

# OTOSCOPE Quarterly

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

## Welcome our Newest Advanced Practice Providers



**Colleen Collins, CRNP** recently received her master's in nursing from Rowan University in August 2024. Colleen grew up in Sicklerville, NJ, and completed an undergraduate degree at Stockton University before earning her graduate degree from Rowan University. A lifelong competitive athlete, Colleen played soccer through college. In 2019, she began her nursing career at Jefferson in the emergency department and transitioned to the operating room in 2021. Colleen will see patients with general otolaryngology conditions in our Sewell, NJ office.



**Kaitlyn Gilsenan, PA-C** joined the department in March, 2025 as a member of our Laryngology / Sleep team.

A 2017 graduate of the Penn State Schreyer Honors College, Kaitlyn returned home to New York City to attend PA school at Wagner College.

After graduation, she returned to Philadelphia where she worked for a private practice ENT group.

Kaitlyn will see patients in the Center City and Cherry Hill offices.



**Nicole Jakobowski, CRNP** recently completed her master's in nursing at the University of Pennsylvania in August 2024.

During her NP training, Nicole was fortunate to have rotations in otolaryngology, where she developed a deep appreciation for the variety of patient cases.

Nicole will practice at our Center City location.

She will be treating patients across a range of Otolaryngology conditions.

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## Bringing Precision Medicine into Daily Clinical Practice



**Adam Luginbuhl, MD** and **Joseph Curry, MD** were co-authors with a multi-disciplinary team including **Jennifer Johnson, MD**, **Alban Linnenbach** and **Andrew South, PhD** on a paper with BostonGene which earned the prestigious "Cancer Immunology Solution of the Year" in the Biotech Breakthrough Awards Program. This recognition honors standout life sciences and biotechnology companies and highlights top global innovations. Published in the May 2024 issue of *Cancer Cell*, the study titled, "Comprehensive Peripheral Blood Immunoprofiling Reveals Five Immunotypes with Immunotherapy Response Characteristics

in Patients with Cancer," identifies five immunotypes conserved across diverse diagnoses. Competing against thousands of nominations from across the globe, this team's work was recognized for its innovation in advancing cancer care with an AI-driven, blood-based immune system profiling platform.

The platform has analyzed over 18,000 blood samples from healthy donors and patients with infections, autoimmune conditions and cancers, identifying five conserved immunotypes—validated using RNA sequencing of peripheral blood lymphocytes. This immune system profiling platform enables biomarker identification, disease monitoring and treatment response assessment, supporting clinical decision-making and uncovering immune-related conditions.

This recognition highlights the innovative contributions of this team to advancing cancer immunology research! We could not be more proud!

## Exciting Research Update: Positive Phase 3 Results Announced

We are excited to announce that the study involving several of our esteemed colleagues and research team members has been successfully completed and the sponsor recently announced positive results for the Phase 3 trial for the treatment of Meniere's disease. Read the announcement at <https://tinyurl.com/SoundPhase3>

Contributors from our Department include **Thomas Willcox, MD**, **Rebecca Chiffer, MD**, **Julia Croce, AuD**, **Midori Wakabayashi, AuD** with clinical research coordinators **Beth Kangas**, **Maya Childs** and **Morgan Kyser**. This groundbreaking research marks a significant step forward in the treatment of Meniere's disease and demonstrates our department's commitment to advancing otology research. Congratulations to everyone involved in this impactful study!



## Pilot Grant Award

Congratulations to **Hannah Kenny, MD (PGY3)**, **Joseph Curry, MD**, and from radiology **John Eisenbrey, MD** and **Ethan Halpern, MD** on receiving the **Sandeep Deshmukh Pilot Grant Award** from the Radiology Department! This prestigious grant will support their groundbreaking research on the safety of Definity X2 infusion in up to six patients. Kudos to the team for pushing the boundaries of innovation in patient care!

