

Otolaryngology Resident Research Symposium

50th Annual Resident Research Symposium

Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

June 26, 2026

Graduating Residents

Sydney Sachse, MD

Laryngology Fellowship, University of Michigan
Program Director: Robbi Kupfer, MD

Anisha Singh, MD

Ears, Nose, and Throat Center, Niles, IL

Residents of 2026-2027

5th Year

Nicole Creppel, MD
Jeff Larson, MD
Jennifer Silva-Nash, MD

4th Year

Lexie Kessler, MD
Jonathan Kuriakose, MD
Dayton Rand, MD
Abhinav Talwar, MD

3rd Year

Desmond Garner, MD
Jorge Gutierrez, MD
Paavali Hannikainen, MD
Ashley Young, MD

2nd Year

Matthew Awad, MD
Rachel Conley, MD
David Fei-Zhang, MD
Ana Tomescu, MD

1st Year

Brooke Gleason, MD
Devin Kennedy, MD
Shreyas Pyati, MD
Nihar Rama, MD

50th Annual Resident Research Symposium

Program Moderators

Robert C. Kern, MD

Professor and Chairman

Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Claus-Peter Richter, MD, PhD

Vice Chair for Research

Professor

Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Alan G. Micco, MD

Vice Chair for Education

Professor

Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Whitney Liddy, MD

Program Director

Associate Professor

Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

Stephanie Shintani Smith, MD

Associate Program Director

Assistant Professor

Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

Judges

Al Merati, MD
Professor and Chief, Laryngology
Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine
Associate Medical Director for Perioperative Quality and Safety UW Medical
Centers

Xiaodong Tan, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Jing Zheng, PhD
Professor
Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

Special Thanks to Research Mentors & Collaborators

Clinical Science:

Dayton Rand, MD
Andrew Stein, MD
Katelyn Stepan, MD

Basic Science:

Diana Cobas, BS
Joaquin Cury, PhD
Robert Fuentes, BS
Laila Gharzai, MD
Desale Habtzghi, PhD
Shilpa Musale, MS
Krishi Rana, MD
Claus-Peter Richter, MD, PhD
Xiaodong Tan, PhD
Yuting Tan, BS
Jordan Villa, BA
Yingjie Zhou, PhD
Jing Zheng, PhD

Symposium Schedule

Join Us In Person

Lurie-Baldwin Auditorium, 303 E. Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Join Us by Zoom

<https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/96546152121?pwd=x1LsjJ0OHjv0TavdhM3P39caPLPCxM.1>

Meeting ID: 965 4615 2121 -- Passcode: 384772

9:00 **Welcome**

Robert C. Kern, MD

9:05 **Visiting Guest Speaker**

Al Merati, MD

Professor and Chief, Laryngology

Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

University of Washington School of Medicine

Associate Medical Director for Perioperative Quality and Safety UW

Medical Centers

Aim True: Careers, Authenticity, and the Future of Otolaryngology

10:05 **Director of Research Opening Remarks**

Claus-Peter Richter, MD, PhD

10:10 Resident Competitor 1

Dayton Rand, MD

Novel Otoscope with Machine Learning for Middle Ear Pathology Detection – Preliminary Results

10:30 Resident Competitor 2

Jonathan P. Kurikose, MD, MS

Diagnosis and Management of Allergic Laryngitis – Systematic Review

10:50 Resident Competitor 3

Abhinav Talwar, MD

Development of a Surgery-Specific Patient-Reported Outcome Measure for Head and Neck Cancer

11:10 Faculty Researcher 1

Jordan Villa, BA

Shortcut Learning in Domain-Adapted AI Models for Diagnosing Middle Ear Pathologies

11:20 Faculty Researcher 2

Mi-Jung Kim, PhD

The Role of Oncomodulin in Protecting Outer Hair Cells Against Ototoxic Stress

11:30 Director of Research Closing Remarks

Claus-Peter Richter, MD, PhD

The winner of the Resident Research Symposium will be announced at the end of the Graduation Ceremony

