A recent major initiative for the University of Missouri is improving the position as a member institution of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Mizzou has seen their stature among this group of elite research universities fall to near the bottom, and so, the Board of Curators and the leadership of the University of Missouri seek to improve the institution’s standing. The risk of not doing so, is the threat of being discontinued as a member institution.

Among the criteria for institution ranking within the AAU is external funding for research, the most significant category being federal government funding sources. Growing research funding is, in fact, a key feature of the strategy chosen by the Chancellor for enhancing Mizzou’s position in this elite group.

In this regard, the greatest opportunity for increasing extramural research funding is felt to exist in the School of Medicine, particularly among the clinical Departments. As a result of this, new faculty hiring priorities are focused on candidates with existing NIH or other federal research funding such as Department of Veterans Affairs, NASA, Department of Defense, etc. Nevertheless, leadership in the School of Medicine also recognizes the value of strong clinician faculty whose strong clinical work can facilitate the research growth.

Consistent with this research initiative, our Department has redoubled its efforts and resources accordingly. We have seen a nice growth in intramural and recently, extramural research funding for research within the Department. This change in culture has indirectly resulted in a growth in published manuscripts by our Faculty, as well as peer-reviewed presentations at national meetings including the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. In this edition of the newsletter, you will find the activities of our faculty at the Annual Meeting.

Robert P. Zitsch III, M.D.
William E. Davis Professor and Chair

Message from the Chair

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Clint Lasiter, M.D. (Residency Class of 2010) presented the inaugural “Insightful Medical Practical Alumni Career Teaching” (IMPACT) address to the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery on October 9th, the first day of the University of Missouri Homecoming weekend. IMPACT is a new series presented by alumni who have made the transition from residency into practice and, in the spirit of Homecoming, have made the pilgrimage back to Columbia to share their wisdom and practical insights.

Dr. Lasiter has spent the last five years practicing in San Angelo, Texas, and comes back to Columbia with plenty of real world experiential pearls to share...

- Do not live in constant fear of complications, they happen and can be dealt with accordingly;
- Have faith in your residency training;
- Life can be lonely without having daily Resident camaraderie, develop a network of people with whom to interact and to discuss difficult cases;
- Build relationships with good anesthesiologists;
- Do what is right for the patient;
- Be fiscally responsible, from a billing/procedural standpoint to your own personal finances;
- Appreciate clinic and have a plan for common consultations;
- Make time for family, friends, vacation and hobbies.

Dr. Lasiter closed the presentation with some remarkable cases he has managed, and it is reassuring to know we are being taught how to be competent surgeons with the skills and knowledge to practice in the real world.

- Aaron S. Thiessen, M.D., PGY3

Congratulations on a job well done to everyone who gave presentations at this year’s annual American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery meeting in Dallas, Texas.

**Oral Presentations**

- Neural Mechanisms Contributing to Dysphagia in Mouse Models - Teresa Lever, Ph.D.
- A Mouse Model of Aspiration for Translational Dysphagia Research - Bridget Hopewell, M.D., Matthew Page, M.D., Teresa Lever, Ph.D.
- Endoscopic evaluation of swallowing in mouse models of dysphagia - Teresa Lever, Ph.D., Bridget Hopewell, M.D.
- Post-thyroidectomy Hypocalcemia: Effect of Pre-op D3 - Robert Zitsch, M.D., Jeffrey Jorgensen, M.D., Gregory Renner, M.D.
- Surgeon Interpretation of Nuclear Parathyroid Localization Studies - Jeffrey Jorgensen, M.D. Robert Zitsch, M.D., Dana King, M.D., Bridget Hopewell, M.D.
- Impact of PET/CT on Staging and Treatment of Advance Head and Neck SSC - Jeffrey Jorgensen, M.D., Robert Zitsch, M.D.
- Improving the Utility of Laryngeal Sensory Testing - Teresa Lever, Ph.D., Bridget Hopewell, M.D., Matthew Page, M.D.
- Variable Patterns of Laryngeal Innervation and Dysfunction - Bridget Hopewell, M.D., Aaron Thiessen, M.D., Matthew Page, M.D., Teresa Lever, Ph.D.
- Gelatin Simulator for Reconstruction of Facial Defects - Steve Taylor, M.D., David Chang, M.D.
- Pediatric Oral Electrical burns: E.D. visits in the U.S., 1997-2012 - Lauren Umstattd, M.D., David Chang, M.D.
- Characterization of novel periodic fever phenotypes - Michael Puricelli, M.D., Eliav Gov-Ari, M.D.

