

# OTOSCOPE Quarterly

A publication for friends and colleagues of Jefferson's Department of Otolaryngology– Head & Neck Surgery

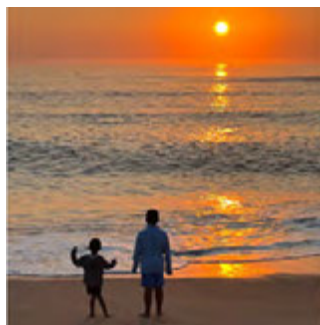
## Welcome Udayan Shah, MD, MBA

We are pleased to welcome **Udayan Shah, MD, MBA** to the Department effective January 2, 2024. Dr. Shah joins the Otolaryngology Division and holds the rank of Professor in Otolaryngology and Pediatrics. He will see patients in Center City, Cherry Hill and the Navy Yard.



"After high school in Gaithersburg, Maryland, I spent 11 years at Boston University for college, med school and residency. I came to Philly in 1997 for my Peds OTO Fellowship at CHOP and Penn, and stayed there until 2007, when I moved to Nemours and Jefferson. At Nemours, I served as Fellowship Director and Division

Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology, and as Enterprise Chief of Credentialing. When I'm not watching the Eagles (not the band...), you're likely to find me trekking along or through some land-water interface. Here are a few shots from heaven-on-earth, aka Wellfleet, Mass., near the tip of the peninsula that is Cape Cod. Shots from Wellfleet are nephews welcoming sunrise over the Atlantic from Wellfleet's ocean-side, myself



at a bay-side marsh, as I taunt Pats fans along that stretch of the Cape. Rounding out my loves are sons Silas (no glasses) and Henry, with wife Leonie, and the step & grand-kids – Aidan, sporting the perfect cufflinks, baby Athena, who lives in Malton, UK, walking with dad Lee, married to Ellie, and baby Hayes, son of Zack & his wife Hannah."



Left to right: Sons Silas (no glasses) and Henry with wife Leonie



Left to right: Aidan, sporting the perfect cufflinks, baby Athena with dad Lee, and baby Hayes, son of Zack & Hannah

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# Achievements and Congratulations



## INAUGURAL ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARDS

We would like to congratulate the recipients of our Inaugural Annual Employee Awards.

### ★ Oto Rookie of the Year Award



**Danielle Klessel**, a nurse from our Center City office received this award. It was noted in her nominations that Danielle “has been an amazing addition to our team”; “She goes above and beyond for all of our patients and staff members.

She is always the first to offer to help out in any situation.” “She treats everyone with kindness and respect” “She is very modest but tackles the tasks like a pro.”

Nominated by her peers, this award recognizes an employee of the Department who was hired within the last 12 months for outstanding performance and contributions to their team and the department.

### ★ Most Valuable Oto Employee Community Location

For the most valuable oto employee – community location, the recipient is **Haley Ann Jonessen**. Haley is an MA at our Torredale office and has been with the department since the spring of 2021 and she received multiple nominations which stated that she is “a super dynamic professional who has exceptional instincts and coordinating abilities well beyond her years in medicine”; “she has always been a great worker but she has grown so much in the past year”; “she has become the person a lot of people go to with questions and she is always willing to help.

She goes above and beyond to help all of us. She is eager to learn and always asking great questions, wanting to gain more knowledge because she genuinely cares about people.”

Also nominated by her peers, this award recognizes an employee of the Department for outstanding performance and contributions to the Department and our mission to provide the highest quality patient care by driving health care advancement and equity through collaboration, education, and innovation.



### ★ Most Valuable Oto Employee Center City

**Mary Beier** is the well-deserving recipient. Mary is an Administrative Coordinator in Center City and has been with the department since 2003 and at Jefferson since 1998.

Her multiple nominations state: “she is a staple in the department. She is reliable and helpful. She is the “go to” of the department.

With 20+ years of experience, I believe she is overdue for this type of award.” Another nomination said “there is nothing this person isn’t able to handle for me and everyone else in the department. She is everyone’s go to person and is always willing to help.”





