



### In Focus

- >> **Dr. John DelGaudio** earned the prestigious Eminent Physician distinction, demonstrating his exceptional contributions across quality of care, patient satisfaction, innovation, citizenship, and administration.
- >> **Dr. Sarah Wise** was recently given the Gerald S. Gussack Award from the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology, recognizing her exceptional practice and contribution to education in our field.
- >> Dr. Rustin Kashani has been welcomed to the otology team after completing his Neurotology fellowship at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics.
- >> **Dr. Jennifer Gross** was selected to join the Medical Student Admissions Committee at Emory University School of Medicine, demonstrating her commitment to education.





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Otolaryngology Team at the VA

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Welcome New Residents and Fellows



#### Chair's Note

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we find ourselves in a transformative era of healthcare, it is increasingly evident that we must confront the myriad challenges we face together. The ongoing evolution in patient needs, technological advancements, and the shifting landscape of healthcare policy necessitates a collaborative approach. From enhancing operational efficiency to serving underserved populations and fostering education for underrepresented individuals in medicine (URiM), our unified efforts are essential for creating a more equitable and effective healthcare system.

Recent studies highlight a critical need for increased efficiency in healthcare delivery. According to a report from the National Academy of Medicine, inefficiencies can account for up to 30% of healthcare spending, which is a staggering statistic. To tackle this, our department is exploring innovative models of care that streamline operations while improving patient outcomes. This includes adopting telehealth solutions, refining our patient intake processes, and implementing evidence-based practices that enhance surgical workflows.

In the daily news, a recent article in Health Affairs outlined a successful initiative in a neighboring hospital that implemented a comprehensive workflow redesign. By using data analytics to identify bottlenecks, they reduced patient wait times significantly and improved overall satisfaction scores. Such insights can inspire our own initiatives to enhance efficiency and patient care.

Equity in healthcare is not just a goal; it is a necessity. The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected marginalized communities, underscoring the urgent need for us to serve the underserved. Reports indicate that patients from low-income backgrounds have faced barriers to accessing critical care services, leading to poorer health outcomes.

Our department is committed to addressing these disparities. We are working on community outreach programs that focus on education and access to care for underserved populations. Additionally, partnerships with local organizations are being established to bring specialty care to those who need it most. In the past week, several articles have highlighted the success of similar initiatives, showcasing how outreach can significantly improve healthcare access.

One of the most powerful ways to effect change in our healthcare system is through education. As we strive to diversify our workforce, our commitment to educating URiM students is more important than ever. Recent statistics from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) reveal that URiM individuals remain underrepresented in medicine. By creating mentorship programs, internships, and scholarships, we can inspire the next generation of healthcare leaders from diverse backgrounds.



This month, we have the opportunity to host a series of workshops aimed at URiM students, providing them with insights into the field of otolaryngology. These events will not only highlight the various career paths available but also emphasize the importance of diverse perspectives in improving patient care. I encourage all of you to participate and lend your support to these initiatives.

As we reflect on our goals, it's important to celebrate the collaborative efforts already underway within our department. Our Rhinology group has published diagnostic and treatment criteria for a new subset of chronic rhinosinusitis with polyps, Central Compartment Atopic Disease. This success was made possible through the teamwork of our surgeons, researchers, and allied health professionals who worked tirelessly to improve patient outcomes.

In daily news, advancements in artificial intelligence and machine learning are also making headlines, with applications in diagnostics and treatment planning. Our department is exploring these technologies, aiming to enhance our capabilities in patient assessment and treatment customization. By staying informed about these innovations, we can better position ourselves to integrate them into our practice, further improving efficiency and patient care.

As we look ahead, let us continue to prioritize collaboration across all aspects of our work. The challenges we face are complex, but together, we have the power to create impactful solutions. By focusing on efficiency, equity, and education, we can drive meaningful change within our department and the broader healthcare community.

I invite each of you to contribute your ideas and insights as we embark on this journey. Your expertise and passion are invaluable to our collective mission, and I am excited to see what we can achieve together.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our patients and our community.