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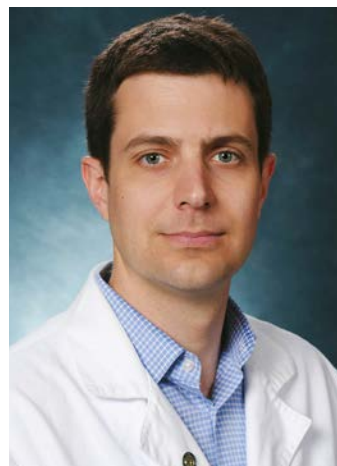
## TaCO 2025 Clinical Pilot Grant



Eric Mastrodonardo, MD (PGY4)



Joseph Curry, MD



John Eisenbrey, MD

Congratulations to **Eric Mastrodonardo, MD (PGY4)** and **Joseph Curry, MD**, and from radiology **John Eisenbrey, MD** on receiving the **TaCO 2025 Clinical Pilot Grant** from the **Translational and Cellular Oncology** group! TaCO's mission is to identify novel cell signaling and metabolic mechanisms in human cancers with a focus on metastatic disease, and to translate findings into new imaging modalities and therapeutic interventions. This grant will support Drs. Mastrodonardo, Curry, and Eisenbrey's ongoing work to design a stable microbubble which can both transport and effectively deliver MCT1/4-i+GSH-i directly to tumors. The goal of the proposed work is to develop preliminary data for a larger scale grant to fund the development of a novel clinical therapeutic strategy to overcome radiotherapy and immunotherapy resistance in head and neck squamous cell carcinomas.

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## Achievements and Congratulations

### Welcome New Adjunct Faculty

We are pleased to announce the faculty appointments of the following Lehigh Valley Health Network physicians at Sidney Kimmel Medical College:

- **Ravi Samy, MD** – Adjunct Professor of Otolaryngology
- **Hilary Koprowski, MD** – Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology
- **Chetan Nayak, MD** – Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology

Please join us in congratulating them and recognizing their contributions to medical education and our academic community.



Ravi Samy, MD



Hilary Koprowski, MD



Chetan Nayak, MD



## Dr. Jake Hulswit's Next Big Steps



counseling and connecting them with valuable resources. Congratulations, Jake, on this incredible opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of so many!

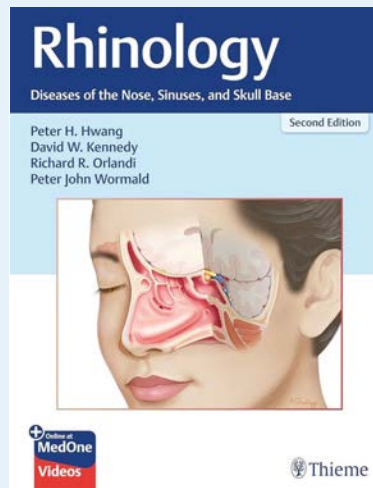
We are excited to share that **Jake Hulswit, AuD** has taken on an exciting new role as Tinnitus Program Advisor & Patient Support Services Provider with The American Tinnitus Association (ATA)! This national organization supports both tinnitus researchers and individuals struggling with bothersome tinnitus.

In his new role, Jake will focus on creating programs for patients to help them better understand their tinnitus and develop effective management strategies. He will also serve as an advisor to volunteers and patients, offering

## Thank you, Dr. Kennedy

**David Kennedy, MD** graciously donated a copy of his book "Rhinology: Diseases of the Nose, Sinuses, and Skull Base" to the Oto library! He wrote the following message on the inside cover page:

*"To all of the Jeff Otolaryngology Residents and their future in Rhinology"*  
– David Kennedy"



## First Upper Airway Stimulation Implant at Nemours

Congratulations to **Colin Huntley, MD** and **Heather Nardone, MD** for performing the first upper airway stimulation implant at Nemours Children's Health in Wilmington, Delaware on February 12, 2025, marking an exciting milestone for the team!

## Ashley Greywoode Scholarship



We are pleased to announce the recipient of the 2024-25 Ashley Greywoode Scholarship is **Dev Amin, MD!**

Founded in 2014 in memory of Ashley Greywoode, this scholarship furthers Ashley's personal legacy of community service by enabling residents and fellows to experience a surgical mission trip and share their skills with underprivileged individuals. The scholarship allows the recipient to help an underserved community and also promotes personal reflection and growth.