# Happy Retirement, Dr. Fitzgerald!



In December we took some time to thank **Dennis Fitzgerald, MD** and to wish him well in his retirement. Dr. Fitzgerald is relocating to Florida and while he will be practicing part-time, he will also be enjoying time on the golf links. Best wishes to Dr. Fitzgerald.

Congratulations to **Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA** who has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Rhinologic Society.



**Ryan Heffelfinger, MD** and **Howard Krein, MD, PhD** were in attendance at the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS) Meeting which took place in October, 2023 in Las Vegas, NV. They caught up with **Eric Barbarite, MD (FP '23)** who was awarded the Jack Anderson award for the highest score on the AAFPRS board examination! *Congratulations to Dr. Barbarite!*



**Jacob (Jake) Hulswit, AuD** has been promoted to the Tinnitus and Hyperacusis Program Coordinator.

In his short time here, Jake has improved the tinnitus and sound intolerance care by creating the Progressive Tinnitus Management (PTM) group. This program was established at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory research and is backed by years of research from Dr. James Henry and other Veterans Health Administration researchers. Our PTM program is now one of the only ones in the entire world that provides progressive tinnitus management to civilian (non-veteran) patients. The goal of this group is to provide education and strategies to help better manage physical and emotional reactions to the tinnitus and improve quality of life. This is a rare opportunity for tinnitus and hyperacusis patients and has led to them coming in and pursuing treatment, all thanks to the program Jake created here and leads with the help of **Monique Marcus**.

In his new role, Jake will continue to re-educate, update, and lead the tinnitus team as well as other providers toward a more whole health focused, best patient care which will improve tinnitus care and increase patient access and satisfaction. We are grateful that Jake will lead us in improving quality of life for patients experiencing tinnitus, hyperacusis, misophonia and other related auditory conditions.

## Jefferson Oto in the News

**Jacob Hunter, MD**, appeared in a promotional spot on 6ABC which aired from December 25 through 29, 2023. The segment highlights Jefferson's Cochlear Implant Program. Click [here](#), or on the image to watch the video, or go to <http://tinyurl.com/HunterWorldNews>.



## Coming Up Next

**MARCH 13, 2024**

**James Reilly, MD Lecture in Pediatric Otolaryngology**

**DOUGLAS R. JOHNSTON, MD**

*Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University*



**APRIL 3, 2024**

**Herbert Kean, MD Lecture in Facial Plastic Surgery**

**P. DANIEL KNOTT, MD, FACS**

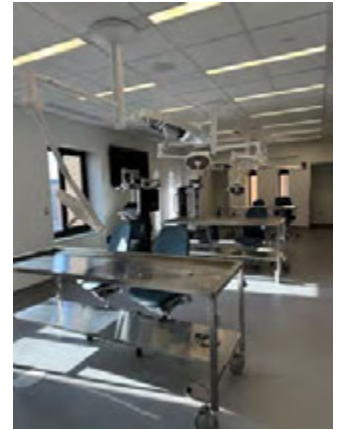
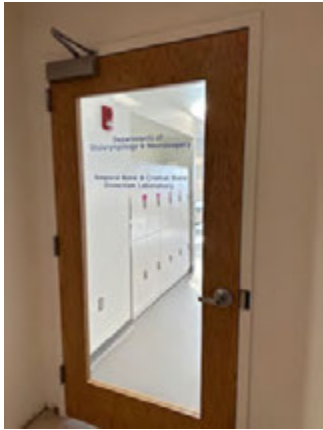
*Professor of Otolaryngology, University of California San Francisco*





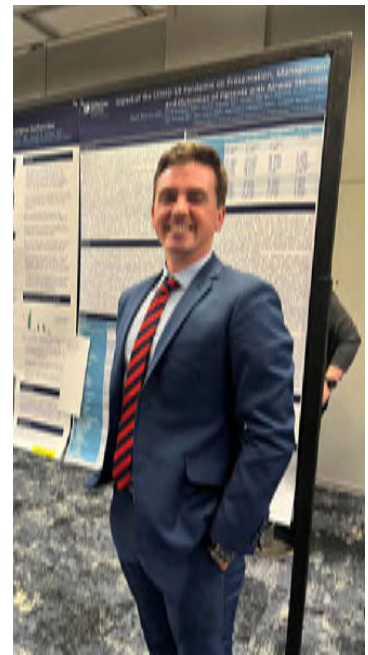
# Coming Soon... New Temporal Bone & Cranial Base Dissection Laboratory

It has been a long time coming, but our new lab at 1125 Curtis Building, with state-of-the-art equipment and technology is almost ready for use. The faculty are so excited and we cannot wait to move in and have our students and residents utilize this amazing space. Stay tuned for the ribbon cutting in March 2024!