**Instruction Courses**

- A Comprehensive Review of Reconstructions of the Lips - Gregory Renner, M.D.
- Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for the Management of Oral Cavity Cancer - Robert Zitsch, M.D.
- Reconstruction of Partial Auricular Defects - David Chang, M.D., Gregory Renner, M.D.

**Mini-Seminars**

- Mission Impossible: Patient Satisfaction a Web-Based Culture - David Chang, M.D.
- Reconstruction of Advanced or Major Defects of the Upper and Lower Lips - Gregory Renner, M.D.
1st Public University West of the Mississippi River - University of Missouri

170 Years Awarding Medical Degrees - School of Medicine

114 Counties Served - MUHealthCare

Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
10 Residents
14 Faculty
36 Active Research Studies
121 Resident and Fellow Alumni
1968 Dr. Donald Joseph named first Chief
2,393 Surgeries FY15
49,294 Clinic Visits FY15

1st Place - Aaron Thiessen, M.D. for “Superior Laryngeal Nerve: Some Little Nerve and Its Impact on Swallowing in a Mouse Model”

2nd Place - Bridget Hopewell, M.D. for “Surgeon Interpretation of Nuclear Parathyroid Localization Studies”

MU Years of Service

Congratulations to those celebrating milestone years at MU! Eric Bozarth has spent every minute of his five years in the Department administrative office. Dr. Lever is celebrating five years, she started in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders prior to joining ENT. Julie Seda’s enjoying five years at the University, Ellis Fischel was her first stop before joining the Department in 2014. Connie Sides has been at MU for five years, all of them in ENT. Dr. Chang has been treating the patients of mid-Missouri for 10 years! Dr. Page’s 10 years at Mizzou have encompassed his residency training and then Faculty appointment starting in 2010. Becky Schneider stopped at Child Health and Endocrine before joining ENT, netting her a total of 10 years at Mizzou. Cindy Rose has been at the University for 15 years, first in the main operating room then onto ENT.
Congratulations to Eliav Gov-Ari, M.D. and Jeffrey Jorgensen, M.D. on their recent promotions to Associate Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Gov-Ari came to the University of Missouri in 2008. He has been very busy the last seven years building a pediatric otolaryngology practice along with teaching residents and collaborating in scholarly endeavors. He has served on the Faculty Affairs Council and recently finished his term as Chair. Dr. Gov-Ari is also involved in the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, the American College of Surgeons and serves on various committees of the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Jorgensen joined the Department in 2009 after completing both his residency training and fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology at the University of Kansas. Even with Dr. Jorgensen’s teaching and research efforts along with clinical duties, he’s made the time to Chair the MUHealthCare Robotic Committee, give presentations at regional and national meetings and has been highly involved in resident education. He’s also a member of the American College of Surgeons and the American Thyroid Association.

Legacy Lecture Series

This Spring the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Missouri was pleased to welcome Bevan Yueh, M.D., MPH to Columbia as part of the Legacy Lecture Series. Dr. Yueh is a head and neck oncology surgeon, Department Head and Professor of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Yueh is an accomplished surgeon-physician-scientist and we had the privilege of hearing 2 lectures over his visit covering topics not often discussed in our routine didactics.

Dr. Yueh's first lecture examined the current state of the evidence basis with which we treat head and neck cancer. He pointed out the glaring lack of top-level evidence in Otolaryngology, specifically in Head and Neck Oncology. Our medical and radiation oncology colleagues’ treatment decisions are often backed by top-level evidence from prospective randomized control trials. Unfortunately, much of the Otolaryngology evidence basis is from retrospective reviews, at best. Dr. Yueh noted the logistical difficulties of planning a surgical randomized control trial, but also took this opportunity as a “call to action” for collaboration between multiple institutions to provide the patient base necessary to derive meaningful results from such studies. This is especially apropos, given our recent collaborations with the Midwest Head and Neck Consortium, and we hope to see Dr. Yueh’s vision come to fruition with future endeavors through this collaborative body.