----BREAK----

Graduation Ceremony Schedule

Join Us In Person

Lurie-Baldwin Auditorium, 303 E. Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Join Us by Zoom

<https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/96546152121?pwd=x1LsjJ0OHjv0TavdhM3P39caPLPCxM.1>

Meeting ID: 965 4615 2121 -- Passcode: 384772

2:00 Welcome

2:10 Ceremony for Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellows

2:20 Ceremony for Rhinology & Skull Base Fellow

2:30 Ceremony for Head & Neck Oncological & Reconstructive Surgery Fellow

2:40 Ceremony for Graduating Residents

3:20 Faculty and Resident Awards

3:45 Resident Research Symposium Award

3:50 Residency Program Director Closing Remarks

Resident Research Abstract

Novel Otoscope with Machine Learning for Middle Ear Pathology Detection – Preliminary Results

Dayton Rand, MD

University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Co-Authors: Jordan Villa BA, Claus-Peter Richter, MD, PhD

Background: Otitis media represents a massive burden to healthcare systems worldwide. Otitis media remains one of the most common reasons for clinicians to prescribe antibiotics, and myringotomy with tympanostomy tube placement for recurrent acute otitis media is one of the most common surgical procedures in the United States. Diagnosis of otitis media is generally made clinically with history and an otoscopic examination of the tympanic membrane. However, accurate diagnosis of acute otitis media based on otoscopic evaluation is often difficult and unreliable, particularly in pediatric patients.

Materials and Methods: We designed a novel otoscope composed of silicon tubing, approximately 2 mm in diameter with a nanocamera and LED light embedded on one end. Matlab software was used to program the otoscope. With pushing of a button, the otoscope captured a 10 second video followed by an image. A reference image of a normal tympanic membrane was obtained. An otolaryngology resident operated the device, consented patients, and acquired images and videos of patients presenting to otolaryngology clinic, which provided a convenience sample. The otolaryngology resident attempted to use the device to take a still image matching the reference image. The videos obtained were analyzed by a software program designed to select the frame best fitting the reference image. Images were compiled in a small dataset and analyzed with machine learning models.

Preliminary Results: A total of 137 videos and images were obtained. Best-fit images selected by the software program and still images taken by the practitioner were compared to the reference image. Images were scored using structural similarity index measures (SSIM). The more similar an image to the reference image in color, lighting, orientation, and other characteristics, the higher the SSIM score with an SSIM score of 1.0 indicating an identical match. Overall, best-fit images from videos chosen by the computer program had a higher SSIM score than images chosen by the human operator. Our database was then analyzed with machine learning models, using the reference image of a normal tympanic membrane as a control. Models were used to assign labels to database images. In our database, 114 images were labeled as normal and 23 as abnormal by the algorithm. Our models achieved high accuracy rates of >90% in detecting normal images.

Discussion: Otitis media has high economic and system burden in the United States, which is exacerbated by difficulties in accurate diagnosis. We hypothesized that using our novel device combined with machine learning models could demonstrate potential for clinically meaningful impact in improving diagnostics for otitis media. Our novel otoscope captured short videos of tympanic membranes, from which a software program selected the image most similar to a reference image to build a highly standardized database of images. Machine learning models then accurately sorted images into categories of normal and abnormal with labeling. However, because our database contained only a small number of images that were largely normal, models had difficulty identifying abnormal images after training with our dataset. To further enhance the precision of our models, more images, particularly of those demonstrating pathology will need to be obtained.

Conclusion: Our novel otoscope demonstrates that novel devices that improve image quality and standardization within a database show potential for developing clinically useful machine learning tools for diagnosing otitis media. We also demonstrate that using software to select best-fit images from short videos to build this database is superior to images captured by a human operator.

