

# OTOSCOPE Quarterly

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

## Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates!



We were thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of our exceptional chief residents and clinical fellows who graduated from their respective programs on Friday, June 20, 2025. This moment marks the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the art and science of medicine. We could not be prouder of all they have achieved and eagerly anticipate the impact they will continue to make as they step into their roles as attendings and advanced fellows.

A heartfelt thank you goes to **Karen Keane** and the entire Education Committee for curating such a memorable and meaningful evening. Their thoughtful planning and tireless effort transformed this event into a true celebration—not only of individual achievement but also of the enduring spirit of mentorship, learning, and community that defines our department.

Congratulations as well to this year's Graduation Award recipients, honored by their colleagues and mentees for embodying the values and mission of our department. The graduation ceremony once again served as a reminder of the talent, compassion, and camaraderie that make this department so special. Here's to the bright future of our graduates—and to the continued excellence of our entire community!

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## Welcome Bridget Dunn, PA-C



**Bridget Dunn, PA-C** is a Philadelphia native with a strong foundation in patient-centered care. She earned her undergraduate degree from Bloomsburg

University and went on to complete her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies at South College. Bridget brings seven years of experience in primary care, where she developed a deep appreciation for building long-term relationships with patients and managing complex, chronic conditions. She is now excited to transition into a new chapter of her career in otolaryngology, where she looks forward to expanding her clinical skills and continuing to provide compassionate, high-quality care. Outside of work, Bridget enjoys walking in Wissahickon Park, discovering new restaurants around the city, reading, and spending quality time with her family. Bridget will see general otolaryngology patients at our Abington and Holy Redeemer (Meadowbrook) offices!

## WIO Annual Dinner

The Women in Otolaryngology group held their annual graduation dinner on May 4, 2025 to honor graduating residents **Jena Patel, MD** and **Annie Moroco, MD** and graduating head & neck fellow, **Harleen Sethi, DO**.



## Rhinology Fellow Celebration

On June 11, 2025, the Rhinology and Neurosurgery teams came together to celebrate the graduation of fellows. **Srihari Daggumati, MD**, Roger Murayi, MD and Aria Mahtabfar, MD. The evening was filled with laughter, memories, and reflections on a year of hard work and achievement.



## 2025 Resident and Faculty Awards



### 2025 Resident Teaching Award

Congratulations to **Dev Amin, MD** for receiving the 2025 Resident Teaching Award. This award is voted on by the residents and is given to the resident who consistently exemplifies our department's commitment to education as embodied in our department's mission statement and values through professionalism, mentorship, and continual learning.



### 2025 Faculty Teaching Award

Congratulations to **Marc Rosen, MD** for receiving the 2025 Faculty Teaching Award. This award is voted on by the residents and is given to the faculty member who consistently exemplifies our department's commitment to education as embodied in our department's mission statement and values through professionalism, mentorship, and continual learning.



### 2025 Outstanding Resident Award

Congratulations to **Dev Amin, MD** for receiving the 2025 Outstanding Resident Award. This award, voted on by the faculty, residents and advanced practice provider staff, is given to the chief resident who most embodied our department's values and mission statement throughout their residency.



# Congratulations to Our 2025 Graduates

## RESIDENTS



**Dev Amin, MD**  
*Fellowship in Facial Plastics and  
Reconstructive Surgery  
University of Minnesota*



**Dylan Bertoni, MD**  
*Fellowship in Laryngology  
Keck School of Medicine of USC*



**Chase Kahn, MD**  
*Fellowship in Rhinology  
Cleveland Clinic*

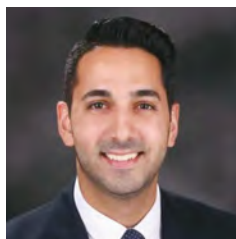


**Annie Moroco, MD**  
*Fellowship in Head & Neck,  
Cranial Base and Microvascular  
Reconstruction  
Vanderbilt University*



**Jena Patel, MD**  
*Fellowship in Otolaryngology  
Christiana Hospital*

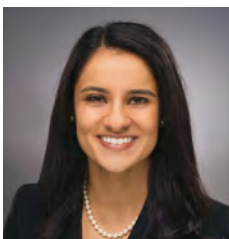
## CLINICAL FELLOWS



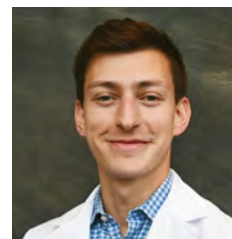
**Khashayar Arianpour, MD**  
*Facial Plastic & Reconstructive  
Surgery Fellow  
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH*



