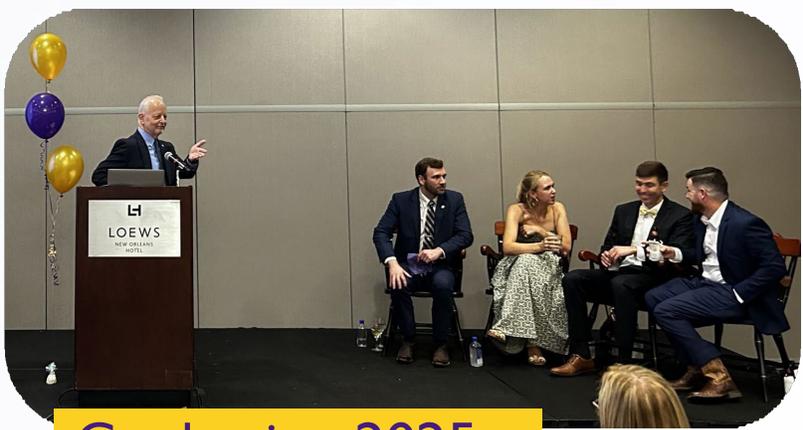


Otolaryngology

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS



Graduation 2025

This June, the department held its annual Chair Party honoring the Resident Graduating Class of 2025.

A heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Adam J. Blancher, Dr. Christine A. Matthews, Dr. Kurt C. Mueller, and Dr. J. Logan Sobieski!

New Faces

Please join us in welcoming the newest additions to our department:

Faculty:

Gregory Paul Marks, MD
Belinda Mantle, MD
Brian Petit, MD
and Jack Breaux, MD



Staff:

Madison Riley, BBM
Courtney Davis, MS

Neurotology Fellow:

Cameron B. Lindemann, MD



28th Annual Resident Research and Alumni Day

RRAD Winners

1. Dr. J. Christian Lemoine
2. Dr. Kurt Mueller
3. Dr. Carley Boyce

A special thanks to Dr. Lacey Adkins and Dr. Leslie Son for their guidance!



Guest Lecturer:

Theda C. Kontis, MD, FACS

An Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Kontis' presentation, "Leadership and the Art of Injectables" offered valuable insights into her professional trajectory and becoming an expert in her field.



Farewell

Dr. Rahul Mehta

Dr. Rahul Mehta has served as a dedicated neurotologist at LSUHSC Department of Otolaryngology for the past ten years, during which time he co-chaired the Department's Temporal Bone Course. This year, Dr. Mehta was promoted to Clinical Professor and has accepted a position at the University of Mississippi. Congratulations, Dr. Mehta! You will be missed!

Meet our New Residents

Welcome AY26 Interns:

- Alexandra Ibewuike, MD
- Ava Karam, MD
- Anna Rawls, MD
- James Warren, MD



In This Issue

Accomplishments

From news features to grant awards, get the run-down on our recent achievements.

Publications

Highlighting recent research and scholarly contributions.

Conferences, Panels & Presentations

Showcasing ENT participation in national and international forums.

Community Outreach

Engaging with our community through education and service initiatives.

Upcoming Events

Looking ahead: conferences, workshops, and other departmental activities.

New Faces

Welcoming new faculty, staff, and fellows to our team.



Accomplishments



TC Flowers, MD in Gambit

Media Features

- **TC Flowers, MD** spotlighted in Gambit Summer Dining Issue 2025 (Published May 17, 2025).
- **Jill D'Souza, MD** named one of New Orleans Magazine's 2025 Top Doctors and featured in the August issue.
- **Laura Hetzler, MD** selected by Baton Rouge Business Report as one of the top 500 powerful and influential community leaders for *The Capital Region 500*.
- **Sagar Kansara, MD** spotlighted in OLOL story "Precision and Peace of Mind: How Robotic Surgery Helped One Man Beat Throat Cancer" Patient Stories (Jul 29, 2025)
- **Rohan Walvekar, MD** featured in OLOL stories:
 - "Saving Salivary Glands with Precision" Children's Health (Aug 26, 2025)
 - "From Indiana to Louisiana for the Right Doctor at the Right Time" Patient Stories (Aug 26, 2025)

Appointments, Recognition & Leadership

- **Lacey Adkins, MD** appointed Medical Director for the Voice and Speech Trainers Association.
- **Michael Dunham, MD** appointed to the ALHNS Medical Device Committee.
- **Michael Dunham, MD** contributed to the proposal for creating the LSUHSC Center for Computational Biology and Data Science.
- **Laura Hetzler, MD** elected Southern Regional Director for the AAFPRS Board.
- **Laura Hetzler, MD** appointed Chair of the Facial Plastic Surgery Education Committee for AAO-HNS.
- **Kevin McLaughlin, MD** received an Honor Award from AAO-HNSF.
- **Kevin McLaughlin, MD** recognized as a National Faculty for Inspire Sleep.
- **Lisa Morris, MD** appointed to the American Cleft Palate & Craniofacial Standards Task Force.
- **Alyssa Ovaitt, MD** joined the AAO-HNS Ethics Committee.
- **Alyssa Ovaitt, MD** achieved double board certification from ABFPRS.

