As I write this Chair’s message, we as the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery are finally realizing some very significant changes in our administrative and clinical work areas. These changes are ones that I alluded to in past newsletters, and which we have been anticipating for the past decade or more. The first of these changes is the completion of the recently acquired academic and administrative space adjacent to our current administrative offices. The planning and construction for this space has been underway for nearly a year and it is exciting to see this finalized. This space has five new faculty offices, a very attractive reception area and a beautiful conference room that is capable of seating up to 40 people. We have moved out of the older office space into our newly constructed space with Phase II being well underway. This phase of the project will include complete renovation of our existing administrative and educational space. This is quite an exciting time for many of us since we have waited for many years to acquire additional space and renovate our existing academic offices.

It is also significant that the University of Missouri Health System opened a $190 million Patient Care Tower (PCT) located on the Northeast side of the University Hospital in April. This included a $50 million new Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. Our Department has played a significant role in the provision of head and neck oncologic patient services for many decades. Our clinics for head and neck oncology and multidisciplinary head and neck endocrine are now located on the second floor of the PCT with all of the other oncology services.

Recently, several of our Department traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota to participate in the annual meeting of the Midwest Head and Neck Consortium. This meeting has served to provide educational opportunities for residents and fellows from the six member institutions in the Midwest. In addition, the Consortium provides a means for rapid and significant accrual into clinical research projects. Other than myself, also participating in this meeting for our department were Dr. Gregory Renner and Dr. Jeffrey Jorgensen, as well as residents Dr. Abby Schnieders and Dr. Nathan Chen. Dr. Jorgensen, along with Dr. Russell Smith of the University of Nebraska, submitted a novel proposal for a project looking at stage migration with PET/CT scan for newly diagnosed head and neck cancer patients. The Consortium agreed to move this project through quickly so that IRB approvals could begin at the respective institutions. Research that has already been completed by this group has included two studies that evaluated parathyroid localization modalities. Abstracts from these were submitted and selected for the scientific programs at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery this past fall and at the upcoming meeting of the American Head and Neck Society.

It is noteworthy Dr. Gregory Renner will officially retire from the University of Missouri at the end of June of this year. His plans will be to remain as part-time faculty in this Department. The Department will be holding a very large event this summer to celebrate Dr. Renner’s career at MU. All current and previous faculty as well as current and former residents will be invited. More information will be forthcoming.

Finally, as part of the campus-wide “One Mizzou” capital campaign, we will be launching an analogous campaign later this spring. Our goal is to build the endowments that have been created in the Department which have been created to honor Drs. William E. Davis and Jerry W. Templer. These endowments are used to support the mission of our Department that includes both education and research, the costs of which are partly unfunded through the traditional mechanisms of State appropriations or UM system allocations.
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Class of 2013
We wish our graduating residents all the best in their future careers!

Jon Mills, M.D., will be practicing general otolaryngology at Rocky Mountain Ear, Nose and Throat in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Susan Nguyen, M.D., is joining Yakima Ear, Nose & Throat in Yakima, Washington, where she will practice general otolaryngology.

Phase 1 Completion

After five months, Phase I of our academic office remodel project is complete. The Faculty members and administrative staff located in the existing suite have moved into the newly acquired area awaiting completion of Phase II, which should take place sometime in June. One of the most anticipated parts of the project is the new conference room. With expanded seating for large groups, state-of-the-art technology, and kitchenette area - the new conference room has already caused quite the buzz amongst anyone who passes by.
The Annual Physicians Alumni Weekend was especially exciting for the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery as J. Regan Thomas, M.D., MU School of Medicine Class of 1972, and his wife Rhonda, came to Columbia as special guests of the MU School of Medicine.

Dr. Thomas participated in the Scientific Speaker session with a fascinating lecture *Facial Scar Revision Surgery...Healing More Than Just The Scar.*

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas spent the weekend reminiscing with former classmates and personally cheered the Tigers to a homecoming victory.

Over the years the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has sought to strengthen our relationships and collaboration with other departments and divisions at the University of Missouri. There is no better example of this than our relationship with the Department of Internal Medicine/Division of Endocrinology.