# Upcoming Events

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025**

## New Grand Rounds Schedule

Department Grand Rounds will be held on the 2nd - 5th Wednesday of the month at 7 am and on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 am. Our alumni, and friends of the department, will be receiving a monthly email with additional details about the upcoming academic events! If you are not on the mailing list but wish to be, please contact [Karen.Keane@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Karen.Keane@Jefferson.edu).



**NEW GRAND ROUNDS  
SCHEDULE JULY 1, 2025**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

## Annual Faculty & Alumni Golf Outing Philadelphia Country Club

Join us for a full-day program which starts at the Jefferson campus and includes Otolaryngology specialty updates from four of our resident alumni (CME credit available), tours of our new temporal bone laboratory and new outpatient clinic and then moves to the Philadelphia Country Club for an afternoon round of golf. Contact [Karen.Keane@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Karen.Keane@Jefferson.edu) for more information.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**OCTOBER 12, 2025**

## Annual Alumni Reception at American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Meeting in Indianapolis



**NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

## Annual Clerf Lecture in Otolaryngology

**STACEY T. GRAY, MD**

Walter Augustus Lecompte Associate Professor of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery  
Harvard Medical School  
Boston, MA



Stay tuned for more  
information on these  
upcoming events.

**Fall 2025: Annual William M. Keane, MD Lecture  
in Head and Neck Surgery**



# Otolaryngology Events: Looking Back



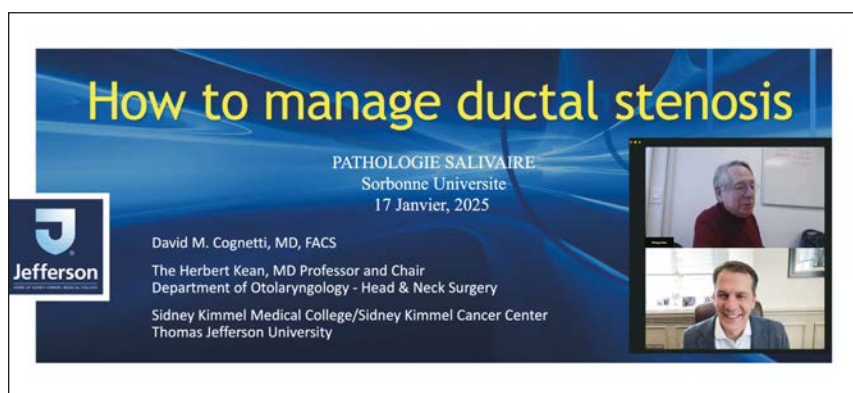
## Facial Nerve Rehab Insights

**Stacey Baer, OTR/L** delivered an engaging lecture on January 3, 2025 at the Department of Neurosurgery Grand Rounds, focusing on Facial Nerve Rehabilitation.

## Preparing for the Future

**Elizabeth Cottrill, MD** travelled to Houston on January 10 and 11, 2025 for an ACTPS committee meeting. This 10-person steering committee made of five members of the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery (ABOHNS) and five members of the American College of Surgeons along with Brian Nussenbaum, MD, Executive Director of the ABOHNS and Ron Kuppersmith, MD, past president of the AAO-HNS who happens to live near the meeting site and joined the team for dinner.

During her time there, the team spent one and a half days reviewing and revising every question for the upcoming focused practice designation exam which will be taken this April by approximately 230 surgeons applying for the designation. Dr. Cottrill has served as a Co-Vice Chair on this committee for the past year and a half and completing this exam represents a huge effort coming to fruition.



## Bonjour!

**David Cognetti, MD** was invited to share his expertise at a sialendoscopy course at the University of Sorbonne in Paris, France. Dr. Cognetti delivered his talk via Zoom on January 17, 2025. The course was run by Philippe Katz, MD, the person who was the first in the world to perform sialendoscopy!

