A message from the Chairman

It's Back! After a brief hiatus, this is the return of our Alumni Newsletter. We are very excited to update you with the exciting news and events of the Department. The hospital building project is well underway and on track for September 2020 occupancy. We have an amazing new West County office with a growing Facial Plastic Division. Our education and research missions continue to thrive.

Most importantly, I want to remind you of our Alumni Event this fall. Registration is open at alumni.slu.edu/oto2018. It will be an amazing weekend of reminiscing, making new friends, and learning more of the future of the Department. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best,

JA

Jasin Antisdel, MD
Chairman
Outpatient Office

February 28th we opened our new West County Office at 555 N. New Dallas Road, Suite 260. We combined our two offices that were on the Mercy Campus as well as merged Dr. Walen & Dr. Simo’s Facial Plastics practice.

Our staff made the move look incredibly easy. They closed the two offices, opened the new, and had the faculty seeing patients in just a matter of days.

Dr. Joshua Sappington examines a patient's ears using one of the new state of the art ear microscopes.
Frank Simo, MD    Scott Walen, MD

July 1st we welcomed Dr. Frank Simo and his staff to the SLUCare Otolaryngology Department. The Facial Plastics division is located at our new West County office at 555 N New Ballas Rd. We are offering a full range of specialties in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Simo graduated from the University of Florida College of Medicine as well as a Fellowship in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Indiana University, Indianapolis Indiana. His Residency was here at Saint Louis University in the Otolaryngology Department and he has been in private practice since 1990. Dr. Simo is joined by Dr. Scott Walen who is currently an Assistant Professor and is our Assistant Program Director for the Otolaryngology Residency program. Dr. Walen graduated from the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine and did his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the at the University of Calgary. Dr. Walen also completed a fellowship in Facial Plastics and Reconstructive surgery at Washington University, St. Louis, MO and a fellowship in Head & Neck Reconstructive Surgery here at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO.
Samkon Gado, MD

Dr. Samkon Gado, third-year resident in the Department of Otolaryngology at Saint Louis University, received Graduate Medical Education support for a 28 day away elective rotation. His trip took place in January 2018 to serve at the Bingham University Teaching Hospital in Jos, Nigeria.

Gado, born and raised in Nigeria until the age of eight, found the opportunity to return home and give back to a country that gave him so much both rewarding and challenging. Sharing the experience with his wife and three children made the rotation more memorable and Gado describes it as more than he expected.

Given the limited number of trained ENT physicians, Gado quickly realized he was the most qualified ENT for miles. Three days a week he treated patients presenting with a range of otolaryngology issues in a fully booked clinic. The other two days, he had hoped were going to be filled with surgical procedures where he could fully utilize his skills and knowledge to serve the people of Jos. Gado’s surgical time was not as busy as anticipated, primarily due to the inability of patients to pay but also because some treatments were beyond his level of training; however, he was able to perform procedures ranging from tonsillectomies to wound salvage.

His reflection on the away rotation in Nigeria is befitting of a man whose daily actions fully embody the SLU mission to pursue “truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity,” Dr. Samkon Gado said it was a life-changing and valuable experience to serve the people of Nigeria, a country to which he desires to return and live a mission-driven life through a career in medicine.
Please join us in congratulating, Sean Massa, MD and Daniel Wehrmann, MD, who graduated from our Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Residency. It was a splendid evening, certainly the hottest in department history!

Dr. Sean Massa joined us in 2013 with his Doctorate of Medicine from Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA and a Bachelors of Science in Biomedical Engineering, Minor in Global Health from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. After graduating Dr. Massa started his Head and Neck fellowship at Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Daniel Wehrmann joined us in 2013 after his internship in General Surgery at Saint Louis School of Medicine. Wehrmann received his Doctor of Medicine form Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, NE and his Bachelor of Science in Biology, Minor in Psychology from Truman State University, Kirksville, MO. Dr. Wehrmann also did an Away Rotation at Hospital Ruber International in Madrid, Spain, April of 2016. After graduation Dr. Wehrmann started his Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Each year the residents vote on three separate awards, Outstanding Clinical Faculty Member, Outstanding Academic Faculty Member, and Resident MVP. Our guest speaker Kathleen Sie, MD, chooses the Resident Research Award recipient based on research presented earlier in the day at our Mark A. Varvares, MD Endowed Lecture.

