In this issue of Harvard Otolaryngology, we celebrate what has been accomplished this year, both individually and collectively, as the Department of Otology and Laryngology at Harvard Medical School. Our clinical venues continue to grow and develop at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital Boston, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

In addition to updates on ongoing activity, there is information on upcoming CME courses, 2011 graduation photos, an announcement of upcoming alumni events, and news from alumni of our residency program. We also acknowledge this year’s faculty promotions, with biographies and photos of our new professors in the Department. There is also a feature on faculty member Dr. Daniel Polley’s research in the Neural Plasticity Research Unit, and our new Residency Program Director Dr. Stacey Gray provides an update on our residency program.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and support of the Department’s activities.

Note from the Chairman

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Note from the Program Director

Residency training in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has changed significantly over the past ten years. The impetus for many of these changes involves new requirements from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). As we initiate changes in our program to meet these requirements, our desire is both to maintain the current level of excellence in the existing training and to enrich the training experience even further through new initiatives.

Since 2003, resident duty hours have been limited to 80 hours per week. However, additional changes went into effect in July 2011. The maximum duty hour period for PGY-1 residents is now restricted to 16 hours. PGY-2 residents and above are permitted 24 consecutive hours. Duty hour restrictions have been adjusted according to these guidelines, and in many ways have been the most straightforward of the current ACGME mandates with which to comply. More complex issues involve the core competencies. For example, all current residents are likely able to recite the six competencies of training (patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism and systems-based practice), but it is no longer sufficient to simply list them. The competencies must be incorporated into our training program, and routinely evaluated to establish that our residents have assimilated them. In addition to tracking duty hours, we are now charged with monitoring “transitions of care” for patients, instructing residents in “alertness management,” and devising detailed policies for resident supervision. The vocabulary of residency
training is full of new terms: “360” evaluations, OSATS, and competencies. To many of us, the new terms may feel like a foreign language.

Although these regulations are new, the ideology they are designed to promote is not. Our goal has always been to produce excellent otolaryngologists, who are not only intelligent and technically proficient, but also professional, empathic, and ethical. Rather than view these new requirements as a roadblock to resident training, I suggest we embrace them as a challenge to achieve new heights for our educational program. The question we might ask collectively is, “How do we move beyond the confines of these requirements and truly improve the quality of our training?” Rather than simply checking off the boxes, how do we leverage these requirements to produce better otolaryngologists? We are not striving simply for competence in our trainees, but rather for excellence.

As with many things in the professional arena, our training effort is a work in progress, and we are fortunate that it is a collaborative effort. One of our major strengths is the diversity and talent of our faculty. This faculty is dedicated not only to excellence in clinical practice and research, but also to training the next generation of head and neck surgeons. As I assume the role of Residency Director, it is extremely helpful to have my predecessor, Dr. Michael Cunningham, in close proximity as a constant source of information, and a reminder of what can be accomplished. I am also fortunate that Dr. Kevin Emerick recently assumed the role of Associate Residency Director. We continue to have strong site leaders in Dr. David Caradonna (at BIDMC) and Dr. Mark Volk (at CHB). In addition, Dr. Charles Norris has recently resumed his role as site director at BWH.

In preparing this update, I am reminded of how many of our faculty are involved in resident education, and I would like to highlight their involvement by reviewing several of our current practices and future initiatives. Teaching the core competency of medical knowledge to our residents comes from a strong emphasis on self-directed learning, and is augmented by our didactic program. We continue to modify our Thursday morning educational sessions in an effort to encourage collaboration amongst faculty at the different institutions, and we have also expanded our visiting professorship program. The quarterly Quality, Humanism and Professionalism curriculum, directed by Dr. Paul Konowitz, has also been integrated into our program. A resident-run didactic session follows the weekly Grand Rounds presentation to complement the principles covered in the first hour, and to provide residents with an opportunity to develop themselves as educators. In addition, smaller sub-specialty conferences are held regularly. These include a head and neck conference (directed by Dr. Daniel Deschler), a skull base conference (directed by Dr. Derrick Lin), a facial nerve conference (directed by Dr. Tessa Hadlock), an endocrine conference (directed by Dr. Gregory Randolph), a pediatric conference (directed by Dr. Gerald Healy), Voice Rounds (directed by Drs. Ramon Franco and Phillip Song) and Otology Special Problems (directed by Dr. Michael McKenna) as well as weekly conferences at Children’s Hospital and the Longwood campus.

We made exciting changes to our head and neck anatomy curriculum. Dr. Barbara Fullerton is now directing the head and neck anatomy course for the PGY-2 residents and
is often joined by Dr. Paul Konowitz for the dissections. In addition to the traditional temporal bone course (directed by Dr. Jennifer Smullen), we added a cadaveric endoscopic sinus course (directed by Dr. Benjamin Bleier) as well as a cadaveric rhinoplasty dissection and a facial fracture plating course (directed by Dr. Jaimie DeRosa). Simulation remains a growing area of interest in the field of surgical training. Dr. Mark Volk directed a simulation course (the CORE skill course) for the PGY-2 residents this summer at Children’s Hospital. Residents on the pediatric rotation at MEEI now participate in monthly code simulations (under the direction of Dr. Christopher Hartnick), and Dr. Gregory Randolph is initiating an adult airway simulation course as well. In addition, there are various other “virtual” tools available for resident learning. Under the direction of Dr. Saumil Merchant, a vast library of temporal bone histopathology has been established, available to review at the touch of a button. All Grand Rounds lectures are being recorded and catalogued as well. Of course, the majority of our teaching is executed the “old-fashioned way”, in the operating room and clinic, a priceless process in surgical training that can never be replaced. Saturday morning teaching rounds on the head and neck service at MEEI with Dr. Derrick Lin are just one example of faculty involvement in resident education. Our emphasis on the importance of education is reflected in the teaching awards given by the Residents at the graduation ceremony each year. The 2011 Chief Resident Teaching award was given to Dr. Kiran Kakarala and the William Montgomery Award for Excellence in Teaching was bestowed upon Dr. Paul Konowitz.

