

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

In this 40th year of our Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, we have had the opportunity to reflect on the many successes of our department. At our recent October celebration, we enjoyed hearing about our early years from **Dr. Anthony Yonkers** and other faculty and alums. My comments at this event gave a good summary of our department over the past decade and plans for the future. I will share some of those comments with you in this issue of *The Scope*.

I am thankful to everyone who has preceded me at UNMC for establishing such a strong department. Over the past decade we have had impressive, but manageable growth. Additional surgeons, instructors and assistants have brought our professional staff to almost 20 individuals. The number of departmental support staff has doubled to about two dozen. We also now have three research techs and six hardworking full-time administrative personnel.

We continue to have a committed group of over 40 volunteer clinicians who assist in resident education, research and patient care. Through a national change in resident education, our number has increased from eight to 10 residents, with two entering each year. The applications we receive each year for our two slots has doubled, from about 70 to over 140 this year. This is an indication of the popularity of our residency and its national respect.

We strive to educate medical students at UNMC to be the best possible physicians. Perhaps because of what these students experience, we have seen an increase in the number of students who choose otolaryngology for a life career.

Reflecting the continuous needs of our specialty, over the past decade six of our residency graduates have pursued additional fellowships or residencies. This underscores our department's emphasis on education and continual learning. We have trained six fellows in my Chemosensory and Rhinology Fellowship, and we will likely soon have a Head and Neck Fellowship.

Our departmental clinics also have increased the number of annual clinic visits to about 25,000 per year. Our five clinics are: 1) General ENT, 2) Audiology, 3) Allergy, 4) Oral Facial Prosthodontics and 5) Clarkson West ENT. Soon we will have an office at Village Pointe.



All this growth has our department focusing on the goal of being "the best department of Otolaryngology in the country." We want to be "the best of the best" and daily strive toward this goal.

We have had 85 residency graduates, and these departmental alumni are practicing in all geographical areas of the country. Ten are in the east, 16 are in the west and the rest are in the middle of the country. Sadly, a few of our alumni have died.

Research and academic endeavors are the backbone and lifeblood of our specialty and our department. Our departmental research continues to grow, most recently noted by our two current NIH grants.

This past year, with serious review of their home study course, our residents earned one of four spots at the 2008 American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Academic Bowl. Our R2-R4 residents earned second place, and nearly took first. The three other teams generally were composed of chief residents.

Many attended our annual resident research forum also held in October. The winners of that competition were **Drs. Cathy Craig** and **Ashley Robey**. The money to fund this competition was provided by our "Alumni Give Back Fund."

Another major function of an academic medical center is to be on the cutting edge of clinical care. This means developing new treatments and being a resource in clinical help and education for the surrounding medical community. We have established centers of excellence in multiple areas. In Head and Neck Cancer, we are a recognized national center, as indicated by attendance at the national NCCN meeting that we hosted in October. We also have leaders in head and neck reconstruction; the care of ear, hearing and balance conditions; allergy; rhinology; sense of smell; and laryngology. In general, we are clearly the place where normal patients with difficult problems, or difficult patients with normal problems, receive excellent care.

So, what does our future look like? We will continue to be educators of residents, medical students, mid-level providers, allied health personnel and postgraduate physicians. In our world today, we need to better measure and document this education. **Dr. Barbara Heywood**, our residency coordinator, is currently maintaining our leadership in this area through her graduate education studies. This will continue to be important as re-

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ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA INDUCTION

Each year, UNMC faculty elects two faculty members and two or three residents (out of a pool of approximately 250 eligible residents) to be initiated into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Among the purposes of Alpha Omega Alpha are the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools and encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct among medical students. The ENT department is proud to announce that two of our physicians have been awarded this prestigious honor:

Dr. Ryan Sewell and Dr. Donald Leopold.



Drs. Sewell and Leopold were selected because of their leadership in their profession as manifested by scholastic excellence, integrity, professional skill, compassion and fairness in dealing with their colleagues. They will be initiated in the spring. Please congratulate Drs. Sewell and Leopold on this very distinguished award.



DR. MOORE NAMED TRUSTEE OF UN FOUNDATION

Dr. Gary Moore was elected as a trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation during the annual meeting in October, 2008. The Foundation was formed in 1936 to establish a pathway for private gifts from individuals and organizations to support the University of Nebraska. Since that time it has expanded to include all four campuses of the University. The trustees of the University of Nebraska Foundation serve for six-year terms and are selected because of their interest in the University of Nebraska and strong belief in its mission. Each year, the trustees are invited to attend the Foundation's annual meeting when they elect the members of the board of directors. Although they are not involved in making business or operation decisions for the Foundation, they serve an important role as ambassadors of the University and the Foundation. Congratulations Dr. Moore on this prestigious honor and thanks for your dedication to our University.



LYNN REESE, AuD

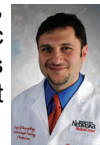
Dr. Lynn Reese earned a master's degree in audiology from Idaho State University in 1987. She acquired her doctorate in audiology from Salus University on Aug. 25, 2008. Dr. Reese has been an audiologist for 22 years and joined our department in September 2005. She was promoted to lead audiologist in July 2008. Her focus is on the diagnoses of hearing and balance disorders and rehabilitation. She also has special interest in pediatrics, hearing aids and cochlear implants.



