National Leaders

Improving Lives Through Innovation, Education and Advanced Care

DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY—HEAD & NECK SURGERY
Improving patients’ lives

Dedicated to excellence and innovation, the Department of Otolaryngology at Washington University School of Medicine is recognized as a national leader in cutting-edge research, while training the future leaders of otolaryngology, and providing the most advanced, personalized patient care possible.

We are privileged to
› be #4 in National Institutes of Health research funding in the U.S.
› draw patients from around the world.
› attract the best and brightest trainees and physician-scientists across the complete spectrum of otolaryngology disorders and diseases.

Craig Buchman, Lindburg Professor and Chair
Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Research to improve lives today and tomorrow

Improving patients’ lives requires dedicated research to identify and translate drugs, devices and other approaches into promising therapies to help people. This is what our department is all about.

Engaging experts across disciplines drives the most effective care

Intentional collaboration among experts produces the best results for patients. To treat people affected by the most challenging diseases and disorders, we are uniquely structured to engage the deep experience and innovative ideas of multiple doctors across disciplines—as many as 40 experts at once—to bring forth the best care for each patient.

Training the next generation of leaders in otolaryngology

With a long history of producing academic leaders, including nearly two dozen department chairs around the world, our program provides rigorous training in clinical care and research in one of the country’s largest academic medical centers. Importantly, our program develops leaders across the breadth of our field.
Leading-edge, individualized treatment

We are leaders across the spectrum of otolaryngology care, providing our patients with life-changing clinical trials and therapies that are among the most advanced, enabling faster recoveries and better quality of life.

Clinical trials to advance care
We are committed to discovering the most advanced and effective treatments for our patients. Clinical trials enable us to open the door to innovations that would otherwise be unavailable to patients dealing with debilitating conditions.

OUR CLINICAL TRIALS include studies to:

- Identify the drivers and best treatments for cancers of the head, neck and throat
- Restore hearing for patients with a variety of disorders
- Assess and restore smell for patients with anosmia
- Prevent noise-induced hearing loss
- Improve fine motor control and balance associated with neurological disorders
Historic firsts
Our teams manage the most complex cases and introduce some of the most impactful surgeries and treatments available in the world.

Our surgeons recently made history when they completed the first monitored case to restore hearing in patients with acoustic neuromas, or benign tumors on the auditory nerve. This clinical trial is only available at Washington University.

Personalized multidisciplinary care
Our unique approach is efficient for patients and empowers us to provide the best care:

- Instead of meeting with each expert at different times and places, patients discuss treatment options with a team of physicians at one time, in one location.
- Weekly tumor board meetings, with up to 40 Washington University specialists, determine each individual patient’s optimal treatment plan.

Most advanced technologies, treatments and approaches

OUR PHYSICIANS are among the first in the country to introduce and offer new life-changing technologies:

- Historic first: restoring hearing in patients with acoustic neuromas
- Use of a single port robotic surgery for tumors of the throat
- CareOrbit, an online platform for patients and caregivers to navigate their cancer care
- Inspire hypoglossal nerve stimulator to treat sleep apnea
- Clinical trial for innovative drug treatments for recurrent respiratory papillomatosis
- Expanded indications for cochlear implantation in adults
- New surgery to treat chronic cough
- Sialoendoscopy, a minimally invasive treatment for salivary gland stones and disorders
- Expanded endonasal surgery for minimally invasive removal of skull base tumors through the nose
## Specialties

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEAD &amp; NECK CANCER</th>
<th>FACIAL PLASTIC &amp; RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Personalized, advanced care for a variety of malignancies arising from the mouth,</td>
<td>Offering a full range of cosmetic procedures as well as advanced reconstructive options that include tissue transfers for cancers, trauma, and congenital conditions.</td>
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<td>throat, sinuses, thyroid, salivary glands and skin of the face and neck. We have been treating patients with cancer for more than 60 years.</td>
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<tr>
<th>EAR, HEARING AND BALANCE</th>
<th>VOICE, AIRWAY &amp; SWALLOWING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Offering the latest technologies to treat disorders of the ear, hearing and balance.</td>
<td>Providing tailored treatments for patients with laryngeal diseases including awake procedures, microsurgical approaches, and neural restoration for laryngeal paralysis.</td>
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<td>Among many complex procedures, our department has completed more than 3,300 cochlear implants.</td>
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<th>SKULL BASE SURGERY</th>
<th>NOSE &amp; SINUS DISEASE</th>
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<td>Multidisciplinary approach to removing tumors such as acoustic neuromas and pituitary tumors. Using the most advanced techniques and tools, our program focuses on restorative interventions and technologies to minimize patient morbidity and improve quality of life.</td>
<td>Offering a full range of medical and surgical treatments for the diagnosis and management of common and complex sinonasal diseases.</td>
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The care has been 100% on target, and the best anyone could get.