Resident Research Abstract

Diagnosis and Management of Allergic Laryngitis – Systematic Review

Jonathan P. Kuriakose, MD, MS

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School – New Brunswick

Co-Author: Andrew Stein, MD

Introduction/Background: Chronic laryngitis is a common pathology with symptoms most often attributed to gastroesophageal/laryngopharyngeal reflux disease (GERD/LPRD); however, many continue to have symptoms despite proper management. Recently, studies have identified a potential association between chronic laryngitis and allergy symptoms. This systematic review evaluates all current data regarding chronic laryngitis in patients with allergic symptoms and discusses prospective diagnosis and management options.

Methods: Six databases were searched according to PRISMA guidelines. Studies were included if they were primary or original investigations which discussed chronic laryngitis symptoms with an association to allergies, including but not limited to allergic rhinitis, allergy testing, or systemic allergy therapy. Studies were excluded if they solely evaluated GERD/LPRD without mention of allergy-related pathologies, did not discuss the role of allergic symptoms with laryngitis, did not have an English translation, lacked full text availability, or evaluated non-human subjects.

Results: After applying search criteria, 1,154 articles were screened with a final inclusion of 34 papers with outcome measures of nasal/laryngeal symptoms, voice scores, allergy testing, reflux scores, and nasal/laryngeal endoscopy findings. Qualitative analysis showed those with tested allergies either had worse baseline outcomes and/or improvement after allergy treatment, such as nasal symptoms, overall laryngopharyngeal symptoms occurrence, sore larynx/irritation, increased voice handicap index scores, and increased laryngeal secretions on laryngoscopy. However, comparing those with allergies to those

without allergies did not identify a difference in any single, specific laryngeal symptom, acoustic analysis, or laryngeal edema, erythema, or vocal fold movement on laryngoscopy or stroboscopy.

Conclusions: Currently, there is growing literature supporting the diagnosis of “allergic laryngitis”; however, there is a lack of formal definition. This systematic review finds a strong relationship between chronic laryngitis and allergy symptoms with several symptoms, voice scores, and endoscopy findings more often seen in this population. Based on the findings of this systematic review, allergic laryngitis should be considered in patients with chronic laryngitis with concurrent allergy symptoms and formal allergy testing.

Resident Research Abstract

Development of a Surgery-Specific Patient-Reported Outcome Measure for Head and Neck Cancer

Abhinav Talwar, MD, MBA

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Co-Authors: Krishi Rana BA; Laila Gharzai MD; Katelyn Stepan MD

Objective: To develop a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) of the most common adverse effects (AEs) associated with surgery for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC).

Study Design: Prospective qualitative study following Food and Drug Administration guidelines for PROM development.

Setting: Two quaternary academic medical centers.

Methods: Concept elicitation interviews (CEIs) were conducted with post-surgical HNSCC patients to identify surgery-related AEs. Eligible participants had undergone surgery for mucosal HNSCC. Interviews were conducted via Zoom and were audio-recorded for transcription and analysis. Transcripts were analyzed using an inductive qualitative approach to develop a codebook of surgery-specific AEs. Symptoms attributed exclusively to radiation or chemotherapy were excluded.

Results: Fourteen patients (mean age 66.2 ± 9.7 years; range 51–84) with HNSCC underwent CEIs at a mean of 5.0 months (range 0.9–10.4) after surgery. Primary tumor sites included oral cavity (n=8, 57%), oropharynx (n=5, 36%), and sinonasal (n=1, 7%). Surgical procedures included neck dissection (n=12, 86%), free flap reconstruction (n=7, 50%), PEG tube placement (n=6, 43%), tracheostomy (n=5, 36%), and transoral robotic surgery (n=3, 21%). Inductive

analysis yielded a 25-code preliminary codebook organized across 11 domains. The most frequently endorsed AEs were surgical site pain (11/14, 79%), difficulty swallowing (11/14, 79%), donor site pain (8/14, 57%), facial appearance change (6/14, 43%), activity limitation (5/14, 36%), and post-operative fatigue (5/14, 36%).

Conclusion: Patients undergoing surgery for HNSCC report a broad and distinct spectrum of AEs not captured by existing PROMs, including donor site morbidity, facial disfigurement, and reconstruction failure. These findings support the need for a surgery-specific PROM for HNSCC and provide the conceptual foundation for instrument development.

