New Decade and New Directions

As 2010 draws to a close, we reflect on many achievements the ENT department has accomplished in the last decade.

- Dr. Barbara Heywood joined the department to oversee the resident program. Clarkson West ENT clinic location opened. Dr. Yonkers celebrated 30 years at UNMC. (2000)
- Rhinology – Chemosensory fellowship established by Dr. Donald Leopold. Drs. Gary and Iris Moore established funding of “Iris & Gary Moore Student Awards.” Dr. William Alan Ingram joined the department specializing in otolaryngic allergy. (2001)
- OFP/Dental Oncology clinic expansion completed. Dr. Alan Richard became a full time ENT faculty member. (2002)
- Division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology is formed. (2004)
- Dr. Barbara Heywood was a recipient of the UNMC Outstanding Teaching Award. Dr. Moore celebrated 25 years with the department. (2005)
- Residency Program earned full accreditation. (2006)
- “Saving Faces” Exhibit debuted. Dr. Russell B. Smith and Dr. Oleg Militsakh joined the Head & Neck Surgical Oncology faculty. (2007)
- ENT department celebrated 40 years at UNMC. Dr. Bill Lydiatt was named UNMC Outstanding Teacher. Dr. Jeff Markt joined the OFP/Dental Oncology Faculty. Dr. Alvin Wee and Dr. Oleg Militsakh were recognized at UNeMed Research Innovation. Residents received second place in the AOA-HNS academic bowl. (2008)
- The ENT/ENT Allergy Clinic moved from Clarkson West to Village Pointe and significantly expanded. Alumni Give Back Fund was established at UN Foundation. Dr. Bill Lydiatt was recognized by UNeMed with a New Invention Notification (NIN) and received Clinical Excellence Award. (2009)

As we look back at the many successes the ENT department has had over the last decade, we must also look forward to the next 10 years and prepare for the new achievements and honors to come. This issue of The Scope recognizes some of the many accomplishments in 2010 and also previews new changes for the ENT department.
Chairman’s Letter

Being a Chair is All About the People

When I began as the chair of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, I knew that relationships with people would be important. The many strong Nebraskans with whom I have worked resoundingly reinforced this understanding.

I have been privileged to be part of happy and sad events in many people’s lives, and these moments are dear to me. I remember the new babies, the operations, the family tragedies and the children’s antics. The task of educating residents and medical students is one of our major “jobs,” and the amazing young people whose lives our faculty and I have touched are passing on this human tradition of caring.

Frankly, I will not miss the many meetings, and the countless forms needed to make a department function, but I am thankful that I have had the opportunity to interact with so many warm and helpful people. As I continue in the role of a professor in rhinology, I am looking forward to continuing the strong relationships that have been developed with our faculty, residents, staff and our patients.

Best Regards,

Donald A. Leopold, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Former Chair, Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

Dr. Donald Leopold Steps Down and Dr. Dan Lydiatt Named Interim Chair

After 11 years serving as chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Donald Leopold, M.D., F.A.C.S., has stepped down.

On Sept. 1, 2010, Dr. Lydiatt, accepted the position of interim chairman.

Dan Lydiatt, D.D.S., M.D., F.A.C.S, has been a member of the department for 22 years and is a professor of Otolaryngology in the division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology. Dr. Lydiatt has served as medical director for the Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center for the past 12 years. As a UNMC alum, Dr. Lydiatt has always had a deep respect and loyalty to the UNMC College of Medicine.

As interim chairman, Dr. Lydiatt has several goals he hopes to accomplish:

1. Recruit additional faculty, such as a second head and neck oncologist with microvascular capabilities and a laryngologist.
2. Expand the pediatric otolaryngology division.
3. Establish a group of community otolaryngologists to add to the educational experience.
4. Continue to provide enhanced clinical, education and research opportunities for students and residents using his position at the Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center.

During his 11 years as chairman, Dr. Leopold has made significant contributions to the success of the department.
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During his 11 years as chairman, Dr. Leopold has made significant contributions to the success of the department. The number of applicants for the department’s two residency slots has more than doubled. The residency program has earned a five-year residency accreditation and a near 100 percent first-time pass rate on the board certification exam. In addition, research funding reached a record high.

