

# Newsletter

## Department of Otolaryngology

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Publication for the Resident Alumni

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### The Annual Frank E. Lucente Alumni and Resident Research Day



*From left to right: Dr. Butts (interim chair), Dr. Marisa Earley (alumni speaker), Dr. Michael Weber and Dr. Ruhul Gulati (graduating chief residents), Dr. Nira Goldstein (program director), Dr. Neal Futran (Guest keynote speaker)*

The 2023 Frank E. Lucente Resident Research and Alumni Day was held at SUNY Downstate on Thursday, June 1. The research day marks the coming end of the academic year by highlighting the research efforts of our resident physicians. As in years past it is also featured an invited keynote speaker and a distinguished Alumni speaker.

This year we were honored to have Dr. Neal Futran MD, DMD as our keynote speaker. Dr. Futran is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology- HNS at the University of Washington and Director of Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Futran began his career by earning a dental degree from The University of Pennsylvania. He would then complete the joint Oral and Maxillofacial residency and Downstate College of Medicine program (joint MD/DMD) in 1987. Dr. Futran then completed his residency in Otolaryngology at the University of Rochester and then a Microvascular fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital with Dr. Mark Urken.

Dr. Futran's first gave an presentation-"Advances in Midface Reconstruction" was an excellent presentation highlighting the breadth of surgical

advances in the field over the last 20 years. His second talk- "Patient are First: One Surgeons Journey into the New World of Health Care Measures and Service"-would strike a quite different note with an eye-opening discussion of the state of our health care system and how physicians will be measured and valued in the coming years.

Our distinguished Alumni Speaker this year was Marisa Earley MD, Class of 2015. Dr. Earley completed Medical School at Rutgers Medical School before coming to SUNY Downstate. After graduating our residency, she went on to complete a Pediatric Fellowship at NYU and then join the Faculty at UT Health San Antonio. Dr. Earley is currently Clinical Associate Professor, and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology at UT San Antonio, and Residency Program Director. Dr. Earley's presentation -"The Feasibility of Functional Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) in the NICU"-was a review of her experience developing a multidisciplinary FEES program in San Antonio. The talk highlighted the passion and dedication required to initiate such a program at a major university hospital, and how successful such an endeavor can be with the proper leadership and coordination.

We had a great day of lectures, resident presentations and alumni activities. As always, the day is punctuated by opening and closing remarks by its namesake Dr. Frank E. Lucente who always lends much needed perspective and focus to the day's activities. Please be on the lookout for next year's program in early June 2024. We look forward to seeing you all there live or Zoom for another exciting FEL Resident Research and Alumni Day program!!!

## [Alumni Benefit: On Demand Faculty Lectures-Earn CME Credits](#)

As an exclusive offer for the alumni, we will make faculty lectures given during grand rounds available for view. Access to the lectures will be provided through the CME office and alumni can watch the presentations at their convenience and claim CME credits. Two lectures will be provided per quarter. After watching the video, instructions to claim the CME will be available. A CME transcript with a list of credits claimed will be made available for a nominal fee. We hope that this convenient access to CME credits will help with the accumulation of credits needed for ABO-HNS maintenance of certification, hospital privilege and state license renewals. The first series of lectures will be available in November and include three presentations on: Hearing Aid updates, Middle Ear Anatomy and Middle Ear Endoscopy, and Auditory Physiology. Access link will be sent out by email. Enjoy!

## [2023 AAO-HNS Annual Meeting](#)

It was wonderful to see several SUNY Downstate alumni at the recent AAO-HNS annual meeting in Nashville. Four current Downstate residents presented abstracts at the meeting. To learn more about the projects and the ongoing clinical research in the department, please visit the SUNY Downstate Otolaryngology website: [Otolaryngology](#)

## [In Memoriam - Vladimir Borja Santos](#)



Dr. Vladimir Borja Santos, passed away at age 79 on December 29, 2022 at Southern Hills Hospital in Las Vegas, Nevada.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 22 years, Ida R. Santos, his children, Dale, Lynn, Caroline, Claire, and Christine, and his sister, Vivian, and brother, Arnold. He also leaves behind 7 grandchildren (Alleah, Yianni, TJ, Lexa, Kayla, Troy, and Sophie), and 3 great-grandchildren (Thomas, Anthony, and Eleanor).

Vladimir was born on August 8, 1943, in Pasay City, Philippines to the late Hidalgo C. Santos and Gloria Borja. He was one of 6 children that grew up in Parañaque City in the Metropolitan Manila area. He attended the University of the Philippines Preparatory High School and graduated from the University of Santo Thomas in Manila with a degree of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery in April 1967.

Dr. Santos did his residency in Otolaryngology at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, NY and subsequently did a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology at Boston University School of Medicine. He became board-certified in 1975. Upon his return to Long Island College Hospital, he was appointed the Director of the Department of Otolaryngology where he played an instrumental role on the residency admissions committee and the residency training program. Additionally, he was appointed the Section Chief of Otolaryngology at the Brooklyn VA Medical Center and subsequently was a Clinical Assistant Professor of the Department of Otolaryngology at the State University of NY – Health Sciences Center in Brooklyn, NY. He also was an ENT consultant for the NYC Department of Health, NYC Fire Department, and Brooklyn International Longshoremans Association.

After 42 years of practice, Dr. Santos retired in 2012 and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada with his wife Ida. During his retirement, he spent much of his time traveling the world with Ida. He also enjoyed keeping in contact with his past school classmates and would coordinate get-togethers, reunions, and fund-raising events for charities throughout the years. He was heavily involved in many organizations, such as the University of Santo Thomas Medical Alumni Association (USTMAA) and was an associate and

lifetime member of the University of the Philippines Nursing Alumni association international (UPNAAI) and its chapter called Rocky Mountain Region Pacific States (RMRPS).

I personally met Dr. Santos in 1995 as a third-year medical student during my ENT clerkship. He immediately made an impression as a dedicated clinician and gifted Head and Neck Surgeon. But what truly stood out was his ability to communicate and be approachable and authentic with his patients. I would have the pleasure of working with Dr. Santos at LICH and the VA hospital for nearly the next 20 years. He always knew when to make a thoughtful comment and never failed to tell a corny joke. He would always make those around him laugh. He had a big heart, a hearty laugh, a generous nature, and always lead with a smile.

Dr. Santos was known to his colleagues, residents, nurses, and patients as a compassionate and caring physician and person. He showed us you can be a patient's physician, surgeon and friend all at the same time. There were countless accolades from the residents over the years, including several distinguished teaching awards. His kindness and mentorship to the Downstate training program spanned many generations of residents including myself. His warmth and generosity will be a legacy that we will always remember.

His loss will be deeply felt by all those who knew him personally and professionally.



## Do You Remember?



Dr. Lim, Dr. Rosenfeld

Dr. Lucente, Dr. Hanson, Dr. Borress (Chief Resident), Dr. Colen (Chief Resident), Dr. Wasserman (Chief Resident), Dr. Har-EL, Dr. Sundaram

### **2007 Resident Graduates Pictured with Faculty**