Faculty Research Abstract

The Role of Oncomodulin in Protecting Outer Hair Cells Against Ototoxic Stress

Mi-Jung Kim, PhD

Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

Co-Authors: Robert Fuentes, BS; Yingjie Zhou, PhD; Jing Zheng, PhD

Background: Outer hair cells (OHCs) exhibit electromotility that amplifies the motion of the organ of Corti, which is required for the high sensitivity and sharp frequency selectivity of mammalian hearing. OHCs are generally the first to be damaged by common cochlear stressors, such as aging, noise, and ototoxic drugs. An imbalance of intracellular Ca^{2+} homeostasis is a crucial factor contributing to the vulnerability of OHCs to cochlear insults. Ca^{2+} homeostasis in OHCs is regulated by various components, including Ca^{2+} -binding proteins (CaBPs). Oncomodulin (OCM) is the most abundant CaBP, recognized as a dominant Ca^{2+} buffer in mature OHCs. In adult cochleae, OCM is preferentially expressed in OHCs. We and others have demonstrated that mice without OCM display early progressive hearing loss and OHC degeneration, suggesting that OCM is essential for maintaining cochlear function with age. However, it remains unknown whether OCM plays a role in protecting OHCs against ototoxic agents. In this study, we aim to determine OCM's role in preserving OHC function under stress conditions induced by an ototoxic compound, 2-hydroxypropyl- β -cyclodextrin (HP β CD), using an *Ocm*-knockout (KO) mouse model (*Ocm*^{tm1a/tm1a}), which eliminates OCM protein synthesis without deleting the *Ocm* gene. HP β CD treatment induces ototoxicity in both humans and animal models by causing massive OHC damage.

Methods: To validate whether *Ocm*-KO mice lack OCM protein expression in the cochlea, we performed immunofluorescence in the cochleae from wild-type (WT) and *Ocm*-KO mice at 2 months of age. Cochlear whole mounts were stained

with antibodies against OCM, a hair cell marker myosin VIIA, or an OHC marker prestin. To examine whether the absence of OCM in mice affects the OHC's ability to resist ototoxic stress induced by HP β CD, we measured distortion product otoacoustic emission (DPOAE) thresholds at 8-32 kHz in 2-month-old WT and *Ocm*-KO mice 7 days before and 4 hours after a single subcutaneous injection of either saline or 8000 mg/kg HP β CD. To investigate whether the absence of OCM in mice affects OHC viability and morphology under HP β CD treatment in vivo, we performed immunofluorescence with an antibody against prestin. To verify whether OHCs from *Ocm*-KO mice are more vulnerable to HP β CD-induced damage in vitro, we conducted time-lapse recordings in the organs of Corti (OC) from 1-month-old WT and *Ocm*-KO mice in the presence of 1 mM HP β CD. Freshly isolated OC were labeled using a vital dye calcein acetoxymethyl ester. We counted surviving OHCs in WT and *Ocm*-KO OC samples at 5-25 minutes after exposure to HP β CD.

Results: OCM immunolabeling was present in the OHCs of WT mice but not in those of *Ocm*-KO mice. WT mice did not show changes in DPOAE thresholds after either saline or HP β CD injection. However, *Ocm*-KO mice showed significantly elevated DPOAE thresholds at 16-32 kHz after HP β CD injection, while no such changes were observed following saline injection. No significant OHC loss was observed in WT or *Ocm*-KO mice after either saline or HP β CD injection. OHCs from saline-injected WT mice showed smooth prestin staining. However, OHCs from HP β CD-injected *Ocm*-KO mice showed more uneven prestin staining and variations in cell diameter compared to those from HP β CD-injected WT mice and saline-injected *Ocm*-KO mice. OHC swelling followed by rupture was observed in the OC from both WT and *Ocm*-KO mice in the presence of HP β CD. *Ocm*-KO OC samples showed a significant reduction in OHC survival compared to WT OC samples 20 and 25 minutes after exposure to HP β CD.