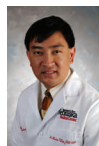
2008 UNeMED RESEARCH INNOVATION AWARDS RECOGNIZES DRs. MILITSAXH AND WEE

During the last fiscal year, both **Dr. Alvin Wee** and **Dr. Oleg Militsakh** submitted New Invention Notifications (NINs) to the UNeMed office.

Dr. Militsakh's technology is entitled, "Reconstruction Plate for Prevention of Pathologic Fractures Associated with Vascularized Radius Bone Harvest," NIN No. 08040. A provisional patent application was filed on March 12, 2008.



Dr. Wee's technology is entitled, "Drug Delivery System (PDDS)." Dr. Wee's co-inventor is Dr. Scott Schricker at Ohio State University. Although Dr. Wee's technology was not pursued by our office, UNeMed still recognizes his contribution to technology innovation here at UNMC.



Submitting a new NIN to this office is recognized by having the inventor's names listed in the program at the Innovation Awards and receiving a lapel pin. This pin designates a unique brotherhood of inventors who have contributed to the innovation of technology at UNMC. Both doctors will receive the lapel pins this year.

Dr. Militsakh's technology is progressing and if a patent is issued from this technology, he will receive a wooden plaque with his name engraved and the title of his patent and details. If Dr. Militsakh's technology is marketed and licensed to a company or entity that signs an agreement with UNeMed, he will receive an engraved glass tombstone with his name, technology and details.

NEW WEST OMAHA ENT CLINIC LOCATION

In April, the Clarkson West ENT clinic will be moving to a new location southwest of the Village Pointe shopping center. This will be the main location for **Dr. William Ingram**, ENT allergist. **Dr. Brynn Richardson**, general ENT, will have some of her clinics in the new facility along with clinics at the main UNMC location. The department also hopes to recruit another general ENT physician to this location.

The new UNMC Physicians Village Pointe ENT clinic will have 2,660 square feet of space with five exam rooms, an allergy testing room, two allergy injection rooms, doctor's office and a nurse's station. The ENT clinic will continue to be located in the same office as the UNMC Physicians EYE clinic. These clinics will share the procedure room and common areas such as a workroom, breakroom, check in and check out areas, the reception room and subwaiting space. UNMC Physicians also plans to have OB/Gyn and pain management clinics located across the hall. Other known occupants of the new medical office building include Children's pediatric primary care and urgent care facilities. The Village Pointe medical campus includes two other buildings that house The Nebraska Medical Center Cancer Center and Village Pointe Aesthetics Surgery Dreams Med Spa. We look forward to seeing you at the open house this spring.

CHIEF'S CORNER

BY DR. RYAN SEWELL AND DR. CATHERINE CRAIG

The 2008 academic year is off to a fast start. It is hard to believe winter is already upon us. The first quarter of the year has had several noteworthy events. The residents are happy to welcome several new, and some not-so-new, faces to the program. **Dr. Lindsey Klocke** and **Dr. Terah Malette** began their surgical internship year in July. We are excited to have them as a part of our department and look forward to working with them more in the future. We also are pleased to welcome our former resident, **Dr. Brynn Richardson**, to our staff. We hope she has enjoyed the transition as much as we have.

Several residents attended the Academy meeting in Chicago. Of note, **Drs. Sam Pate, Josh Espelund** and **Jeff Schmidt** placed second at the Academic Bowl held at the meeting. They represented our program admirably and we are proud of their accomplishment.

We celebrated the 40th anniversary for the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck on Oct. 11, 2008. The activities included the resident research symposium, a chance to cheer on the Cornhuskers and a celebration dinner. We want to thank all who took the opportunity to return to Omaha for the event. We enjoyed visiting with past graduates and learning about their current careers. A special acknowledgment to **Drs. Catherine Craig** and **Ashley Robey** for placing first and second, respectively, in the resident research symposium. We also want to especially thank Dr. Toni Ganzel, MBA, for returning from Louisville to serve as the guest speaker for the anniversary celebration.

We want to again thank everyone for their continued interest and support of the residency program.

RESIDENT APPLICATIONS INCREASE

Applications for our residency program continue to increase each year and surpass the prior years through the ERAS, electronic residency application service.

This year we had 143 applicants, compared to 128 in 2008 and 119 in 2007. We selected 36 applicants to interview and will accept two into our program. We will receive notification of our new residents for 2009 on match day, March 19.

NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY

At the 2008 annual meeting, the Academy voted to donate \$2,000 to the UNMC Resident Library. **Dr. Anthony Yonkers** and **Dr. Barbara Heywood** selected the books at the Annual AAO-HNS conference. These books were placed in the resident library for use by the residents and medical students. We would like to thank the Nebraska Academy for this generous contribution.

ACADEMY OF OTO-HNS—ACADEMIC BOWL

BY DR. JEFF SCHMIDT

This year, **Drs. Joshua Espelund, Samuel Pate** and **Jeffrey Schmidt** represented the University of Nebraska Medical Center at the 2nd annual Academic Bowl. These residents received a \$1,500 travel grant to participate in the event held in Chicago at the annual AAO-HNS meeting.



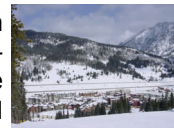
The top four residency programs in the nation are selected each year based upon the programs' Home Study Course scores. This year, our residents competed against The Medical College of Wisconsin, University of California San Francisco and West Virginia University.