As their thyroid/parathyroid practices have grown over time our relationship has also grown. As a result, our residents have benefitted from the standpoint of surgical training and from the opportunity to participate in research in the care of thyroid/parathyroid disease.

The best example of our collaboration has been our multidisciplinary clinics. Dr. Uzma Khan has clinics with each of our Head and Neck Faculty where new and established patients can have their thyroid ultrasound and are seen by both physicians in a single setting. There is no doubt that this enhances patient understanding and physician communication.

We are very excited about the continued growth of our Department and the opportunities for collaboration this provides.

- Jeffery B. Jorgensen, M.D.

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery prides itself on its communication - whether with our patients, faculty, trainees or staff. One of the many means of communication we believe makes an impact is our website.

We offer insight into our training programs along with educational information from our grand rounds presentations. Our alumni section includes photos to take you on a trip down memory lane as well as Dr. Templer’s “History of Otolaryngology at the University of Missouri-Columbia”.

There is a section of current news and events along with links to sub-specialty patient information. If you are curious about our latest research or want to put a face to a name please visit us at http://ent.missouri.edu today!
We’ve been taking lots of trips down memory lane as offices are being cleaned out for the remodel. It’s always fun to look at pictures of days gone by and to reflect on those that have come and gone through the years…
Luke J. Dlabal, Jr. M.D., graduated from the University of Missouri School of Medicine in 1966, and after active military service with the US Fleet returned as the third resident in the new ENT program. He began his solo practice in Independence, Missouri where he continued to practice for the next 37 years. During this time he held numerous staff positions including Staff President of the Medical Center of Independence and Lees Summit Hospital, and was actively involved in various boards including the Kansas City Metropolitan Medical Society. He currently holds membership in the McAlester Society and the Jefferson Club, both at the University of Missouri, and was named Clinical Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology in 1991.

Dr. Dlabal also served as visiting faculty in Columbia when the ENT department lost staff in the early days and the program was in real danger of losing its accreditation. In addition to staffing cases in Columbia, residents were often invited to Kansas City to assist in head and neck cases and to observe some of the details in setting up a private practice. In the late 1980’s Dr. Dlabal returned to the University of Missouri where under the tutelage of long time best friend Dr. Bill Davis, he developed the skills to perform endoscopic sinus surgery. He then performed the first ESS surgeries in Kansas City after originating a free sinus screening for city residents including a history, exam, x-ray and follow-up written report...completely unheard of in these days!

After retiring in 2009, Dr. Dlabal currently enjoys traveling with his wife Chrystal, and various outdoor sports including golf and bird hunting. He is a member of various city organizations including the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association.

“I would like to express my congratulations to so many people who have worked so hard to develop this now truly amazing program! You should be VERY PROUD!!!”

Legacy Lecture Series

The MU Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery welcomed Craig Senders, MD, FACS, as the guest lecturer for the Legacy Lecture Series. Dr. Senders is Professor and current Director of the Cleft and Craniofacial Program at the UC Davis Health System Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery in Sacramento, CA. His research interests include development and treatment of congenital facial defects and the development and treatment of subglottic stenosis.

Dr. Senders shared his expertise of the embryology of the head and neck showcasing a series of photographs from embryological dissections. He highlighted congenital deformations and malformations of the head and neck including cleft lip and palate, branchial cleft anomalies and Pierre-Robin Sequence. He also focused on his experience with distraction osteogenesis of the mandible, emphasizing the importance of proper patient selection for successful mandibular distraction. For his final lecture Dr. Senders shared his passion for and experience with the Cleft and Craniofacial Program. He focused on the importance of the team approach in craniofacial surgery and why the otolaryngologist is a key member of that team as a cleft surgeon.

The Legacy Lecture Series affords an opportunity for lecturers to share personal wisdom beyond their clinical and surgical expertise. Dr. Senders emphasized two important pearls; the importance of being more knowledgeable than your competitors and the importance of seizing opportunity in one’s professional life. Each opportunity is like a small seed, some may grow into a small plant, some into a bush, and some into a large tree giving off many seeds of its own one day.

