Every summer the new academic year predictability challenges our Faculty’s ability to adapt to change. Most of this occurs when we meet our new residents and begin to develop relationships with them. The other significant change we experience this time of the year are the new roles and responsibilities our residents have as they move through their educational process to the next level. And so, July and August in the Department are always a very exciting time not only for the residents, but also for our Faculty. However, this new academic year was slightly atypical in so far as we relocated our clinic, in the University Physicians Medical Building adjacent to the hospital, to a new location in a new building across from Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

This new clinic has been named the MU ENT, Hearing and Balance Center. The realization of this clinic is the culmination of many years of conceptualization and planning for a clinic dedicated to otologic, hearing and balance disorders. Moving forward, we will provide state-of-the-art, evidence-based care for patients having vestibular disorders of all types as well as maintaining our commitment to high quality care for patients having otologic and hearing disorders. In November, Dr. Arnaldo Rivera will be joining our Faculty to serve as the Director of our Hearing and Balance Disorders Center.

Finally, it is notable that Dr. James Denneny will be leaving the University of Missouri in November. And while we will certainly miss the leadership and clinical skills he has shared with our Department, he will be taking over a very prestigious and important position with the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery as Executive Vice President and CEO. We wish him great success as he moves on to this wonderful opportunity.

Robert P. Zitsch III, M.D.
William E. Davis Professor and Chair
The Alumni Reception at the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery annual meeting recently took place in Orlando, Florida. It’s always fun to see former trainees and catch up! Thank you to those who were able to attend.
David C. Mechlin, M.D.’s medical career started in 1970 at the University of Missouri Medical School. During that time he met Hugh E. Stephenson, M.D., whose influence helped him to decide on a career in surgery. He subsequently started a general surgery internship and during his ENT rotation met chief residents J. Regan Thomas, M.D. and C. Richard Holt, M.D., whom he describes as “stimulating, good teachers and great role models”. Their influence triggered his interest in otolaryngology and he continued his training in the Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Residency training program with co-resident Stephen Chadwick, M.D. He recalls the service being very busy and having the opportunity to care for a wide spectrum of surgical problems with in-depth training and exposure under the guidance of William E. Davis, M.D., and Jerry W. Templer, M.D. Their dictum was, if you came to the operating room well-prepared there would be no limit to the level of participation in the patient’s surgical care.

Dr. Mechlin started private practice with Dr. Thomas where they had a broad based practice including head and neck surgery, facial plastic surgery and otology. Now, 35 years later he is practicing with Greg C. Campbell, M.D. and Susie Early, M.D., and mainly focused on sino-nasal surgery. And, for over three decades his patients have benefited from open-line referrals to the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Missouri.

Dr. Mechlin’s advice to the Residents...
Pick a practice with the most qualified partners - it’s more important than the money; and when faced with a challenging patient care situation, don’t be afraid to ask for help.

Currently Dr. Mechlin and his wife, Ginny, enjoy spending time with their three sons and grandchildren. He also enjoys bird hunting and farming. In the future, he commented “maybe if I am in good favor, Dr. Zitsch will let an old dog do part-time clinical practice”.

James Denny, M.D.

James Denny, M.D. will be leaving the University of Missouri Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery late this fall to assume the role as Executive Vice-President and CEO of the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and its Foundation.

Dr. Denny joined the Faculty at the University of Missouri in 2011 after 20 years in private practice. He has served multiple crucial roles in the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery including President, Chair of the Board of Governors and is currently the Coordinator of Socioeconomic Affairs and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee for Payment Reform Quality among many others. Dr. Denny has also served the American College of Surgeons on the Socioeconomics Committee and the Health Policy Advisory Group. Over the years he has tirelessly advocated for physicians in various aspects of medicine. During his time at MU he has provided excellent patient care and top notch teaching for our residents.

We wish Dr. Denny the very best in his new endeavor!
Resident Research Awards

No, it’s not déjà vu…Jason Showmaker, M.D. and Bridget Hopewell, M.D. once again placed 1st and 2nd place respectively on Resident Research Day. Dr. Showmaker won for his presentation Healthcare Utilization after Tonsillectomy: The impact of antibiotic usage. Dr. Hopewell came in 2nd place for her presentation Novel Methods to Assess Dysphagia Across Species: Implications for Human and Veterinary Medicine. Three-peat?

Legacy Lecture Series

The University of Missouri Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery was privileged to host Rodney P. Lusk, M.D. as part of our Legacy Lecture Series this fall. He is a renowned scholar, respected leader including past president of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, prolific teacher, innovator, and altruistic humanitarian serving others around the world.