Sincerely,

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



C. Arturo Solares, MD, FACS

# Otolaryngology at Atlanta VA Medical Center



### Endocrine Surgery at the VA

FOR EXAMINATION AND

VA Endocrine Surgery is expanding under the leadership of Dr. Merry Sebelik and Dr. Max Kligerman. They've established specialized FNA and RFA clinics and are actively involved in a multidisciplinary endocrine case conference. In August, Dr. Sebelik led a highly successful ultrasound course for residents, equipping them with essential skills. These techniques are continually reinforced in the VA clinics, where faculty regularly utilize ultrasound and encourage residents to apply their training in daily practice.





### Laryngology

### Cough Clinic

The Emory Voice Center leads a virtual multidisciplinary chronic cough clinic. This clinic is very unique and the only one in existence in the country. For patients who have seen multiple doctors and specialists for years of a chronic cough, there is often a lot of time and testing involved. Emory's Chronic Cough Multidisciplinary Clinic is comprised of Dr. Jeanne Hatcher (laryngology), Dr. Amanda Gillespie (speech language pathology), Sara Dover (PA), Dr. Anand Jain (gastroenterology), Dr. Advit Dixit (pulmonology) and Dr. Kristine Vanijcharoenkarn (allergy and immunology). Sara Dover meets with the patient on telemedicine for screening, determining any need of records, and to explain what the clinic is like. As a team (all 6 of us) we meet with the patient on telemedicine and get a detailed history of their cough, review previous records and testing, and discuss comprehensive testing and treatment options for the patient. Any recommended further testing and appointments are then coordinated as best as possible. For example if a patient needs a bronchoscopy and upper endoscopy (esophagogastroduodenoscopy or EGD), that can be combined in one procedure at the Emory Clifton campus. Laryngeal examination and swallow testing will be done at the Emory Midtown campus. Not every patient needs every test or treatment and this avoids bringing patients in for all testing when it may not be needed and also greatly improves their time to treatment and thus cough resolution. Sara Dover continues to follow the patient, guide treatment, and ensure that all recommended testing is completed.

"The feedback we receive from patients is exceedingly positive!"







Amanda Gillespie, PhD, CCC-SLP



### Emory Complex Upper Airway Program

The Emory Voice Center has three laryngologists who perform complex upper airway surgery. These patients often require multiple specialties for optimum treatment. Drs. Hatcher, Law, and Tkaczuk meet monthly with cardiothoracic surgery and interventional pulmonology to discuss these complex airway patients and determine the best plan of care which is frequently combined team-approach surgery. Peri-operatively, our speech language pathology team works to rehabilitate the patients' voice, breathing, and swallowing issues that result from laryngotracheal stenosis.

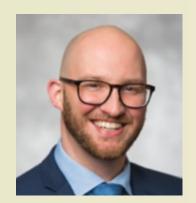




Jeanne Hatcher, MD



Anthony Law, MD, PhD



Andrew Tkaczuk, MD

### New Member of the Laryngology Division

We are excited to welcome Dr. Katherine Marks to our Laryngology Division, joining us from Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Marks has an extensive research career with focus in the aerodynamics of voice using accelerometer-based voice monitoring and is particularly focused on the underlying physiology of perceptual estimates of vocal effort. She also investigates how voices adapt to environmental noise, specifically studying the Lombard effect, where individuals adjust their vocal intensity in response to ambient sound. We are thrilled to have her expertise on board and look forward to her contributions to our research and clinical activities!



Katherine Marks, PhD, MS, CCC-SLP



### Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery

### **Eminent Physician Distinction**

We are excited to announce the well-deserved recognition of our faculty member, Dr. John DelGaudio. His dedication to patient care earned him the prestigious Eminent Physician distinction. This honor, proposed by the department and supported by glowing evaluations, reflects his exceptional contributions across quality of care, patient satisfaction, innovation, citizenship, and administration. After a thorough review, both the School of Medicine Committee on Clinical Distinctions and the Council of Chairs enthusiastically endorsed this recommendation. We are proud to have Dr. DelGaudio represent Emory and look forward to his continued impact on the lives of patients. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement!



