



DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

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Alumni Newsletter

Boris Bentsianov, M.D.

Assistant Professor
Director of the Division of Laryngology, Voice and Swallowing Disorders
Director of Alumni Outreach

We are very pleased to release our first alumni newsletter. This is the first of our planned biannual informational updates for our department's illustrious alumni. Our department's ongoing efforts in maintaining a close relationship between current and former residents began with the initiation of the Frank E. Lucente resident research and alumni day some 15 years ago. Dr. Bentsianov (class of 2002) has served as the department's Alumni chair since that time as well. Our alumni day annually showcases our resident's strong commitment to research with constructive input and commentary from an invited guest lecturer who is a leader in our field and one invited esteemed alumnus. We look forward to this year's Resident Research and Alumni Day on Thursday, June 1, with invited guests Dr. Neal Futran (Chair of Otolaryngology at the University of Washington and Dr. Marissa Earley (class of 2015).



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Alumni Spotlight

We will also have an alumni update section highlighting some recent accomplishments and successes by our Department Alumni.

For our first alumni update, we will fittingly focus on our long time alumni director Dr. Boris Bentsianov. Dr. Bentsianov has also been our director of laryngology since 2003. Dr. Bentsianov was recently inducted into the Triological Society with his thesis "Voice Outcomes in High Grade Reinke's Edema: Comparing Microflap Excision and Microdebrider Surgery" Congratulations Dr. Bentsianov. We welcome emails from all of our alumni with updates about their lives both personal and professional so we can keep up to date and maintain the spirit of friendship and teamwork that is the hallmark of our program. We look forward to this year's Alumni and Resident Research Day on Thursday, June 1, 2023.



Our new state-of-art Temporal Bone Lab at Downstate opened in 2021 and is located in room B7-39 of the SUNY Basic Science Building.

Temporal Bone Lab Video Tour:

<https://youtu.be/xK11QaO8YH8>



Stimulation-based Education

Dr. Ann Plum, (Pictured with Downstate Otolaryngology Residents in the Downstate Simulation Center) is the Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology and leads Simulation Education for the Department of Otolaryngology.

Residents practice intubating during a simulation session where they also practice decision-making with the goal of improving clinical knowledge and clinical judgment. See more of the simulation center by clicking on the link below.

[Center for Healthcare Simulation | SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University](#)

Sydney C. Butts, M.D.

Interim Chair and Associate Professor

Happy New Year. It is an honor to serve as the interim chair in the Department of Otolaryngology, a role I began on July 1, 2022. I am following Dr. Richard Rosenfeld who served as chair from 2009-2022 and stepped down after 13 productive years at the helm. Having joined the department in 2009, I have had the pleasure of teaching many residents that have completed their otolaryngology training at Downstate and are now alumni of the residency. As we start 2023, I would like to share with you, the alumni, some departmental updates and hope you will be pleased about our continued efforts on behalf of the patients we serve and the dedication to the residents we train.



The department is in the midst of interview season as we screen fourth year medical students for the upcoming otolaryngology residency match. Many of you may know that in-person interviews were replaced with virtual interviews in the fall of 2020 in light of safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the recommendation of the AAMC, virtual interviews have continued for the third year since COVID began. Virtual interviews have allowed students the opportunity to accept more interview

offers and avoid the significant expenses associated with traveling for in person visits (like all of you had to do) but introduce new challenges for programs in developing ways to highlight what the training experience is like. To better engage applicants, (and other visitors to our site) the department has enhanced website content including testimonials from patients who have successfully undergone cochlear implantation, cleft lip and palate surgery, transoral robotic surgery and microvascular free flap reconstruction of head and neck cancer defects. I encourage you to go to the departmental website using the link below where you will find the patient videos under the different clinical divisions.

One of the strengths of the department that we discuss with applicants is the exposure to a wide variety of patients resulting in a well-rounded clinical experience. It is through our network of affiliated hospitals that we are able to provide cutting edge otolaryngologic care and offer outstanding training to our residents. In the last two years, the doors opened at new ambulatory facilities at our affiliates-Maimonides Medical Center and New York Presbyterian-Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. In addition to these clinical sites, residents continue rotations at University Hospital Downstate, Kings County Hospital Center and Lenox Hill Hospital.

Surgical education has always relied on close mentorship in the operating room. Simulation-based education adds another dimension to the learning experience outside of the operating room. A head and neck simulation curriculum is taught in a state-of-the-art academic building on the campus of SUNY Downstate that houses the Center for Healthcare simulation. The temporal bone lab is also brand new, opening its doors in late 2020. It is a versatile educational space, purposed not only for the temporal bone course but also is the setting for soft tissue courses including a regular microvascular lab.

Multi-disciplinary care teams are also central to the department's approaches to patient care and there are several efforts I would like to highlight. In addition to our long-standing and productive head and neck tumor board, we have formalized a facial nerve/paralysis team, a pediatric aerodigestive clinic, and a communication disorders meeting group. These care teams provide enhanced levels of care for patients, along with opportunities for research and educational collaborations across departments.

I invite you to learn more about our research, clinical and outreach work highlighted on our website and hope that when you are in Brooklyn, you will come by for a tour.

[Otolaryngology | Fellowships & Residency | SUNY Downstate](#)

Please Keep In Touch

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Otolaryngology Residents

Our current update will focus on our newest residents and our most senior residents. In July 2022, we welcomed the new PGY-1 interns: James Cochran, Matthew Mendelsohn and Michele Wong who all graduated from the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. We are very proud of the current chief residents—Dr. Rahul Gulati, who will pursue a fellowship in head and neck surgery at the University of Iowa and Dr. Michael Weber, who will pursue a fellowship in otology at Pittsburgh Ear Associates.

First Year - PGY 1



James Cochran, M.D.

Medical School: SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University



Matthew Mendelsohn, M.D.

Medical School: SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University



Michele Wong, M.D.

Medical School: SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

Chiefs - PGY 5



Rahul Gulati, M.D.

Medical School: Rutgers New Jersey Medical School –2018
Fellowship: University of Iowa for Head and Neck Surgery



Michael Weber, M.D.

Medical School: SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University – 2018
Fellowship: Pittsburgh Ear Associates

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