 Inspire implants, a cutting-edge treatment for OSA patients. Along the same line of knowledge and experience promotion, we organized an informative cadaver session for the residents on January 20th, 2024. This session focused on the surgical approach to the hypoglossal nerve, an essential skill in the effective treatment of OSA.



## Facial Plastics

### ***New faculty at the Emory Aesthetic Center***

Dr. Chou has commenced consultations at the Emory Aesthetic Center, bringing a wealth of expertise in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery with a focus on facial reanimation and facial feminization.



### ***10th Annual Rhinoplasty Dissection Course***

Attendings and residents gathered for an intensive session that not only focused on rhinoplasty techniques but also incorporated a sleep surgery and head and neck dissection lab.



# Montgomery trip

## Our Journey Through Montgomery

On October 14th, our department embarked on a transformative journey through pivotal sites of the civil rights movement. We began at the EJI Legacy Museum, which starkly illuminates the United States' history of racial injustice. Next, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute offered deep insights into the 1960s civil rights struggles. The Rosa Parks Museum provided a personal look at Parks' defining role. Our journey concluded at the historic Pettus Bridge, a symbol of resilience and courage in the fight for voting rights. This journey was deeply enlightening, profoundly impacting everyone involved.





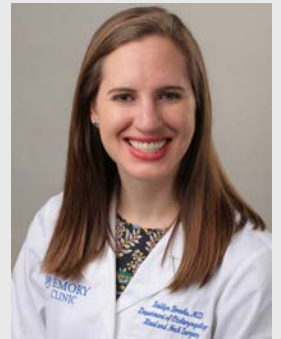
# Resident News

## ***Congratulations to all our PGY5s***

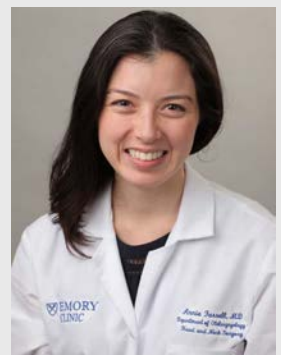
We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to four outstanding physicians who have secured their clinical fellowship positions, marking a significant milestone in their careers. Dr. Samir Ballestas will be specializing in Laryngeal Surgery at MGH/Harvard under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Steven Zeitels. Dr. Kaitlyn Brooks is set to advance her expertise in Neurotology at Baylor, where she will undoubtedly make remarkable contributions. Dr. Annie Farrell will be joining Lurie Children's Pediatric Otolaryngology fellowship, bringing her passion and skills to the forefront. Finally, Dr. Alexa Robbins is set to excel in her new role focusing on Endocrine Head and Neck surgery at Emory. We celebrate their well-deserved achievements and extend our best wishes for their continued success in their upcoming roles.



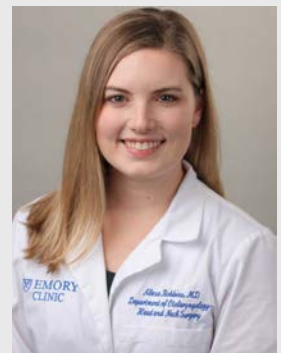
Samir Ballestas, MD



Kaitlyn Brooks, MD



Annie Farrell, MD



Alexa Robbins, MD