Conclusion: These results show that *Ocm*-KO mice exhibit increased susceptibility to HP β CD-induced hearing loss compared to WT controls. Similarly, *Ocm*-KO OHCs are more prone to structural deterioration and rupture following HP β CD treatment. Together, these findings indicate that OCM enhances the ability of OHCs to withstand ototoxic stimuli.

Funding: This work was supported by the Hugh Knowles Leadership Fund Award, NIH (R56DC020542), and DoD (HT94252310730) to JZ.

Faculty Research Abstract

Shortcut Learning in Domain-Adapted AI Models for Diagnosing Middle Ear Pathologies

Jordan Villa, BA

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

Co-Authors: Joaquin Cury, PhD; Diana Cobas, BS; Yuting Tan, BS; Shilpa Musale MS; Dayton Rand, MD; Xiaodong Tan PhD, Desale Habtzghi PhD; Claus-Peter Richter, MD, PhD

Background: Otitis media is one of the most common reasons for pediatric clinical presentation. Diagnosis involves a combination of clinical presentation and otoscopic examination. Otoscopy has proven difficult for many clinicians due to several factors including difficulty in visualizing the tympanic membrane and minimal patient compliance, leading to reports of elevated rates of misdiagnosis (up to 50%). To aid in diagnostics, artificial intelligence (AI) equipped otoscopes have been introduced with initial success. Clinical implementation is limited in part by reduced performance on external data. Several methods have been proposed to address this barrier to translation including model adaptation.

Methods: We evaluated three unsupervised domain adaptation (UDA) methods: domain-adversarial neural networks, minimum class confusion, and correlation alignment to determine their performance on cross-site generalization of artificial intelligence models for evaluating otoscopic images. Each method aims to reduce variation between source and target imaging domains without requiring labeled target data. Feature-level analysis was performed to characterize what image features drive classification decisions in each adapted model. Masking of peripheral regions of otoscopic images was completed to quantify reliance on anatomically irrelevant image features. All

analyses were completed across three publicly available otoscopic image datasets.

Results: All three UDA strategies improved classification performance relative to baseline on external target datasets. Restricting model input to only the diagnostically relevant sections of otoscopic image reduced performance across all UDA methods, in some cases falling below the unadapted baseline. These observations suggest performance of adapted models is partially artifactual, as models learn to rely on shortcuts instead of true anatomical feature alignment. Standard evaluation metrics, like model accuracy, are not enough to determine how trustworthy AI models are.

Conclusion: AI models for otoscopy are limited by their ability to generalize to other datasets. UDA strategies seem to provide a performance increase, but further research is required to determine how reliable adapted models are for clinical deployment. Future research should also explore methods of standardizing image acquisition to improve reliability of AI tools in diagnostics.

