EMORY

The Scope

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

In Focus

- **Emory University Hospital Midtown** has been selected among the Top 40 Ear Nose & Throat Hospitals in the nation by US News Rankings.
- **Sarah K. Wise, MD, MSCR,** Professor of Otolaryngology and Head & Surgery at Emory School of Medicine is the first female President of the American Rhinologic Society.
- **Amanda I. Gillespie,** Associate Professor of Otolaryngology at Emory School of Medicine is one of the 2023 honorees that received the Provost's Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education.

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The Oto Team at Emory Decatur Hospital

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Resident News

Welcome to the Emory Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Department

In the Next Issue → Otolaryngology Team at Grady and the VA

EMORY | The Scope

C. Arturo Solares, MD, FACS
Interim Chair, Department of Otolaryngology
Emory University School of Medicine

Douglas E. Mattox, MD

Chair's Note

As we continue recovering from the global COVID pandemic, despite the challenges, we see with great satisfaction our Department of Otolaryngology has had a truly amazing year. We are grateful to our faculty and staff who have gone the extra mile to make everything possible.

This year marks the end of an era as our beloved Doug Mattox steps down as chair after having led the department with loyalty, dedication, and integrity. Dr. Mattox joined our department 25 years ago. At the time it was a department of 7 faculty, 2 residents per year and no fellowships. Today we are 48 faculty, 4 residents per year, and 8 fellowships.

Under Dr. Mattox's leadership, our faculty have become leaders in clinical care and research, highly sought-after speakers, and collaborators across various institutions, and around the world. Our residents match at extremely competitive fellowship programs and are well-rounded surgeons. Dr. Mattox fostered the growth of a department that currently has over 50% women faculty. For context, recent data from CMS revealed that 19% of practicing otolaryngologists are female. Similarly, 22% of our faculty belongs to a racial/ethnic group that is under-represented in medicine. Current data indicates that less than 3% of otolaryngology academic faculty identify black across all academic ranks, and less than 7% identify as Hispanic.

Dr. Mattox is going to continue with us as senior faculty in neuro-otology, which will allow us to take advantage of all his knowledge and experiences. Personally, I want to thank Dr. Mattox for his incredible legacy.

Head and Neck at Winship Cancer Institute

In May 2023, the Winship Head & Neck Program transitioned to its new location at the Winship Emory Midtown Building. With a strong emphasis on enhancing the patient journey, the team has meticulously designed a facility that encompasses distinct care communities tailored to various disease specialties, accommodating both inpatient and outpatient treatments.

The Head and Neck Program and its multidisciplinary cancer clinic extend a comprehensive suite of services to patients. Following a biopsy, individuals receive their initial consultation from a team of Head and Neck cancer experts, including specialists in medical oncology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, dentistry, as well as support services like swallowing therapists, dietitians, and social work, all within a single visit.

Our team boasts expertise in Head and Neck reconstruction, Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS), and clinical trials. Operating synergistically, we are dedicated to delivering disease-specific, high quality care, with a pronounced emphasis on timeliness to treatment and care coordination.

Otolaryngology at Decatur

The department is growing at Emory Decatur Hospital! In March, our expanded and newly renovated clinic space opened in the professional building at 2675 North Decatur Road. With beautiful views of the Atlanta skyline, the new space has 10 exam rooms fully outfitted to provide the latest in laryngology, rhinology, otology, and head and neck care. Dr. Aisha Harun (laryngology), Dr. Thomas Edwards (rhinology), Lynn Guan, PA, Sean Malanowski, PA, and Diana Becker, MS, CCC-SLP, are based at the clinic. Dr. Max Kligerman (head and neck) will join the practice in September part-time while also providing care at the Atlanta VA. An audio booth was also added as part of the renovation. Dr. Shay Habibi, an audiologist, provides hearing evaluation and hearing aid services. We are actively recruiting for an otologist to join the practice. For appointments call (404) 501-7710.

Aisha Harun, MD

Thomas Edwards, MD

Shay Habibi, AUD

Diana Becker, MS, CCC SLP

Rhinology

Meet Our Rhinology Team

Our faculty members are renowned both nationally and internationally for their expertise in clinical care, research, and innovative practices. Emory University boasts one of the most extensive and active rhinology and skull base surgery programs in the nation.

Add-on Dupilumab for AFRS as Postoperative Therapy (ADAPT)

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, please contact Emory site PI, Dr. Thomas Edwards, at thomas.edwards@emory.edu for more information.