## Otolaryngology Events: Looking Back

Dylan Bertoni, MD (PGY4) and Sana Siddiqui, MD (PGY5) were joined by Joseph Spiegel, MD and Kathleen Tibbetts, MD at The Fall Voice Conference which was held from October 19-21, 2023 in Washington DC. The Fall Voice Conference is designed to encourage and educate professionals on a multi-disciplinary approach to the management of vocal disorders. The focus of this conference is the clinical care of patients with voice-related difficulties and how clinical and basic science research guide clinical care.

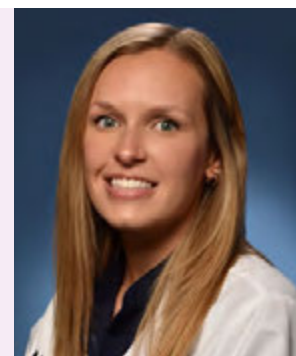


The 4th annual Women in Otolaryngology dinner was hosted at Jefferson on October 18, 2023. There was a tremendous turnout of otolaryngologists from across our region, including many current and former Jefferson trainees. Thank you to **Elizabeth Cottrill, MD** for organizing the event and to all the women in our department for the important work they do to promote and mentor the women in the field of otolaryngology.



**Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA** and **Colin Huntley, MD** attended the International Otolaryngology Underwater Update course in Jamaica from October 24-27, 2023. Dr. Toskala was one of the course directors and gave a talk on Allergy Management for Otolaryngologists as well as chaired two sessions, and Dr. Huntley gave lectures on Perioperative Management of Sleep Apnea patients and CPAP Use After Nasal Surgery.

**Lauren Lucas, AuD** attended the 2023 Fall International Cochlear Implant Meeting from October 23-25, 2023 in Santa Rosa Beach, FL. The meeting consisted of a 3-day panel and lecture-based material fostering peer-to-peer discussion amongst the country's top neurotologic surgeons and audiologists regarding cochlear implants. This meeting is clinically focused on current practices and innovations in research regarding cochlear implantation. Dr. Lucas served on the panel "Candidacy vs. Medical Necessity," discussing barriers that clinicians and patients encounter in the process of getting cochlear implants approved for those who would benefit from this technology.







**Marc Rosen, MD** and James Evans, MD (neurosurgery faculty) traveled to Houston, TX to serve as visiting professors for the Annual MD Anderson Skull Base Course which was held on November 4, 2023.

**Jacob Hunter, MD, Jim Han, MD (PGY5), Chase Kahn, MD (PGY4), Jena Patel, MD (PGY4) and Aarti Agarwal, MD (PGY5)** attended a two-day ear dissection course which was hosted by Medtronic. The course provided residents from across the country with a cadaver for middle ear dissection using an endoscope. Participants also practiced tympanoplasty and ossiculoplasty techniques. Another day was devoted to drilling the temporal bone, isolating the facial nerve, practicing cochlear implantation insertions, and opening the internal auditory canal. These sessions were complemented by didactic lectures that outlined the procedures to be performed in the lab and showcased various cases and techniques from an internationally recognized faculty.







**David Cognetti, MD** was in Cincinnati on November 4, 2023 for the Donald Schumrick Head and Neck Cancer Lectureship. Dr. Cognetti was able to catch up with several friends of the department including Drs. Alice Tang, Chad Zender, and Dave Steward. Dr. Schumrick's son Kevin is an Otolaryngologist and Kevin's son Chris was one of our earliest research fellows in 2016! Chris has completed his residency and is currently doing a clinical fellowship in Texas.