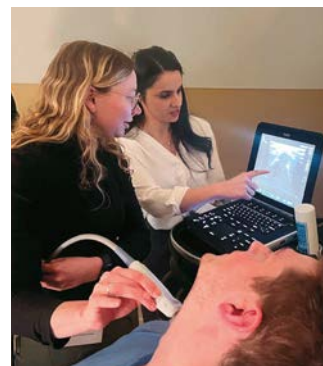


## Shah and Tell

**Udayan Shah, MD, MBA** chaired the Pediatric Foreign Body Panel during the Triological Society Sections Meeting in Orlando which was held from January 23-25, 2025. Pictured above, Dr. Shah is joined by his esteemed panelists Adele Evans, MD from Nemours Children's Hospital–Orlando, and Mark Gerber, MD, Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology at Phoenix Children's.

## Multi-Institutional Ultrasound Course

Led by **Christopher Fundakowski, MD**, the multi-institutional neck ultrasound course was held on January 24, 2025. Lectures were given by our faculty, including **Christopher Fundakowski, MD, Elizabeth Cottrill, MD** and **Harleen Sethi, DO (F'25)** as well as others from Otolaryngology and Interventional Radiology from Jefferson and the University of Pennsylvania. **Bryan Renslo, MD (PGY2)** and **Leonard Estephan, MD (PGY2)** were joined by residents from Penn, Johns Hopkins, PCOM and Cooper for the course.



## Now Hear This!

**Udayan Shah, MD, MBA** and **Alexandra Costlow, AuD** presented an outreach program to music students at Temple University's Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts on January 29, 2025 about hearing conservation for musicians. Their presentation was well received and provided valuable insights for anyone working in high volume environments, such as musicians.

CPCA Student Success Center Presents

### Hearing Health for Musicians: An Introduction

**Dr. Udayan K. Shah, MD,  
MBA, FACS, FAAP**

**Dr. Alexandra Costlow, Au.D.**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 2:30-3:30pm**  
 Temple Performing Arts Center Lew Klein Hall







## Dr. Samy Presents

On February 12, 2025

**Ravi Samy, MD** of Lehigh Valley Health Network shared his expertise at Rutgers' Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery Grand Rounds!

**Optimal Surgical Strategies for Treating Facial Paralysis**  
A Neurologist's Perspective

Ravi N. Samy, MD, FACS  
Chief, OHNS (Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery)  
Pediatric & Adult Otolaryngology/Neurotology/Skull Base Surgery  
Program Director, International Skull Base Surgery Fellowship  
Ravi.Samy@LVHN.org

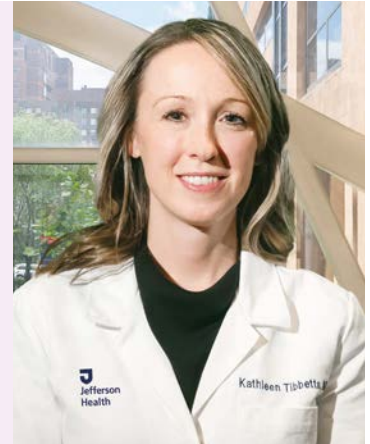


## Collaboration around Cochleas

On February 1, 2025, **Jacob Hunter, MD** partnered with **Ravi Samy, MD** and **Pamela Roehm, MD** for the combined Temporal Bone Lab with St. Luke's, Lehigh Valley Health Network, and Jefferson at the Venel Institute. As a guest lecturer, Dr. Hunter provided valuable insights that deepened participants' understanding of advanced temporal bone techniques. We look forward to more collaborations like this in the future—great work, Dr. Hunter!

## Task Force in AZ

**Kathleen Tibbetts, MD** attended the American Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Exam Retreat in Phoenix, AZ from February 20-22, 2025 as a member of the Task Force for New Materials. She was recognized as a Star Performer among item writers.



## Advancing Voice Care

**Kathleen Tibbetts, MD** served as faculty at the 19th Annual Advanced Practices in Voice and Dysphagia conference held March 1-4, 2025 in Las Vegas, NV. She presented on in-office procedures in laryngology and the effects of medications on the voice.



## A 'Nose'-worthy Talk

**Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA** traveled to Scottsdale, Arizona, on March 6, 2025 to speak at the Sanofi Speaker Program, where she delivered a lecture on the Disease Drivers of Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyps.