Research

- **Sagar Kansara, MD** attended the NRG Oncology meeting in Washington, DC, as a member of the NRG Early Career Investigator Subcommittee; participated in cancer screening on August 28.
- **Sagar Kansara, MD** leading efforts to make OLOL the main site for NRG clinical trials, including NRG-HN014 and upcoming NRG-HN015.



LSUHSC Department of Otolaryngology Updates

Research cont.

Michael Dunham, MD received a National Science Foundation grant worth \$1.2 million for a project titled “Collaborative Research: SaTC 2.0: RES: A Privacy-Preserving Framework for Sharing and Learning from Scarce Medical Data.” This project will span for three years and includes collaboration with researchers at Louisiana State University and Kansas State University.

Michael Dunham, MD's E-O-DD research project at Manning Family Children's Hospital and Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital



Noteworthy Clinical Innovation

Kevin McLaughlin, MD is commencing implantation of the newly approved battery-free hypoglossal neurostimulator Genio by Nyxoah.

Publications

- Robichaux MG, Fang Z, **D'Souza JN**. Antibiotic stewardship in pediatric head and neck surgery. *Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol*. Published online July 28, 2025;112503. doi:10.1016/j.ijporl.2025.112503. PMID: 40749434.
- Liddell PH, Lee JH, Mechatto A, Myatt GD, Lewis JW, Tayara A, **Warren JD**, Kane AC. Health inequities in head and neck cancer: disparities across the continuum of care. *Head Neck*. 2025;47(10):2867-2880. doi:10.1002/hed.70006. PMID: 40747754.
- **Boyce C**, Joseph J, Smith R, Fang Z, MacDowell S, **Hetzler LT**. Role of perinasal musculature in ipsilateral nasal obstruction during synkinesis progression. *Facial Plast Surg Aesthet Med*. 2025;27(5):431-436. doi:10.1177/26893614251372080. PMID: 40876003.
- Oyer SL, Baptista R, Boahene K, Borschel GH, Byrne P, Chuang DC, Dey JK, Diels J, Guerreschi P, Gur E, Hadlock T, **Hetzler L**, Kim J, Klebuc M, Labbé D, Lassaletta L, Loyo M, Mardini S, Miller MQ, Pepper JP, Rozen S, Snyder-Warwick A, Stephan S, Tzafetta K, Azizzadeh B. International, multispecialty expert consensus on nomenclature for facial paralysis. *Facial Plast Surg Aesthet Med*. 2025;27(5):408-415. doi:10.1177/26893614251363957. PMID: 40876002.
- Rosenberg JD, **Hetzler LT**, Spector ME, Pepper JP, Lighthall J, Gray ML, Kochhar A. The use of nerve allografts in facial nerve repair and facial reanimation. *Facial Plast Surg Aesthet Med*. 2025;27(5):459-467. doi:10.1177/26893614251374412. PMID: 40875998.
- Lacourrege KE, Mansour FM, Fonseca V, Brignac M, Matthews MR, Sen J, **Son LS, Walvekar RR**, Hackman T, Sridharan S, Schaitkin BM, Marzouk MF. Perioperative antibiotics in sialendoscopy: a retrospective cohort study. *Laryngoscope*. Published online October 1, 2025. doi:10.1002/lary.70182. PMID: 41030111.

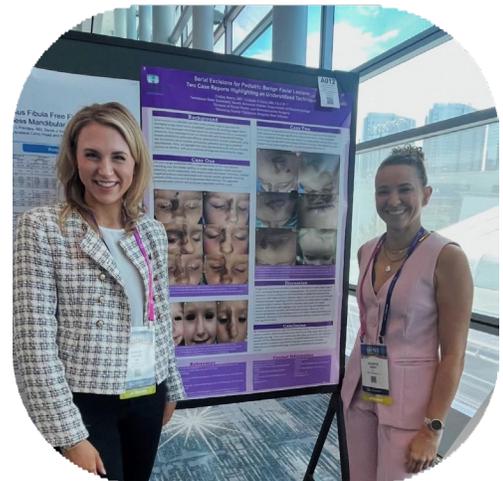


Publications cont.