John DelGaudio, MD

### Director of Skull Base Surgery

Congratulations to Dr. Emily Barrow on being named Director of Skull Base Surgery! The skull base group, composed of world-renowned experts, brings together a multidisciplinary team including specialists in endocrinology, neurosurgery, and otolaryngology, along with neuro-ophthalmology, neuroendocrinology, and neuroradiology. Their combined expertise and experience distinguish them as leaders in the field, and we are excited to see Dr. Barrow guide this exceptional team forward.



Emily Barrow, MD

# Gerald S. Gussack Award at the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Wise on receiving the esteemed Gerald S. Gussack Award from the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology. This award recognizes her more than 10 years of exceptional practice in Georgia and her outstanding contributions to the teaching of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery. We are proud of Dr. Wise's dedication to excellence in education and patient care.



Sarah K. Wise, MD



### Cranial Base Surgery Course 2024

The Emory University Department of Neurosurgery is excited to host the Cranial Base Surgery Course, "A 360-Degree Perspective" Hands-On Workshop, taking place October 3-5, 2024, in Atlanta.

This comprehensive three-day course will be led by expert skull base ENT and neurosurgeons, covering the foundational principles of traditional skull base microsurgery, advanced endoscopic

techniques, robotic-assisted exoscopic visualization, and cutting-edge neuro-imaging planning and navigation. Participants will also engage in discussions on case selection, technique optimization, and complication management. Hands-on sessions will provide an opportunity to practice these techniques in a bioskills lab using preserved and injected cadaveric specimens.

Designed for neurosurgeons and otolaryngologists at all stages of their careers, this workshop promises a thorough and immersive learning experience.



# The Scope

### Otology

### New Member of the Otology Division

We are excited to welcome Dr. Rustin Kashani to our otology team! Dr. Kashani recently completed his Neurotology fellowship at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics in 2024, following his Otolaryngology residency at Stanford University School of Medicine in 2022. We look forward to the expertise and dedication he brings to our patients and team.

# Emory Temporal Bone Surgical Dissection Course 2024

The Department of Otolaryngology at Emory University School of Medicine is excited to offer the Temporal Bone Surgical Dissection Course from October 28 to November 1, 2024. This intensive, five-day program is designed for otologic surgeons and residents, providing a deep dive into the surgical anatomy of the temporal bone and the latest approaches in ear disease management. Participants will gain hands-on experience with temporal bone drilling, focusing on essential techniques such as stapedectomy, ossicular reconstruction, facial nerve exposure, and vestibular surgery. The course will also cover advanced procedures, including cochlear and bone-anchored implant surgery, alongside radiology and histology of the temporal bone.





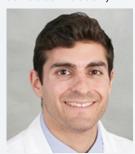
Esther Vivas, MD



Douglas Mattox, MD



Candace Hobson, MD



Rustin Kashani, MD



Norman Todd, MD



### Audiology

# 17th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of audiologists Dr. Kelley Dwyer and Dr. Miriam Featherstone, along with Research Fellow Khaled Altartoor, for their presentations and moderating roles at the 17th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies in Vancouver, BC, in July 2024. Their contributions to this prestigious event evidence their experience and commitment to advancing the field of auditory implants. Congratulations to them on representing our team on an international stage!











### **Endocrine Head & Neck**

#### **Endocrine Division Growth**

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Meredith Lilly back to the Endocrine Head & Neck Surgery Division in 2025. Dr. Lilly completed OTO-HNS residency training and Endocrine HNS training at Emory University. She will bring her dedication, work ethic, and excellence to our division, further augmenting our high standards in patient care, education and clinical expansion. Congratulations to Dr. Lilly as she starts on this next chapter of her career!



Amy Y. Chen, MD



Merry E. Sebelik, MD



Meredith Lilly, MD

### New Endocrine Head and Neck Surgery Fellow

Welcome to our 2024-2025 Endocrine Head & Neck Surgery Fellow, Dr. Alexa Robbins. Dr. Robbins received her MD from UAMS in Little Rock, AR, and completed residency training in OTO-HNS at Emory University, participating in the Emory Global Health Track of Distinction. She has taken on the high-volume clinical load in our fellowship with grace and expertise. Further, Emory OTO-HNS residents have benefited greatly from her excellent teaching style.

