

## SCORE Program Expands to Include Ob/Gyn

Wednesday, August 09, 2017



The SCORE program now not only places first-year medical school students in Otolaryngology in Head and Neck Surgery, but also in Obstetrics & Gynecology, expanding from last year to involve a total of six students. These students are matched with a mentor to gain clinical research skills over eight weeks.

Despite only being in its second year, the program saw four times as many applications than as year, said Jonathan Liang, MD, Co-director KPNC SCORE-Oto Program. The students work on clinical research ranging from retrospective case series, to systematic reviews, to descriptive database projects. Additionally, this summer's program included a more structured curriculum that included regular lectures and formal presentations.

Joanna Pocenta, a medical student, who participated in the Ob/Gyn program, currently attends George Washington University in Washington D.C. She worked on a handful of resident research projects and was grateful to learn and build personal connections with staff.

"I learned a lot about clinical medicine that I had never seen before," Pocenta said. "I got a huge amount of exposure in clinical and operating settings. I feel like I got a jump start on my medical education."

Liang called it rewarding to mentor students at an earlier age while they are still exploring their interests. He expressed gratitude to the Graduate Medical Education department for supporting the program and hoped to see it expand further to include more departments.

"This program is something that we all take on out of our own time to make sure the students get mentorship and direction," Liang said.

Read more about what research the students contributed to:

1) **Joanna Poceta, George Washington University School of Medicine** — with Eve Zaritsky, MD

Surgical readiness classes for gender affirming surgeries in an integrated health care transgender clinic: Class overview and patient assessment. The objective of this study was to evaluate patient satisfaction with a newly created surgery education program developed to prepare transgender patients for gender affirming surgeries in a high volume multi-disciplinary transgender health maintenance organization in Northern California.

2) **Mitch Anderson, Tufts University School of Medicine** — with Jonathan Liang, MD

Trends on Turbinate Surgery: Analysis of Patients using Medicare Database (Retrospective review of Medicare database). The objective was to describe trends in turbinate reduction procedures from 2000-2015.

3) **Lap Huynh, University of California in Los Angeles** — with Kevin H. Wang, MD

The role of MBS in the Swallow Protocol for Head and Neck Cancer Patients Undergoing Radiation Therapy (Quality Improvement). The objective was to determine the role of modified barium swallow (MBS) in preventing aspiration pneumonia in head and neck patients undergoing radiation therapy.

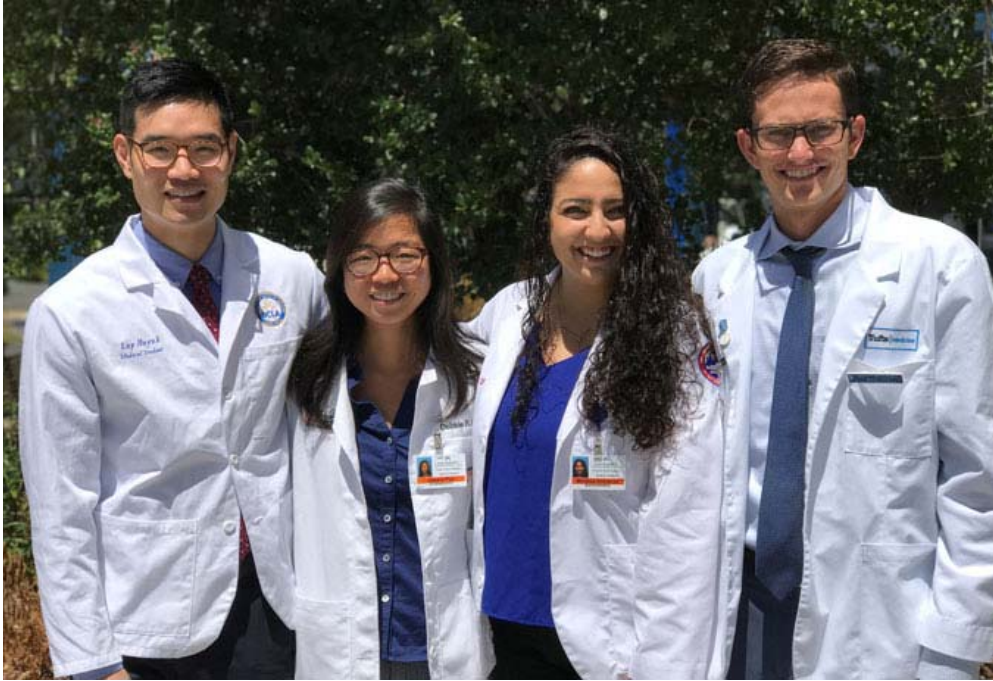
4) **Melissa Socarras, University of Illinois at Chicago** — with Megan L. Durr, MD

Drug Induced Sleep Endoscopy and Cine MRI as Diagnostic Techniques for Evaluation Upper Airway Obstruction in Pediatric Patients with Persistent Obstructive Sleep Apnea (A systematic Review and Meta-Analysis). The objective was to evaluate the role of Cine MRI and Drug Induced Sleep Endoscopy (DISE) in diagnosis the causes of upper airway obstruction in pediatric patients with persistent obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) after tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy (T&A).

5) **Debbie Pan, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine** — with Nany Jiang, MD

Outcomes of Intubation-induced Vocal Fold Paralysis and Paresis (Retrospective chart review). The objective was to evaluation outcomes for a cohort of patients who endured varying degrees of true vocal fold immobility post-intubation.

**Lucero Diaz - University of Illinois**



Lap Huynh, Debbie Pan, Melissa Socarras, Mitch Anderson (Left to right).



Lucero Diaz (University of Illinois), Joanna Poceta.