- Dr. Gregory Ward, Outstanding Academic Faculty Member
- Dr. Mark Packer, Outstanding Clinical Faculty Member
- Dr. Matthew Gropler, Resident Research Award
- Samantha Anderson, Resident MVP Award

This year a special First Chair Award was presented. It was awarded to Dr. John Eisenbeis for his 25 years of dedication to Saint Louis University and the SLU Mission.

Kathleen C.Y Sie, MD, FACS
Guest Speaker at our 29th Annual Mark A. Varvares, MD Endowed Lecture
Dr. Thomas Sanford was promoted to Professor July 1st. He is board certified in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. He attended medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He completed his residency in Otolaryngology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. Sanford joined our faculty in July 2005. Congratulations Tom and thank you for your dedication to the Department!

Dr. Dennis Fuller has been appointed to serve on the Standard and Ethics Board of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Dr. Fuller’s 4-year term will begin January 1, 2019. The Board is responsible for maintaining and administering ASHA’s code of Ethics. Dr. Fuller joined our faculty in 1997.

Nosa Osazuwa-Peters, PhD successfully defended his dissertation entitled: Epidemiology of Cancer-Associated Suicide among Head and Neck Cancer Survivors in the United States. Nosa officially received his Doctorate in Philosophy in Public Health Studies during graduation in May. He has been promoted to Assistant Professor. Nosa oversees our Epidemiology core. Nosa has also been named co-guest editor for a special focus issue on HPV-associated cancers in the Journal of Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics.

Dr. Joseph Brunworth’s application into the American College of Surgeons has been approved. He will remain an “Initiate” until Fellowship is formally conferred at the Convocation Ceremony in Boston this October. Dr. Brunworth joined our faculty in October 2014. Congratulations Joe on your achievement!

Dr. Jennifer Brinkmeier and Dr. John Chi held the 3rd Annual Midwest Otolaryngology Simulation Training (MOST) course on July 15. The MOST course is a boot camp for junior residents, providing the opportunity for hands-on experience with procedures and scenario simulations in speaking with families, etc. Participants included 14 residents and 11 faculty from SLU, WashU, University of Tennessee, and UMSL.
Dr. Joshua Sappington joined our faculty in October. His specialty is Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery with a Subspecialty in Otology/Neurotology, Skull Base Surgery, Cochlear Implants, Chronic Ear Surgery, Skull Base Tumors. Sappington attended Medical school at Saint Louis University. He completed his Residency at Loyola University and a Fellowship in Neurotology, Otology, and Lateral Skull Base at Louisiana State University, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Sappington is Board certified in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

New Residents

Scott Hong, MD
Rush Medical College of Rush University Medical Center

Joseph Sinnwell, MD
Wake Forest School of Medicine of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

Save the Date

Saint Louis University
Department of Otolaryngology
Head and Neck Surgery
Alumni Society Weekend
September 14—16, 2018
Saint Louis, Missouri

Hotel Accommodations:
Hotel Ignacio — 314-977-4413
Rate: $155.00 per night
Reserve your room prior to August 14, 2018 for group rate

weekend events details coming soon

For more information or questions please contact:
Tina Vandeveer
ent@health.slu.edu or 314-268-7408

Pere Marquette
Three Sixty at Ballpark Village


• Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma in Adolescents and Young Adults: Survivorship Patterns and Disparities. Challapalli SD, Simpson MC, Adjei Boakye E, Pannu JS, Costa DJ, Osazuwa-Peters N. J Adolesc Young Adult Oncol. 2018 May 10


- Approaching a decade since HPV vaccine licensure: Racial and gender disparities in knowledge and awareness of HPV and HPV vaccine. Adjei Boakye E, Tobo BB, Rojek RP, Mohammed KA, Geneus CJ, Osazuwa-Peters N. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2017 Nov 2;13(11):2713-2722