-Tabitha L. Galloway, PGY3
July 1st will bring two new faces to Columbia and our Department!

Tiffany P. Baugh, M.D. completed her undergraduate studies in Human and Organizational Development with a concentration in Health and Human Services from Vanderbilt University, followed by her M.D. at University of South Alabama College of Medicine. Aaron S. Thiessen, M.D. comes to us after earning his B.S. in Animal Sciences & Industry from Kansas State University and his M.D. from the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Here’s to five years of Tiffany and Dr. Zitsch talking about their home state of Alabama, and to looking the other way when Aaron is cheering on the Jayhawks or the Wildcats.

APNs

Jane Cooper
Jane received her bachelor and master degrees in nursing from the MU Sinclair School of Nursing. She worked in a variety of nursing roles at University of Missouri Hospital including ICU, nurse recruiter, health information and triage before completing her MSN (Family Nurse Practitioner) in 1997. She returned to the University of Missouri to join the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in 2009. Working at the ENT and Allergy Center of Missouri, Jane primarily cares for pediatric ENT patients, working closely with Dr. Elia Gov-Ari and team. Her clinical interests include caring for challenged children with ENT concerns, environmental and food allergy and tracheostomy care.

Deb Ritchie
Deb has been a nurse practitioner since 1993, with her basic RN experience as a patient educator, nurse in labor and delivery, and as a school nurse. Deb started working in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery over ten years ago with her main specialty as head and neck oncology. Deb’s main focus currently is to build up the free flap program with Dr. Jeff Jorgensen. She also works with pediatric allergy and trach patients. She speaks professionally in SOHN nursing organization in their pharmacology and ORL classes, as well as going into the public schools yearly to promote anti–smoking behaviors.

Cindy Rose
Cindy is the most recent APN addition to the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. She started in summer of 2012 after graduating in May 2012 from the University of Missouri Family Nurse Practitioner program. Her clinical interests include all aspects of allergy management and rhinosinusitis for both adults and children. Cindy works with a strong and growing allergy team which includes attendings, nurses, mixers and dedicated administrative staff.

Connie Sides
Connie has been with the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery since January 2010. Her primary focus are Dr. Zitsch and Dr. Renner’s head and cancer patients, as well as their follow-up care for years following treatment. She also treats non-cancer patients who have thyroid problems, parathyroid problems, and allergy patients. Although Connie has a long standing history as an RN in emergency medicine, she only treats adult patients.

It’s a Match!
The wisdom of surgery is not in knowing the technical steps of how to do a procedure, but the discretion of doing what is right for the patient. This spring, we were honored to host Dr. James Netterville, MD as our 2013 Legacy Series Lecturer. As the Mark Smith Professor of Otolaryngology at Vanderbilt University, Netterville shared with us the wisdom he gained after years of treating paragangliomas.

In his typical fashion as a story teller, Netterville weaved his talk into a compelling plot. “Tumors and patients will teach you an enormous amount if you only stop to listen.” His first early experiences with paragangliomas were through 3 patients who were sisters and to whom he had been a camp counselor many years prior. The sisters all had bilateral carotid body tumors which were eventually removed. Traditional thinking dictated that paragangliomas—especially carotid body tumors—were evil tumors that needed to come out right away. However, the sisters all experienced wild fluctuations in their blood pressure post operatively as a result of denervation of their carotid baroreceptors.

In addition, one of the sisters was found to have a vagal paraganglioma intraoperatively that he removed as well. “That is one tumor I wish I could put back.” Its removal caused the patient vocal fold paralysis as well as palatal incompetence, requiring medialization thyroplasty and a palatal adhesion to rehabilitate her speech and swallow. Netterville’s experience with these tumors has taught him to redefine the “evil” of these tumors: is it in their presence or is it in their removal? He now opts to watch many of these carotid body tumors, finding that around 70% either stay the same size or regress over 5 years.

Netterville’s aura and disarming demeanor wins him many patient fans—and baked goods. He shared some tips on the art of receiving sweet goodies from patients in clinic. A well timed, carefully selected question like, “does your grandmother know how to make baklava?” can reap rewards.

- C.W. David Chang, M.D.