**Srihari Daggumati, MD**  
*Rhinology & Skull Base  
Surgery Fellow  
Private Practice, NJ*



**Harleen Sethi, DO**  
*Advanced Oncology Head &  
Neck Surgery Fellow  
Kaiser Permanente  
San Francisco, CA*

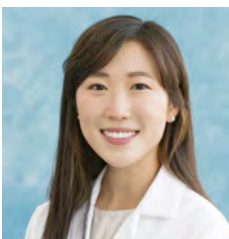


**Eddie Diaz Serrano**  
*Jefferson Otolaryngology –  
Head & Neck Surgery*

## RESEARCH FELLOWS



**Julian Jackson**



**Jahee Kim**



**Kelsey Limage**



**Louisa Forrest**  
*Mass Eye and Ear*



**Alexandra Levitt**  
*Jefferson Otolaryngology –  
Head & Neck Surgery*



**Kalena Liu**



**Dana Michlin**



**Alessandra Vidal**  
*Private Practice, Fairfax, VA*

# Welcome Our Incoming Class

## RESIDENTS



**Marina Aweeda, MD**  
*City University of New York*



**Shaun Edalati, MD**  
*Sackler School of Medicine*



**Neha Garg, MD**  
*Boston University*



**Rohith Kariveda, MD**  
*Boston University*



**Shreya Mandloi, MD**  
*Drexel University*

## CLINICAL FELLOWS



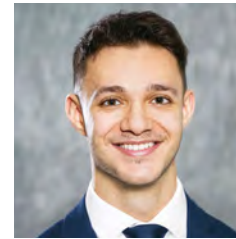
**Shayan Fakurnejad, MD**  
*Facial Plastic & Reconstructive  
Surgery Fellow*



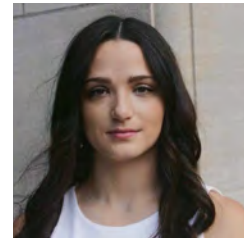
**Benjamin Bitner, MD**  
*Rhinology & Skull Base  
Surgery Fellow*



**D. Alexander Cronkite, MD**  
*Advanced Head & Neck  
Oncology Fellow*



**Abdulghafoor Alani**  
*Central Michigan University*

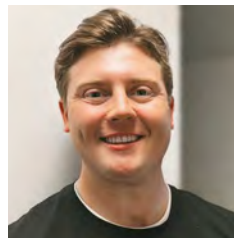


**Emma Anisman**  
*Sidney Kimmel Medical College*

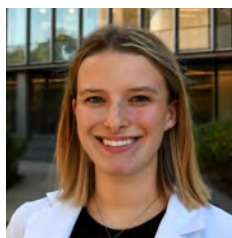
## AUDIOLOGY EXTERNS



**Kendell Adson**  
*University of Maryland*



**Jack Dienes**  
*Salus University*



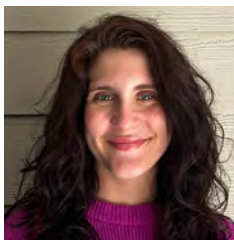
**Mollee Feeney**  
*Northwestern University*



**Sarah Harrington**  
*Renaissance School of Medicine  
at Stony Brook University*



**Sophia Linguiti**  
*Sidney Kimmel Medical College*



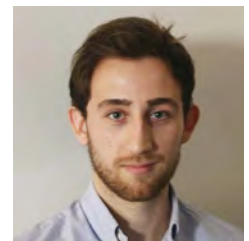
**Megan Mogorovic**  
*University of Illinois*



**Mansi Roy**  
*Hofstra University*



**Janvi Shukla**  
*Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School*



**Daniel Uralov**  
*Humantis University*



**Anika Walia**  
*Boston University School of Medicine*





Incoming Residents Welcome Reception



Incoming Residents Lunch

## Jefferson Oto in the News

### Our Newest Location Opens Its Doors in Washington Township, NJ

On May 21, 2025, we saw our first patients at our newest location, Fish Pond II, in Sewell, NJ! We are excited to welcome patients to this beautiful new space and expand access to care in South Jersey.