Research scholarship remains a strong focus of our program. A new committee has been established to highlight the Clinician Scientist career, exemplified by many of our faculty. This will be directed by Drs. Steven Rauch and James Rocco. This committee will guide the residents as they choose and develop a FOCUS research project, a four-year project that is completed throughout the course of residency. Determined annually by faculty at the final FOCUS presentation to recognize an outstanding FOCUS research project, the 2011 Jeffrey Harris Prize for Excellence in Research award was awarded to Dr. Amanda Silver and her research mentor, Dr. Christopher Hartnick. The residents continue to represent our Institution at national meetings and to publish consistently. The 2011 graduating residents, Drs. Kiran Kakarala, Amanda Silver, and Kalpesh Vakharia, had an average of six publications each during the course of residency. To highlight resident scholarly accomplishments the week of graduation, we hosted a resident poster session in which the faculty had a chance to view the residents’ work from the year. The inaugural winners were Dr. Harrison Lin (1st place) and Dr. Linda Lee (2nd place).

In addition to education and scholarship, our residency is also one of collegiality and fellowship. As they ready themselves for a career in otolaryngology, the residents are welcomed into an ever-growing family. This is apparent from the start of residency, when the PGY-2 residents are introduced to the faculty at a summer party hosted by Dr. Jo Shapiro. It continues through the year and culminates with graduation festivities in June, including an annual Golf Tournament organized by Dr. Michael Rho and a party for the graduates hosted by the Nadols.

The residency program remains successful despite enforced changes because of the quality of the people involved. Involvement comes at many levels, from participation in committees, willingness to mentor residents through career choices or research projects, and teaching on a daily basis in the operating room and clinic. I would like to sincerely thank every individual involved in the residency program especially those who continuously and generously volunteer their time and expertise. I look forward to the bright future of our training program!

The following people deserve special recognition for their continued involvement:

2011 ENT Education Committee Members
Barbara Beckman-Beard
David Caradonna, M.D.
Jaimie DeRosa, M.D.
Daniel Deschler, M.D.
Kevin Emerick, M.D.
Ramon Franco, M.D.
Stacey Gray, M.D.
Christopher Hartnick, M.D.
Eric Holbrook, M.D.
Joseph Nadol, Jr., M.D.
Charles Norris, M.D.
Gregory Randolph, M.D.
Steven Rauch, M.D.
William Sewell, PhD
Mark Volk, M.D.

2011 Standardized Oral Examination Faculty
Michael Cunningham, M.D.
Jaimie DeRosa, M.D.
Kevin Emerick, M.D.
Frank Fechner, M.D.
Stacey Gray, M.D.
Eric Holbrook, M.D.
Donald Keaney, Jr., M.D.
Daniel Lee, M.D.
Derrick Lin, M.D.
Steven Rauch, M.D.

2011 Didactic Resident Education Curriculum Committee
Jaimie DeRosa, M.D.
The Department of Otolaryngology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary continues to grow with the addition of eleven full-time physician recruits this year, new facilities to advance patient diagnosis and care, and new suburban centers to extend our care to those outside the city of Boston. Just as our facilities and resources grow, so do our physicians, who continue to develop themselves as experts in their subspecialties on the international stage through clinical care, grant funding, awards, scholarly work, and public outreach.

Clinical Care
Our clinical faculty continues to provide the highest level of care for patients facing problems related to the ears, nose, throat, head, and neck. As otolaryngology encompasses a comprehensive range of subspecialties, we have cultivated a specialized, collaborative approach that offers our patients the best care possible. New initiatives are underway to enhance patient care and to strengthen this integrated approach.

New Recruits
We welcome four new faculty members to our main campus and seven to our suburban locations:

- **Dr. Benjamin Bleier**, General Otolaryngology Service
- **Dr. Cathy Chong**, Mass. Eye and Ear, Weymouth
- **Dr. Michael Cohen**, Pediatric Otolaryngology Service
- **Dr. Ameen Dhar**, Mass. Eye and Ear, Weymouth
- **Dr. Hani Ibrahim**, Mass. Eye and Ear, Weymouth
- **Dr. David Kam**, Mass. Eye and Ear, Weymouth
- **Dr. Ayesh Khalid**, Mass. Eye and Ear, Concord
- **Dr. Felipe Santos**, Otology Service
- **Dr. Stephen Smith**, Mass. Eye and Ear, Concord
- **Dr. Oon Tian Tan**, Director, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Laser Center
- **Dr. Gregory T. Whitman**, Balance and Vestibular Center at Braintree Rehabilitation Hospital

New Facilities
We’re constantly evaluating and redesigning our facilities to deliver the best care and to meet the needs of our patients. This year, with the recruitment of dermatologist and pioneer laser specialist **Dr. Oon Tian Tan**, the Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Laser Center facility opened on the 9th floor, adjacent to the Facial Plastics Service. Also on the 9th floor, the new Sinus Center facility is now open and **Drs. Gray, Busaba, Bleier**, and **Holbrook** are seeing patients in that facility.