Dr. Emily Barrow and Dr. John DelGaudio along with our Rhinology team and fellows.

John M. DelGaudio, MD

Sarah Wise, MD

Carrie E. Flanagan, MD

Thomas Edwards, MD

Southern States Annual Rhinology Course 2024

The aim of the Southern States Rhinology Course is to offer a thorough and up-to-date overview of the medical and surgical aspects of rhinology. Geared towards active Otolaryngologists, this course delivers talks covering subjects of interest for rhinologists and sinus surgeons. Participants have the opportunity to engage in a hands-on laboratory dissection featuring cutting-edge endoscopic tools, video aids, and image guidance systems.

SOUTHERN STATES ANNUAL RHINOLOGY COURSE 2024

DATE
APRIL 18-20, 2024

PARTICIPATION OF OUR FACULTY MEMBER
John M. DelGaudio, MD

John M. DelGaudio, MD

Skull Base Surgery

Emory Skull Base Course 2023

This three-day course, led by neurosurgeons and ENT surgeons, exposes the theoretical basis of traditional skull base microsurgical techniques along with a detailed insight on expanded endoscopic techniques and robotic-assisted exoscopic visualization. Participants will have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills through hands-on workshop sessions in which key skull base procedures are recreated using preserved and injected cadaveric specimens.

Department of Neurosurgery

DATE
NOVEMBER 30-
DECEMBER 2, 2023

CRANIAL BASE SURGERY COURSE FACULTY
Gustavo Pradilla, MD
Emily Barrow, MD
Tomás Garzón Muvdi, MD
C. Arturo Solares, MD
Esther Vivas, MD
Candance Hobson, MD

Emily Barrow, MD

Arturo Solares, MD

Esther Vivas, MD

Gustavo Pradilla, MD

Tomás Garzón-Muvdi, MD

Candance Hobson, MD

Audiology

Audiology practice at Emory

A new hearing evaluation and hearing aid clinic in Emory Decatur Hospital has opened to patients with guidance of our audiologist Dr. Shay Habibi. Additionally, through an outstanding work by audiologist Dr. Dana Libman, an ototoxic monitoring clinic has been established at Winship Cancer Institute, enhancing care of countless oncological patients.

Shay Habibi, AUD

Dana Libman, AUD

New audiology extern in town

We welcomed a new audiology extern in June 2023, marking a first for our institution. Jillian Campbell holds this extraordinary position. She will collaborate with procedures like integrity testing of cochlear implants in the operating room before the surgical process concludes. By the end of this year, a high level of independence in clinic operations is anticipated. Welcome Jillian!

Jillian Campbell, AUD candidate

Sleep Surgery

Sleep surgery at Emory

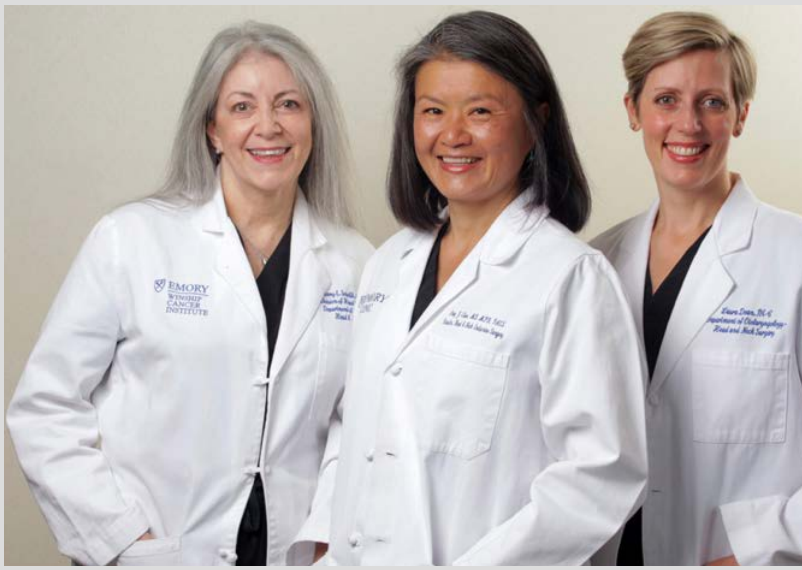
Jason L. Yu, MD

Dr. Yu is an ENT surgeon with dual board certification in Otolaryngology and Sleep Medicine. His unique training and background set him apart. His area of expertise includes novel surgical treatments as hypoglossal nerve stimulation for obstructive sleep apnea. Since the inception of this novel therapy at Emory in 2021, Dr. Yu has successfully implanted the device in over 30 patients. Dr. Yu is actively engaged in pioneering research aimed at deepening our understanding of obstructive sleep apnea and devising novel therapeutic methods, studying patient respiratory physiology during Drug Induced Sleep Endoscopy (DISE).