Jefferson Health has officially opened Jefferson Specialty Care – Fish Pond Road, its largest multi-specialty practice in southern New Jersey. Located at 354 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road in Washington Township, this 15,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility strengthens Jefferson's commitment to delivering high-quality, comprehensive care closer to home.

The \$15 million center houses a wide range of specialties, including ENT, Audiology, Gastroenterology, General/Bariatric/ Vascular Surgery, Urology, Rheumatology, Allergy/Immunology, and Non-Oncology Infusion. Designed with patient comfort and efficiency in mind, the facility includes 23 exam rooms, four procedure rooms, audiology booths, an infusion suite, and dedicated support spaces for staff and providers.

Our ENT and Audiology services went live on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, further expanding access to expert ear, nose, throat, and hearing care for the South Jersey community! Our providers at this location include **Caitlin McLean, MD**, **Emily Lancaster, AuD** and **Colleen Collins, CRNP**.



# Spotlight On Research

## TaCO Programmatic Retreat Recap

On April 2, 2025, the Translational Cellular Oncology (TaCO) Programmatic Retreat brought together researchers for an engaging discussion on cutting-edge cancer research. Led by **Mauricio Reginato, PhD** and **Ubaldo Martinez-Outschoorn, MD** of Medical Oncology, the event showcased insightful presentations:

- **Hani Samarah (RF25)** discussed the Role of Pyroptosis in Tumor Microenvironments of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma, highlighting its impact on tumor progression.
- **Eric Mastrodonardo, MD (PGY4)** explored the dual MCT1 and MCT4 inhibitor MCT-IN-1 in MOC1 cell lines, emphasizing its role in increasing apoptosis and the compensatory upregulation of glutathione conjugation gene sets.

A special thank you to **Adam Luginbuhl, MD** for his mentorship and to all who contributed to advancing cancer research!

Left to right: Hani Samarah (RF25) and Eric Mastrodonardo, MD (PGY4)



## Recognition for Top-Viewed Publications

We are thrilled to announce that our Rhinology and Head & Neck teams have been recognized for authoring top-viewed articles in their respective fields. This recognition highlights the impactful research and clinical expertise of our faculty, and their continued contributions to advancing care and knowledge in Otolaryngology.

### Recognized in the International Forum of Allergy & Rhinology *Optimizing the Timing of Biologic and Surgical Therapy for Patients with Refractory Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyposis (CRSwNP)*

<https://tinyurl.com/TopViewAllergyRhinology>

Emily Garvey, Bitu Naimi, Alexander Duffy, Paavali Hannikainen, Chase Kahn, Douglas Farquhar, Marc Rosen, Mindy Rabinowitz, Elina Toskala and Gurston Nyquist



### Recognized in Molecular Carcinogenesis

#### *IL-8 correlates with nonresponse to neoadjuvant nivolumab in HPV positive HNSCC via a potential extracellular vesicle miR-146a mediated mechanism*

<https://tinyurl.com/TopViewMolecularCarcin>

Brianna L Hill, Alyssa N Calder, Joseph P Flemming, Yiyang Guo, Sydney L Gilmore, Melissa A Trofa, Sean K Daniels, Torbjørn N Nielsen, Laura K Gleason, Zoya Antysheva, Ksenia Demina, Nikita Kotlov, Christopher J H Davitt, David M Cognetti, George C Prendergast, Adam E Snook, Jennifer M Johnson, Gaurav Kumar, Alban J Linnenbach, Ubaldo Martinez-Outschoorn, Andrew P South, Joseph M Curry, Larry A Harshyne, Adam J Luginbuhl and M G Mahoney.





# Announcing the 2025-26 Otolaryngology Department Grant Awardees

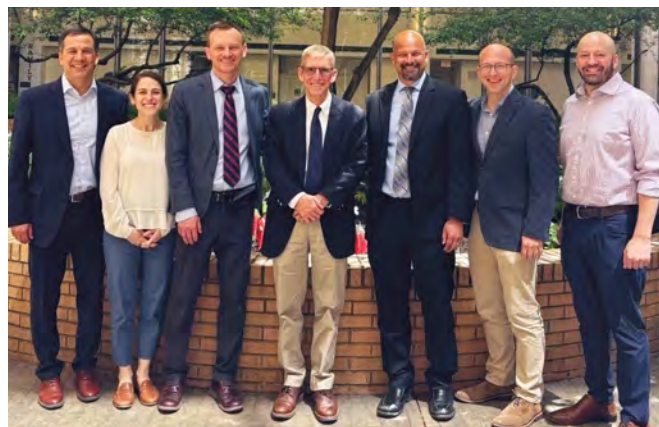
We would like to acknowledge the following investigators who were awarded Department Research Grants in the Spring, 2025 cycle.