We continue to grow outside of Boston at our suburban centers. Notably, our Mass. Eye and Ear Quincy location now offers a Diagnostic and Treatment Center outfitted with optimized sinus CT scans and allergy testing.

Leadership
Several members of our faculty were appointed to new leadership positions this year.

The Harvard Medical School Residency Program in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Neck Surgery is now under the direction of Dr. Stacey Gray, with Dr. Kevin Emerick serving as Associate Director. Dr. Gray also co-directs with Dr. Paul Konowitz the Quality, Humanism, and Professionalism course that has become an integral part of physician education.

We also appointed new leadership in our Pediatric Otolaryngology Division. Dr. Christopher Hartnick was recently appointed Director of Pediatric Otolaryngology, and Dr. Daniel Lee was named Director of Pediatric Otology and Neurotology.

Dr. Daniel Deschler and Dr. Christopher Hartnick were promoted to Professors of Otolaryngology and Laryngology at Harvard Medical School this year. Dr. Leila Mankarious was promoted to Associate Professor, and Drs. Stacey Gray and Kevin Emerick were promoted to Assistant Professors.

New Grant Funding
Faculty research initiatives continue to thrive, as evidenced by support through national grant funding. The following is a list of new grant funding acquired this year:

Dr. Benjamin Bleier received funding from the Michael J. Fox Foundation to study “Blood-Brain Barrier Modification using Heterotopic Nasal Mucosal Grafting.”

Dr. James Rocco was awarded an R01 grant from the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Daniel Lee received a new grant from the Bertarelli Foundation for his work on “New Generation Auditory Brainstem Implant with Flexible LED Arrays for Optogenetic Neurostimulation,” and a grant from Med-El Hearing Solutions to study optical stimulation of the auditory pathways.

Dr. Konstantina Stankovic received a new grant from the Bertarelli Foundation to study “Optical imaging of the inner ear for diagnosis and therapy.”

Dr. Joseph Adams was awarded a new grant from the NIDCD to study “Drug-induced protection from acoustic trauma.”

Dr. Jeffrey Tao Cheng was awarded a new grant from the NIDCD to study “Backward and Forward Driven Eardrum Motions.”

Awards and Honors
From leadership roles in professional organizations to prestigious awards for contributions in research and clinical care, our faculty has garnered numerous honors over the year. We recognize their remarkable accomplishments below:

Dr. Nicolas Busaba was inducted as a Fellow of the American Rhinologic Society and appointed Chair of the International Committee of this organization.

Dr. Eric Holbrook was inducted into the Triological Society.

Dr. Gregory Randolph was appointed co-chair of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) Laryngeal Guidelines Task Force. He also became the first otolaryngologist to be elected to the governing council of the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons.

Dr. James Rocco was selected to serve on the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), and to serve as a member of NCI Head and Neck Steering Committee Task Force on recurrent and metastatic disease from 2011-2014.

Dr. Ramon Franco was inducted into the American Laryngological Association.

Dr. Konstantina Stankovic received the Burt Evans Young Investigator Award from the National Organization for Hearing Research. She was also inducted as a fellow into the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. M. Charles Liberman was asked to co-chair the committee that helped the NIDCD create its strategic plan for the next five years.

Dr. Tessa Hadlock, Dr. Zheng-Yi Chen, and Dr. Daniel Polley received awards from the Mass. Eye and Ear Curing Kids Campaign.

Dr. Paul Konowitz received the 2011 William Montgomery Teaching Award.

Dr. Ayesha Khalid was inducted as a fellow into the American Rhinologic Society and now serves on the Awards Committee for that organization. She is also Chair-Elect of the Young Physician Committee for the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Public Outreach
Our faculty and trainees are committed not only to the patients...
within their practices, but also to the surrounding and global community. The Department hosted two public forums this year—one on sinusitis from our Sinus Center physicians, entitled "Know Your Nose," and another on hearing and hearing loss from the Otology Division.

Faculty members of the Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Division continue their collaboration with the R.O.S.E. Fund, providing reconstructive surgery to abused and battered women. They also continue their annual pediatric microtia missions, one in Ecuador and another in Guatemala.

**ENT Community Outreach**

As expert subspecialists in the otolaryngology community, our faculty travels internationally to extend their knowledge to other physicians in the field. The following are highlights of our faculty outreach:

**Dr. Nicolas Busaba** served as invited faculty of the 33rd Turkish National Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery Congress held in October 2011.

**Dr. Gregory Randolph** is the 2012 Charles Proye Keynote Presidential invited lecturer for the Congress of the European Association of Endocrine Surgeons in Gothenburg, Sweden. He is also an invited lecturer for the British Association of Thyroid and Endocrine Surgeons, and the George Choa Visiting Professor in Otorhinolaryngology at the University of Hong Kong in March 2012.

**Dr. Daniel Deschler** served as the 2011 Visiting Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**Dr. James Rocco** will serve as program co-chairman for the American Head and Neck Society's international conference on head and neck cancer in Toronto, Canada in July 2012. He also served as Visiting Professor at the Mount Sinai MD/PhD program retreat in the Catskills last September and as Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

**Dr. Tessa Hadlock** is an invited speaker for the American Society for Peripheral Nerve annual meeting in January 2012. She also serves as a member of the International Faculty for the upcoming Free Tissue Transfer for Facial Reanimation course hosted in Taipei, Taiwan.

Plans are underway for the **Plastics Division** to host the 2013 International Facial Nerve Symposium.

**Dr. Christopher Hartnick** was named Program Director for the 2013 American Society for Pediatric Otolaryngology conference in Santa Fe, NM.