Past Resident Research Symposium Award Winners

**2025 49th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jennifer Silva-Nash**

**2024 48th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Christopher Puchi**

**2023 47th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Christopher Puchi**

**2022 46th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Matt Maksimoski**

**2021 45th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jacob Eide**

**2020 44th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Samuel Racette**

**2019 43rd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Abhita Reddy**

**2018 42nd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Cong Ran**

**2017 41st Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jacqueline Greene**

**2016 40th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jacqueline Greene**

**2015 39th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Zafar Sayed**

**2014 38th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Zafar Sayed**

**2013 37th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Whitney Liddy**

**2012 36th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jill Jeffe and Dr. Jennifer Lavin**

**2011 35th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jill Jeffe**

**2010 34th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jennifer Decker**

**2009 33rd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Stephanie Smith**

**2008 32nd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Sandra Koterski**

**2007 31st Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Sara Richer**

**2006 30th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Sanjay Keni**

**2005 29th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Kristin Seiberling**

**2004 28th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Joseph Raviv**

**2003 27th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Jocelyn Stamat**

**2002 26th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Sarah Vakkalanka**

**2001 25th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Samuel Lin**

**2000 24th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Brandon Bentz and Dr. David Kutler**

**1999 23rd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Vincent Ostrowski**

**1998 22nd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Brandon Bentz**

**1997 21st Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Karen Fong and Dr. Vikram Patel**

**1996 20th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Stephen Ellis**

**1995 19th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Stephen Ellis**

**1994 18th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. David Conley**

**1993 17th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Alan Micco**

**1992 16th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Alan Micco and Dr. Elisabeth Beahm**

**1991 15th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Bernard Pacella**

**1990 14th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Carl Drucker**

**1989 13th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
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**1988 12th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
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**1987 11th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
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**1986 10th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
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**1985 9th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Garret Herzon**

**1984 8th Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
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**1979 3rd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Robert Ossoff**

**1978 2nd Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Anita Newman**

**1977 1st Annual Resident Research Symposium, 1st Place Award Winner:
Dr. Michael Goldman**

Outstanding Achievement of Medical Students, Residents, and Faculty

Harold J. Pelzer, MD Medical Student Award: this award recognizes a student for outstanding achievement on the Otolaryngology rotation

2026 Dr. Asher Park

2025 Dr. David Fei-Zhang

2024 Dr. Evan Edwards

2023 Dr. Eli Stein

2022 Dr. Rebecca Sinard

2021 Dr. Mitesh Mehta

2020 Dr. Austin Walker

2019 Dr. Krish Suresh

2018 No recipient

2017 No recipient

2016 Dr. Matthew Purkey

2015 Dr. Hannan Qureshi

2014 Dr. Vanessa Stubbs

Jack Kerth, MD Resident Excellence in Teaching Award: this award recognizes a resident for outstanding achievement in teaching medical students and junior residents

2025 Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim

2024 Dr. Nicolas Espinosa

2023 Dr. C. Cameron Brawley

2022 Dr. Matthew Maksimoski

2021 Dr. Abhita Reddy

2020 Dr. Ashoke Khanwalkar

2019 Dr. Saied Ghadersohi

2018 Dr. Joel Fontanarosa

2017 Dr. Chris Gouveia

2016 Dr. Zafar Sayed

2015 Dr. Whitney Liddy

2014 Dr. Chris Vanison

Faculty Excellence in Surgical Teaching and Mentoring Award: this award recognizes a faculty member for outstanding achievement in teaching and mentoring in the surgical setting

2025 Dr. Katelyn Stepan

2024 Dr. Andrew Stein

2023 Dr. Urjeet Patel

2022 Dr. Kevin Welch

2021 Dr. Katelyn Stepan

2020 Dr. Bruce Tan

2019 Dr. Taher Valika

2018 Dr. Doug Sidle

2017 Dr. Urjeet Patel

2016 Dr. Evan Greenbaum

2015 Dr. Harold Pelzer

2014 Dr. Rakesh Chandra

Faculty Excellence in Clinical Teaching and Mentoring Award: this award recognizes a faculty member for outstanding achievement in teaching and mentoring in the clinical setting

2025 Dr. Kevin Zhan

2024 Dr. James Burns

2023 Dr. Alan G. Micco

2022 Dr. J. Regan Thomas

2021 Dr. Michiel Bove

2020 Dr. Whitney Liddy

2019 Dr. Kevin Welch

2018 Dr. David Conley

2017 Dr. Kevin Welch

2016 Dr. Courtney Voelker

2015 Dr. Stephanie Smith

2014 Dr. Alan Micco

A special thanks to all who have donated in support of Resident Education

Department of Otolaryngology –
Head & Neck Surgery Donors – 2025-2026

Resident Wellness Fund

Whitney Liddy, MD

Department of Otolaryngology Support Fund

Ippei Usui

Mark Gruen

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Head and Neck Cancer Research Fund

Ippei Usui

Robert C. Kern, MD

Malcolm Hast Endowed Otolaryngology

Research Fund

Ippei Usui

Robert C. Kern, MD