- Hagen J, Hornung L, Barham W, Mukhopadhyay S, Bess A, Contrera K, Basu D, Sandulache V, Spielmann G, **Kansara S**. Artificial intelligence in head and neck cancer: towards precision medicine. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2025;17(18):3023. doi:10.3390/cancers17183023. PMID: 41008865; PMCID: PMC12469001.
- **Cecola C**, Patel K, Jones L, Oghenefefiro O, **Hetzler L**. Surgical management of unilateral cleft lip. *Facial Plast Surg Clin North Am*. Published online August 2025. PMID: pending.
- **Cecola CF**, Van Nuland SE, MacDowell S, Nguyen C, **Boyce C**, **Hetzler L**. Management of New-Onset Headaches in the Setting of Progressive Synkinesis. *Facial Plast Surg Aesthet Med*. 2025 Nov 24. doi: 10.1177/26893614251398873. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41283800.
- **Boyce C**, **Cecola CF**, Galatas A, MacDowell S, **Hetzler L**. Longitudinal Outcomes Assessment: Eight Years of a Facial Nerve Disorders Multidisciplinary Clinic. *Facial Plast Surg Aesthet Med*. 2025 Dec 22. doi: 10.1177/26893614251406255. Epub ahead of print. PMID:41460660.

Conferences, Panels, & Presentations

- **Faculty and Resident Activity at AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO**.
- **Drs. Lacey Adkins & Andrew McWhorter**: Panelists for “Ask the ENT” at the Voice and Speech Trainers Association
- **Drs. Lacey Adkins, Melda Kunduk, and Andrew McWhorter** were panelists on Care of the Professional Voice at the VASTA Convention (October 2-5) in New Orleans
- **Dr. Carley Boyce & Dr. Celeste Gary**: Poster presentation “Serial Excisions for Pediatric Benign Facial Lesions: Two Case Reports Highlighting an Underutilized Technique” at AAFPRS Annual Meeting (Sept 18) in Los Angeles
- **Dr. Jill D’Souza**: “Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Thyroid Mass” at Louisiana AAP Pediatrics from the Parishes Conference (Aug 15)
- **Dr. Andrew McWhorter**:
 - Keynote speaker at Henry Ford Otolaryngology Residency Graduation
 - Faculty at the 20th Annual Laryngeal Conservation Surgery Course (Loma Linda)



Conferences, Panels, & Presentations cont.

- **Dr. Laura Hetzler:**
 - Panelist: "Nasal Reconstruction & Surrounding Soft Tissue Defects" (Oct 10) Division of Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery at Indiana University's Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery AAO-HNS Pre-Course Meeting
 - Panelist: "Dorsal Preservation & Traditional Techniques Addressing the Dorsal Hump" (Oct 10) Division of Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery at Indiana University's Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery AAO-HNS Pre-Course Meeting
 - Invited Speaker: BTX-A Session at IFNS 2025 (Sep 24-27) in Madrid
 - "Management Of New Onset Headaches in the Setting of Progressive Synkinesis". 15th International Facial Nerve Symposium. Madrid, Spain. September 26th, 2025.
 - "Role Of Perinasal Musculature In Ipsilateral Nasal Obstruction During Synkinesis Progression". 15th International Facial Nerve Symposium. Madrid, Spain. September 26th, 2025.
 - "Longitudinal Outcomes Assessment: 8 Years of a Facial Nerve Disorders Multidisciplinary Clinic". 15th International Facial Nerve Symposium. Madrid, Spain. September 24th, 2025.
 - Invited Panelist: Botulinum Toxin management in facial palsy. 15th International Facial Nerve Symposium. Madrid, Spain. September 26th.
 - Moderator: Botulinum Toxin and Treatment of Synkinesis Session. 15th International Facial Nerve Symposium. Madrid, Spain. September, 26th, 2025.
 - Co-Moderator, Speaker & Moderator at AAFPRS Annual Meeting (Sept 18) in Los Angeles
 - Moderator: Practice Management. AAFPRS Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. September 18th, 2025.
 - Speaker: Pearls in Unilateral Cleft Lip Repair, Point Counter Point. AAFPRS Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. September 18th, 2025.
 - Speaker/Moderator: Grow Your Practice: How to Onboard a Partner in Academia or Private Practice. AAFPRS Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. September 18th, 2025.
 - Speaker: Creating Your Academic Dream Job: How to Build Aesthetics, Grow in Leadership, Advancement, and Navigating Transitions! Academic Practice Research Forum. AAFPRS Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. September 18th, 2025.
- **Dr. Daniel Nuss** chaired the North American Skull Base Surgery Summer Workshop (August 14-17) at LSUHSC in New Orleans, with presentations from **Dr. Katie Melder** and **Dr. Rahul Mehta**.