Dr. Leopold has made the department financially sound by growing the clinical enterprise by 85 percent, specifically in the areas of rhinology, ENT allergy, and head and neck surgical oncology. Under Dr. Leopold’s leadership, the department has established fellowships in head and neck surgical oncology and rhinology/chemical senses.

Dr. Leopold will continue to serve as professor in the department and will focus his attention on patient care, resident education and research in rhinology/chemical senses.
Residents and Fellows

First Year Residents

On Match Day, March 18, 2010, the ENT department was excited to learn that Jonathan Hatch, M.D., and Jordan Schramm, M.D., would be a part of the residency program.

Drs. Hatch and Schramm began residency training on July 1, 2010. Dr. Hatch was a medical student from Creighton University in Omaha. Dr. Hatch rotated through the department in August 2009. He completed his undergraduate training at the Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biology. He was the president of the Multicultural Mentoring Program of Medicine and was selected to be inducted into the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

Dr. Schramm was a medical student at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, N.Y. Dr. Schramm completed his undergraduate training at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in music and was recognized on the national dean’s list and honors society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Chief’s Corner

By Jeffrey Schmidt, M.D., (left) and Joshua Espelund, M.D.

The residents have been productive over the last academic year and plan on keeping the momentum going into the next academic year. Highlights over the last year have included numerous poster and paper publications that have been supported by the Alumni Give Back Fund.

Dr. Joshua Espelund led a presentation on risk stratification based on ASA score for surgical resection of squamous cell carcinoma of the posterior pharyngeal wall at the regional Head and Neck Symposium in Kansas City. Dr. Terah Allis reviewed a case series on the role of oral lichen planus in the genesis of squamous cell carcinoma at COSM in Las Vegas. Dr. Katherine Johnson presented laryngeal manifestations of genetic syndromes at the annual meeting for American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in Boston.

We recently completed our Resident Research Symposium where residents presented their latest research. Projects varied from transitional research on flaps in rats to outcomes study on our tonsillectomy patients. We hope that such sessions inspire further research with resulting publications that impact our specialty, not only at our institution but also at the national level.

The trend in recent past continues, as one of the graduating residents this year will be pursuing a fellowship. Dr. Jeffrey Schmidt will be moving to Gulf Shores, Ala. to complete a one-year fellowship in facial plastic surgery with Dr. Gaylon McCollough. Dr. Espelund will be moving to Okoboji, Iowa to pursue a career in private practice otolaryngology.

We would like to offer a very special thanks to the Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology. We are very grateful for its continuous contributions to our residency program over the years. Academy donations allowed the purchase of numerous textbooks that have significantly expanded our library. This year, funds were used for the acquisition of a radiographic viewing monitor for our ENT clinic. This tool will be a valuable asset in the care of our patients for many years to come.
Dr. Robert Lindau joined our Head & Neck Surgical Oncology fellowship program on July 1, 2010, from Creighton University Medical Center. Dr. Lindau is a summa cum laude graduate from Marquette University, Milwaukee. He attended Medical College of Wisconsin, graduating in the top 30 percent of his class. Dr. Lindau completed a residency in general surgery at Creighton University.

“It has been an honor for me to be the first Head & Neck Fellow at UNMC,” Dr. Lindau said. “I am appreciative of the support I have received, as well as the interest in the quality of my education that every member of the department has demonstrated. It has given me the opportunity to work with national leaders in this rapidly changing field. After completing my first three months, I will have assisted in performing more than 100 operations. This is a true testimony of the surgical volume we see here at UNMC.”

Dr. Marcia Eustaquio is the second Head & Neck Surgical Oncology Fellow in our program, joining us July 1, 2011. Dr. Eustaquio will work closely with the Division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology faculty and will have an important role in treatment planning. She will also be responsible for the daily activities of treatment planning and will supervise residents and medical students to ensure excellent patient care and a quality educational experience.

Dr. Eustaquio completed her residency at the University of Colorado, Department of Otolaryngology. She was a medical student (at Rosalind Franklin University, The Chicago Medical School in North Chicago) where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha in 2005. She completed her undergraduate training at Occidental College, Los Angeles and earned a Bachelor of Arts in biochemistry.

The Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Fellowship applications for the 2012-13 positions are available. The fellowship is designed to offer a comprehensive clinical experience in multidisciplinary care of head and neck cancer patients and to develop surgical expertise in ablative and reconstructive procedures.