The AAO-HNS Foundation's Education Steering Committee (ESC), with help from the Program Advisory Committee, organized the Academic Bowl with questions submitted by Academy educational faculty. Question selections were from educational materials such as the Home Study Course, Patient of the Month, SIPacs and the Slide Lecture Series. Questions incorporated images, radiographs, histology and lab results that were displayed on a number of screens placed throughout the auditorium. Team captains and audience members entered responses on remote control keypads. The correct answers were displayed, along with each team's response.

The UNMC team had a strong start, answering most questions correctly. Over the course of the competition, however, The Medical College of Wisconsin pulled slightly ahead, capturing the win. UNMC followed closely in second place. Our team, which consisted of two juniors and one senior, competed well against the other teams comprised of chief residents. For their achievement, The Medical College of Wisconsin will receive two years of free Home Study Course materials, and UNMC will be awarded one year. Teams may not be selected to participate for another two years. We hope to see UNMC compete again at that time.

LATE WINTER SYMPOSIUM

The Late Winter Symposium, "Updates in Otolaryngology," is scheduled for March 8-10. This is held in conjunction with the Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology and 12 hours of CME credit are obtainable. It will be held in Silverthorne, Colo., at the LaQuinta Inn. This is close to the skiing area and winter sports of Copper Mountain, Breckenridge, Arapahoe Basin and Keystone. There are many outlet stores in the Dillon-Silverthorne area. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.unmc.edu/ent.



JAMIE WOODARD, ENT TISSUE PROCUREMENT FACILITY LIAISON AND CYTOGENETIC RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIST

Jamie Woodard came to us from Fort Worth, Texas, where she was involved with genetic research at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center - Department of Entomology, a branch of Texas A&M University. There, she researched the genetic involvement of insect-vectored plant diseases and participated in Forensic Entomology studies. She has a molecular background in conventional PCR, Real Time PCR, ELISA, RT-PCR, RFLP, AFLP, high throughput DNA extractions and RNA extractions.

Currently, Woodard serves as the tissue bank liaison for the Department of Otolaryngology - Division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and as a cytogenetic research technologist I for the Department of Microbiology/Pathology. This dual position was created last October in an effort to collect upper aerodigestive tract malignancies, endocrine tumors, salivary gland tumors, pathologic lymph nodes and other head and neck cancers. More specifically, Woodard monitors head and neck resections of interest and operating room schedules for **Drs. Bill Lydiatt, Dan Lydiatt, Russell Smith, Alan Richards and Oleg Militsakh**. She then works closely with the frozen section lab and the pathology staff and residents to assess what tissues can be submitted to the Tissue Procurement Facility for future research projects. Since the creation of this position, the submissions of head and neck tissues have increased drastically and have helped raise tissue bank donations as a whole.

In addition to monitoring head and neck cancer cases, Woodard is also involved in conventional and molecular cytogenetic research for pathologist **Dr. Julia Bridge**. Her routine laboratory duties include DNA extractions, gel electrophoresis, fluorescent microscopy and designing BAC probes and YAC probes for Fluorescent in situ Hybridization, or FISH. She is currently assisting in a laboratory-wide collaboration with the Children's Oncology Group to investigate FKHR, PAX3 and PAX7 gene rearrangement in Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma using FISH. Her other projects include writing a short communication case report involving a perivascular epithelioid cell carcinoma, or PEComa, and a review paper on the advancements of gene therapy. Her goals include finishing her M.S. and pursuing a Ph.D. in medical genetics. Her interests include cytogenetic research, gene therapy research and teaching.

2009 HEAD AND NECK SCREENING

The annual Head & Neck Screening Event will be held at the UNMC Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Clinic on Tuesday, April 28 from 3-6 p.m. If you would like to participate in the screening or know anyone who would benefit from the screening, please contact **Jean Palmer** at 402-559-7775 or e-mail at jpalmer@unmc.edu.

PREVENTION OF DEPRESSION IN PATIENTS UPDATE

The grant studying the Prevention of Depression in Patients Being Treated for Head and Neck Cancer by investigators **Dr. William Lydiatt** and **William Burke** continues to accrue subjects. This NIMH funded study seeks to determine if depression can be prevented in subjects undergoing treatment for head and neck cancers. The initial study was published in the Archives of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in May 2008.

Lydiatt WM, Denman D, McNeilly DP, Puumula SE, Burke WJ: "A randomized, placebo-controlled trial of citalopram for the prevention of major depression during treatment for head and neck cancer". Archives Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery. 2008 May (5): 528-35.

COMMON COMPLAINTS AS MANIFESTATION OF HEAD AND NECK CONFERENCE

Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head & Neck Cancer was held on Aug. 1, 2008 at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo. This conference was designed to address the initial evaluation of patients with common head and neck complaints, emphasizing which patients would benefit from immediate referral related to a high risk of head and neck cancer. Additionally, the conference reviewed cost-effective diagnostic evaluation and treatment of head and neck neoplasms.

Speakers included the UNMC Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgical Oncology team: **Drs. Daniel Lydiatt, William Lydiatt, Russell B. Smith, Alan Richards and Oleg Militsakh**.

PORTRAITS OF CARE

Mark Gilbert's "Here I Am and Nowhere Else: Portraits of Care" will be on display at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts until Feb. 21,

Gilbert, a Scottish artist, composed the works that make up the exhibit while serving as UNMC's artist-in-residence for two years.

During his time at UNMC, Gilbert drew portraits of many patients and their caregivers.

The patients, who included children and adults, were dealing with a variety of health promotion and illness situations from childbirth to medical conditions such as AIDS, head and neck cancer or some sort of organ transplant.