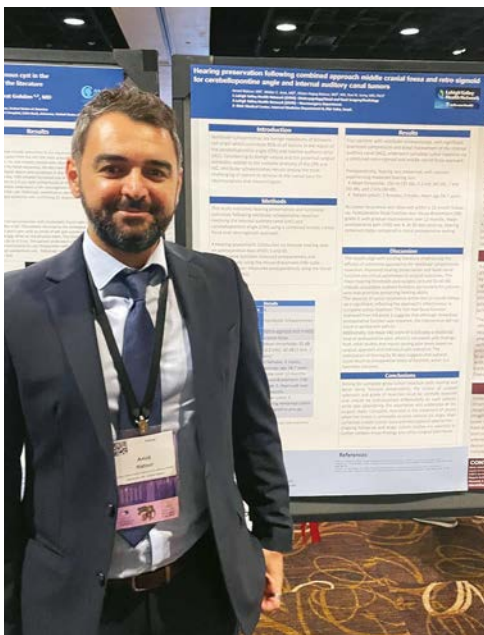


# Impressive Showing at the Annual North American Skull Base Society Meeting

The Skull Base team was back in New Orleans from February 13–16, 2025 spreading Jefferson pride for the 34th Annual North American Skull Base Society (NASBS) Meeting. This year we were joined by colleagues from around the world as the NASBS Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the 9th World Congress of the World Federation of Skull Base Societies. Approximately 1,500 physicians attended, representing the specialties of otolaryngology, neurological surgery, ophthalmology, radiology, and radiation and medical oncology.



The NASBS has always been a special meeting for Jefferson. **Marc Rosen, MD** and **James Evans, MD** served for many years as the course directors for the pre-meeting dissection course and Dr. Evans is a past president of the NASBS. **Gurston Nyquist, MD** had the honor to Co-Chair the Membership Committee this year, and it has been a remarkable year of growth for the society, especially for the non-core specialties beyond otolaryngology and neurological surgery. **Mindy Rabinowitz, MD** was selected for the program planning committee and worked hard with colleagues from across North America to create an outstanding program. We are proud of the 14 panel and poster presentations from the Otolaryngology Department that includes research on the use of GLP-1 agonists for the treatment of IIH, outcomes of sinonasal malignancy based on age, ergonomics in skull base surgery, outcomes after pituitary surgery, and endocrine outcomes after craniopharyngioma surgery to name a few of the topics. Another highlight of the meeting was our annual Friday night alumni dinner at Arnaud's on Bourbon Street with graduates from our NeuroRhino and Neurological Surgery fellowships. We are so proud of the amazing accomplishments of our Jefferson alumni who are at the forefront of the specialty. The NASBS Annual Meeting is a favorite amongst many of us as it showcases the amazing team we have here at Jefferson, the importance of collaboration, and serves as a special opportunity to connect with colleagues and alumni from around the world. Check out our list of presentations and posters at <https://tinyurl.com/NASBS2025>





## Department Retreat

On March 5, 2025, the entire department came together for a day-long retreat! We kicked off the event with welcome lectures from some of our leaders, including **David Cognetti, MD, Joseph Curry, MD, Colin Huntley, MD** and **Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA**. Later that morning, the physicians and APPs broke off to discuss future plans for the department, while the staff were joined by guest speakers Cherise Dayoub from Human Resources, Alexis Defeo from Holistic Health and Well-being, and Ben Foreman from Fidelity Investments, all of whom led insightful discussions on important employee matters and topics. The day concluded with a team bonding activity, giving everyone the opportunity to get to know more about their fellow Oto team members!







## Pushing the Limits with Dr. Gudis

Our Department Grand Rounds on March 6, 2025 featured the esteemed **David Gudis, MD**, Professor and Chief of Rhinology & Anterior Skull Base Surgery at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, who took us on a deep dive into "The Limits of Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery."

**David Kennedy, MD, Chase Kahn, MD (PGY5), Caitlin McLean, MD, Marc Rosen, MD, Mindy Rabinowitz, MD, Gurston Nyquist, MD, Elizabeth Cottrill, MD, and David Cognetti, MD** welcomed Dr. Gudis to town with a dinner the evening prior. Great food, engaging conversations, and a night of connection made for the perfect lead-up to an insightful lecture!