If you would like more information regarding this fellowship, please contact:

Russell B. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
981225 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-1225
ent@unmc.edu

Every spring the department hosts Mini Boards for the residents. The residents are given four cases to read. They are asked to review the case history and photos and then diagnose. This exercise is intended to serve as a “mock board” exam in efforts to prepare residents for Boards.

Standing, from left: Dr. Samuel Medaris, Dr. Anthony Yonkers, Dr. Iris Moore, Dr. Salvatore Zieno, Dr. Donald Leopold, Dr. Trent Quinlan, Dr. Steven Denenberg, Dr. Joshua Espelund, Dr. Michael Ferris; Dr. David Chait, Dr. Samuel Pate, Dr. Adam Pleas, Dr. Paul Sherrer, Dr. Ashley Robey.

Sitting, from left: Dr. Jeffrey Schmidt, Dr. Terah Allis, Dr. Katherine Johnson, Dr. Lindsey Klocke.
Research and Education

Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Research Program

The Head and Neck Surgical Oncology division has been involved in a multitude of research activities in 2010. Dr. Bill Lydiatt’s research program related to depression in people with head and neck cancer continues to enroll patients. The pilot study suggested depression could be prevented using prophylactic antidepressant therapy (Archives Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery 2008 May(5):528-35).

A larger National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) sponsored randomized and placebo controlled trial is now underway at The Nebraska Medical Center and Methodist Hospital in collaboration with Dr. William Burke, UNMC Department of Psychiatry. One hundred sixteen subjects have been accrued with a target of approximately 164. This represents the largest population of head and neck cancer patients enrolled in a depression-related study. We are very excited about what we will learn from this important and ground-breaking trial.

The Thyroid Tumor and Cancer Collaborative Registry (TCCR) has also achieved great success in the past two years. More than 200 patients have been recruited at the Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Clinic. Through collaboration with the Diabetes Endocrinology and Metabolism Department, more than 800 patients have been recruited into TCCR to date.

In September 2010, the Nebraska Methodist Hospital joined the TCCR as a participating center. TCCR is moving forward with its mission to unite participating centers with expertise in thyroid tumor epidemiology, genetics, biology, early detection and patient care. This collaboration will facilitate the rapid and uniform collection of critical information and biological samples to be used in developing prevention, detection and treatment strategies against thyroid cancer.

The Midwest Head and Neck Cancer Consortium (MWHNCC) Multi-Institutional Parathyroid Registry is one of our most recently opened studies that started accrual in June 2010. This registry has been developed as a multi-institutional program that will include six Head and Neck programs in the Midwest. This registry will focus on the impact of pre-operative imaging and intra-operative techniques on the surgical outcomes of patients with primary hyper-parathyroidism.

The Treatment of Advanced Laryngeal Cancer Study (TALC), a multi-institutional study sponsored by the AAO-HNS and AHNS, also recently opened. The goals of this observational study are to identify differences in function following surgical vs. non-surgical therapy in patients with advanced laryngeal and hypopharyngeal cancers. Post-treatment swallowing function as well as quality of life are the major endpoints being evaluated.

There are two industry-sponsored trials that are actively accruing patients. Lymphoseek® (a novel radiotracer) is currently in the phase III investigation for sentinel lymph node biopsy in Head and Neck oral cavity and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. In addition to this trial, a phase I dose escalation trial has been opened. This trial involves intra-tumoral injection of HF10 (a clone of Herpes Simplex Virus-1 strain) in patients with refractory Head and Neck squamous cell carcinoma.

The other major research programs in 2011 will include a quality of life program, as well as an observational trial of outcomes for patients with Unknown Primary Cancer of the Head and Neck as a part of the MWHNCC.
Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology

The 2010 Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology annual meeting was held at The Sutter’s Deli in Grand Island, Neb. The meeting accommodated 15 physicians and three guests traveling from several regions of Nebraska. The slate of officers elected was: Dr. Britt Thedinger, president; Dr. Dave Denman, secretary; and Dr. Barbara Heywood, treasurer.

The evening program included Dr. Richard Fruehling discussing Medicine in Nebraska in the 1800s. “Dr. Fruehling is extremely knowledgeable of the history of medicine in Nebraska,” Dr. Anthony Yonkers stated. “He explained many procedures done in the past and how it is different today.”