Our residents participated in a midface and mandibular plating workshop on November 15, 2023, which was provided compliments of DePuy Synthes US CMF.





# 2023 Thyroid Cancer Symposium: Updates in the Diagnosis and Treatment

The biennial Thyroid Cancer Symposium was held on Friday, November 17, 2023. While the course was virtual, there was a "watch party" at 925 Chestnut Street where our residents, research fellows and other interested staff attended together. More than 60 healthcare professionals from across the country attended the course which included a comprehensive and current update in the diagnosis and management of thyroid nodules and thyroid cancer. The presentations were a combination of evidence-based medicine and clinical experience, patient cases and clinical findings. There were also expert panel discussions designed to help inform practice decisions on complex clinical cases.

**Elizabeth Cottrill, MD** served as co-course director along with Jeffrey Miller, MD of Endocrinology, while **David Cognetti, MD**, **Christopher Fundakowski, MD**, **Edmund Pribitkin, MD, MBA** and **Kathleen Tibbetts, MD** served as course faculty.

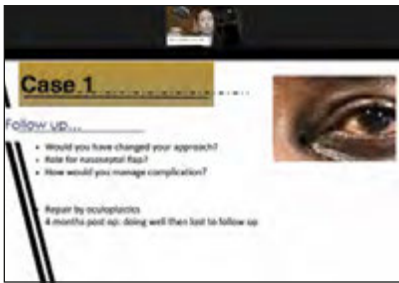
## Understanding physician-patient factors associated with RAI use

- The interplay between physicians and patients in determining RAI use remains understudied, and yet critically important to tailoring care.
- We asked surveyed patients to identify the endocrinologists and surgeons involved in thyroid cancer management.
- The physician survey data was merged with the patient survey data resulting in 2,661 patient-physician pairs (some patients identified a surgeon and an endocrinologist)

Miller JF, et al., JGIM 2023, 38(11):1402-1412



**David Cognetti, MD** enjoyed an evening with Drs. John McGrath (PCOM), Nadir Ahmad (Cooper), Cecelia Schmalbach (Temple), Robert Sataloff (Drexel), Greg Farwell (Penn) and Ken Altman (Geisinger) for the Annual Philadelphia Region Otolaryngology Chairs Dinner, which was hosted by Dr. Sataloff, on November 14, 2024.



On December 6, 2023, **Mindy Rabinowitz, MD** and **Blair Barton, MD (RF'21)** moderated a panel discussion on "Surgical Approaches to Benign Orbital Disease" which was sponsored by the Skull Base and Orbital Section (SBOS) of the American Rhinologic Society. There were over 170 attendees and among the panelists were our colleagues **Alison Watson, MD** from Wills Eye Oculoplastics and **Sanjeet Rangarajan, MD (RF'17)** and **Tomas Garzon-Muvdi** (neurosurgery skull base fellow alum).

**Jacob Hunter, MD** and audiologists **Anna Bixler, AuD** and **Lauren Lucas, AuD** presented a webinar entitled "Hearing Loss: Diagnosing a Treatable Condition" on December 6, 2023. More than 200 people were in attendance.



The annual Otolaryngology Holiday Party was held on December 15, 2023. **David Cognetti, MD** presented our first annual employee awards as detailed on page 2.





“ HEY –  
JEFFERSON  
OTO ALUMNI  
”

“ We want  
to hear  
from you!  
”

“ What’s the  
good news?  
”

“ What have you  
been up to?  
”

Email your news, updates  
and what’s happening with you to  
[Joanne.Gauthier@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Joanne.Gauthier@Jefferson.edu)

## Join Us in Transforming Lives

You can help to support Jefferson Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery’s mission to **provide the highest quality patient care by driving advancement and equity through collaboration, education and innovation.**

We have created three funds – Collaboration Fund, Education Fund, Innovation Fund - that align with our mission and are excellent ways for our alumni and supporters to give back.

Join us in our journey to make a meaningful difference. Together, let’s drive advancement, foster collaboration, promote education, and ignite innovation.



Scan to support or visit  
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