Dr. Robbins joined other Emory faculty members, Drs. Sebelik, Kligerman, Carrie Flanagan (Atlanta VA), James Hamilton (Grady) and Tyler Halle (Grady) in teaching a comprehensive head and neck ultrasound anatomy and intervention course to the Emory OTO-HNS residents. The residents were able to practice ultrasound-guided interventions including radiofrequency ablation, core needle biopsy, cyst aspiration on simulators.



Alexa Robbins, MD



#### International Education Outreach

Dr. Merry Sebelik is an internationally recognized Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Neck Ultrasound (TPNUS) educator, disseminating high level point-of-care neck ultrasound knowledge and skills training from Copenhagen to Manila to Cape Town, in addition to serving as longstanding faculty in TPNUS courses given by the American Thyroid Association and American Head & Neck Society.

Dr. Sebelik, in collaboration with research colleagues at University of Copenhagen, helped demonstrate feasibility of an innovative intraoperative ultrasound-based margin assessment tool to better manage complete resection of oral cavity tumors. As a result of her expert input, Winship Emory Midtown has been selected as one of 5 international sites to take this technology from bench to bedside.\*

Along with Dr. Maxwell Kligerman, Head and Neck Surgeon at Emory Decatur and Atlanta VA, and members of the African Head and Neck Society, Dr. Sebelik is creating resource-sensitive TPNUS curriculum that will be most applicable to colleagues in Sub-Saharan Africa. The two faculty members are scheduled to direct an ultrasound skills course in December 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa.

\*Makouei F, Frehr TD, Agander TK, Lelkaitis G, Hyldig Dal M, Kaltoft M, Orloff L, Sebelik M, Søndergaard Svendsen MB, Wessel I, et al. Feasibility of a Novel 3D Ultrasound Imaging Technique for Intraoperative Margin Assessment during Tongue Cancer Surgery. Current Oncology. 2024; 31(8):4414-4431. <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol31080330">https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol31080330</a>





# Global Health and Education, with an Endocrine Head & Neck Focus

Each of members year, multidisciplinary team from Winship Emory Midtown including perioperative anesthesia personnel, nurses, and and trainees from faculty our department, travel to Kigali, Rwanda for a highly productive week of education, clinical care, bilateral skills reinforcement and camaraderie.

This effort is led by Dr. Merry Sebelik and Tufts University affiliated Endocrine surgeon Dr. Jagdish Dhingra, and sponsored through the Boston-based NGO, Medical Missions for Children.

In 2023, PGYIV resident Dr. Ben Wibonele participated, and our current fellow, Dr. Robbins is scheduled for the 2024 "Treat and Train" event. invitation from Rwandan colleagues, Otolaryngologist Dr. Etienne Ndamyiyumva and Medical Center Director, Dr. Ernest Munyemana, the team takes on a multitude of thyroid surgery patients, many with very large or toxic goiters. Because the local partners and site are sustained over time, outcomes can be tracked and patients receive longitudinal care.

At the American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery annual meeting in 2024, Drs. Sebelik and Dhingra will be presenting their long term experience: "Safety of Goiter Surgery in Sub-Saharan African: Lessons Learned Over 20 Years".







A similar collaboration takes place annually in another part of the world where patients suffer from endemic goiter: the Philippine Surgery faculty from Philippine Islands. General Hospital, the University of Tennessee, and Emory University partner with members of the NGO, Memphis Mission of Mercy to provide thyroid, head & neck, cleft lip & palate, and general surgery teaching and procedures. A recent Emory graduate, Dr. Juno Lee took the opportunity to participate during his PGYV year, and he noted the experience "changed my life." Current Emory PVYIV, Dr. Hope lyiewuare, is slated to participate in early 2025.