Head and Neck Cancer Symposium

The Head and Neck Division sponsored its fifth Head and Neck Cancer Symposium on May 14, 2010. The symposium included guest speaker Jatin P. Shah, M.D., representing the head and neck surgical oncology department at Memorial Sloan Kettering HNS in New York.

“We were very fortunate to host one of the most renowned head and neck surgeons in the world, Dr. Jatin Shah. Dr. Shah presented lectures on thyroid cancer and laryngeal cancer and led discussions on cases presented by the residents. He was most impressed with our program and sent a letter to us indicating he felt our program rivaled any in the country,” said Dr. Bill Lydiatt.

Radiology Monitor Donation

The Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology donated a 50-inch radiology monitor in November 2010 to the Durham Outpatient Center (DOC) ENT/ ENT Allergy and Audiology clinic.

“It is a great teaching tool,” Dr. Barbara Heywood, ENT residency director, said. “Instead of using a small computer screen to review radiographic results, residents and students can use the new monitor.”

Both computed tomographies (CTs) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be viewed at the same time on the 50-inch screen. The monitor has been placed in the resident/staff dictation room in the ENT/ENT Allergy and Audiology clinic on the 2nd floor of the DOC.

Grant to Help Link Gum Disease with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Nearly three million people a year develop rheumatoid arthritis, while 35 percent of adults in the U.S. have periodontitis.

Two investigators at UNMC, Ted Mikuls, M.D., and Jeff Payne, D.D.S., have joined forces to investigate this link. They are co-investigators on a $1.2 million grant funded by the American College of Rheumatology. Jeffery C. Markt, D.D.S., of Oral Facial and Prosthetics is playing a significant role by collecting clinical data.

The focus of the study is on P. gingivalis, a bacteria that gets under the gum line and secretes an enzyme that destroys the bone. It also produces a protein that is found in the stiff, aching joints of people with rheumatoid arthritis.

“Our group’s findings could shed light on the potential link between oral microbial flora and rheumatic disease,” Dr. Markt said. “It’s exciting to be involved in this protocol.”
The Resident Research Forum was held at the Field Club of Omaha on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010. The event was attended by our faculty, residents and two judges: Richard Hallworth, Ph.D. from Creighton University and Andrew Gaut, M.D., from Jennie Edmundson Hospital. The residents gave a 20 minute oral presentation followed by a question and answer period on their research projects during the year.

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The invited judges selected the winners of the resident research forum. The first place prize of a $500 gift certificate to be used for the purchase of educational books was awarded to Dr. Jeffrey Schmidt. Second place prize of $300 was awarded to Dr. Lindsey Klocke. Donations to the resident Alumni Give Back Fund Foundation accounts were used to fund these awards.
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The Head and Neck Surgical Oncology division continues to participate in the educational and research activities of the Midwest Head and Neck Cancer Consortium. Dr. Russell Smith is the primary investigator for the first multi-institutional protocol from the group. This protocol focuses on parathyroid disease with the goal of the registry to answer a multitude of clinical questions concerning pre-operative imaging, use of intra-op PTH assay, as well as the outcome of patients who do not have successful pre-operative localization. A second protocol that focuses on the Unknown Primary of the Head and Neck is in the works to open in 2011. This year’s annual meeting will be hosted by the University of Minnesota in April.

**Dr. Lydiatt Participates in the UNMC High School Alliance**

**Bill Lydiatt, M.D.**, has taken on a new challenge. Already a soldier in the fight against head and neck cancer and an ardent proponent of mixing the arts and humanities with medical education, the doctor now teaches high school! Well, sort of.

Dr. Lydiatt teaches a course called Medical Decision Making to 36 teenagers who take classes at the University of Nebraska Medical Center as part of the UNMC High School Alliance. This is the first year for the Alliance – a partnership between UNMC, eight metropolitan area school districts and an educational service unit.

Below, in a question and answer format, Dr. Lydiatt talks about the course, the Alliance and the difference between teaching high school and medical students.

**Q: What topics will you cover in your course, Medical Decision Making?**

**A:** “We will discuss how healthcare decisions are made from multiple perspectives including the patient, care givers, family and society. Using clinical examples as well as literature, movies and art, we’ll see: How people in similar situations reach different conclusions, how data is collected to help health care professionals make decisions, and how decisions are made in clinical situations.”