Endocrine Head & Neck

Endocrine Head and Neck Center

Supported by Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute, the Emory Endocrine Head and Neck Surgery Center is fully prepared to deliver advanced care and surgical guidance for individuals dealing with thyroid and parathyroid disorders. Our array of services encompasses prompt diagnostic ultrasound administered by internationally recognized ultrasound specialists, cutting-edge thyroid and parathyroid surgeries executed by high-volume, experienced surgeons, minimally invasive solutions for thyroid nodules, sialendoscopy, and thorough voice assessments.



Left to right: Merry Sebelik, MD, Amy Chen, MD, and Laura Dean, PA-C

Laryngology

Andrew Tkaczuk, MD

Emory Voice Center

The Emory voice center has continued to pursue its mission of outreach engagement. We recently established a strategic partnership with local NPR affiliate, WABE, including high quality wellness programs for in-air personalities and “vocal emergency” triaging for the entirety of the production team. We look forward to extending similar programs to similar media entities in the metro Atlanta region.

Teacher of the year

Dr. Tkaczuk was honored with the Teacher of the Year Award, bestowed by Emory Otolaryngology residents.

Laryngology and Voice Center Grants

Dr. Gillespie is the recipient of 4 NIH grants as Co-I or MPI and is a Co-PI with Dr. Klein on a Foundation grant; Dr. Klein is the recipient of 2 grants through the Senior Vice President of Research Office at Emory and Biolocity.

In the last year

The EVC saw nearly 10,000 patients, 25% of these were new. Surgeons performed approximately 600 surgeries and 1,000 injections. SLPs conducted 3,000 voice, swallowing, and upper airway therapy visits.

Adam Klein, MD

Amanda I. Gillespie, PhD

Otology

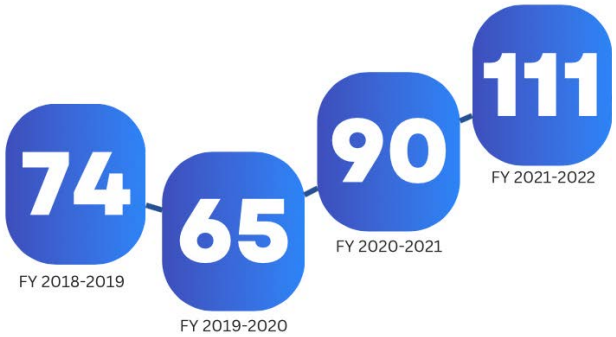
Chief of the Otology Division

Dr. Vivas became a part of the Emory Department of Otolaryngology faculty in 2013. She completed an Otorhinolaryngology Residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, followed by a Neurotology Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Presently, she serves as the new Chief of the Division of Otology at Emory.

Esther Vivas, MD

Cochlear Implant Surgery and Bone Anchored Hearing Aid Technology

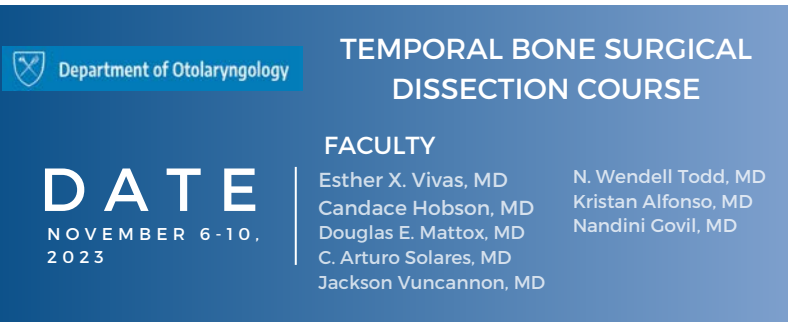
Board-certified ear surgeons at Emory University are at the forefront of both cochlear implant placement and research. These small hearing devices, designed for individuals with nerve deafness have positively impacted numerous individuals across the globe. Over the years, there has been a noticeable rise in the rate of cochlear implant surgery by our team at Emory. Moreover, implantation of bone conduction sound processors as the BAHA system has also increased in the past 5 years.