— Joe Koenig, head and neck cancer survivor and president World Wide Technology, St. Louis.

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<th>PEDIATRIC ENT</th>
<th>GENERAL OTOLARYNGOLOGY</th>
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<td>Providing state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary care for children with a variety of disorders of the ear, nose, throat, head and neck.</td>
<td>Providing care for patients with a variety of conditions including tinnitus, vertigo, nasal disease, salivary and thyroid disorders.</td>
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<th>SLEEP</th>
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<td>Care for sleep apnea and other sleep disorders.</td>
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Improving lives through world-class research

The Department of Otolaryngology is among the largest and most heavily funded otolaryngology research groups in the country, consistently ranking among the top five nationally in NIH funding.

We continue to produce medical breakthroughs in the treatment of ear, nose and throat disorders and head and neck cancer care. With some of the world’s most talented researchers, clinician-scientists and research administrators, and NIH funding that places us among the top five ENT departments across the U.S., we continue to be in a position to lead research innovation for many years to come.

Bringing therapies from research bench to bedside requires our coordination and strong relationships with partners including including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense (DOD), and experts in multiple disciplines at Washington University and other leading institutions around the globe.

With the support of our own Clinical Outcomes Research office, we are currently managing more than 150 human research projects to improve patient care.
RESEARCH IN THE LAB of Lavinia Sheets, PhD, focuses on defining pathological changes that occur in hair cells in the ear following damage such as overexposure to noise or drugs. Using zebrafish as a model for human hearing and deafness, her team is also researching ways to repair and preserve auditory nerve fibers, and ultimately hearing.

Zebrafish provide our researchers tremendous benefit because:

- Their lateral-line organ, a sensory organ used to detect the movement of water, contains localized hair cells that are functionally similar to human hair cells.
- Zebrafish regenerate complex tissues following damage, including hair cells and their innervating nerves, to identify novel strategies for repairing damaged hair cells.
- Zebrafish embryos, which grow rapidly, are transparent and develop outside the body, making them useful for observing growth and development.

"The volume and quality of research being conducted in our department is a real source of pride for all of us. Our efforts are helping to advance the field of otolaryngology while improving patient care now and into the future."

—Craig Buchman, MD, Lindburg Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology
Research powerhouse

Ours is one of the most comprehensive otolaryngology research programs in the country.

**Cochlear Implants**
in asymmetric and single-sided hearing loss
(Jill Firszt, PhD)

**Quality of Life**
related to hearing loss
(Judith Lieu, MD, MSPH)

**Electrophysiologic**
signatures of cochlear health and disease
(Jeffery Lichtenhan, PhD, Craig Buchman, MD, Amanda Ortmann, PhD)

**Cerebellum**
in vestibular control
(Pablo Blazquez, PhD, Tatyana Yakusheva, PhD)

**Immunotherapy**
treatments for head and neck cancer, the 6th most common cancer worldwide
(Jose Zevallos, MD, MPH)

**Hearing Aid**
experience in cochlear implant performance
(Lisa Davidson, PhD)

**Social**
determinants of head and neck cancer
(Angela Mazul, PhD)

**Genetic**
underpinnings of head and neck cancer
(Sid Puram, MD, PhD)

**Learning**
how the brain processes speech sounds
(Jonathan Peelle, PhD)

**Listening Therapy**
for people with hearing loss
(Nancy Tye-Murray, PhD)

**Stem Cell Implants**
to restore vocal cords
(Randal Paniello, MD, PhD)

**First-Ever Drug**
for the prevention of hearing loss and tinnitus
(Mark Rutherford, PhD)
Fighting head and neck cancer

Cancers of the throat caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) have increased by an alarming 225% over the last 20 years. The lab of Jose Zevallinos, MD, MPH, is researching the biologic basis for worse outcomes in high-risk patients like smokers. Their goal is to identify personalized therapy based on an individual’s experience and tumor biology in order to improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Zevallinos, with colleague Angela Mazul, PhD, recently completed the largest genomic analysis of head and neck cancer mutations ever conducted. They are building on this analysis to guide immunological treatment in the future.