DIVISION OF ORAL FACIAL PROSTHETICS / DENTAL ONCOLOGY UPDATE

Drs. Jeff Markt and Alvin Wee currently are providing **clinical service** in close conjunction with other clinical services at Omaha institutions. These services include: (1) Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at both UNMC and Methodist Cancer Center: dental screening is provided for patients requiring prechemoradiation therapy. Extra and intra-oral prosthesis are then fabricated for these patients after their cancer treatment. (2) UNMC Oral Maxillofacial Surgery: prosthetic support is provided for head and neck trauma patients, implant retained prosthesis and also management of patients with temporomandibular joint disorders. (3) UNMC Sleep Disorder Center: mandibular advancement prosthesis are fabricated for patients with obstructive sleep apnea. (4) Private Patients: both practitioners also are accepting private patients who require prosthodontics services. (5) Craniofacial Teams: recently Dr. Markt joined the National Boys Town Craniofacial Team and also the Craniofacial Treatment at Children's Hospital to provide prosthetic support for newborns with cleft lip and palate defects.

The division also contributes to several **educational programs**, including Otolaryngology residency, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery residency, Sleep Medicine fellowship, Dental General Practice residency and dental hygiene certificate program. We continue to provide lectures and support their clinical rotations of these various programs through our clinic.

The division continues to have an active **research program** with Dr. Wee's clinical research laboratory. Recently Dr. Wee submitted a proposal to the Department of Defense in collaboration with the Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Omaha taking the lead. The proposal was entitled: "Characterization of Esthetic and Biomechanical Skin Properties for Developing Improved Head and Neck Prosthetic Reconstruction Materials."

On a **national level**, Dr. Markt recently was elected recording secretary of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Dr. Wee continues to serve on its Board of Directors. Drs. Markt and Wee also serve on multiple journal review boards and on national committees.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES OF HEARING LOSS

By: LYNN M. REESE, Au.D. CCC-A

There are an estimated 28 million people in the United States who have been diagnosed with varying degrees of hearing loss. Many of these people developed their hearing loss due to presbycusis or noise exposure. As individuals gradually lose their hearing, auditory deprivation can begin. Amplification is a crucial step in reducing auditory deprivation. With the advent of digital hearing aids, many more people can be helped than in the past. However, only 22 percent of those who need hearing aids actually utilize them. Many reasons for not obtaining hearing aids include finances, cosmetics but also psychosocial reasons. However, as our baby boomer population ages, more and more people will become hearing aid candidates.

Communication involving hearing and speech is important in our everyday lifestyle. However, an individual's and that person's family's psychosocial reactions regarding the diagnosis and implications of the hearing loss plays a critical part in the emotional, psychological and motivational success of aural rehabilitation with hearing assistance. These feelings include reactions of anger, anxiety, frustration and irritability from spouses, children and the hearing-impaired individual. The hearing loss often causes embarrassment, social isolation and withdrawal, and frustration. The common phrase, "you mumble," is often heard. Family members also are frustrated in that they often have to repeat what was said, and then they may become impatient. These reactions can all lead to blame with a breakdown in the communication process.

Motivation from everyone in the family is necessary for communication to succeed. Progress will be limited in the new amplification and communication process, unless everyone is motivated. It is important to involve the spouse or children in the fitting process. Understanding the hearing loss is important, but also understanding and adjusting communication patterns and techniques will help everyone. Little things such as gaining the individual's attention, stating the topic or not talking from another room are techniques that can be practiced. The audiologist will discuss the appropriate realistic expectations with the individual and family.



Important New Fund for Resident Training

Private support from UNMC alumni, former residents and faculty plays a critical role in the success of every department at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Whether in patient care, medical research or academics, UNMC has challenged itself to achieve world-class excellence in each area. The University of Nebraska Foundation is proud to represent this mission to alumni and friends across the country.

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, I 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 feel free to 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.

RICHARDS FAMILY BECOMES U.S. CITIZENS

Dr. Alan Richards, a Head and Neck Surgical Oncologist, and his family have had permanent resident status in the United States since 2003. Dr. Richards had his formal interview on Dec. 9, 2008 to become a United States citizen. His family preceded him in this honor when his wife, Karen, and son, Michael, became citizens on Nov. 25, 2008. Dr. Richards' second son, Trevor, had his interview on Dec. 1, 2008. As a U.S. citizen, Michael is now eligible to become a Navy Seal. The Richards family is excited and honored to have this opportunity.



All of the Richards' family members were born and raised in South Africa. Dr. Richards studied at the University of the Witwatersrand medical school in Johannesburg where he graduated in 1966. He then completed compulsory military service for one year. After that, Dr. Richards began his general surgical residency. In South Africa, this is a long arduous training that takes eight years. He graduated as a general surgeon in 1975 and spent the next 22 years running a private surgical practice. Dr. Richards was a part-time attending at the medical school and teaching hospital. During the latter 15 years, he supervised the Head and Neck clinic at this institution.

