Seybt Increases Endocrine Capacity

The department recently added its 5th fellowship-trained head and neck surgeon when Dr. Melanie Seybt was recruited to the faculty as Assistant Professor of Head and Neck and Endocrine Surgery and Associate Surgical Director of the MCG Thyroid/Parathyroid Center.

Dr. Seybt attended Vanderbilt University and then the Medical College of Georgia. She did her surgical training at MCG, and subsequently became one of only a handful of surgeons to pursue specialized fellowship training in Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery.

Because of the success of the MCG Thyroid Center, referrals have exceeded capacity. Dr. Seybt’s recruitment represents the commitment to continued growth, and she brings particular expertise and interest in pediatric and robotic thyroid surgery.

Director of Audiology Recruited

Less than six months after the department assumed control of Audiology under Brian McKinnon’s superb leadership, our recruitment efforts have yielded valuable successes. Miranda Pritcher, Au.D. (previously at West Coast Hearing and Balance Center in Simi Valley, CA) signed on as Director of Audiology. This brings to seven the number of audiologists providing first-class service to the hearing and balance impaired individuals in our system and across the state.
Message from the Chair

As spring turns to summer (and Phil Mickelson wins his third green jacket at one of the most exciting Masters tournament in years), the department has completed its transition from a small program that was a division of surgery to a medium-sized department with 14 faculty members, annual clinical billings exceeding $12 million, a footprint covering more than 11,000 square feet, and an academic output that is one of the strongest in the nation. We look forward to collectively mapping out our vision for the next ten years this summer at our departmental strategic retreat.

David J. Terris, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Porubsky Professor and Chairman

Honors

Jack Borders was a guest speaker at the Annual Middle East Update Otolaryngology Conference in Dubai, UAE and the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Jimmy Brown was a guest lecturer at St. Louis University’s annual course, the Update in Advanced Surgery for Obstructive Sleep Apnea.

Stil Kountakis was a guest speaker at the Texas Sinus Institute Rhinology course in Houston; the Nassau Surgical Society and Brooklyn and Long Island Chapter of the American College of Surgeons; and the 15th Panhellenic Congress on Otorhinolaryngology in Crete, Greece. He was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the Allergy and Rhinology Journal.

Greg Postma was Visiting Professor at Emory University and the University of Southern California.

He was a guest speaker at the Philippines Society of Otolaryngology Annual Meeting in Manila, the 2nd International Conference of Voice and Swallowing Disorders in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the Dysphagia Research Society Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Arturo Solares was an invited speaker at the Pan-American Congress of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in Cancun, Mexico.

David Terris was appointed to the Editorial Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Triological Society Southern Section. He was visiting professor at the University of Hong Kong, Madigan AMC, MUSC and Tulane University, and guest speaker for the Arkansas-Missouri, Las Vegas and New Jersey Otolaryngology societies.

Consultant of the Year

In another first for the department, this year’s unanimous choice for Consultant of the Year is an anesthesiologist, Stevin Dubin. Dr. Dubin attended Queens College in New York and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed his residency at Duke University Medical Center, and then joined the Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine faculty here at MCG. Dr. Dubin not only provides expert care to the most difficult of patients (those with challenging airways), he also has a tremendous bedside manner putting patients at ease when they are at their most vulnerable. It is with a profound sense of gratitude that we bestow our highest departmental recognition.
Hail

Michael Singer
SUNY Downstate
Endocrine Fellow

Eyad Khabbaz
Univ of Cincinnati
Rhinology Fellow

Michelle Morrison
US Navy
Laryngology Fellow

Jessica Van Beek-King
Ross University
PGY-1

Brian Ho
Univ of Missouri
PGY-1

Farewell

Melanie Seybt will join the faculty at MCG

Jastin Antisdel will join the faculty at St. Louis Univ

Creighton Vaught will join a practice in Burlington, NC

Paul Weinberger will pursue Laryngology fellowship in London

AOA Inducts Champagne

Jason Champagne was one of only two residents selected from more than 400 residents and fellows for induction into the Georgia chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha. This recognition was made even more poignant since Jason’s eligibility as a senior medical student was nullified (as it was for all of his classmates at LSU) by the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Donor Acknowledgements

The ongoing success of any major department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery depends heavily on the philanthropic investments in academics made by alumni, grateful patients and other friends of the department.

We gratefully acknowledge the following 2009-2010 Porubsky Fund Donors:

Master’s Club ($1000 or more)
Allen Butler, MD
Firas Farhat, MD
Richard L. Hebert, II, MD
William H. Moretz, Jr., MD
Robin Schilling, MD
David J. Terris, MD
Elizabeth Whitaker, MD

President’s Club ($500 - $999)
Timothy D. Knudsen, MD
William H. Moreetz, III, MD

Chairman’s Club ($100 - $499)
Thomas Crews, MD
Edward A. Porubsky, MD

To share your news with the other alumni, please send updates to Donna Black at donnab@mcg.edu or call 706-721-6100.
Jackson Wins Grant

Dr. Lana Jackson was awarded her first peer-reviewed extramural research grant this year. The grant was funded by the Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology for her proposal entitled “Biology of False Negative PET-CT: Role of Glucose Transport and Metabolism”.

Publications


MCG Excels at Triological

MCG was well represented at the Section Meeting of the Triological Society. Among Southern Section schools, MCG had the most research presentations with 7 oral papers and 8 projects presented in poster format.


**Borders Receives Awards**

Jack Borders received the 2010 MCG Family Choice Awards, honoring MCG healthcare providers who have exemplified patient- and family-centered care. This award is chosen by a selected group of patients and staff. Dr. Borders was the only recipient from the pediatric ambulatory care center patient offices.