**Dr. Saumil Merchant** served as Visiting Professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas in March 2011. He also delivered the 2011 Robert Schindler Lecture at the University of California, San Francisco in November 2011.

**Dr. Joseph B. Nadol** was the Ben Senturia Lecturer in October 2011 at Washington University at St. Louis.

**Dr. M. Charles Liberman** delivered the Hallowell Davis Memorial Lecture at the annual meeting of the International Evoked Response Audiometry Study Group meeting in Moscow and the Fernandez-Lindsay Lectureship at the University of Chicago.

### 2012 CME Courses

**Mass. Eye and Ear**

- **April 2-3** Endoscopic Surgery of the Sinuses and Eustachian Tube
  - Directors: Ralph Metson, MD, Dennis Poe, MD, Stacey Gray, MD, and Eric Holbrook, MD.

- **April 27-29** Update in Head and Neck Cancer
  - Directors: Daniel Deschler, MD, Paul Busse, MD, and John Clark, MD.

- **June 2-3** Update in Pediatric Airway, Voice and Swallowing Disorders
  - Director: Christopher Hartnick, MD

- **November 9-10** Surgery of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Glands
  - Directors: Gregory Randolph, MD, Richard Hodin, MD, and Randall Gaz, MD.

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Kevin Emerick, M.D.
Barbara Fullerton, PhD
Stacey Gray, M.D.
Donald Keamy, Jr, M.D.
Jennifer Smullen, M.D.
Phillip Song, M.D.

**2011 Clinician Scientist Mentoring Committee**

Benjamin Bleier, M.D.
Stacey Gray, M.D.
Tessa Hadlock, M.D.
Christopher Hartnick, M.D.
Eric Holbrook, M.D.
Margaret Kenna, M.D.
Daniel Lee, M.D.
Saumil Merchant, M.D.
Steven Rauch, M.D.
David Roberson, M.D.
James Rocco, M.D., PhD
Kenneth Whittemore, M.D.

**2011-2012 Clinical Mentors**

Michael Cunningham, M.D.
Jaimie DeRosa, M.D.
Daniel Deschler, M.D.
Eric Holbrook, M.D.
Donald Keamy, Jr., M.D.
Michael McKenna, M.D.
Saumil Merchant, M.D.
Phillip Song, M.D.

**2011-2012 Research Mentors**

Neil Bhattacharyya, M.D.
Michael Cunningham, M.D.
Daniel Deschler, M.D.
Albert Edge, PhD
Tessa Hadlock, M.D.
Christopher Hartnick, M.D.
James Heaton, PhD
Donald Keamy, Jr., M.D.
M. Charles Liberman, PhD
Michael McKenna, M.D.
John Meara, M.D., D.M.D.
Ralph Metson, M.D.
James Rocco, M.D., PhD
Phillip Song, M.D.
Tina Stankovic, M.D., PhD
The Division of Otolaryngology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) has been working in close collaboration with the leadership of BWH to improve the quality and safety of patient care at our hospital as well as the level of professionalism across the institution.

In addition to having the pleasure of being part of the Harvard Otolaryngology Residency Training Program, we continue to be a major teaching site for Harvard medical students as well as working with the Department of Surgery Education Office to provide a valuable teaching experience for the surgery interns. Our faculty provides one to one preceptorship for various trainees including primary care medicine residents, allergy/immunology fellows, oral medicine residents, and medical students. Our faculty mentors other faculty and trainees at all levels.

Dr. Donald Annino is an integral part of the BWH nationally renowned facial transplant team. He works collaboratively in clinical, teaching and research endeavors with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI)/BWH Head and Neck Oncology Program as well as with the Department of Neurosurgery in the BWH Endoscopic Skull Base Center and the Division of Plastic Surgery at BWH. He was honored by the BWH Neurosurgery Department for exceptional collaboration. He is Director of the TORS (transoral robotic surgery) program at BWH. He has a highly specialized surgical practice that includes head and neck cancer surgery, reconstructive surgery and anterior skull base surgery.

Dr. Neil Bhattacharyya, Associate Division Chief, has published numerous studies on diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic sinusitis in addition to outcomes research for other diseases such as papillary thyroid cancer and sinus cancer. He has a national role in developing evidence-based guidelines for otolaryngology. He is the Associate Editor for Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, and serves on the editorial boards for multiple publications, including the Laryngoscope and the American Journal of Rhinology. Dr. Bhattacharyya was recently promoted to Professor of Otology and Laryngology at HMS. He continues to mentor residents and students’ research, and many of his mentees have been selected to present their research work and have received awards. He maintains a busy clinical practice in rhinology, laryngology and sleep apnea.

Dr. Laura Goguen continues her involvement in otolaryngology teaching at a local and national level. She is an integral member of the Head and Neck Program at the DFCI providing clinical and research based care. Her clinical research explores issues related to dysphagia after chemoradiation therapy and neck management in head and neck cancer. She corroborates with the thoracic surgery service to provide novel combined antegrade, retrograde esophageal dilation for patients with complete esophageal stenosis, and she has published manuscripts, given talks and presented posters at national meetings on these topics. She received a Partners in Excellence Award for her role in the dysphagia management team at BWH and DFCI.

Dr. Daniel Lee, as a joint recruit with MEEI, is our division neurotologist. He contributes to our division by taking care of our patients needing otologic or neurotologic management in collaboration with BWH’s neurosurgeons.
Dr. Carl Norris is Surgical Director of the DFCI/BWH Head and Neck Oncology Program where he continues his involvement in the clinical, research and teaching enterprises. He is one of the most valued educators in our department. After the departure of Dr. Keith Saxon who moved back to Missouri, Dr. Norris is serving as the site director for the Harvard Otolaryngology resident rotations at BWH.