After the takeover of the government in 1974 by Nelson Mandela, Dr. Richards and his family were all very excited. However, they became increasingly worried for the safety of their family as crime reached astronomical proportions and unemployment was at an all time high of 47 percent. Many of the family's friends were attacked and assaulted in their homes (and sometimes murdered) and they worried they might be next. A colleague who had immigrated to California called Dr. Richards and told him of a job in Los Angeles. He arranged for the interview. He also asked another friend, who had left South Africa and became chairman of surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Florida, what he thought of this job. The friend called the fol-

lowing day and said it sounded good but asked if Dr. Richards had ever thought of Omaha. Dr. Richards' friend said he could arrange a job interview at Creighton Surgery Department where he had been employed before relocating to Mayo. So, Dr. Richards and his family went to the interviews and decided Omaha was exactly what they wanted. Unlike L.A., there was less crime and traffic, excellent schooling and Omaha was a very safe place to live. Most importantly, the people were wonderful and friendly.

The family left South Africa in the middle of their summer and arrived in Omaha on Dec. 5, 1997, in the middle of the winter with temperatures around 11 degrees! It was quite a shock. It did not take long to settle in. Trevor and Michael learned to speak fluent English within two months. This proved much more challenging for Karen and Dr. Richards, but they are working on it. Karen was not allowed to work initially because of the type of visa they had, so she took college courses and graduated with a degree in Horticulture and Landscape design. She is currently employed as a landscape designer at Kinghorn Gardens in Omaha.

At Creighton, Dr. Richards practiced general surgery, and he was appointed the program director for the residents. He then met Drs. Dan and Bill Lydiatt who supervised the only Head and Neck program in the state. In 2000, Dr. Richards joined them part time; then in 2002, he was recruited to join the UNMC ENT department full time in the Head and Neck Division. He has been privileged to be a member of the team since then.

We congratulate the Richards family on their achievements.

ALUMNI GIVE BACK FUND ESTABLISHED

In honor of our 40th anniversary, we have established the "**Alumni Give Back Fund**" to allow alumni and others whose lives have been impacted by our department to give back to future residents, much as they received when they were residents. **Dr. Jerry Simons**, class of 1978, has generously given a gift to start this fund. Dr. Simons said, "When I read that UNMC ENT department was having its 40th anniversary, I was reminded of the excellent training and good times I experienced. As a result, I have and continue to enjoy a rewarding and gratifying career. I am grateful for the opportunity the department gave me. When I was a resident, I loved to go to courses and meetings to further my education. Of course at that time, the expense and where it came from was not on my radar screen! It is now and I believe that those of us who have received so much should now begin to 'give back' to help the department continue the mission of training future ENTs."



Examples of the costs we incur for resident education in 2008 and 2009 include the following:

Airfare, registration and housing to send a resident to a meeting to present a paper or poster = \$1,700 per resident

Annual cost to house a mouse for a research project = \$365 per mouse

Fee to take the annual in-training examination = \$295 per resident, plus \$405 test site rental

Accreditation fee for our residency program = \$3,500

Membership to belong to AAO-HNS = \$95 per resident

AAO-HNS home study course = \$475 per resident

The reimbursements our department receives from the medical school are minimal, have decreased over the past decade and are expected to decrease in the future. Most of the resident education costs are paid from the clinical earnings of our department faculty who are dedicated to teaching future ENT physicians. We are thankful to Dr. Simons for his support and we look forward to additional support from you. Please contact: Betsy Berentson, direc-

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certification of all healthcare providers becomes commonplace. Ongoing support from our alumni and departmental members to "give back" for resident education is greatly appreciated.

Due to the generosity of **Dr. Jerry Simons**, we have established a new fund for our residents, called the "Resident Give Back Fund." This fund offers an opportunity for graduates of our training program to repay us for the hours, days and years of patient teaching they all needed to become an Otolaryngologist-Head and Neck Surgeon. This is a great "Pay it Forward" idea.

As was demonstrated at our 40 Years of Excellence celebration, research in both basic sciences and clinical areas is the primary way we can continue to provide ethical and quality medical care. With our growing staff, this will continue to be a priority. Finding the resources for research activity, especially in these times of financial insecurity, will be increasingly difficult. Again, the generous donations from our alumni and friends to "give back" make this training possible. It is expensive to house mice, buy materials and pay subjects.

Finally, we will continue to provide world-class care for our patients who deserve and expect it. Demonstrating the finest quality of care provided in an ethical manner is part of our teaching mission.

I want to thank everyone who helped plan our 40 Years of Excellence celebration, including **Julie Zetterman**, **Karen Sum** and especially **Lori Turner**. I am also grateful to all our alumni who returned to celebrate this 40th anniversary, especially Dr. Toni Ganzel who gave two excellent presentations.

Please keep the department updated on what is happening in your career and your contact information. We would also like to know about family additions, new partners, etc. We are introducing a new initiative to keep our "family together." I'm already looking forward to our 45th anniversary in five years.



tor, University of Nebraska Foundation at (402) 502-4115; e-mail: bberentson@nufoundation.org or Julie Zetterman, ENT administrator at 402-559-7776 or jzetterman@unmc.edu for more information.

FALL REVIEW

BY: **WILLIAM ALAN INGRAM, M.D.**

Late summer and fall is "show time" for the weeds in the Midwest. The major player on stage is ragweed, and those who suffer from August through October disaffectionately designate this time as Ragweed Season. Other weeds play lesser roles: sage, pigweed and chenopods (lamb's quarters, Russian thistle, kochia). Decreases in pollen dispersed occur with falling temperatures and less duration of sunlight.

Ragweed has been extensively studied and (as implied) is probably the most clinically important allergenic weed in the United States. It is virtually unknown in Europe. Ragweed produces one billion pollen grains per season. Ragweed is wind-pollinated (anemophilous). Depending on prevailing winds, pollen grains may travel up to 400 miles. It has been reported that ragweed is up to three times more allergenic than any other weed.