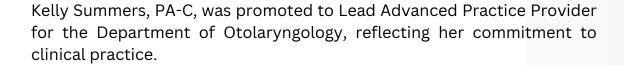


# The Scope

### Head & Neck Surgery

### Honoring Excellence

Martha Ryan, MS, FNP-C, has been promoted to Chief Advanced Practice Provider for Surgical Services at Emory Healthcare, where she will oversee Otolaryngology, Urology, General Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Plastic Surgery, and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. In addition to this leadership role, she was also elected to the Board of Directors for the Society of Otolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses.



Finally, Dr. Jennifer Gross was selected to join the Medical Student Admissions Committee at Emory University School of Medicine, a great honor that demonstrates her strong commitment to education and mentoring the next generation of medical professionals.



### Head and Neck Team featured at Medical Events

Dr. Michael Baddour recently delivered a lecture at the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology summer meeting, where he presented on the topic of "Malignant Facial Palsy in the Setting of Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma." His presentation highlighted the complexities of managing facial nerve involvement in cases of advanced skin cancer.

# 3rd Annual Advanced Resident Head & Neck Reconstruction Bootcamp

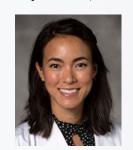
Dr. Kaka and Dr. Baddour, along with 5 visiting faculty members shared their time and expertise with 14 visiting aspiring H&N microsurgeons covering advanced regional and free flap reconstructive techniques in a multi-day hands-on cadaver course.



Martha Ryan, MS, FNP-C



Kelly Summers, PA-C



Jennifer Gross, MD



Michael Baddour, MD



Azeem Kaka, MD

### Pediatric Otolaryngology



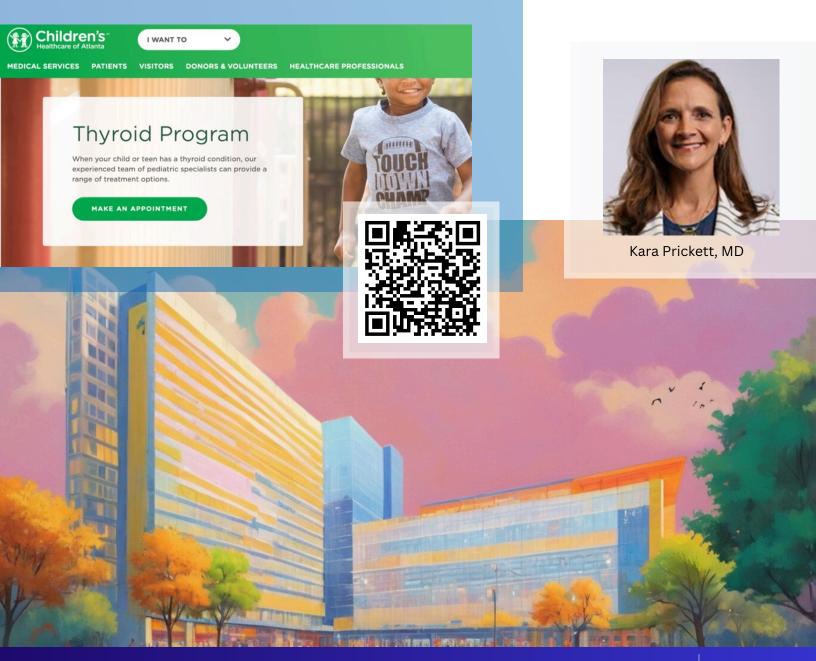
# Thyroid Program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Offers State-of-the-Art Care for Pediatric Thyroid Disease

