



# The OTO OBSERVER

The Newsletter of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

## Chair's Note

Dear Readers,  
I hope you are doing well and spent quality time with family and friends during the holidays. We, at MCG-AU Otolaryngology, worked hard the first 6 months of the academic year to expand our services and improve the quality of care we deliver. [Read More](#)



## Department Honors and Awards

Our faculty, staff and, and residents continue to be recognized for their outstanding achievements over the past six months. [Read More](#)

## Welcome New Faculty

We are excited to welcome to the department two new faculty members: Christopher M. Johnson, MD, Associate Professor of Laryngology, Sarah E. Hodge, MD, Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology/Neurotology, and Daniel D. Sharbel, MD, Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Microvascular Surgery. [Read More](#)

## Resident and Alumni News

Our new group of residents have jumped right in and are already making an impact both on patient care and research/quality improvement projects. Our program has been well represented at regional and national meetings this year... [Read More](#)

## Clinical Spotlight

### Mandibular Distraction Osteogenesis in Neonate with Pierre Robin Sequence (PRS) - Heather Koehn, MD, MMHC

The patient presented as a 2 month old African American female with micrognathia transferred from outside hospital (OSH) for failure to thrive (FTT) and inability to wean oxygen therapy. She was born full term at OSH and struggled in the neonatal period to take PO so g-tube was placed. [Read More](#)

## Insurance Update

### Increasing Accessibility of Cochlear Implants in Older Adults Through Expansion of Insurance Coverage - Sarah Hodge, MD

The subject of hearing loss has recently obtained nationwide media coverage due to the approval of over-the-counter hearing aid sales. Unlike hearing aids, however, cochlear implants (CIs) are typically covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private health insurance plans if certain auditory criteria are met. Until recently... [Read More](#)

## Save the Date

**April 19-23, 2023**  
**Southern States Rhinology Symposium**  
Kiawah Island, South Carolina  
[www.southernstatesrhinology.org](http://www.southernstatesrhinology.org)

**June 9-10, 2023**  
**Annual Porubsky Symposium & Alumni Event**, Augusta Georgia  
[www.aofedtn.org/Porubsky](http://www.aofedtn.org/Porubsky)

## Professional Opportunities

**Pediatric Otolaryngologist:** We are seeking an individual at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with fellowship training. This is a great opportunity at our Children's Hospital of Georgia with excellent resources available.

To apply, please send a curriculum vitae to [skountakis@augusta.edu](mailto:skountakis@augusta.edu)

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [otolaryngology@augusta.edu](mailto:otolaryngology@augusta.edu) or call 706-721-6100