Message from the Chair

The MU Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is pleased to begin production and distribution of this semi-annual Department Update. With this publication we hope to communicate the status of our Department and highlight some of the activities in which we are involved. This first issue is the result of a longstanding interest among our faculty in providing better communication about our Department.

Our Department was established in January 2004. Since that time we have gradually grown and now have nine full-time faculty, as well as three part-time faculty. We offer subspecialty expertise with fellowship-trained faculty in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Pediatric Otolaryngology, and Otology/Neurotology. Allergy and laryngology services are offered as well by faculty with these interests.

This current academic year saw the addition of three new otolaryngology residents as we have RRC approval for 12 total residents. Dr. David Chang, our Residency Program Director, provides excellent oversight and guidance for what continues to be an outstanding resident training program. Our program continues to score in the 90th percentile among all U.S. Otolaryngology training programs on the annual In-Training Exam.

Our research productivity continues to increase. During the past academic year we produced nine peer reviewed publications and have six presentations and one instructional course at the annual meeting of the AAOHNS in Boston. Our Department will begin to work cooperatively on several clinical research efforts through the relatively new Midwest Head and Neck Consortium of which we were one of the founding members.

We are quite pleased with the success we have had in the past year with our missions of research, education and service, and look for this to continue in the current year.

Robert P. Zitsch III, M.D.

Welcome New Faculty

Alex Bien, M.D., earned his M.D. at Loyola University, then completed his residency training at the University of Nebraska followed by an otology/neurotology fellowship at the House Ear Institute. His clinical interests include the management of chronic ear disorders, middle cranial base tumors including tumors of the middle and inner ear, surgical and non-surgical hearing disorders, stapedectomy, cochlear implants, bone-anchored hearing aids, vestibular disorders, and facial nerve injury. Dr. Bien is originally from Topeka, Kansas, and is a diehard KU fan.

Matt Page, M.D., traveled to the University of Sydney, where he earned his M.D. before coming to the University of Missouri to complete his residency training. His clinical interests include diagnosis and management of voice and swallowing disorders as well as general ENT. He will be developing a difficult airway team to manage acute and chronic upper airway problems in adults. Dr. Page is proudly from Canada and has participated in multiple medical mission trips globally.
Welcome New Residents

**Tabitha Galloway, M.D.**, grew up in Ely, Iowa. She completed her undergraduate studies in Biology and Spanish at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, followed by her M.D. at the University of Iowa. In her free time she enjoys spending time with family and friends, improving her gardening skills, traveling abroad and exploring the great outdoors.

**Jason Showmaker, M.D.**, is a native Missourian from Sikeston. He attended Truman State University where he majored in Biology, he then earned his M.D. at the University of Missouri. Outside of medicine he enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking on the trails in Columbia and is a lifelong Cardinals fan.

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**Academy Alumni Reception**

The University of Missouri, along with the University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska, held a joint alumni reception at the annual American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. Many Alumni, Faculty, Residents, and former Faculty enjoyed a few hours of discussing the good ol’ days as well as the days to come.

**OtoHNS Chairs: Doug Girod, M.D. (KU), Dan Lydiatt, M.D. (NU), Robert Zitsch, M.D. (MU)**

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**Non-Sedated ABR Testing**

For decades, the University of Missouri Health System has had the distinction of being the only facility in the mid-Missouri area where Sedated ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response) testing could be performed.

Now, through the leadership of the Department of Otolaryngology, we can offer ABR without Sedation. By utilizing special filtering, the equipment is able to produce excellent diagnostic results without sedation. This is particularly suitable to pediatric patients, who can now feed or speak while being tested. It is also an invaluable tool for hard-to-test patients from the general population.

This system is also the first to enable wireless testing. Although the patient must still wear electrodes, she is not “hard-wired” to the test computer and can play or read quietly. A special electrode filters out electromagnetic noise, which will allow for clear results in environments with electromagnetic noise (Neonatal Intensive Care Units, ICUs, and ORs).

The benefits to this are:
1. Eliminating the risks of sedation
2. Reduces the expenses of the test by not utilizing the Pediatric Short Stay Service, the Pediatric Intensivist, or hospital facilities
3. Reduces the overall time that the patient and family must spend at the hospital from start to finish
4. The test is more easily scheduled since it can be done in the clinic verses having to coordinate several services.
Otolaryngology Answers Haiti’s Call for Help

Drs. LeBeau, Lollar, and Page, travelled to Haiti from January 26 to February 2, 2010 to treat head and neck injuries suffered in the January 12th earthquake.

We arrived in Haiti two weeks after the earthquake. The local hospital where we planned to work was occupied beyond capacity, so we set up two “operating rooms” in a vacant school building after receiving authorization from the regional public health director. Throughout our mission, we worked alongside Haitian healthcare professionals, translators and pastors.

The challenge of quickly assembling a specialty-specific patient population was cleverly met by our Haitian colleagues who announced on the radio and television where we were stationed and what injuries we were equipped to treat. A Christian radio network and the Red Cross had been distributing solar- and crank-powered radios that served to keep the people informed in spite of a crumbling and unreliable power grid.

We saw 170 patients in clinic – at least half of whom had head and neck complaints – and performed 22 major and 17 minor procedures.

---Matthew Page, M.D.

Legacy Lecture Series

This summer the Department hosted Dr. Shockley as part of the Legacy Lecture Series. Dr. Shockley gave three presentations including Management of Eyelid Injuries, Surgical Options in the Reconstruction of Nasal Defects, and Scar Revision: A Practical Approach.

During his lectures, Dr. Shockley’s enthusiasm was quite evident. “I had some great teachers and mentors in my career. I hope that teaching medical students and residents is at least partial repayment of what I’ve learned from others.”

Russell Smith, M.D., completed his undergraduate, medical degree and residency all at the University of Missouri. Since leaving Mizzou he completed a fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology at the University of Iowa, where he then stayed as a faculty member. Dr. Smith accepted an appointment at the University of Nebraska in 2007, where he now serves as the Department’s Vice-Chair, the Director of the Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Advanced Head and Neck Reconstruction Fellowship, as well as the Director of Head and Neck Cancer Research.

Dr. Smith serves as a reviewer for scholarly journals, is active in various local and national committees, and recently was awarded the 2010 American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Honor Award. He has also been recognized as one of The Best Doctors in America for the last four years. He is currently involved in numerous research projects including a joint effort through the Midwest Head and Neck Consortium.

“I will always cherish the time I spent in Columbia, especially the years spent as a resident. I had great co-residents and without a doubt, the best mentors I could have ever asked for as a trainee.”
Faculty, Residents and guests enjoyed a “Night on the Red Carpet” to celebrate the graduation of Clint Lasiter, M.D., and Matt Page, M.D., from the Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Residency Training Program. The celebration included remarks from Program Director David Chang, M.D., and Chair Bob Zitsch, M.D., as well as ceremonial roasts of the graduates, Faculty and Residents.

Numerous awards were also presented including highest In-service score, Jon Mills, M.D., Resident Research Day first place Kevin Lollar, M.D., second place to Young Paik, M.D.

Dr. Lasiter is now practicing general otolaryngology in San Angelo, Texas. Dr. Page joined the Faculty at MU providing general otolaryngology with an emphasis on laryngology and voice disorders.