Emory Clinic Implant Totals: CI + BAHA 2018 through 2022

Emory Temporal Bone Surgical Dissection Course 2023

The Department of Otolaryngology at Emory University School of Medicine presents a comprehensive Temporal Bone Surgical Dissection Course. Designed as an immersive experience over five days, this course is tailored for otologic surgeons and residents seeking to enhance their expertise. During the course, participants will delve into the intricate surgical anatomy of the temporal bone, gaining insights into the latest advancements in the surgical treatment of ear disorders. The curriculum will encompass a range of temporal bone surgical approaches, including addressing chronic ear conditions, stapedectomy, ossicular reconstruction, exposure of the facial nerve, vestibular surgery, transmastoid labyrinthectomy, dissection of the internal auditory canal, and surgeries involving cochlear and bone-anchored implants.



Esther Vivas, MD

Candance Hobson, MD

Douglas E. Mattox, MD

Kristan Alfonso, MD

Nandini Govil, MD

Jackson Vuncannon, MD

Arturo Solares, MD

N. Wendell Todd, MD

EMORY | The Scope

Head and Neck Reconstruction Bootcamp

Recently, the second National Resident H&N Reconstruction Bootcamp took place in Atlanta. Residents from 10 institutions across the country got together for this two-day cadaver course.

Emory H&N faculty, Dr. Kaka and Dr. Baddour, along with six guest faculty members introduced residents to advanced regional and free flap reconstructive techniques in small group settings.

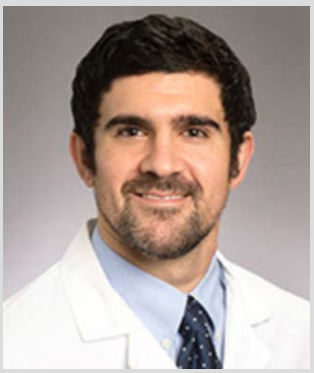
Notably, the course included a microvascular station where each resident gained hands-on experience suturing an artery. Fostered by support from seven industry sponsors, the course provided a collegial atmosphere throughout.

M4OC-Prevent 2.0: Phase IIb Trial of Metformin for Oral Cancer Prevention

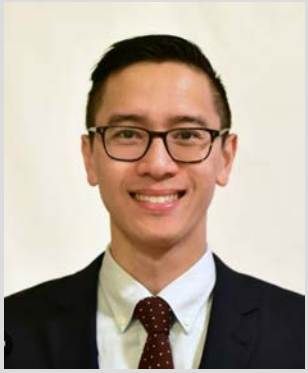
The M4OC-Prevent 2.0 trial is for patients with visible lesions in the oral cavity that are biopsy-proven to be dysplasia/hyperplasia, and they are randomized into 6 months of metformin vs placebo. They must have a ≥5 year smoking history. Metformin has been shown to cause partial or complete histologic remission in most of these patients.

NRG Oncology HN006: Randomized phase II/III trial of sentinel lymph node biopsy versus elective neck dissection for early-stage oral cavity cancer

The NRG Oncology HN006 trial is for patients with clinical T1-T2N0 oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma who will not require any regional or free flap reconstruction of their primary tumor site. They are randomized into sentinel lymph node (SLN) biopsy versus ipsilateral elective neck dissection (END). Based on prior data out of Europe, it is hypothesized that patients undergoing SLN biopsy will have less postoperative morbidity and non inferior survival outcomes.



H. Michael Baddour, MD



David Chou, MD

Facial Plastics

Facial Plastic Surgery at Emory Aesthetic Center

Facial plastic surgeons at the Emory Aesthetic Center focus on facial reanimation, gender affirmation surgery, rhinoplasty, and facial reconstruction and cosmetic surgery.

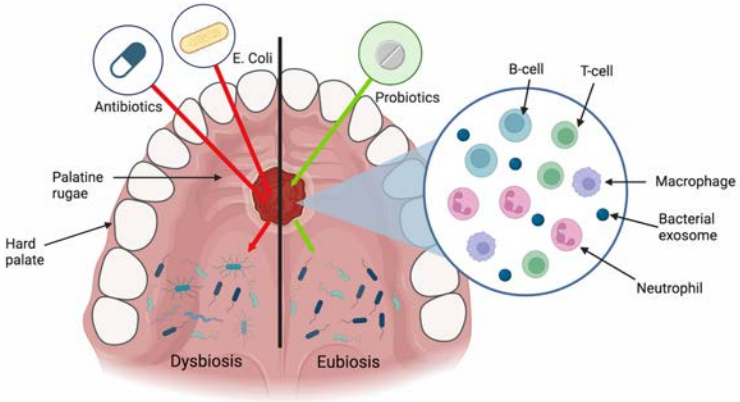
Dr. H. Michael Baddour and Meredith Ingram have joined the EAC team, providing facial reanimation patients with consults and medical Botox injections. We are also excited Dr. David Chou is joining our team this year, as he finished his training at Mount Sinai Facial Plastics. We are thrilled to welcome their expertise as a valuable addition to the Emory Aesthetic Center team!