Chemical “earmuffs” to prevent hearing loss

Once you start to lose your hearing, you can’t get it back. But what if you could prevent hearing loss by blocking, in advance, the effects of loud noises?

The lab of Mark Rutherford, PhD, has contributed to innovative studies that show noise-induced hearing loss can be prevented, if a unique receptor is blocked. Compared with “putting earmuffs on” to protect the ear, a drug, when injected into the cochlea, can prevent hearing damage caused by loud noises. Next up: developing a drug that can be administered noninvasively.

We are on a mission to save lives and wipe out head and neck cancer. — Jose Zevallinos, MD, MPH
I truly appreciate the teamwork amongst my fellow residents, the nurturing environment, and excellent mentorship from faculty. — Parul Sinha, MD

Nationally recognized residency programs

With a long history of producing academic leaders, our program provides rigorous training in a collegial, supportive environment. We offer a balance of clinical and research training, enhanced by a large diverse patient population, leading-edge technology and an accessible faculty dedicated to trainees’ success.

This five-year program prepares highly skilled physicians with mastery in clinical and surgical patient care across every subspecialty within otolaryngology. In addition, research experience provides exposure to scientific principles of investigation as a foundation to the practice of evidence-based medicine.

Preparing physician-scientists to advance the future of medicine

Ours is one of only eight programs in the country that offers the T32 grant for interdisciplinary research training in otolaryngology. This gives select residents an additional two years of dedicated research training, above and beyond their five years of clinical training.
Why do we draw the best?

- Comprehensive clinical training in a department with deep expertise in every subspecialty
- High-volume, cutting-edge clinical care including complex surgeries (free flaps, endoscopic skull base, cochlear implants, and more)
- Technology-rich environment
- Multidisciplinary teams solving difficult, multifaceted treatment decisions
- Well-funded research programs to improve patients’ lives
- State-of-the-art surgical simulation facility for learning with our world-class faculty
- Early autonomy in clinical decision-making with supportive oversight
- Translatable experience in rotations outside of the specialty
- Warm, collegial and inclusive culture

There are routinely scheduled anatomy courses, early operative opportunities, and a wealth of faculty support. We provide care for a diverse patient population and a variety of diseases.

— Ethan Craig, MD, MPH
Alumni become leaders in the field

Our mission to Improve Patients’ Lives by Leading our Advancing Field starts with training the next generation of leaders. Here are just a few of our many alumni leaders.

**NICHOLAS CASSISI (’71), MD, DDS,**
Chairman Emeritus, Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery, University of Florida

**MARVIN P. FRIED (’75), MD,**
Professor, University Chairman Emeritus, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**ELLIS M. ARJMAND (’93), MD, PhD,**
Surgeon-in-Chief, Children’s Hospital of New Orleans

**ERIC M. GENDEN (’98), MD, MHCA, FACS,**
Professor & Chair, Otolaryngology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**JUDITH E.C. LIEU (’98), MD, MPHs,**
Professor and Director of Resident Education Program, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Washington University

**RAVINTRA UPPALURI (’00), MD, PhD, FACS**
Chief, Division of Otolaryngology, Distinguished Chair in Otolaryngology, Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Chief, Head and Neck Surgical Oncology, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, Harvard Medical School

**JOSEPH PAYDARFAR (’01), MD,**
Chief, Otolaryngology, Audiology, Maxillofacial Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock; Adjunct Associate Professor of Engineering, Dartmouth

**URJEET A. PATEL (’02), MD,**
Associate Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University; Chairman, Division of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck, Cook County Health and Hospitals System

**JOHN B. SUNWOO (’03), MD,**
Sewall Professor, Director of Head and Neck Cancer Research, Stanford University

**M. ALLISON OGDEN (’07), MD, FACS,**
Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Clinical Operations, Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Washington University

**CLINT T. ALLEN (’12), MD,**
Principal Investigator, Section on Translational Tumor Immunology at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the National Institutes of Health.

**COURTNEY VOELKER (’12), MD, PhD,**
Assistant Professor; Division Chief of Otolaryngology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery; Director, Pediatric Cochlear Implant Program, Keck School of Medicine at USC.
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