**Q: Why did you participate in the Alliance?**

**A:** “I feel very strongly that an informed patient is the best solution to some of our most pressing problems in health care. Educating students at a young age will help them to better appreciate the difficulties they and their friends and family may have as they move through the healthcare system. Also, I hope that some of the students will learn if they are suited for a career in health care.”

**Q: What do you look forward to in terms of working with high school students?**

**A:** “Enthusiasm, critical questions and helping them gain a better understanding of what they are thinking with respect to healthcare decision making.”

**Q: How do you think teaching high school students will differ from the medical students you usually teach?**

**A:** “They will likely come with a broader set of interests. They will not be as educated or as mature but I expect will make up for that with enthusiasm and wonder.”

**Midwest Head and Neck Consortium**

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Clinic News

Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Screening

Each year the Division of Head & Neck Surgical Oncology provides two free screening evaluations in the Omaha metro area.

“With the economic downturn entering its third year, people are saving money where they can. Unfortunately that often means neglecting screening for common cancers. The head and neck cancer screening offers folks an opportunity to obtain a free assessment. Now more than ever, people seem to appreciate this service,” Dr. Bill Lydiatt said.

The Head and Neck Cancer Screening will be held in April 2011. Please contact Jean Palmer at (402) 559-7775 or jpalmer@unmc.edu for further information.

Welcome New Providers

Anil Arora, M.D., will be joining the Otolaryngology department effective Jan. 1, 2011. Dr. Arora will be practicing general ENT, pediatric ENT and sleep apnea surgery.

Dr. Arora completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees as well as his residency training from Ravindra Nath Tagore Medical College in Udaipur, India. He then traveled to the U.S. to complete three different fellowships programs: Sleep Apnea Surgery in New York, Pediatric Otolaryngology in Pittsburgh and Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery in New York. Dr. Arora has been an attending physician at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon, Ill., in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery department since September 2008.

The ENT department is excited that Ryan Sewell, M.D., has joined the Otolaryngology department as a part-time faculty member.

Dr. Sewell specializes in pediatric ENT at the UNMC location.

Dr. Sewell received his Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Iowa. He then graduated in 2004 from both the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and the University of Iowa College of Law in Iowa City obtaining his M.D. and J.D.

After completing his residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, in June 2009, he was awarded a prestigious fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at Children’s Hospital Boston.

Durham Outpatient Center Renovation

June 2010 was the completion date for renovations to the Durham Outpatient Center (DOC). The $2.5 million project officially began on Aug. 2, 2009.

Visitors to the clinics on levels 2, 3 and 5 in the DOC were greeted with new carpet and wall treatments in exam rooms and waiting areas. Over 46,000 square feet of the DOC underwent construction, including ENT/ENT Allergy and Audiology and Facial Prosthetic. The clinics also had all furniture replaced or recovered in fiscal year 2008-09.

The clinics are budgeted to receive new artwork in fiscal year 2010-11. Until this past year, the ENT department, as well as the various other clinics, hadn’t seen major renovations since the opening of the DOC, 15 years ago.
Yogi Berra once said, “You can observe a lot by watching.” Dr. John Snow, after careful observation in 1854, effected the removal of the Broad Street pump handle in the Soho neighborhood of London, stopping the cholera epidemic. Dr. Snow was reportedly more of an advocate of germ theory. Vibrio cholera’s identity has been ascribed to Robert Koch in 1883; however, it seems that Filippo Pacini (of “Pacinian corpuscle” fame) first identified it in 1854. The 70 men who worked in the brewery near the Broad Street pump did not become ill. They were allowed to drink some of the profits of their labor and thus did not drink water from the pump. The principle of “avoidance” as a therapeutic intervention was shown.

In 1788, during a smallpox epidemic, Dr. Edward Jenner observed that people working with cattle (such as milkmaids) contracted cowpox but did not become ill with smallpox. In 1796, Dr. Jenner took some liquid from the cowpox sores of milkmaid Sarah Nehmes and inoculated James Phipps, a farmer’s son, with the same. He became ill with cowpox. Dr. Jenner inoculated James with liquid from smallpox sores six weeks later. James did not become ill. Dr. Jenner accumulated more cases and published his findings in 1798. He introduced his technique as “vaccination” (vacca< Latin, cow).

