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Please check out the website for more departmental news. We would love to hear from you-please tell us what you are up to.

[Otolaryngology](#)

### Resident Research and Alumni Day

Once again the conclusion of our Academic year was punctuated by the 18th iteration of the annual Frank E Lucente Resident Research and Alumni day. This event, held this year on 6/6/24, highlights the clinical and basic science research efforts of members of the Department of Otolaryngology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. The meeting once again honors the founding chair of the department- Dr. Frank E. Lucente, who continues to inspire the spirit of learning, leadership and scholarship exhibited by our resident researchers working under the guidance of faculty mentors.



*Dr. Andrew Blitzer*

This year the department was to welcome two special guest faculty lecturers. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Andrew Blitzer, Professor Emeritus of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the director of the Hackensack Meridian/ Rutgers Laryngology fellowship. Dr. Blitzer

has been an academic and clinical leader in the field of laryngology for over 50 years and has built a nationally recognized Laryngology fellowship training program which has trained subspecialty fellows for over 25 years. His Keynote address focused on perhaps his greatest contribution to the field of Laryngology, the role of Botulinum Neurotoxin Therapy in Disorders of the head and neck.

## Resident Research and Alumni Day

Our second invited faculty member is one of our own SUNY Downstate Alumni. This year's guest was Dr. Scott Harris, who graduated from our residency program in 2015. Dr. Harris is currently a practicing comprehensive otolaryngologist at Northwell Health Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery and Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at the Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. His clinical practice encompasses all aspects of general otolaryngology with a unique focus on treatment of benign salivary gland disorders. Dr. Harris serves inspirational example of the power of continued learning and career development while managing a thriving and busy otolaryngology practice



*Dr. Scott Harris*

As always the research day was highlighted by our resident speakers who showcased their research projects and academic pursuits from the prior year. The research and alumni day is also designed to honor our programs distinguished graduates over the last 3 decades and of course our 3 graduating chief residents, Dr. Tominaga, Dr. Liang and Dr. Mathews. The meeting was an enjoyable and educational conclusion to another great academic year in our department. Thanks to all that participated both in person and remotely. See you again next year !



Faculty and residents at FEL research and alumni:  
Drs. Liang, Tominaga, Mathews(chief residents), Drs. Goldstein, Blitzer, Bentsianov and Butts.

## Surgical Mission to Ifugao Philippines

In February 2024, members of the Department of Otolaryngology participated in a surgical mission to Ifugao, Philippines lead by Dr. Michal Preis. Dr. Preis is on the clinical staff at Maimonides Medical Center where Downstate otolaryngology residents operate learning otologic surgery under her guidance during rotations there. Dr. Preis has made that learning experience a global one by including residents for the last several years on a surgical mission performing middle ear surgery. This year, Drs. James Alrassi (PGY4) and Fasil Matthews (PGY-5) joined Dr. Preis for the one-week trip.

The utilization of endoscopic instruments to perform ear surgery was central to work that was done. This technology allowed for portable, yet precise otologic procedures that focused on treating chronic middle ear disease, a prevalent issue in the region. The team saw 200 patients in the otology clinic and operated for four days, performing twenty-eight cases. During that week, the audiologists saw 150 patients and dispensed hearing aids to 122 patients.

The experience was unrivaled, not only due to the cutting-edge techniques employed, but also because of the profound human connections that were made. The gratitude and resilience of the patients were truly inspiring. Each day presented new challenges and learning opportunities, reinforcing the importance of compassion and innovation in medical practice.

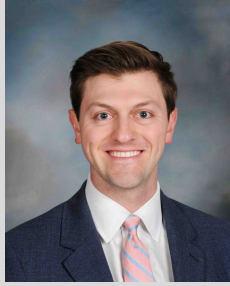
The mission to Ifugao was more than just a professional endeavor; it was a deeply enriching journey that underscored the power of medical intervention in underserved regions of the world. The lessons learned and the bonds formed will undoubtedly influence our future work and commitment to global health. Dr. Preis is to be congratulated for her dedication to this work. The department wishes to acknowledge Dr. Dennis Lee, Downstate Otolaryngology graduate, whose generosity in sponsoring this trip made it possible for the residents to participate in the mission.



## Surgical Mission to Ifugao Philippines Gallery



## First Year PGY1



**Dylan Cooper, M.D.**

**Medical School:** Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Nothwell



**Joshua Kang, M.D.**

**Medical School:** Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN



**Alison Khan, M.D.**

**Medical School:** Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

## Graduating Chief Residents



Congratulations to the class of 2024-Jennifer Liang MD, Fasil Matthews MD and Stephanie Tominaga MD(l-r). All three graduates will join private practice groups: Dr. Liang will work for Associates in Otolaryngology in Northern Virginia and Drs. Matthews and Tominaga will join ENT and Allergy Associates in New York City.

## Upcoming Event!

**The Combined Alumni Reception of  
The Metropolitan New York Residency  
Programs**

at

The Annual Meeting of the American  
Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and  
Neck Surgery

**Monday, September 30, 2024 at the  
Fontainebleau Hotel,**

6:30 – 8:30 pm, Rooms Splash 11 +  
Splash 12

4441 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL

**Please RSVP to Gladys Padilla at**  
[gpadilla@montefiore.org](mailto:gpadilla@montefiore.org)