- **Hannah Kenny, MD / Joseph Curry, MD** – Microbubble Augmentation of Immunotherapy in Head & Neck Cancer
- **Bryce Hambach / Jacob Hunter, MD** – Effects of Stereotactic Radiosurgery on Immune-related Biomarkers in Patients with Sporadic Vestibular Schwannoma
- **Daniel Campbell, MD / Jacob Hunter, MD** – Pharmacological Enhancement in Stable Adult Cochlear Implant Users
- **Hani Samarah / Mindy Rabinowitz, MD** – Assessing Hypobaric Effects on Skull Base Reconstruction Integrity During Air Travel Following Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery

## Annual Research Day Held

On May 7, 2025, our department hosted its Annual Otolaryngology Research Symposium. The half-day event celebrated cutting-edge research, scientific collaboration, and the spirit of academic mentorship that defines Jefferson's mission.

This year's symposium was moderated by distinguished visiting professor **Donald T. Weed, MD, FACS**, the W. Jarrard Goodwin Professor of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Executive Vice Chairman of Otolaryngology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. A respected leader in surgical oncology and immunotherapy research, Dr. Weed brought a depth of insight and energy to the afternoon's discussions. We were very happy to have Dr. Weed as our guest moderator and to welcome Monell Chemical Senses Center back as a valued partner in this annual event.



Left to right: David Cognetti, MD, Arielle Thal, MD, Joseph Curry, MD, Donald Weed, MD, Chetan Nayak, MD, Adam Luginbuhl, MD and Richard Goldman, MD



### ULRICH RODECK, MD, PHD RESEARCH FELLOW PRESENTATIONS

Moderated by **Meghan Crippen, MD** and **Chetan Nayak, MD**, this segment highlighted the impactful work of the department's research fellows, ranging from hypoglossal nerve stimulation in sleep apnea to the immune landscape of head and neck cancers. The session honors the legacy of Ulrich Rodeck, PhD, a dedicated cancer researcher, mentor, and leader within the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center.

AWARD WINNER: **Hani Samarah, BS** "*The Role of Pyroptosis in Tumor Microenvironments of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC)*"



### MONELL POSTDOCTORAL PRESENTATIONS

Researchers from Monell presented work on olfactory science and taste modulation, with moderators **Robert Pellegrino, PhD** and **Gurston Nyquist, MD** guiding the session. Topics ranged from the effects of pollution on smell to novel models for drug bitterness reduction.

AWARD WINNER: **Kang-Hoon Kim, PhD** "*Development of a Human Olfactory Organoid Model*"

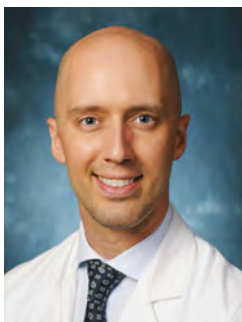




## STEPHEN F. BALSHI, MD RESIDENT PRESENTATIONS

Named in memory of Dr. Stephen F. Balshi, a Jefferson alum devoted to medical excellence, this segment featured outstanding clinical studies from current residents. Moderated by **Donald Weed, MD** and **Joseph Curry, MD**, these talks exemplified the clinical curiosity and academic rigor encouraged in Jefferson's training programs.

AWARD WINNER: **Kelly Bridgham, MD** "Viability of Tumor Cells in Bone Dust: Implications for Oncologic Skull Base Surgery"



## DEPARTMENTAL GRANT RESEARCH

Moderated by **Dev Amin, MD**, last year's Balshi Award winner, this final presentation by **Harleen Sethi, DO** showcased a qualitative study on telehealth in head and neck cancer surveillance that was funded by a Departmental Grant.

PI: **Christopher Fundakowski, MD** "Assessing the Role of Telehealth in Head and Neck Cancer Surveillance: A Qualitative Study on Patient Preferences and Perceived Barriers"



Special thanks to everyone who helped bring this year's Research Day to life—from the moderators and presenters to the staff and volunteers behind the scenes. Your efforts made this year's event a success, and a true reflection of the collaboration and excellence that define our department.