Dr. Jo Shapiro, Division Chief, continues her work as a clinician educator. She serves on the American Board of Otolaryngology Education Council, and she is a guest examiner for the boards. She developed and now directs the Center for Professionalism and Peer Support at BWH. With a grant from CRICO/RMF, she is leading a system-wide disclosure program. She was the recipient of the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award. This year she received the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award. This year she received the Boston Business Journal Champions in Healthcare Award for innovation in the administrative category for her work in developing a peer support program at BWH. She continues her leadership and teaching at a local and national level in various aspects of medicine including: professionalism, giving difficult feedback; disclosure and apology; peer support and oropharyngeal dysphagia. She is also involved in developing a training program for otolaryngology in Uganda.

Dr. Tom Thomas joined our faculty in September. He was recruited through a national search. He completed a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Head and Neck Reconstructive Surgery after finishing his Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residency at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr Thomas has considerable experience in robotic surgery. As the Associate Director of our new TORS (transoral robotic surgery) program, he joins Dr. Don Annino in further developing our robotic surgery in order to offer select patients the opportunity to undergo a more minimally invasive resection of head and neck tumors. Dr. Thomas is also dedicated to teaching, and he will be working closely with our trainees in that capacity.

Lynn Kepnes, NP is a core contributor to our clinical mission. In addition to coordinating the clinical aspects of our ambulatory practice, she sees patients with general otolaryngologic problems. After some observational training with several generous physicians at MEEI, Ms. Kepnes developed some further expertise in evaluating patients with tinnitus and dizziness. This provides improved access and care to our BWH patient population.

Our division is graced by a team of committed, highly professional people who all provide excellent patient care. Pam Lynn Harvey, MS, CCC-SLP leads the Voice Pathology service; Sara Springer, Au.D, CCC-A leads our Audiology service, Peg Toro, Au.D, CCC-A directs the newborn hearing screening program; and PJ Su, CCC-SLP, leads the team of Speech/ Swallowing that provides Speech and Swallowing evaluation and treatment for the entire inpatient and outpatient population at BWH and DFCI.

Lisa Batchelder, our Division Administrator leads our entire staff and interfaces with the administrators at BWH, particularly in the Department of Surgery. She is skilled at strategic planning, management and operations. We have an extraordinarily committed group of talented staff.

Our division, department and hospital are working closely together to develop creative processes and solutions to the upcoming changes anticipated for health care. Our whole team continues to maintain a supportive and collegial environment.

Alumni events held annually at the AAO-HNSF Meetings

This past September, alumni of the program gathered for an event at the University Club in San Francisco in conjunction with the annual meetings held by the American Academy of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery.

Please join us on September 10, 2012 for a reception at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC during the AAO-HNSF meetings.

Contact Andrea Zweibel, Andrea_Zweibel@meei.harvard.edu, for further details.
What’s New at Children’s Hospital Boston

by Michael Cunningham, MD, Otolaryngologist-in-Chief, Children’s Hospital Boston

The Department of Otolaryngology and Communication Enhancement at the Children’s Hospital Boston remains an integral part of the Harvard Otolaryngology Residency Training Program. We are fortunate to have a PGY-3 resident from each of the Boston residency programs rotate through our Institution. These three residents play an invaluable role in contributing to the care of the children on our large inpatient service in concert with our four pediatric otolaryngology fellows, two physician assistants and governing attending surgeon. This latter “chief of service” position is a revolving weekly assignment divided equally among the pediatric otolaryngology faculty.

I joined the Department as Otolaryngologist-in-Chief in December 2010 after 22 years at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. I recognized quickly that the future success of the Department would need to be based upon the past accomplishments of its faculty.

Dr. Reza Rahbar kindly agreed to be my Associate Otolaryngologist-in-Chief as well as the Director of our Fellowship Program. Training the next generation of pediatric otolaryngologists is a major priority of the Department. The fellowship program at Children’s was begun by Dr. Gerald Healy and Dr. Trevor McGill in 1978; the current program enlists four fellows and is one of the two largest in the country. Dr. Rahbar will oversee the transition of our fellowship to hopeful ACGME accreditation. The Trevor J. McGill Pediatric Fellowship Director Chair will be established shortly to honor Dr. McGill for his years of devoted fellowship teaching and to support this transition process.

The Department currently includes 15 full-time otolaryngologists, 28 audiologists, 24 speech-language pathologists, 8 nurses and 11 physician assistants who see approximately 55,000 ambulatory patients and perform more than 6,000 surgical procedures annually. Dr. Karen Watters is the most recent addition to our staff, having joined us this past July. Although centered on the Longwood campus, our staff provides care at four satellite facilities in Lexington, Waltham, Peabody and Weymouth. The coordination of our Department’s clinical efforts falls under the auspices of the Clinical Care Committee chaired by Dr. Rahbar and aided by the significant help of Dr. Dwight Jones, Dr. Laurie Ohlms and Howard Shane, Ph.D.

Within the Department are several programs providing problem-specific multidiscipline care. These programs include the Center for Aero-Digestive Disorders and the Center for Head, Neck and Skull Base Surgery, both directed or co-directed by Dr. Rahbar. Dr. Gregory Licameli directs our Cochlear Implant Program, which recently passed the milestone of implanting its 600th child. The Voice and Velo-Pharyngeal Dysfunction Program is co-directed by Dr. Roger Nuss of our Department and Dr. John Meara of the Plastic Surgery Department; both are notably HMS otolaryngology residency graduates.