During the visit, Dr. Lusk shared three unique talks with our department and guests. In the first, the results of a large survey were presented to illustrate the state of current practice patterns for management of chronic rhinosinusitis in pediatric patients. He emphasized the usefulness of adenoidectomy, and presented an evidence-based and sequential approach to management of pediatric patients with chronic rhinosinusitis. Dr. Lusk also gave a very interesting talk about a recent medical mission to Nepal. He shared important life lessons, particularly recognition of both individual limits as a surgeon and the bounds of the practice environment. He described the benefits of service opportunities and strongly encouraged each of us to take the opportunity to volunteer should the chance to do so arise. Finally, Dr. Lusk reviewed PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections) with us, drawing attention to the most current evidence for its existence and the role of medical and surgical therapy. He concluded the talk by sharing his most recent innovative approach to collecting data: use of personal electronic devices.

Dr. Lusk’s visit and lectures provided a significant opportunity to expand knowledge about several aspects of pediatric otolaryngology but, more importantly, gain a glimpse into the perspectives of one of the greatest scholars, innovators, and leaders in our field. In the course of the series, Dr. Lusk humbly communicated many important life lessons and fueled the desire for service. We are privileged to have had such an exceptional individual take time to teach us and look forward to future interactions.

Michael D. Puricelli, M.D.
PGY3

Honor Award

David Chang, M.D. has been named a 2014 Honor Award winner at the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Criteria for award winners are as follows: The Honor Award is the first award a member can obtain for participation in certain activities. A member can earn only one Honor Award in a lifetime. To receive an Honor Award, a member must earn 10 volunteer service points over a minimum of five years. The Honor Award point system is constructed to promote recognition not only for the quantity of service, but also for the variety and longevity of service. A maximum of two points, each of which must come from a different category of service, can be accrued each year. Congratulations Dr. Chang!
Another year has passed which means it’s time to say good-bye and good luck to our graduates. Jason Goodwin, M.D. and Abby McEwan, M.D. endured a few jabs by Program Director Dr. David Chang, Chair Dr. Robert Zitsch and by the incoming Chiefs Dr. Tabitha Galloway and Dr. Jason Showmaker before having the last word with a few jabs of their own. Dr. Goodwin has now returned to the military and Dr. McEwan is staying with the Department for a year while her husband finishes his residency.

Good luck Abby and Jason!
Congratulations to members of the Department who have hit milestone years of service at MU!

Jeff Jorgensen, M.D. has been part of the Faculty practicing head and neck surgical oncology for five years. He is involved with resident teaching and various local and regional committees.

Vici Stroer joined the Department ten years ago. Her duties include program coordinator, provider support and supervising the administrative office.

Robert Zitsch, M.D. came to MU in 1989 after completing his head and neck surgical oncology fellowship. His was named Chair of the Department in 2009, and serves on many local, regional and national committees.

Beth Mayhew is celebrating ten years at MU. She started in Hospital Administration, followed by the Department of Radiology before finding her way to OtoHNS.

Justine Kingsbury is a native Californian, but landed in CoMo five years ago. She has served multiple roles over the years including provider support, medical student coordinator and CME coordinator.

Jane Cooper, APRN starting practices pediatric and also has an interest in allergy. She began her stint in ENT five years ago.

Kevin Lollar, M.D. has been appointed to the Missouri Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists.

Dr. Lollar graduated in 2011 from the Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery residency training program. Currently, he is in private practice in Hannibal, Missouri, and serves as the Vice-Chair of the Department of Surgery at Hannibal Regional Hospital. He also serves as Hannibal Regional Hospital’s Cancer Liaison Physician to the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.

Dr. Lollar’s duties on the Missouri Board will include reviewing applicants for licensure and making recommendations to the division on matters of discipline of licenses; approving the examination required for licensure and may administer the practical portion of the examination; and reviewing and approving courses for continuing education credits required for license renewal.

Congratulations on your appointment Dr. Lollar!

Abigail McEwan, M.D. joined the Faculty in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery after completion of her undergraduate, medical school and residency all at the University of Missouri. She is practicing general otolaryngology with an emphasis in sinus, allergy, general pediatrics.
The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery recently opened the MU ENT, Hearing and Balance Center. This new 12,800 square feet facility includes four in-office surgical procedures suites, an on-site lab for hearing aids, balance testing lab, comprehensive audiology testing, and dedicated space for voice analysis and treatment.

Robert Zitsch, M.D. and Matt Page, M.D. (left to right)

Robert Zitsch, M.D.

Christina Sanderson, AuD, talking with a visitor

Jim Zynda, M.A., CCC-A, touring visitors

Nursing Bay
Through the generosity of our Faculty, Alumni and Friends of the Department we are very close the goal of $1.1 million with $886,753 being raised to date. A heartfelt thank you to those who have already donated!

To aid in fully funding the William E. Davis, M.D. Endowment to a Chair designation for the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, please visit our website at ent.missouri.edu, Gift Opportunities tab.

Your donations help us deliver top medical care to Missouri and beyond.

1. Visit ent.missouri.edu
2. Choose “Gift Opportunities” tab
3. Help us meet our goal

$1.1 million
$1 million
$800,000
$600,000
$400,000
$200,000