Dr. Yueh’s second lecture focused on delivering bad news. He described his personal development and maturation within an ever-changing medical system. He focused not only on delivering bad news to patients, but also addressed delivering bad news to colleagues and even to one’s self. His honesty and perspective shed light on a very important aspect of the art within our specialty. We do not often discuss these intangibles in this type of forum and the fruitful and frank discussion stimulated by Dr. Yueh’s lecture was very much appreciated.

While Dr. Yueh was in town for less than 24 hours, his perspective on these not-often addressed topics continues to spur discussions and conversations within the department. Dr. Yueh embodies the spirit of the Legacy Lecture Series and we were privileged to glean some of his insight.

-Benjamin F. Erhardt, PGY4

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Eliav Gov-Ari, M.D. and Jeffrey Jorgensen, M.D. on their recent promotions to Associate Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

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Another year has passed and that means we again have to say good-bye, good luck and farewell to our graduates. The evening was full of fun, laughter, hugs and perhaps a few tears - some of joy, some of sadness.

The resident graduates were put to a few final tests including homegrown versions of Family Feud and Jeopardy. Their final test was Are You Smarter Than the Chair? Even with 2 to 1 odds, Dr. Zitsch was victorious.

Congratulations Tabitha, Katya and Jason!
NEW FACULTY

Laura M. Dooley, M.D. joined the Department in August 2015. Dr. Dooley is no stranger to the University of Missouri as she completed her medical degree as a Tiger, followed by residency at Loyola University and the University of Louisville, and finally a fellowship in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Dooley is practicing general otolaryngology with a focus on head and neck surgical oncology, primarily endocrine cancers, cancer of the salivary glands, cancer of the sinuses, mouth, pharynx, and larynx, skull base neoplasms as well as skin cancers. She has a focus on clinic research especially patient reported outcomes and quality of life research.

After years abroad training, Dr. Dooley and her husband, Jon, are excited to be back in their home state. They enjoy spending time with friends and family and enjoying the outdoors.

Retirement

After 35 years of surgical practice including 20 years of training future facial plastic and reconstructive surgeons, Dr. LaFerriere retired from the operating room in June 2015.

Throughout his career Dr. LaFerriere not only practiced medicine and trained residents and fellows, he also served on the national and international stage as the President of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, a board examiner for the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and is currently serving on the International Federation of Facial Plastic Surgery Societies.

Most importantly, Dr. LaFerriere took very seriously his role as teacher and mentor for future surgeons in the field of facial plastic surgery. His desire to pass along his knowledge and experience about the specialty to others is unmatched.

Dr. LaFerriere has been heard saying that his lovely wife, Randy, married him “for better or worse, but not for lunch”, hence he will be starting a new phase of his medical career by assisting patients in age management medicine with bio-identical hormone therapy.

We wish you all of the best in “retirement” Dr. LaFerreire!

Gregory Renner, M.D., Keith LaFerriere, M.D.
Once again, the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery annual meeting was a great opportunity to reconnect with alumni from all over the country. The Alumni reception in The Lone Star State did not disappoint as those current and past enjoyed an evening of catching up with old friends and making new ones. Thanks to all who were able to attend!
After residency, I served in the United State Air Force for five years in North Dakota and England. I was the only ENT stationed at Minot AFB and recall contacting Dr. Jerry Templer for advice on a tough case. “Just remember,” he said, “you’re the best man they’ve got.” I think my positive experience there influenced my decision to move to Cleburne, Texas, a town of 30,000 one hour from Dallas. I have been in solo private practice for 15 years and am the only specialist in my county. My practice is general ENT and Allergy in a retro-modern office that I built in 2010, largely inspired by a Business in Medicine talk given by Dr. Sid Christiansen. My personal home was built in 1906, so it was nice to have a new building! Audiology and hearing conservation are big parts of the practice and we do occupational hearing testing in a mobile trailer at various industries.

Some of my fondest memories from residency are golf matches arranged by our Vancenase rep, Bernie Bopp, between Mizzou, SLU and Wash U - we usually won! I am also grateful for the Mexico mission trip that I took with Dr. David Parsons. My wife Maureen and I loved our time in Columbia. Two of our four children were born there. We now have three college graduates including a married daughter and a senior in high school, and also have a one year old granddaughter. I was diagnosed with MS in 2012 and am thankfully healthy since starting treatment and changing my diet.

Mizzou was a great place to start my career and I hope to practice medicine for many more years.

Theodore T. Benke, M.D.
Class of 1994