Two French physicians, Charles Richet and Paul Portier, coined the term, “anaphylaxis” in 1902. Meaning “without or against protection,” it is the maximal variant of an acute allergic reaction. This was an unlooked-for event in their studies of the effect of toxins from Portuguese man-of-war (stinging jellyfish) and sea anemones injected into dogs. The work resulted in the award of the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1913 for Dr. Richet. This was an important idea for those physicians engaged in serum (ant-poison) therapies and those endeavoring to understand the burgeoning field of “allergy,” a term coined by Dr. Von Pirquet in 1905 (allos: <Greek, other = ergon: <Greek, work).

Allergy immunotherapy is the use of biologic agents to induce environmental tolerance. Most of us are used to subcutaneous immunotherapy (SCIT) where we receive injections once weekly at the physician’s office. Another common method used is sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT), where drops of antigens are placed under the tongue. This occurs daily rather than weekly at home. Even though it has been used for over 100 years and is endorsed by the World Health Organization and is used extensively in Europe, SLIT is not approved by the FDA and so must be categorized in this country as an “off-label use.” The safety and efficacy are well-established. In fact, SLIT is safer than SCIT. The effect on the immune system appears to be similar if not identical and SLIT may be used in the home after day one.

Whether SLIT or SCIT is used, similar immunologic changes occur; there is a decrease in seasonal rise of IgE; there is a decrease in total IgE of specific antigens; there is an increase in blocking IgG antibodies; there is a reduction in eosinophils and eosinophil chemotactic factors; there is a reduction in basophil histamine release; and decrease in TH2 with increase of TH1 cells (with appropriate changes in their cytokine profiles).

This year the Audiology team implemented our first hearing aid open house on May 6–7, 2010. The event was attended by more than 50 people from the Omaha area.

Representatives from the hearing aid manufacturers Oticon and Phonak donated their time and expertise to discuss hearing loss while demonstrating the new hearing aid technology that is now available.

We also have added three different sets of receivers in the canal (RITE) digital hearing aids in order to provide in-office hearing aid demonstrations for appropriate candidates. They range from the Oticon, Epoq XW to the Phonak, Audeo Smart IX. Based on testing, the audiology personnel can determine a hearing aid candidate and offer an appropriate demonstration.

In addition to the sets of receivers, we now have the ability to provide a demonstration with the ConnectLine TV for use with Oticon hearing aids for those individuals having difficulties understanding television or their cell phones.

We are excited about providing a continued education on hearing aid technology. On Oct. 28, 2010, Lynn Reese, Doctor of Audiology, presented at the ENT grand rounds regarding the current management of tinnitus.

With the upcoming year, Audiology looks forward to offering our second annual open house and other opportunities to demonstrate advancements in hearing care.
First Robotic Surgery in ENT

Recently, the FDA approved the use of robotic surgical techniques for a variety of operations. The Nebraska Medical Center was the first hospital in Nebraska to begin offering this surgery for oral tumors.

“This new technique allows us to offer cutting edge options to patients for different types of cancers,” Dr. Russell Smith said.

Cancerous tumors that are in the oral pharynx, or in the upper part of the larynx or voice box, are easily found using robotic surgery techniques.

“The robot allows us to get to places that we may have not been able to get to before without doing a very invasive operation,” Dr. Smith said.

This approach can potentially save the patient from undergoing a more complicated open surgery that comes with a much longer hospital stay and longer list of potential complications.

In 2011, there are plans to continue to expand the research activities within the Head and Neck Surgery Division. A prospective patient registry will be opened to collect outcomes data on patients undergoing Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS) for upper aerodigestive tract tumors.

Richards Helps in Haiti

A major earthquake with a magnitude 7.0 struck southern Haiti Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, knocking down buildings and power lines, taking more than 200,000 lives and injuring over 300,000.

Two groups of health professionals from University of Nebraska Medical Center traveled to Haiti to provide aid for the injured and suffering, including one of our very own Alan Richards, M.D., associate professor. While there for the earthquake volunteer efforts, Dr. Richards identified a 16-year-old Haitian girl with a massive tumor in her mouth who needed a life-saving treatment.