Dr. Borders was also selected to receive the Exemplary Teaching Award from the MCG School of Medicine based upon his substantial outstanding contributions to resident teaching. Dr. Borders has only been back in Augusta for a little more than a year and is already having an immediate impact.

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**MCG Takes 1st Place at Trio Golf Tournament**

Another successful meeting of the Triological Society was capped off with a 1st place victory for the MCG golf team in the Pillsbury Residency Program Golf Challenge. Fighting 35 mph gusts of wind the team, composed of Drew Prosser, Greg Postma, Jason Champagne and David Terris, was able to capitalize with 6 birdies. Prosser also won the long drive competition with his nearly decade old Titleist 975 driver prompting Dr. Terris to start the “get Prosser a new driver” fund. MCG has a long history of performing well in this event with victories in 2004 and 2005 and second place finishes in 2003, 2006 and 2007.

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**Giving Back to Community**

The Otolaryngology academic and medical staffs were heavily involved in the Salvation Army program to give to needy children this past Christmas. Many department members (led by Annette Coleman, RN) participated in this effort and a record 43 stockings were donated. When we do something we do it all the way!

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**Three Fellowships Available**

- Endocrine/Head and Neck Surgery (contact Dr. David Terris: dterris@mcg.edu)
- Rhinology/Sinus Surgery (contact Dr. Stil Kountakis: skountakis@mcg.edu)
- Laryngology (contact Dr. Gregory Postma: gpostma@mcg.edu)
Departmental Faculty and Areas of Interest

Jack C. Borders, Jr., MD  
Associate Professor and  
Chief, Pediatric  
Otolaryngology; Special  
interests: pediatric airway  
management and pediatric  
ear disease.

Lori M. Burkhead, PhD,  
CCC-SLP  
Assistant Professor in the MCG  
Center for Voice and  
Swallowing Disorders;  
Special interests: diagnosis  
and rehabilitation of  
swallowing disorders.

Scott S. DeRossi, DMD  
Associate Professor, Head  
and Neck Surgery; Special  
interests: temporomandibular joint  
pain, migraine and  
headache disorders,  
cancerous and  
precancerous conditions of  
the oral cavity.

Lana L. Jackson, MD  
Assistant Professor, Head  
and Neck Surgery; Special  
interests: salivary gland  
surgery, laryngeal cancer  
and oral cancer.

Jimmy J. Brown, DDS,  
MD, FACS  
Professor and  
Chief, Head and Neck  
Surgery, Chief, Augusta VA;  
Special interests: basic and  
advanced sleep surgery  
including orthognathic  
surgery.

Achih H. Chen, MD  
Assistant Professor, Facial  
Plastic and Reconstructive  
Surgery; Special interests:  
cosmetic facial plastic  
surgery and aging face  
surgery.

C. Anthony Hughes, MD  
Associate Professor,  
Pediatric Otolaryngology;  
Special interests: vascular  
malformations and  
congenital airway  
anomalies.

Frederick N. Klippert, MD  
Assistant Professor,  
General Otolaryngology;  
Special interests: general  
otolaryngology.
Departmental Faculty and Areas of Interest

Stilianos E. Kountakis, MD, PhD, FACS  Professor, Rhinology and Sinus Surgery, Director of the Georgia Sinus Center; Special interests: rhinology and sinus surgery, cerebrospinal fluid leaks, skull base defects and sinonasal tumors.

Edward S. Porubsky, MD, FACS  Professor Emeritus, General Otolaryngology; Special interests: general otolaryngology.

Miranda R. Pritcher, AuD  Senior Audiologist, Director of Audiology; Special interests: assessment of hearing and disorders of balance, and hearing aid dispensing.

C. Arturo Solares, MD  Assistant Professor, Head and Neck and Skull Base Surgery, Director of the MCG Skull Base Center; Special interests: endoscopic management of skull base tumors, and endoscopic repair of skull base defects.

Brian J. McKinnon, MD, MBA  Assistant Professor, Otology/Neurotology; Special interests: disorders of hearing and balance, and implantable hearing devices including cochlear implants.

Gregory N. Postma, MD  Professor, Director of the MCG Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders; Special interests: professional and singing voice care, dysphagia, airway disorders and chronic cough.

Melanie W. Seybt, MD  Assistant Professor, Head and Neck and Endocrine Surgery, Associate Surgical Director of the MCG Thyroid/Parathyroid Center; Special interests: pediatric and robotic thyroidectomy.

David J. Terris, MD, FACS  Professor, Head and Neck and Endocrine Surgery, Surgical Director of the MCG Thyroid/Parathyroid Center; Special interests: minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid surgery.
Minimally Invasive and Conventional Surgical Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Disorders

October 8-9, 2010
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Faculty
Jennifer E. Lawrence, M.D.
Miras Milas, M.D.
Gregory W. Randolph, M.D.
Geoffrey B. Thompson, M.D.
Ralph Tufano, M.D.
R. Michael Tuttle, M.D.

Program Chairs
Melanie W. Seybt, M.D. and Paolo Miccoli, M.D.

Register early. Participation in the Lab is limited.

From the Nasion to the Occiput: A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Skull Base

December 4, 2010
Augusta, Georgia

Distinguished Guest Speakers
Amin Kassam, M.D.
Neuroscience Institute
Saint John’s Health Center

Ricardo Carrau, M.D.
Neuroscience Institute
Saint John’s Health Center

Program Chair
C. Arturo Solares, M.D.
Medical College of Georgia