The family Asteraceae includes such members as sage, mugwort, goldenrod and ragweed. Goldenrod is the "state flower" of Nebraska. It flowers and is pollinated by insects (entomophilous). Entomophilous plants typically have "heavy-sticky" pollen. Goldenrod blooms at the same time as ragweed pollinates, but it is not considered a significant allergen to most people.

A.A. Thommen conducted a very extensive study of pollens. He outlined characteristics needed for pollens to have clinical importance as potential offenders in allergic respiratory disorders. These findings were published in the early 1930s and amplified in an early textbook on allergies (Coca, AF, Walzer, M and Thommen, AA. Asthma and hay fever in theory and practice. 1931).

Thommen's five postulates of a hay fever plant:

1. The plant must be seed-bearing.
2. The plant must have wide distribution or be close to the human environment.
3. The plant must produce large quantities of pollen.
4. The pollen must be light enough to be airborne, between 10 and 60 microns in diameter.
5. The pollen must be allergenic.

2008 FACULTY PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Alexander G. Bien, M.D.

Hair Cell Metabolic Imaging: Fluorescence Intensity and FLIM. Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology—Late Winter Symposium: "Updates in ENT", March 2-4, 2008.

Tiede L, **Bien AG**, Marquardt M, Nichols M, Hallworth R. **Using Two-Photon, Two-Channel, Metabolic Imaging and NADH FLIM to Determine the Metabolic Status of the Cochlea.** Poster Presentation, Thirty-First Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) Midwinter Research Meeting, Phoenix, Feb. 16-21, 2008.

Vestibular Anatomy & Function. University of Nebraska Department of Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery Basic Science Conference, Omaha, Jan. 16, 2008.

Barbara L. Heywood, M.D.

"Evaluation of Surgical Skill", Panel at the Program Directors' Meeting with the Society of University Otolaryngologists, Chicago, Oct 24, 2008.

"Saccular Cysts" Dept. of Otolaryngology Grand Rounds, UNMC, Oct. 16, 2008.

Vagal Nerve Stimulators and the Laryngeal Nerves, Grand Rounds Department of Neurology, University of Nebraska May 15, 2008.

Vagal Nerve Stimulators" Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology, Silverthorne, Colo. March 3, 2008.

"Personalizing Patient Care" Innovations in Medical Education: Transforming Health Professions Education Through Innovation", Keck School of Medicine, March 8, 2008 Pasadena.

Julia Vent, MD, PhD; Candace G. Grier, MD; **Donald A. Leopold, MD; Barbara M. Heywood, MD, Congenital familial bilateral branchial tracts: A rare case**, ENT-Ear, Nose & Throat Journal, January 2008, Volume 87, Number 1.

"ENT Infections and Tumors" Lecture for M3 Students, UNMC Jan. 22, 2008, March 25, 2008, June 10, 2008.

ICE (Integrated Clinical Experience) -M2, Integrated Clinical Experience facilitator, UNMC Oncology March 25, 2008,

Elderly Depression April 22, 2008.

Common Throat Problems, Lecture, PA class, May 20, 2008.

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

"Evaluation of Surgical Skill", Panel at the Program Directors' Meeting with the Society of University Otolaryngologists, Chicago, Oct. 24, 2008.

Robey, A.B., O'Brien, E.K., **Richardson, B.E.**, Baker, J.J., Poage, D.P., **Leopold, D.A.**, **"The Changing Face of Paranasal Sinus Fungus Balls,"** Presented at American Rhinologic Society Meeting, Chicago. September 2008.

Wysong, P. **"Current Controversies in Rhinologic Surgery."** *ENT Today*. July 2008; 14-16. Quoted as expert.

"Personalizing Patient Care" Innovations in Medical Education: Transforming Health Professions Education Through Innovation", Keck School of Medicine, March 8, 2008, Pasadena.

Vent, J., Grier, C.G., **Leopold, D.A.**, **Heywood, B.M.**, **"Congenital familial bilateral branchial tracts: a rare case,"** *Ear Nose Throat Journal*. Volume 87 (1), p. 48-50. January 2008.

Leopold, D.A., Consultant to and Participant in one hour program on

Olfaction, **"The Nature of Things"**, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). January 2008.

Leopold, D.A., **"Treating Dysosmia, From Saline to Surgery,"** *Japanese Journal of Rhinology*. Volume 47:1, p. 51-52. 2008.

O'Brien, E.K. and **Leopold, D.A.** 2008. **"Olfaction"** in *Rhinology: Diseases of the Nose, Throat Sinuses and Skull Base*, Kennedy, D.W. and Hwang, P.H (eds). New York, NY. Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc.

Albritton, F.D., IV, Levine, H., Smith, J., Rowe-Jones, J., Zahurullah, F., Armstrong, M., Duplan, D., Gershow, J., **Leopold, D.A.**, Kuhn, F., **"Surgeon Radiation Exposure in ESS Using Balloon Catheters"** (submitted), 2008.

Robey, A.B., O'Brien, E.K., **Richardson, B.E.**, Baker, J.J., Poage, D.P., **Leopold, D.A.**, **"The Changing Face of Paranasal Sinus Fungus Balls,"** *American Journal of Rhinology* (submitted), 2008.