The tumor had grown in the girl’s upper jaw for several months, but in Haiti, she had no access to the care she needed. Dr. Richards concluded that the tumor would quickly take the girl’s life unless she received treatment that was not available in Haiti. This information was passed on to U.S. hospitals and mid-February the girl and her mother were sent to a hospital in Florida where she was treated.

“It just so happened that her tumor was exactly the kind that I treat here at UNMC,” Dr. Richards said.
Awards and Recognition

Yonkers Celebrates 40 Years at UNMC

Anthony Yonkers, M.D., was recognized in April 2010 at an Annual Faculty Meeting as one of the few physicians at the University of Nebraska Medical Center who has reached a milestone of 40 years of service.

During the meeting Dr. Yonkers was asked about what has kept him engaged at UNMC. He responded, “The opportunities provided by UNMC and the Department of Otolaryngology have made my professional life challenging and enjoyable. The people are the finest and it is rewarding to train new residents.”

Dr. Yonkers graduated from the University of Michigan and served a rotating internship and a year of General Surgery at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. He then took his residency in Otolaryngology at Barnes Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Yonkers joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in July 1970, becoming chairman and director of the residency program in 1974 and full professor in 1978.

Aside from general ear, nose and throat disorders, Dr. Yonkers’ areas of interest are in sleep apnea and flight physicals. He is a former member of the United States Air Force Reserve and a flying enthusiast.

Pictures that Say Thousands of Words about Healthcare

Between 2006 and 2008, UNMC’s Virginia Aita, Ph.D., and Bill Lydiatt, M.D., led a unique art project between patients and caregivers. During the project, which was featured on the cover of the British Medical Journal in 2010, Scottish artist Mark Gilbert drew or painted 100 portraits of 26 patients and 20 caregivers to illustrate the powerful relationship that exists between them.

“We found that there is a strong reciprocal relationship between caregivers and patients, and we found that roles can frequently interchange,” Dr. Lydiatt said. “The fluidity between care giving and receiving was one of the most striking findings. We also heard about the stress of care giving from the lay and professional staff.”

Artist Mark Gilbert paints a portrait of Robin and Mardi Denell.
2010 Awards and Presentations

Faculty

Barbara M. Heywood, M.D.
Late Winter Symposium workshops: Cultural Competency, Life Long Learning, Quality Improvement and Residents as Teachers. March 15, 2010, Silverthorne CO.

Ring, J. Heywood, BM, “Integrating Teaching of ACGME Competencies with Teaching of Cultural Competence,” ACGME Annual meeting, March 6, 2010, Nashville, TN.

Donald A. Leopold, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Robert H. Lindau III, M.D.
Pending approval: “The Role of Diagnostic Laparoscopy in Staging and Follow up of Pseudo Myxoma Pertoni.”

“Giant Brachial Plexus Schwannoma,” pending publication.

Daniel D. Lydiatt, D.D.S., M.D., F.A.C.S.
Lydiatt, DD, Bucher, GS, “Historical Vignettes of the Thyroid Gland.” Clinical Anatomy. Accepted September 2010.

“Historical Perspectives of the Anatomy of the Larynx,” Presentation at Fifth Head & Neck Cancer Symposium, Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center, Omaha, NE, May 2010.


William M. Lydiatt, M.D., F.A.C.S.

“Penetrating Injuries of the Neck” in Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic Surgery, eMedicine, 2010.

“Glottic Cancer” in Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic Surgery, eMedicine, 2010.


“Pain and Symptom Management.” Connect Workshop with CancerCare, April 16, 2010.


“Key Questions in Making Treatment Decisions.” Connect Workshop with CancerCare, April 16, 2010.

Oleg N. Militsakh, M.D.

Militsakh, ON, Invited Lecturer, 22nd Annual Fall Foliage Cancer Conference, Asheville, NC. October 2010.


Gary F. Moore, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Alan T. Richards, M.D., F.A.C.S.
“Pathology Encountered during Transnasal Upper GI Endoscopy.” Eighth Annual Esophageal Conference, Omaha, NE, October 2010.

“Anatomy of the Nose, Pharynx, Larynx, Esophagus and Stomach during Transnasal Endoscopy.” Eighth Annual Esophageal Conference, Omaha, NE, October 2010.