## 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, and 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 <https://tinyurl.com/OtoPatientCare> to learn more and contribute to our mission.





# Achievements and Awards

## Ashley Greywoode Scholarship Awarded

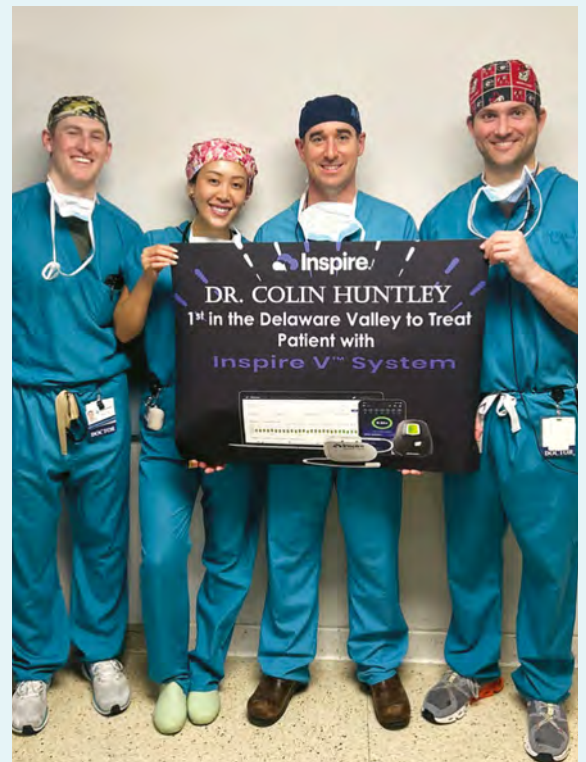
Congratulations to **Vivian Xu, MD (PGY4)** for receiving the 2025-26 Ashley Greywoode Scholarship.

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.



## Snore No More

**Colin Huntley, MD** and the Jefferson team performed the first Inspire V Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulator implantation in the Philadelphia area on April 3, 2025. Inspire V is now available to eligible patients at Jefferson, bringing new pathways of care to patients with obstructive sleep apnea!



## Breaking New Ground

On April 2, 2025, **Colin Huntley, MD** joined the team of physicians and nurses at Nemours Children's Hospital to assist with their first two Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulator implantation cases.



## A Trio of Trio Inductees

Congratulations to **Colin Huntley, MD** for his induction as a Fellow in the Triological Society! This huge accomplishment requires submission of a thesis. Dr. Huntley's work was titled "Downstream Impact of a Sleep Surgery Program; Optimizing Patient Care to Generating Clinical Volume" and highlighted the great care provided within our sleep surgery program. Jefferson was well represented in this year's class. **Gopi Shah, MD (R'12)** and **James Daniero, MD (R'13)** were inducted as well!



Congratulations to our faculty including **Maurits Boon, MD, Rebecca Chiffer, MD, David Cognetti, MD, Elizabeth Cottrill, MD, Joseph Curry, MD, Kyle Fisher, MD, Christopher Fundakowski, MD, Richard Goldman, MD, Ryan Heffelfinger, MD, David Kennedy, MD, Howard Krein, MD, PhD, Adam Luginbuhl, MD, Brian McGettigan, MD, Gurston Nyquist, MD, Edmund Pribitkin, MD, MBA, Mindy Rabinowitz, MD, David Rosen, MD, Marc Rosen, MD, Joseph Spiegel, MD, Kathleen Tibbetts, MD, Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA, Thomas Willcox, MD and Jason Wilmoth, MD**, who were recognized in the Philly Magazine's 2025 Top Doctors in Otolaryngology or Facial Plastic Surgery/Otolaryngology!



