

## Join Us in Welcoming Our Incoming Residents



Samuel Collazo, MD  
Medical School:  
University of Puerto  
Rico



Pauline Huynh, MD  
Medical School: Johns  
Hopkins University

# Kaiser Permanente East Bay Head and Neck Surgery Residency Program Newsletter

## Summer 2021

This has been an eventful year for our residency program, and we continue to have numerous changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our residents and faculty have continued to work tirelessly to adapt to the ever-changing demands of the pandemic. During the last academic year, many of our residents, faculty and staff worked at Kaiser Permanente vaccination centers and covid-swabbing sites. We continue to host resident didactics virtually, and several positive innovations have stemmed from virtual didactics including hosting a virtual “shark-tank” event where residents presented quality improvement proposals to a panel of attendings and department managers, employing google classroom to consolidate readings/quizzes/etc for our curriculum, and we have been able to incorporate more guest lecturers from different Kaiser Permanente sites, institutions, and states.

We hosted our first ever virtual recruitment cycle last winter which was a success, and we look forward to another virtual interview season this academic year. We hosted a virtual open house for medical students in June and have planned several virtual meet-and-greets with faculty and residents throughout the summer. These events highlight the amazing work done within our department including research, quality improvement, education, diversity, global health, and community outreach.

Our esteemed chief, Deepak Gurushanthaiah, stepped down from his position this summer, and we welcomed our new chief, Dr. Nancy Jiang. We thank Dr. Gurushanthaiah for his years of service to our department from managing a move to a different clinic and hospital, growing our department significantly, and managing the myriad of changes associated with the pandemic. We also welcomed a new facial plastic surgeon, Dr. Daniel Sukato who joins us after completing residency at SUNY Downstate and fellowship at UCLA. He is a tremendous addition to our department.

We are extremely proud of our recent graduates and are excited to welcome our new interns, Samuel Collazo MD and Pauline Huynh MD.

All dates for the 2021-2022 calendar year are listed on page three so please mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you at our future events.

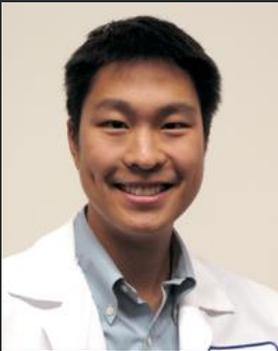


Megan Durr, MD, FACS  
Residency Program Director  
Department of HNS  
Kaiser Permanente East Bay

## Congrats To Our Recent Graduates



Rijul Kshirsagar, MD  
Rhinology and Skull  
Base Surgery at  
University of  
Pennsylvania



Chris Xiao, MD  
Dr. Xiao is joining  
Santa Cruz Ear,  
Nose & Throat  
Medical Group in  
Santa Cruz, CA

## Research Update

The scholarly activity at KP Oakland Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery has continued to thrive. Over the 2020-2021 academic year, we have published 23 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. This is an impressive feat, and we hope to remain prolific in the coming years.

The Bay Area Resident Research Symposium (BARRS) was held virtually for the first time in its 37-year history joined by Stanford, UC-Davis, and UCSF residents. Our guest judge was Dr. Robert Sataloff from Drexel University. Dr. Nik Block-Wheeler (PGY-3) was one of the award - winners for his project assessing predictors of surgically managed obstructive sleep apnea. Dr. David Chou (PGY-5) was awarded the Resident Research Award at our resident commencement ceremony. He recently published a study on post-operative pain and opioid use after facial feminization surgery and another study assessing a novel osteochondral caudal septal extension graft in septorhinoplasty.

The Summer Clinic Otolaryngology Research (SCORE) Program entered its sixth year. The medical students worked on clinical research and quality improvement projects with faculty in the department including Megan Durr MD, Nancy Jiang MD, Jonathan Liang MD, and Alexander Rivero MD. Several SCORE students are presenting at the upcoming Academy of Otolaryngology meeting.



## Upcoming Events

### Virtual Visiting Professor: Pediatric Otolaryngology

Dr. Matt Brigger  
University of California  
San Diego

October 22, 2021  
8am to 5pm

### Grand Rounds: Sialendoscopy

January 28, 2022  
8:30am to noon

### Grand Rounds: Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

April 22, 2022  
8:30am to noon

### Bay Area Resident Research Symposium

May 13, 2022  
8:30am to 5pm

### Resident Commencement

June 18, 2022

## Letter From Our New Chief

I am excited and honored to serve as the new chief of Head and Neck Surgery for the East Bay. Dr. Gurushanthaiah has been a great role model and mentor to me and the whole department. I have some big shoes to fill! I look forward to working with Dr. Durr on fostering an exceptional, inclusive, and well-rounded residency program. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our department has continued to provide outstanding care for our patients, teach our residents in a safe virtual environment, support our SCORE summer research program for medical students, and mentor rotating sub-interns this summer. I have so much gratitude for my colleagues and for our residents.



Nancy Jiang, MD  
Chief  
Department of HNS  
KP East Bay

## Upcoming Academy of Otolaryngology Meeting

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

- In-Person Panel Presentations
  - Drs. Jonathan Liang and Rijul Kshirsagar “R for Data Analysis: Useful Tools for Otolaryngologists and Researchers”
  - Dr. Noriko Yoshikawa “How to Create a Wellness Curriculum at Your Institution”
  - Dr. Noriko Yoshikawa “Gender, Sex, and the Otolaryngologist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”
  - Dr. Noriko Yoshikawa “Recognition and Remediating Microaggressions in the Workplace: Building Better Diversity”
- On-Demand Panel Presentations
  - Dr. Megan Durr “Update on Scientific Trials and Reviews in Sleep Surgery 2021”
  - Dr. Chuck Meltzer “Thyroid Cancer Quality of Care: Moving from ‘Expert Opinion’ to Implementation”
  - Dr. Noriko Yoshikawa “Integrative Approach to Tinnitus”
- In-Person Scientific Oral Presentations
  - Dr. Ghedak Ansari (PGY4) “Postoperative Pain after Surgery for Adult Obstructive Sleep Apnea”
  - Dr. Peter Debbaneh (PGY3) “Characterization of Electronic Cigarette Users in the Otolaryngology Clinic”
- Several Poster Presentations by Dr. Debbaneh, Dr. Woulfe Pacheco and Dr. Block-Wheeler

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

Webpage: <https://residency-nca.kaiserpermanente.org/programs/hns/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/kp\\_otolaryngology\\_residency/](https://www.instagram.com/kp_otolaryngology_residency/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kpncheadneckresidency/>