The thyroid surgery program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is a joint venture supported by experts from Emory University and Children's, and provides care for the full spectrum of pediatric thyroid and parathyroid disease. The multidisciplinary group began meeting in 2016 after recognizing overlapping interest and experience in the care of these patients. Over the past 8 years, the informal meetings have evolved into a cohesive program designed to streamline care and improve outcomes for children who require surgical evaluation of thyroid disorders. While thyroid hormone dysregulation and thyroiditis remain common issues treated by many endocrinologists within the Children's system, patients with suspicious nodules, thyroid cancer, and surgical hyperparathyroidism funnel to content experts in thyroid care, Drs. Kristina Cossen and Briana Patterson. Dr. Patterson retains a joint appointment in the Emory University Department of Oncology, serving as the primary brain tumor endocrinologist as well as the primary endocrinologist for patients with a new diagnosis of thyroid cancer. Patients can then expect coordinated evaluation with our two high-volume thyroid surgeons: Dr. Kara Prickett (Pediatric Otolaryngology) and Dr. Matt Santore (Pediatric Surgery). Drs. Santore & Prickett each participate in 30-40 surgeries per year for pediatric patients with benign and malignant lesions or refractory Graves' disease. Diagnostic and therapeutic support is provided by pathology and radiology departments. Dr. James Patterson is a pediatric cytologist and pathologist with a focus in thyroid disorders. Dr. Adina Alazraki is an internationally recognized expert in thyroid imaging, and Dr. Jay Shah offers minimally invasive ablative treatments for children with large cysts or appropriate benign lesions.





The consolidated program has yielded significant benefits for our smaller patients. Several successful quality improvement initiatives have led to dramatic decreases in post-operative hypocalcemia (well below national averages) and length of stay after surgery (one day or less for most patients). Enhanced Recovery After Surgery protocols help send kids & teens home without narcotics and the side effects or dangers they may cause. The thyroid team also offers expert consensus review and remote care planning for patients who cannot travel to Atlanta, as well as consultation and management services for radioactive iodine therapy. For more information about the program, visit <a href="https://www.choa.org/medical-services/thyroid-program">https://www.choa.org/medical-services/thyroid-program</a>. Referrals for benign thyroid disease may be faxed to 404-785-9022. If you would like to refer a patient with known or suspected thyroid cancer, please give us a call at 404-785-1200.



### **Facial Plastics**



### **Novel Surgical Experience**

We are excited to announce the successful completion of our first facial feminization surgery case, which included cranioplasty and rhinoplasty. Additionally, we are pleased to share that the microtia team is expanding, with our faculty member, Dr. Chou, joining Dr. Sean Evans and Dr. Nandini Govil.

### **Art and Medicine**

Dr. Chou has developed a new "Art in Medicine" course in collaboration with the Emory Carlos Museum, offering a unique three-week experience. This innovative course explores the intersection of art and medicine, providing participants with fresh perspectives on medical

practice through the lens of artistic expression.

# Gender Affirming Facial Surgery

Dr. Chou delivered an invited presentation on Gender Affirming Facial Surgery at the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology Summer Meeting 2024.



### **URiM** Support Program



### Upcoming Event on October 5, 2024



#### Our **MISSION**

To provide exposure and mentorship for underrepresented minorities in medicine (URiM) students to the field of Otolaryngology during both preclinical and clinical years of medical school.



#### **PROGRAM FEATURES**

Learn about the exciting and rewarding Otolaryngology surgical speciality:

- Application process
- Residency training

Come meet and network with ENTs of the following subspecialties:

- Pediatric ENT
- Facial Plastics
- Neurotology
- Rhinology
   Head and Neck
- Laryngology
- Networking lunch with academic and private practice ENTs and Emory ENT residents for mentorship

#### **PROGRAM FEATURES**

Afternoon Skills session

Learn basic suturing and knot-tying skills

Simulation Activities

- · Ear tube placement
- sinus surgery
   Facial fracture plating

Giveaway prizes!



### **Resident News**



### Welcome to the Emory ENT Family!

# PGY1



Grant Owen, MD



Amisheila Kinua, MD



Christian Shannon, MD

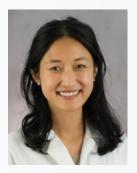


Daniel Moverman, MD



Sherrie Wang, MD

# **Fellows**



Katherine Chang, MD

Head and Neck

Surgery



Alexa Robbins, MD

Endocrine Head and
Neck Surgery



Alexander Choi, MD

Rhinology



Zachary Warren, MD

Rhinology



Nirali Patel, MD

Pediatric

Otolaryngology



Kelly Gates, SLP

Speech Pathology
Fellow



Karim Asi, MD Laryngology