O'Brien, E.K., **Leopold, D.A.**, Olechoski Rudman, K., **"Radiographic comparison of the distribution of topically applied radiopaque contrast by drop or spray within the nasal cavity and sinuses,"** *American Journal of Rhinology* (submitted), 2008.

Guest speaker for Graduation Event, Department of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery at University of California at San Francisco, June 2008.

Guest speaker for European Rhinologic Society 22nd Meeting, Crete, Greece, June 2008.

Guest speaker, Creighton University Allergy Division, Omaha, NE, Biannually Spring and Fall 2006-2008.

Rhinology speaker, Annual University of Nebraska Family Practice Review Course, Omaha, Spring 2001-2008.

Guest speaker, American Rhinologic Society Spring Meeting, Annually 1977-2008.

Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings, Orlando, April 2008.

Guest Speaker, American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology, Philadelphia, March 2008.

Guest Speaker, Otolaryngology Update, Phoenix, February 2008.

Guest Speaker, Advanced Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Course, Los Angeles, January 2008.

Association of Chemoreception Sciences Annual Meeting, Sarasota, Fla, April 2008.

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

"I'm Having Trouble Swallowing and My Throat is Scratchy – Pharyngeal Cancer" presentation at Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer, Omaha, August 2008.

"Avoiding Litigation in Patients with Common Complaints Resulting from Head and Neck Cancer" presentation at Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer, Omaha, August 2008.

"Reimbursement in Head and Neck Surgery: Influences from the Local to National Level" Instructional Course at the 7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, San Francisco, July 2008.

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Head and Neck Cancer Case Presentations at Second Head and Neck Cancer Symposium, Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center, June 2008.

Nebraska Dental Association presentation, Qwest Center, Omaha, April 2008.

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

Co-authored chapter, "Revision Surgery for Oropharyngeal Cancer", Edelstein, David. Thieme Medical Publishers in Revision Surgery in Otolaryngology. To be published 2009.

Co-author, American Joint Commission on Cancer – Cancer Staging Manual, 7th Edition. Publication scheduled for 2009.

Authored Chapters 32, 33, 34, 35. Atlas of Head and Neck Surgery Textbook. Elsevier Publishing. To be published 2009.

"Surgical Issues in Management of Head and Neck Cancers" presentation at NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Symposium Head and Neck Cancers, Durham Research Center, Omaha, Oct. 10, 2008.

"Working with Your Local and Central IRB" presentation at 2008 Clinical Trials Workshop, Atlanta, September 2008.

"Recruiting, Training, and Motivating Your Team" presentation at 2008 Clinical Trials Workshop, Atlanta, September 2008.

Forastiere AA, Ang KK, Brizel D, Brockstein BE, Burtress BA, Cmelak AJ, Colevas AD, Dunphy F, Eisele DW, Goepfert H, Hicks WL Jr, Kies MS, **Lydiatt WM**, Maghami E, Martins R, McCaffrey T, Mittal BB, Pfister DG, Pinto HA, Posner MR, Ridge JA, Samant S, Schuller DE, Shah JP, Spencer S, Trotti A 3rd, Weber RS, Wolf GT, Worden F: "Head and neck cancers". J National Comprehensive Network. 2008 August 6 (7): 646-95.

"Salivary Gland Neoplasms and Unknown Primary Neck Metastases" presentation at Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer, Omaha, August 2008.

"Oral Cavity Cancer" presentation at Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer, Omaha, August 2008.

"Reimbursement in Head and Neck Surgery: Influences from the Local to National Level" Instructional Course at the 7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, San Francisco, CA, July 2008.

"Teaching Observational Skills Through the Arts to Otolaryngology Residents and Students: A Pilot Study" poster presentation at the 7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, San Francisco, July 2008.

"Ultrasounding Gorilla Thyroid Glands to Shed Light on Human Thyroid Nodularity" poster presentation at the 7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, San Francisco, July 2008.

Patel SG, **Lydiatt WM**: "Staging of head and neck cancers: is it time to change the balance between the ideal and the practical?". Journal of Surgical Oncology. 2008 June 15 (8): 653-7.

"Contemporary Management of Well-Differentiated Thyroid Cancer" presentation at Second Head and Neck Cancer Symposium, Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center, June 2008.

Lydiatt WM, Denman D, McNeilly DP, Puumula SE, Burke WJ:

"A randomized, placebo-controlled trial of citalopram for the prevention of major depression during treatment for head and neck cancer". Archives Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery. 2008 May (5): 528-35.

"Teaching Observational Skills Through Multiple Means to Enhance Medical Education" presentation at SPOHNC, Omaha, May 2008.

Presentation at South Dakota Dental Association, Sioux Falls, May 2008.

"Clinical Trials for Lung/Head and Neck Cancers" presentation at Spring 2008 Lung/Head and Neck Cancer Care For Primary Care Physicians, Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center, Omaha, April 2008.

"What Makes the Head and Neck Cancer Patient's Airway So Difficult?" presentation at Current Concepts in Anesthesia, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, March 8, 2008.

"Head and Neck Cancer and Pre-Cancer" presentation at Wonder World of Surgery Conference, Nebraska Methodist College, Omaha, Feb. 16, 2008.

Co-authored chapter, "Medical Malpractice and Head and Neck Cancer", Petruzelli G, ed. Practical Head and Neck Oncology San Diego: Plural; 2008.

"Medical Malpractice and Head and Neck Cancer", D'Cruz AK, Fazekas –May MA, eds. Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery Andhra Pradesh, India: Orient Longman; Publication pending.