## Wills Eye Ball

**Mindy Rabinowitz, MD** had the privilege of attending the Annual Wills Eye Ball on March 8, 2025, where the excellence of America's first eye hospital was celebrated. Dr. Rabinowitz was honored to join some of the incredible women in ophthalmology, including (from left to right) **Charlotte Marous, MD, Nina Boalv MD, Jacqueline Carrasco, MD and Julia Haller, MD**. She shared, "feeling fortunate to work alongside such star power!"



## Strengthening Audiology Connections

On March 7, 2025, **Tasha Reck, AuD**, an audiologist from Lehigh Valley Health Network, visited our Center City office to shadow our audiologists! She spent the day meeting staff, discussing audiology practices and CI processes, and even joining patient appointments. Our audiology team looks forward to continued collaboration and growth together!





## Annual Rhinology Course

On March 12, 2025, the Department hosted the 7th Annual Resident Rhinology and Endoscopic/Skull Base Surgery Course. This educational event featured insightful lectures and hands-on experiences, with residents gaining invaluable skills in rhinology and skull base surgery techniques. The day started with an insightful Grand Rounds presentation by **Sanjeet Rangarajan, MD (F'17)** entitled "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Otolaryngology." The day also included a dissection lab, where residents had the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. A big thank you to all the guest faculty speakers, faculty, residents, and the administrative team who contributed to making this course a success!

This year's guest faculty included **Blair Barton, MD (F'21)** (Ochsner Health), **Mark Chaskes, MD (R'21)** (Northwell Health), **James Evans, MD** (Jefferson Neurosurgery), **Alex Farag, MD (F'15)** (Baptist Health), **Christopher Farrell, MD** (Jefferson Neurosurgery), **Douglas Farquhar, MD (F'23)** (Piedmont Healthcare), **Judd Fastenberg, MD (F'19)** (Northwell Health), **Charlotte Marous, MD** (Wills Eye Ophthalmology), **Roger Murayi, MD** (Jefferson Neurosurgery Resident), **Sean Parsel, DO (F'22)** (Lehigh Valley Health Network), **Sanjeet Rangarajan, MD (F'17)** (University Hospitals) and **Vijay Rao, MD** (Jefferson Radiology).





## Annual James S. Reilly MD Lecture in Pediatric Otolaryngology

On March 19, 2025, our department gathered for the **16th Annual James S. Reilly, MD Lecture in Pediatric Otolaryngology**. We were honored to welcome **Sri Chennupati, MD** Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgical Specialties at Lehigh Valley Health Network, as our invited speaker. Dr. Chennupati delivered an inspiring presentation titled, "Bridging Silence: My Journey as a Cochlear Implant Surgeon", sharing valuable insights and expertise in the field of pediatric otolaryngology. We were fortunate to have **James Reilly, MD**, the lecture's namesake, in attendance!



Nicole Aaronson, MD, Andrew Bluher, MD, Udayan Shah, MD, MBA, David Cognetti, MD, James Reilly, MD, Sri Chennupati, MD, Richard Schmidt, MD, Patrick Barth, MD, William Parkes, MD, Taylor Teplitzky, MD and Heather Nardone, MD

## Protecting Musicians' Ears

On March 20, 2025, world-renowned composer and musician Mimi Stillman, a faculty member at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance, invited **Udayan Shah, MD, MBA** for an insightful discussion on hearing health for musicians. In this episode of Tea with Mimi, they explored the importance of preserving and protecting hearing, offering valuable information for musicians and music lovers alike. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/TeawithDrShah> to view the episode.



## Driving Innovation in Hearing Health

**Jacob Hunter, MD** participated in the MED-EL Surgical Advisory Board meeting on March 22 and 23, 2025, a meeting designed to discuss cochlear implant technology and surgical practices. The forum fostered the exchange of clinical expertise, addressing emerging challenges, and providing critical feedback on device performance and patient outcomes. Through expert discussions, the board aims to influence product development, refine surgical techniques, and drive innovation in hearing restoration, improving cochlear implant care and patient-centered solutions.