Regenerative Research

The Goudy Regenerative Research Lab focuses on comprehending the fundamental biological processes that govern the regeneration of facial bone and soft tissues. Correction of craniofacial anomalies such as cleft lip, cleft palate, and Pierre Robin sequence as well as head and neck tumor resection are distinct scenarios where children require advanced treatments aimed at enhancing wound healing, minimizing surgical complications. Our laboratory centers on creating models that replicate bone and soft tissue injury. We further develop regenerative approaches including the administration of Jagged1 via PEG-MAL hydrogels to repair bone; the utilization of FTY720-loaded biomaterial scaffolds to restore the oral mucosa; and lastly, the use of hydrogels to introduce beneficial bacteria that facilitate oral wound healing.

Steven Goudy, MD

Archana Kamalakar, PhD



Fulbright Scholar 2023-2024

Nikhila Raol, MD

Five members of Emory University's faculty and staff have been named 2023-24 Fulbright U.S. Scholars. Dr. Nikhila Raol is among more than 800 U.S. citizens who will conduct research abroad during the 2023-24 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. Dr. Raol, an associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at Emory, will embark on a research journey to Hyderabad, Telangana, India, where she will be working at Niloufer Hospital for Women and Children. Her project, titled "Exploring the Impact of Ankyloglossia on Breastfeeding Challenges," aims to assess the influence of ankyloglossia on the successful maintenance of breastfeeding.

Resident News

Graduation Day!

Congratulations to Juno, Melissa, and Meredith on reaching this significant milestone in your medical journey! Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment have led you to this remarkable achievement. Your graduation marks not only the culmination of years of rigorous training but also the beginning of a fulfilling career. Embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with the same enthusiasm that has brought you to this point. Once again, congratulations on your well-deserved success, and may your journey as otolaryngologists be marked by continued growth, innovation, and transformative care.

Dr. Lee, Dr. Oh, and Dr. Lilly along with Dr. Mattox on Graduation Day.

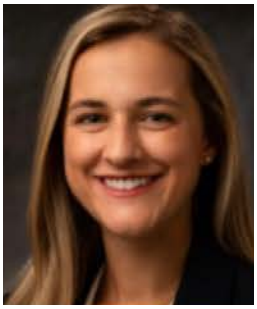
Welcome

to Emory Department of Otolaryngology & Head and Neck Surgery

PGY1

Oliver Liu-Lam, MD
Emory University SOM

Andee Fontenot, MD
LSU SOM Shreveport



Emily Wright, MD
Emory University SOM

Kathryn Hardin, MD
Virginia Tech Carilion SOM

Fellows

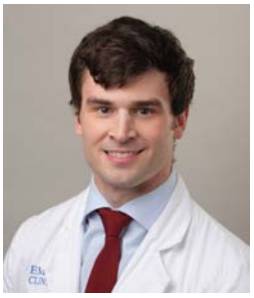
Scott Hond, MD
Head and Neck Fellowship
Residency: Saint Lous University

Michael Sylvester, MD
Rhinology Fellowship
Residency: University of Michigan

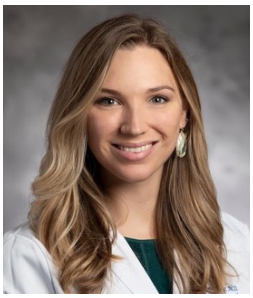
Kody Bolk, MD
Rhinology Fellowship
Residency: Louisiana State University

Tripti Brar, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship
Residency: Maulana Azad Medical College

Kastley Marvin, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship
Residency: Naval Medical Center San Diego



Jackson Vuncannon, MD
Neurotology Fellowship
Residency: Emory University



Debra McGuire, MD
Laryngology Fellowship
Residency: Duke University Medical Center

Meredith Lilly, MD
Endocrine Head & Neck Surgery Fellowship
Residency: Emory University