Two additional recently created programs will focus on eustachian tube dysfunction and balance and vestibular disorders. Dr. Dennis Poe’s work relative to the endoscopic correction of eustachian
tube dysfunction is internationally recognized. The Balance and Vestibular Disorders Center will be directed by Guang Wei Zhou, ScD and enhanced by the presence of Richard Lewis, MD, who will be joining us on a part-time basis from the Infirmary.

Department members additionally play an integral role in several other CHB centers and programs including the Advanced Fetal Care Center (Dr. Rahbar), the Center for Pediatric Sleep Disorders (Dr. Gi-Soo Lee), the Cleft Lip & Palate Program and Craniofacial Programs (entire staff), and the Vascular Anomalies Center (Drs. Rahbar and Cunningham).

Under the auspices of the Communication Enhancement Division are several additional programs including the Diagnostic and Habilitative Audiology programs run by Brian Fligor, ScD and Marilyn Neault, Ph.D., respectfully; the Speech Language Pathology program, which includes feeding rehabilitation services, directed by Geri Woodnorth, MA CCC-SLP; the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program coordinated by Terrell Clark, Ph.D.; and the Augmentative Communication Program governed by John Costello, MA CCC-SLP. Howard Shane, Ph.D. is the overall Director of our Communication Enhancement Division. Howard’s sentinel work in augmentative communication, particularly with respect to autistic children, is world renowned.

Both basic science and clinical research have been targeted as Departmental areas of growth. Our Department’s Research Committee is ably co-chaired by Dr. Marly Kenna and Gabriel Corfas, Ph.D. Dr. Kenna is the Department’s Director of Clinical Research and Dr. Corfas the Director of Basic Research. Dr. Kenna’s research continues to focus on the underlying causes of sensorineural hearing loss both from a genetics and neuro-anatomical standpoint. Cellular and molecular mechanisms of inner ear hearing loss and balance dysfunction are the focus of Dr. Corfas’ lab. Two additional basic scientists – Jeffrey Holt, Ph.D. and Gwenaelle Geleoc Holt, Ph.D. – were recently jointly recruited to join our Department under the auspices of the F.M. Kirby Center and Program in Neurobiology.

The Department has long been recognized on a national level for its innovative approach to patient safety and quality. This is no small part due to the work of Dr. David Roberson who chairs our Quality Care and Compliance Committee. Together with Dr. Manali Amin from a quality aspect and Dr. Kenneth Whittemore from a compliance aspect, our Department continues to make significant strides in both these respects.

Somewhat distinct from, but related to, quality care is the simulation program coordinated from an otolaryngology standpoint at Children's Hospital by Dr. Mark Volk. All the HMS residents during their PGY-3 year have the opportunity to take part in this valuable learning experience. This program is currently being extended to the otolaryngology staff and may become a future CRICO requirement for recertification.

I am also proud to report that the Department held its first academic retreat on Saturday, October 29, 2011. It would require several pages to outline our faculty’s multiple accomplishments in terms of scholarship, teaching, mentorship, hospital and societal leadership positions, patient education and community service, and ongoing research activities. Suffice it to say, based on the work presented at the retreat, I look forward to expanding upon our Department’s current roster of four professors, five associate professors, seven assistant professors and seven instructors in the near future.

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The Harvard Medical School can be found on the web at the above address. To learn more about Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Children’s Hospital Boston, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, and other clinical affiliates of the Harvard Medical School, access the Harvard Medical Center (HMC) Net by clicking on “Teaching Hospitals and Affiliated Institutions” from the homepage.
What’s New at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

by Robert Frankenthaler, MD, Chief, Division of Otolaryngology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

The Division of Otolaryngology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is undergoing a renaissance with the addition of new equipment, faculty, and clinical and outcomes research initiatives. Our short-term goal is to continue to provide the standard of care to our patients in all aspects of otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery. Our longer-term goal is to create a comprehensive Center for Human Communication that, in addition to our fellowship-trained physicians, will include our speech pathologists, speech therapists, and audiologists. This center will offer “one-stop shopping” to our patients and increased efficiency to our referring physicians.

Within the past few months we have enhanced patient care by making a major investment in new, state-of-the-art equipment in our outpatient clinic and operating rooms. For example, we now have Olympus video towers, Aura XP KTP lasers for in-office and OR treatments, distal-chip endoscopes with and without ports for in-office and OR use, and new endoscopes for transnasal esophagoscopy in the office setting, as well as flat screen monitors enabling patients to view their procedures. In addition, we plan to update some older equipment and add even more equipment in 2012.

Since the last issue of the newsletter, we have recruited a talented, fellowship-trained otolaryngologist to our faculty — Pavan S. Mallur, MD, who joined our division in August. Dr. Mallur received his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine, where he also did his residency in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. He completed a year-long fellowship in Laryngology and Care of the Professional Voice at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Board-certified in Otolaryngology, Dr. Mallur’s clinical interests include the medical and surgical management of all voice disorders, including care of the professional voice, and the diagnosis and surgical treatment of upper airway stenosis and swallowing disorders. His research interests include 532nm KTP laser treatment and treatment of vocal fold scar.

We are also in the final stages of recruiting a fellowship-trained neuro-otologist, who we expect to have on board in July 2012. Once this specialist joins our team, we will have the full complement of a comprehensive otorhinolaryngology/head and neck service: myself, a fellowship-trained head and neck surgical oncologist; David Caradonna, MD, DMD, a rhinologist, and Dr. Mallur, a fellowship-trained laryngologist.

Research is also an important part of our mission. Consequently, we continue to conduct clinical and outcomes research in the areas of cutaneous melanoma, rhinology, and voice disorders.