NASBS Summer Workshop (August 14-17) with Dr. Nuss (Chair) and Drs. Melder and Mehta (Course presenters)



Conferences, Panels, & Presentations cont.

Dr. Moises Arriaga held a successful Temporal Bone Course (Sept 13, 2025), fully funded with support from Carl Zeiss Meditec, Stryker Corporation, MED-EL, and Cochlear Americas. The course included a guest lecture, "Mastering the Mastoid" by local surgeon Adam Master, MD.



Dr. Moises Arriaga, LSU Otolaryngology Residents, and Neurotology Fellow Dr. Cameron Lindemann.

Community Outreach

Dr. Lisa Morris started the new Velopharyngeal Insufficiency (VPI) Program at OLOL Children's Hospital in August 2025, providing an additional support for Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic patients.



Dr. Lisa Morris discusses cleft palate with FMOL Health.

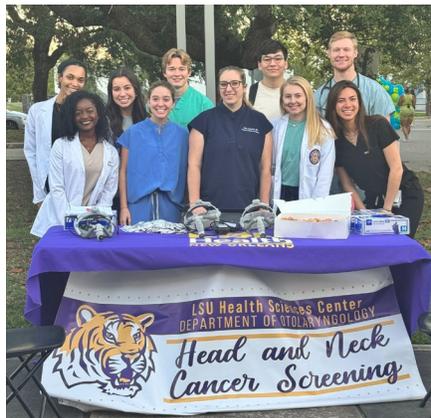


Community Outreach cont.

Dr. Vilija Vaitaitis led the Head & Neck Cancer Screening table during Black Men's Wellness Day (October 11, 2025) at Joe Brown Park in New Orleans. Dr. Vaitaitis and her team provided free screenings, resources, and information to community members.



Dr. Vilija Vaitaitis and team provided head and neck cancer screening during at Black Men's Wellness Day (October 11, 2025) at Joe Brown Park in New Orleans.



Upcoming Activities

- The first match for the newly created Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship will occur in 2026, facilitated by **Drs. Laura Hetzler, Lisa Morris & Alyssa Ovaitt**.
- **Dr. Katie Melder** will participate in the ARS Pre-Course meetings and Panel.
- **Dr. Lisa Morris** will moderate Trauma Grand Rounds, April 4, 2026.
- **Dr. Daniel Nuss** has been invited to speak at MD Anderson in January 2026.
- **Dr. Alyssa Ovaitt** and **Dr. Viliija Vaitaitis** will co-direct the LSU Resident Anatomy Course in March 2026.
- **Dr. Lisa Morris** will be traveling to Peru and India on cleft lip and palate humanitarian efforts in January and February 2026.
- **Dr. Laura Hetzler** will be traveling to Ecuador with Global Smile to perform cleft lip and palate surgery in March 2026
- **Dr. Robert Peden** and **Dr. Rohan Walvekar** will be leading the Oral Cancer Screening event at the Tour de Lis Bike Ride & Medical Fair, hosted by the Cancer Association of Louisiana on March 28, 2026.

New Faces - Faculty

Dr. Belinda Mantle is our new Associate Professor of Pediatric Otolaryngology who currently cares for pediatric patients with ENT problems at Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital in Baton Rouge. Dr. Mantle completed her otolaryngology residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a two-year pediatric otolaryngology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.



Dr. Gregory Marks is our new Assistant Professor of Head & Neck Surgery in Baton Rouge, where he is committed to advancing patient care, surgical innovation, and medical education. Dr. Marks completed his residency at LSUHSC, followed by a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology and Microsurgical Reconstruction at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2025.



New Faces - Staff

Madison Riley is our new Department Coordinator. Madison has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi and visiting family in LA & MS. You can reach her at mrile6@lsuhsc.edu or by phone at (504) 568-4785.



Courtney Davis is our new Residency Program Administrator I. Courtney has a Master's in Neuroscience from Tulane University, is a native of Los Angeles, and loves to dance. You can reach her at cdav48@lsuhsc.edu or by phone at (504) 568-4785.

Elizabeth Yanes has transitioned from Department Operations Coordinator into the role of Residency Program Administrator III. Elizabeth has been with the Department since May 2020. Please join us in congratulating Elizabeth on her new role as she continues to support the Department in a new capacity