## Spotlight on Allergy Care: Dr. Toskala on Fox 29 News

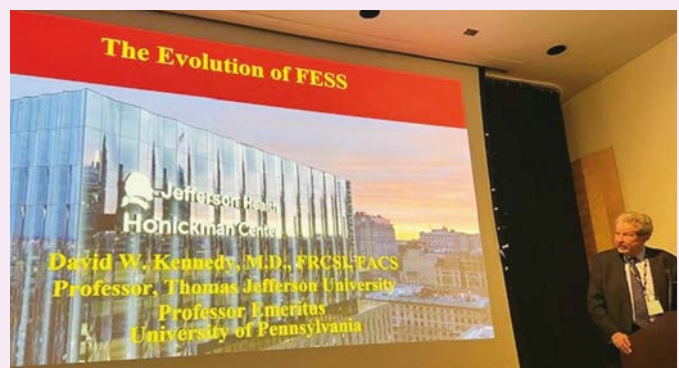
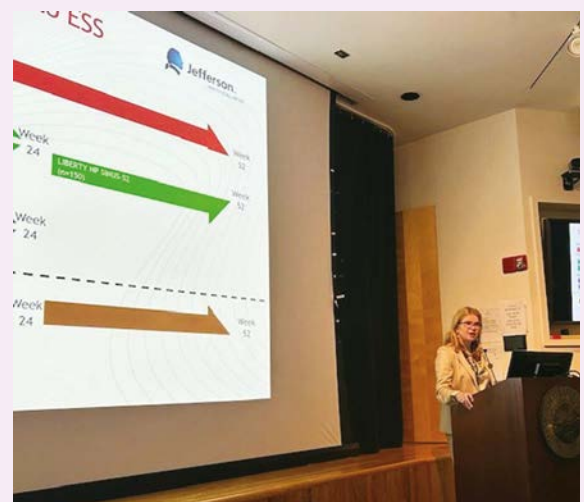
**Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA** represented our department on Fox 29 News' Good Day Philadelphia segment on March 25, 2025, sharing expert insights on allergies and home remedies, highlighting our commitment to patient education and top-tier ENT care.



## Sinus-ational Insights

**Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA** and **David Kennedy, MD** traveled to Harvard Medical School on March 26, 2025 for the Endoscopic Surgery of the Sinuses, Eustachian Tube, and Ear course—a comprehensive three-day event featuring live surgery, lab dissections and an esteemed international faculty.

Dr. Toskala presented "Phenotypes, Genotypes, and Endotypes in CRS," while Dr. Kennedy, the keynote speaker, spoke on "The Evolution of Endoscopic Sinus Surgery and Endoscopic Treatment of Frontal Sinus Disease." Both participated in a panel discussion on challenging sinus cases. Additionally, on March 27, 2025, Dr. Toskala delivered a Grand Rounds lecture on Non-Polypoid CRS. Keep up the great work, Drs. Toskala and Kennedy!





# Giving Back

## Making a Difference in Belize

**Howard Krein, MD, PhD** and current facial plastic and reconstructive surgery fellow **Khashayar Arianpour, MD (F'25)** traveled to Dangriga, Belize during the week of January 20, 2025 where they participated in a medical mission with World Pediatrics. Dr. Krein and our former facial plastic fellow, **Peter Ciolek, MD (F'19)** led an amazing 11-member team who treated over 70 patients and performed 35 life-changing surgeries – bringing renewed hope to so many families. For 18 years, this team has been traveling to Belize bringing not only their surgical expertise but also their passion for the families they serve. Thank you to these devoted providers for making a difference year after year!





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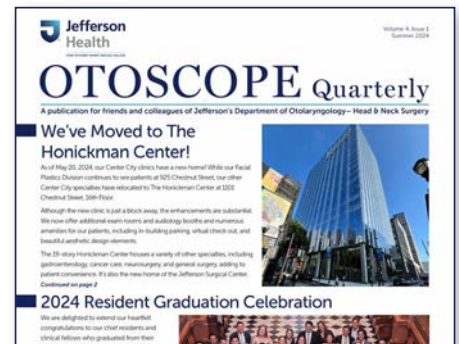
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