As the year 2012 unfolds, we will continue to grow our division to become a premier center for the evaluation and state-of-the-art treatment of patients with disorders of the ears, nose, throat, head and neck.
There have been tremendous discoveries made in the Infirmary laboratories and at other notable research venues related to the auditory system. Like most in the field of Otolaryngology, these studies have focused primarily on the ear, the “transmitter” of sound.

But the ear represents only one-half of the hearing process. Daniel Polley, PhD, Principal Investigator for the Neural Plasticity Research Unit and Assistant Professor of Otology and Laryngology at Harvard Medical School, came to Mass. Eye and Ear in 2010 to study the other half—how the brain, or “receiver” of sound, interprets those signals from the ear.

The Neural Plasticity Research Unit investigates a particular property of the brain called “plasticity,” or the idea that brain tissue, unlike any other in the body, can modify its basic chemistry, physiology, structure, and anatomy in accordance with patterns of activity. Polley investigates how plasticity plays an integral role in the receiving operation of the auditory system.

“There are cases where the transmitter [the ear] and the receiver [the brain] are not working properly…We want to take advantage of the therapies we know about the transmitter and see how we can use plasticity as a means to rehabilitate brain function and better interpret the signals that come up the auditory nerve,” Polley explains.

The cases he refers to are commonly seen in Otology clinics. For example, in patients with chronic otitis media, the ear is damaged due to chronic infection and inflammation, but the signals the brain receives are also degraded, and the plasticity process of the brain allows it to “become a specialist for lousy input.” The ear infections can be treated, but patients will have deficits in language due to the brain’s plasticity.

The language deficits that result from chronic otitis media represent the dark side of plasticity, but Polley and his team at the Neural Plasticity Research Unit envision ways of using plasticity for therapeutic benefit.

“I want to know if plasticity could be harnessed and directed, if we can take the brain’s intrinsic capacity to change itself in addition to or in lieu of surgery and pharmaceuticals to rehabilitate the central processor in people who have tinnitus, or chronic ear infections, or in patients with cochlear implants who are not getting as much as they should out of the implant.”

Polley and his team at the Neural Plasticity Research Unit are designing games that aim to tap into brain plasticity for therapeutic benefit. While most video games are visually and spatially stimulating, Polley’s audio games rehabilitate hearing by making sound the primary means through which you gain reward and calculate risk.

“Usually the sounds that happen in video games are in the back seat. We’re designing games that push those systems to the limit—there is risk and reward. Video games are actually a very potent means of changing brain function.”

Through his research on brain plasticity at Mass. Eye and Ear, Polley hopes to develop a computer-based brain rehabilitation tool that would serve as a useful part of treatment of the neurological end of sensory disorders.
Neil Bhattacharyya, MD, FACS, Daniel G. Deschler, MD, and Christopher Hartnick, MD, were promoted to Professors of Otology and Laryngology at Harvard Medical School this year.

Dr. Bhattacharyya has been a member of the Department ever since he began his residency at Harvard Medical School/Mass. Eye and Ear back in 1993. Prior to this training, he graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He now serves as full-time faculty surgeon and the Associate Chief of the Division of Otolaryngology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Dr. Bhattacharyya has made substantial clinical, research, and teaching contributions at a national and international level in several areas of Otolaryngology, most notably for the treatment of complex chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS). The majority of his clinical caseload involves tertiary care referrals for difficult, revision cases of CRS. Dr. Bhattacharyya’s research on CRS has influenced clinical guidelines and consensus on the treatment of sinusitis. Most notably, his research efforts have elaborated radiographic and symptom-based criteria for CRS.

In addition to his primary research in CRS, Dr. Bhattacharyya has published extensively on vocal cord paralysis and head and neck cancer outcomes. He is also seen as an expert in evidence-based medicine, lecturing nationally on this topic. He has given several invited national and international presentations in these areas, including plenary sessions, grand rounds, and major teaching courses.

Dr. Bhattacharyya’s educational efforts span from these international speaking engagements to his teaching of Harvard medical students and Otolaryngology residents. Under his supervision, several medical students and residents have presented research at national meetings with multiple subsequent publications. Many have gone on to pursue academic careers under his mentorship.

Dr. Deschler first joined the Department as Assistant Professor in 2000. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1990, and then completed his residency training at the University of California-San Francisco and a fellowship in Reconstructive and Oncologic Surgery of the Head and Neck at Hahnemann University. He now serves as Director of the Head and Neck Surgery division for Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Deschler is a surgeon dedicated to improving the quality of life for patients with advanced head and neck malignancies that require ablative and reconstructive surgery. He has significantly influenced this practice on an international basis, particularly through his expertise in the use of microvascular techniques in reconstruction.

Among his major contributions to the field, Dr. Deschler established new protocols for preventing complications like thrombosis following head and neck free flap reconstruction. His primary research focuses on the utilization of different anti-thrombosis medications to prevent failure of microvascular free tissue transfer reconstruction. He has also greatly improved the outcomes of voice restoration following removal of the voice box for laryngeal cancer.
The Department of Otology and Laryngology of Harvard Medical School’s class of 2011 graduated in a June 24th ceremony at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Theodoros N. Teknos, MD, Chair of Head and Neck Oncology Surgery at Ohio State University and alumnus of the program, delivered the graduation address.