Oleg N. Militsakh, M.D.

Militsakh ON, Kriet JD. **Masticatory diplopia**. Ear Nose Throat J. 2008 Jan; 87(1):39, 47.

Militsakh ON, **Advanced Reconstruction of the Head and neck after Cancer Surgery**. Lecture at Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer. Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, August 2008.

Militsakh ON, **Head and Neck Post-operative Care**. Lecture at Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer. Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, August 2008.

Craig C, **Militsakh ON**, Miller JJ, **Lydiatt W**, **Epithelial-Myoepithelial Carcinoma of the Orbit**. Poster presentation. 7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, San Francisco, July 2008.

Militsakh ON, **Role of Preoperative Vascular Assessment of Extremities Free Flap Donor Sites**. Lecture to Clarkson Vascular Lab technicians. Omaha, June 2008.

Militsakh, ON, **Head and Neck Reconstruction in the Modern Era**. Lecture at Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center, Honorary Physician's Breakfast. Omaha, June 2008.

Militsakh ON, **Surgical Therapy for Head and Neck Cancers**. Lecture at Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center. Omaha, April 2008.

Militsakh ON, **Free Flap Reconstructive Surgery for Head/Neck Cancer**. Lecture at Methodist Hospital Critical Care Conference. Omaha, March 2008.

Militsakh ON, **Microvascular Free Tissue Transfer (Free Flap)**.

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Lecture at Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center. Omaha, January 2008.

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

"Residual perforation rates of tympanic membranes following phenol topical anesthesia for pe tubes." American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Chicago, September 2008.

Alan Richards, M.D. F.A.C.S.

"Thyroid Nodules and Thyroid Cancer", Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer Symposium, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, August 2008.

"Skin Cancer", Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer Symposium, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, August 2008.

"Circumferential Compression of Trachea and Esophagus by Hypertrophied Tubercles of Zuckerkandl", Prashant Upadhyaya, Alan Richards, 25th Anniversary Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists, Canada, July 2008.

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

"Hyperparathyroidism", Tumor Conference, Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center, Omaha, October 2008.

"Interventional Head and Neck Ultrasound", American College of Surgeons Thyroid and Parathyroid Ultrasound Skills – Oriented Course, San Francisco, October 2008.

"Surgery of the Lateral Neck in Thyroid Cancer", American College of Surgeons Thyroid and Parathyroid Ultrasound Skills – Oriented Course, San Francisco, October 2008.

Presentation at the NSRT Meeting, Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center, Omaha, October 2008.

"Malignant Salivary Gland Neoplasms: Principles of Management", AAOHNS Annual Meeting, Chicago, September 2008.

"PET for Head and Neck Cancer: Pearls and Pitfalls", AAOHNS Annual Meeting, Chicago, September 2008.

"Doc, I've Got the Laryngitis" – Laryngeal Cancer, Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, August 2008.

"I Think I Have a Sinus Infection" – Sinonasal Malignancies, Common Complaints as Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, August 2008.

"Oral Cavity Cancer," Methodist Head and Neck Cancer Meeting, Grand Island, March 2008.

"Surgery in the Management of Laryngeal and Hypopharyngeal Carcinoma," Hematology and Oncology Fellows Rounds, Omaha, March 2008.

"Lesions of the Sinus & Anterior/Central Skull Base – Variations of Minimally Invasive Surgery," panel at Sission Head and Neck Workshop, Vail, Colo., February 2008.

Andrews BT, Smith RB, Hoffman HT, Funk GF. **Orocutaneous and Pharyngocutaneous Fistula Closure Using a Vacuum-Assisted Closure System.** *Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol.* 2008;117(4):298-302.

Smith, RB, Wayne, S, Maley, J. Adult with Cheek Swelling. Pa-

tient of the Month Program – Otolaryngology 2008;37(5):1-32.

Smith, RB, Robinson, RA, Hoffman, HT, Graham, MM. Preoperative FDG-PET Imaging to Assess the Malignant Potential of Follicular Neoplasms of the Thyroid. *Arch Oto Head Neck Surg* 2008;138:101-6.

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

Kauffman RM, Ferketich AK, Wee AG, Shultz JM, Kuun P, and Wewers ME. **Factors associated with smokeless tobacco cessation in an Appalachian population.** *Addictive Behaviors* 2008;33:821-830.

Gozalo-Diaz DJ, Johnston WM, Wee AG. **Estimating the color of maxillary central incisors based on age and gender.** *J Prosthet Dent* 2008;100:93-98.

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

Presentation on October, 2008 Grand Rounds, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Nasal Reconstruction

Presentation on Otolaryngology, FAA Examiners Seminars, April 5, 2008 and June 5, 2008.

"Vestibular Illusions" presentation at Nebraska Academy of Otolaryngology Winter Symposium, March 4, 2008.

"Dr. Knows" presentation, Mount View Elementary School, March 2008, Fontenelle Elementary School, Feb. 26, 2008, Fullerton Elementary School, Feb. 13, 2008.

DEPARTMENT FACULTY



Donald A. Leopold, M.D., F.A.C.S.
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Interests: Nasal, Sinus and Sense of Smell



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MD, University of Nebraska Medical Center
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Oleg L. Miltsakh, M.D.
Assistant Professor
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Interests: Head and Neck Cancer/Surgery



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MPH, Ohio State University
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Professor
MD, University of Michigan, School of Medicine
Interests: General ENT, Sleep Apnea, FAA Physicals

UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Medical Center

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