“Head and Neck Cancer Case Presentations.” Fifth Head and Neck Cancer Symposium, Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center Omaha, NE, May 2010.

Russell B. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S.

“Minimally invasive radioguided parathyroidectomy performed for primary hyperparathyroidism.” Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery 2010;142(3):462.


Alvin G. Wee, D.D.S., MS, MPH


“Clinical Strategies to Improve Color Matching for Dental Materials,” College of Dentistry, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Lincoln, NE, Aug. 26, 2010.


“Clinical Strategies to Improve Color Matching for Dental Materials,” College of Dentistry, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Lincoln, NE, Aug. 26, 2010.


“Upper Aerodigestive Tract Endoscopy,” UNMC Nurse’s In-service. Omaha, NE, February 2010.


“Post Head and Neck Cancer Treatment Care,” Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer (SPOHNC), Omaha, NE, Jan. 14, 2010.


Anthony J. Yonkers, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Presentation on “Aeromedical Otolaryngology,” FAA Examiners Seminars, Oklahoma City, OK, November 2010.

Presentation on “Bird Talk” at Grand Rounds, Omaha, NE May 2010.

Presenter for FAA Examiners Seminars, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 2010.

Residents

Terah J. Allis, M.D.

Katherine I. Johnson, M.D.

Samuel Pate, M.D.
Poster Presentation, April 28 – May 2, 2010, COSM, Las Vegas, NV, “Quality Care Measures in Oral Cavity Cancer.”

Jeffrey L. Schmidt, M.D.
Faculty and Fellow

Barbara M. Heywood, M.D.
Associate Professor
Medical School: University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska
Interests: General ENT, Swallowing

W. Alan Ingram, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Medical School: University of Health Sciences The Chicago Medical School, Chicago, Illinois
Interests: Allergy, General ENT

Donald A. Leopold, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor
Medical School: Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Interests: Nasal, Sinus and Sense of Smell

Robert Lindau III, M.D.
Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Fellow
Medical School: Medical School of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery

Daniel D. Lydiatt, D.D.S., M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor and Interim Chairman
Medical School: University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska
Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery

William M. Lydiatt, M.D.
Professor
Medical School: University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska
Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery

Jeffery C. Markt, D.D.S.
Associate Professor
Medical School: University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri
Interests: Oral Facial Prosthetics/Dental Oncology

Oleg L. Militsakh, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Medical School: University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Kentucky
Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery

Gary F. Moore, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor
Medical School: University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska
Interests: Otology/Neurotology, Facial Nerve Disorders, Skull Base Surgery

Alan T. Richards, M.D.
Associate Professor
Medical School: University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery

W. Alan Ingram, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Medical School: University of Health Sciences The Chicago Medical School, Chicago, Illinois
Interests: Allergy, General ENT

Gary F. Moore, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor
Medical School: University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska
Interests: Otology/Neurotology, Facial Nerve Disorders, Skull Base Surgery

Russell B. Smith, M.D. F.A.C.S.
Associate Professor
Medical School: University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri
Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery

Alvin G. Wee, D.D.S.
Associate Professor
Medical School: National University of Singapore, Republic of Singapore
Interests: Oral Facial Prosthetics/Dental Oncology

Anthony J. Yonkers, M.D. F.A.C.S.
Professor
Medical School: University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Interests: General ENT, Sleep Apnea, FAA Physicals

Robert Lindau III, M.D.
Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Fellow
Medical School: Medical School of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery
Resident Training Fund Support Needed

As practicing physicians, you realize that it all begins with a great medical education program, from the first year through residency and fellowship training opportunities. With your help, the Alumni Give Back Fund will provide much-needed funds to enable our ENT Department to provide the very best in residency programs. In advance, the residents thank you for your consideration of how you can help make this fund a valued resource to the ENT Department and countless residents who will benefit from your generosity.

Please contact Betsy Berentson, Director of Development, UNMC – College of Medicine with any questions or interests of how you can help at BBerentson@NUFoundation.org or (402) 502-4115.
Clinic Contact Information:

- Head & Neck Surgical Oncology: (402) 559-6500
- ENT and ENT Allergy at Village Pointe: (402) 596-4615
- ENT, ENT Allergy and Audiology at UNMC: (402) 559-5208
- Oral Facial Prosthetics/Dental Oncology: (402) 559-9200