As part of the ceremony, a handful of residents and faculty were awarded for their work in the program: Paul M. Konowitz, MD, received the Montgomery Teaching Award, an honor bestowed upon a member of the faculty, as voted on by the residents. Kiran Kakarala, MD, received the Chief Resident Teaching Award. Amanda Silver, MD, and mentor Chris Hartnick, MD, were awarded the Jeffrey Harris Research Prize. As part of the Resident Poster Session, Harrison Lin, MD, won 1st prize and Linda Lee, MD, won 2nd prize.

Residents:

Kiran Kakarala
Medical School: Harvard Medical School
Internship: Massachusetts General Hospital
Future Plans: Head and Neck Fellowship, Ohio State University

Amanda Silver
Medical School: Loyola University of Chicago
Internship: Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Future Plans: The New York Otolaryngology Group (Private Practice)

Kalpesh Vakharia
Medical School: University of California at San Francisco
Internship: Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Future Plans: Microvascular Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic

Fellows:

Pictured above, from left to right: Heather Nardone, MD, Douglas Johnston, MD, and Margo Benoit, MD.

Margo Benoit
Medical School: University at Buffalo
Internship: Brigham & Women’s Hospital
Residency: Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
Future Plans: University of Rochester Medical Center

Douglas Johnston
Medical School: Temple University
Internship: Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Residency: Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Future Plans: Nemours Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children

Heather Nardone
Medical School: University of Pennsylvania
Internship: University of Pennsylvania
Residency: University of Pennsylvania
Future Plans: Hackensack University Medical Center
Meet the New Professors | continued from page 13

In addition to his clinical and research contributions, Dr. Deschler is involved on a daily basis in teaching medical students, residents, and fellows. He is Director of the clinical fellowship in Head and Neck Microvascular Surgery, and as Director of the Head and Neck Surgery division, he has close oversight over a large single group of residents at the hospital. In 2004 he was awarded the William W. Montgomery Award for excellence in teaching, an honor bestowed by residents in our program.

Dr. Hartnick first joined the Department in 2001. He attended the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in New York, completed his residency training at Montefiore Medical Center, and then pursued fellowship training in pediatric otolaryngology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. He was recently appointed Director of the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Hartnick has an international reputation for his clinical expertise and innovation in the area of pediatric otolaryngology and, in particular, pediatric airway disorders. In 2004, he created and currently serves as Co-Director of the Pediatric Airway, Voice, and Swallowing Center at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Massachusetts General Hospital. Under his leadership, the Center continues to thrive and expand, providing an integrated approach to the care of children with aerodigestive disorders.

As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Hartnick has taken his clinical interests in pediatric airway disorders and applied them towards valuable research initiatives. He was awarded an R01 grant from the NIDCD in 2010 and now serves as principal investigator for his project entitled “Randomized Controlled Trial of Voice Therapy on Children with Vocal Nodules.”

In addition to his clinical expertise and research initiatives, Dr. Hartnick is a committed and able educator. He founded and directs an ACGME approved clinical fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He is also a member and contributor to major professional societies related to pediatric otolaryngology. He is involved on a daily basis with the clinical training of residents and clinical fellows in otolaryngology. He has been invited to lecture for international audiences on his contributions to airway evaluation and management in children.
The following are updates from alumni of the Harvard Medical School Residency Program in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery:

2007 Ritvik Mehta, MD, received the “Doctor of the Year Award” by the Solo and Small Group Practice Forum at the CMA Annual House of Delegates meeting in Anaheim, CA.

2004 Carlos Ayala, MD, FACS, serves as the only ENT surgeon specializing in facial plastic surgery in the country of Afghanistan.

2003 Mike Nayak, MD, received the Robert F. Jackson, MD award for achieving the highest score on the oral component and the William K. Miles, MD award for achieving the highest score on the written component of the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery 2010 annual examination. He also co-chaired the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting.


1994 Jay Rubinstein, MD, PhD, is developing a new implant device with his University of Washington colleagues that aims to restore a patient’s balance during attacks of Meniere’s disease.

1986 John Krouse, MD, PhD, was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Temple University School of Medicine in July 2009.

1979 Jeffrey Harris, MD, PhD, FACS, was promoted to Distinguished Professor of Surgery/Otolaryngology at the University of California, San Diego.

1977 Michael Zoller, MD, FACS, received the Lester Brown Lifetime Achievement Award from Georgia Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the C.D. Taylor Award for service to the medical community from Tulane Medical Alumni Society.

1975 Robert Sofferman, MD, FACS, was recently appointed Emeritus Professor of Surgery at University of Vermont School of Medicine. He also authored Thyroid and Parathyroid Ultrasound (Springer, New York Dec. 2011).

Please keep us apprised of your latest accomplishments by submitting news to:
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Plans are underway to create a state-of-the-art Otolaryngology (ORL) Surgical Training Laboratory to advance instruction capabilities in nearly every sub-specialty of otolaryngology:

- Skull Base Surgery
- General ORL
- Head & Neck Surgery
- Laser Surgery
- Otology and Neurotology
- Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Sinus Surgery
- Laryngology
- Pediatric ORL

The Laboratory will feature a proctor station and 12 individual teaching stations, each equipped with:

- Video Monitoring
- Surgical microscopes, drills and other instruments
- DVD training videos
- Teleconferencing facilities will enable live broadcast to conference rooms within the hospital to physicians around the globe.

To complete this project, we must raise $1 million from physicians, patients and friends. We invite you to join us in giving generously.

A gift of $50,000 may name one of the 12 surgical teaching stations; a gift of $200,000 may name the Proctor’s Station and a gift of $500,000 may name the Laboratory. All gifts of $5,000 or more will be recognized on a plaque to be permanently hung within the Laboratory.

For more information, please contact the Infirmary’s Development Office at 617-573-3345.