Join Us in Welcoming Our Incoming Residents

Jacob Hoerter, MD
Medical School: University of Louisville

Elias Saba, MD
Medical School: Mayo Clinic

Kaiser Permanente East Bay
Head and Neck Surgery Residency Program Newsletter

Summer 2020
This has been an unprecedented year for our residency program with numerous changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which now enters its sixth month. I am extremely proud of our residents and faculty who have been innovative and indefatigable since the beginning of the pandemic and have continued to provide outstanding care throughout. Our department made a swift conversion to telehealth visits and to remote didactics for our residents. Many of our faculty also contributed to the pandemic literature with Drs. Chou and Durr conducting a study evaluating resident wellness during the pandemic and Drs. Chou, Liang and Durr contributing to a publication on virtual residency interviews in otolaryngology.

Several of our faculty members, Dr. Durr, Liang and Rivero, gave remote lectures as part of the Collaborative Multi-Institutional Otolaryngology Residency Education Program, which was developed to provide additional educational options for residents nationally and internationally during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also been preparing for a virtual residency application cycle this year and held our first ever virtual open house for interested medical students. This online event included presentations from our department members on research, quality improvement, diversity, global health, and each of the subspecialties. We were honored to have several of our esteemed graduates join the event as well.

Our department has also played an active role in the recent protests surrounding systemic racism and social injustice in our country. Several of our faculty, residents and clinic staff participated in a White Coats for Black Lives protest in June. Dr. Noriko Yoshikawa hosted a virtual book/journal club for our department where current events and an article entitled “White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo were discussed.

We are extremely proud of our recent graduates and are excited to welcome our new interns, Jacob Hoerter MD and Elias Saba MD. We are also proud to announce that our resident team placed 4th at the 2020 Triological Society Resident Bowl in San Diego, CA.

All dates for the 2020-2021 calendar year are listed on page three so please mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Megan Durr, MD, FACS
Residency Program Director
Department of Head and Neck Surgery
Kaiser Permanente East Bay
Research Update
By Dr. Jonathan Liang

The scholarly activity at KP Oakland Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery has continued to thrive. Over the 2019-2020 academic year, we published 16 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. This is an impressive feat, and we hope to remain prolific in the coming years.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented myriad challenges for scholarly work. Our research activities have been performed remotely, and our research collaborations have also relied heavily on virtual platforms. Many of our residents have seized the opportunity to study the impact of COVID-19 on clinical practice and education.

The Bay Area Resident Research Symposium (BARRS) was held virtually for the first time in its 36-year history. Dr. Rijul Kshirsagar and Dr. Ghedak Ansari won the research presentation awards for their studies on neck masses and pain control in sleep surgery, respectively. Dr. Kshirsagar (PGY-5) was also awarded the Resident Research Award at our resident graduation. He recently published a study on diagnostic implications in aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease (AERD).

The Summer Clinic Otolaryngology Research (SCORE) Program entered its fifth year. The medical student participants completed clinical research and quality improvement projects with faculty in the department including Megan Durr MD, Nancy Jiang MD, Jonathan Liang MD, Alexander Rivero MD, and Kevin Wang MD. The SCORE program was recently published in the Permanente Medical Journal.

Congrats To Our Recent Graduates

Barcleigh Landau, MD
Dr. Landau is joining the Shannon Clinic in San Angelo, TX

Steven Micucci, MD
Dr. Micucci is joining Atrius Health and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston, MA
Quality Improvement

In the last year, the Oakland HNS Department completed multiple quality improvement projects. Some of these impactful projects include a program to reduce post-operative opioid prescriptions led by Dr. Nancy Jiang which has dramatically decreased opioid usage in our patients. Additionally, our head and neck cancer team is presenting a poster at the upcoming AAO-HNS/F meeting on a project to reduce length of stay in head and neck cancer patients. Dr. Micucci, one of our recent resident graduates, also presented a project he completed with Dr. Kevin Wang on reducing operating room supply costs at the 2019 annual Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmologic Society meeting.

Our graduate medical education department developed a formal quality improvement curriculum that includes nine 30-minute modules. We are adapting this curriculum for our residents to learn more about the process of developing and completing quality improvement projects.

Upcoming Academy of Otolaryngology Meeting

Check out some of the upcoming presentations at the virtual Academy of Otolaryngology meeting featuring Kaiser Permanente Otolaryngologists:

- Live Panel Presentations
  - Dr. Megan Durr: September 14 at 11:20am “Update on Scientific Trials and Systematic Reviews in Sleep Surgery 2020”

- On-Demand Panel Presentations
  - Dr. Megan Durr “Otolaryngologists as Educators: Update on How to Teach Efficiently and Effectively”
  - Dr. Chuck Meltzer “Thyroid Cancer Quality of Care: Moving from ‘Expert Opinion’ to Implementation”
  - Dr. Noriko Yoshikawa “Facing Unconscious Bias in Medicine”
  - Dr. Noriko Yoshikawa “How to Create a Wellness Curriculum at your Institution: Lessons Learned from the GME Experience”

- On-Demand Scientific Oral Presentations
  - Dr. Rijul Kshirsagar (PGY5): “The Adult Neck Mass: Predictors of Malignancy”
  - Dr. Rijul Kshirsagar (PGY5) and Dr. Chris Xiao (PGY5): “Sport and Recreational Causes of Nasal Bone Fractures”

For more updates: please follow us on social media or our webpage

Webpage: https://residency-ncal.kaiserpermanente.org/programs/hns/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kp_otolaryngology_residency/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/kpncheadneckresidency/