Maurits Boon, MD



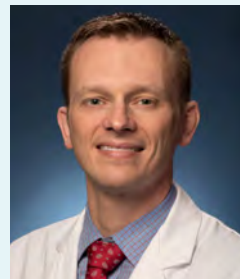
Rebecca Chiffer, MD



David Cognetti, MD



Elizabeth Cottrill, MD



Joseph Curry, MD



Kyle Fisher, MD



Christopher Fundakowski, MD



Richard Goldman, MD



Ryan Heffelfinger, MD



David Kennedy, MD



Howard Krein, MD, PhD



Adam Luginbuhl, MD



Brian McGettigan, MD



Gurston Nyquist, MD



Edmund Pribitkin, MD, MBA



Mindy Rabinowitz, MD



David Rosen, MD



Marc Rosen, MD



Joseph Spiegel, MD



Kathleen Tibbetts, MD



Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA



Thomas Willcox, MD



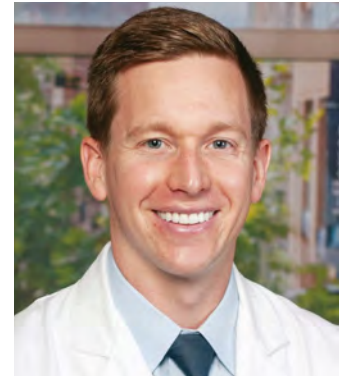
Jason Wilmoth, MD



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## Top Docs Under 40

Congratulations to **Gregory Epps, MD** on being named one of the Pennsylvania Medical Society's 2025 Top Physicians Under 40! This prestigious recognition highlights early-career physicians who are making a meaningful impact in medicine and in their communities. Honorees are nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of Pennsylvania Medical Society member physicians. Well deserved, Dr. Epps!



## Huntley Named Section Chief for Otolaryngology – Jefferson New Jersey

Congratulations to **Colin Huntley, MD** who took the reins as Section Chief for Otolaryngology at Jefferson New Jersey effective June 1, 2025!

We would also like to recognize and thank **Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA** for her work and dedication to the role over the past four years.

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## Promotion to Professor

Congratulations to **Christopher A. Fundakowski, MD** on his well-deserved official promotion to Professor in June, 2025.

Congratulations to **Jennifer M. Johnson, MD** on her promotion to Professor of Medical Oncology with secondary appointment in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, effective June, 2025.



## Recognition for Excellence

We are proud to announce that **Joseph Curry, MD** has been honored with the prestigious Sidney Kimmel Medical College Outstanding Clinician Award from Surgery and Surgical Subspecialties. This award recognizes a physician with at least ten years of clinical experience who has truly distinguished themselves through evidence-based medical practice and exceptional doctor-patient relationships. Dr. Curry is celebrated by peers, trainees, and patients alike as an outstanding clinician committed to excellence in patient care. Congratulations to Dr. Curry on this well-deserved recognition!

# Upcoming Events

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

## Annual Faculty & Alumni Golf Outing

### MORNING ALUMNI LECTURES AND NETWORKING

Thomas Jefferson University  
Room 101 Bluemle Bldg  
233 S. 10th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

### AFTERNOON GOLF OUTING

Philadelphia Country Club  
1601 Spring Mill Rd  
Gladwyne, PA 19035

#### Register:

<https://tinyurl.com/OtoFacultyAlumniGolf>



**SEPTEMBER 24, 2025**

## William Keane, MD Lecture in Head & Neck Surgery

*"Stuck in the Middle With You: Hybrid E/M Drives Invasion and Metastasis in Head and Neck Cancer"*

**SID PURAM, MD, PHD, FACS**

Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO



**OCTOBER 12, 2025**

## Annual Alumni Reception

**ARE YOU GOING TO THE AAO-HNSF  
MEETING IN INDIANAPOLIS?**

### JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ALUMNI RECEPTION

Sunday, October 12, 2025 from 7-10pm  
Conner's Kitchen + Bar (Rye Bar) – Downtown Marriott  
350 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225



**NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

## Clerf Lecture in Otolaryngology

**STACEY GRAY, MD**

Harvard University, Boston, MA



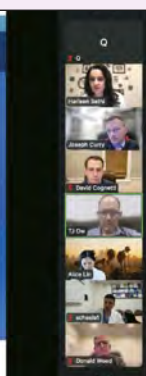
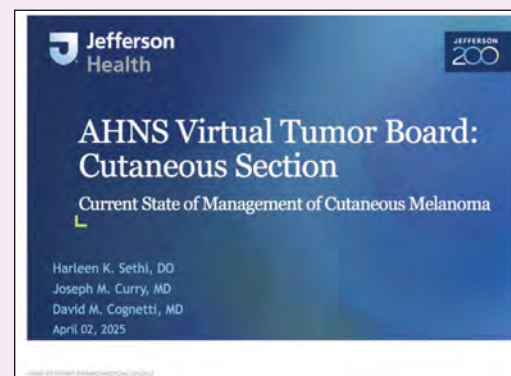
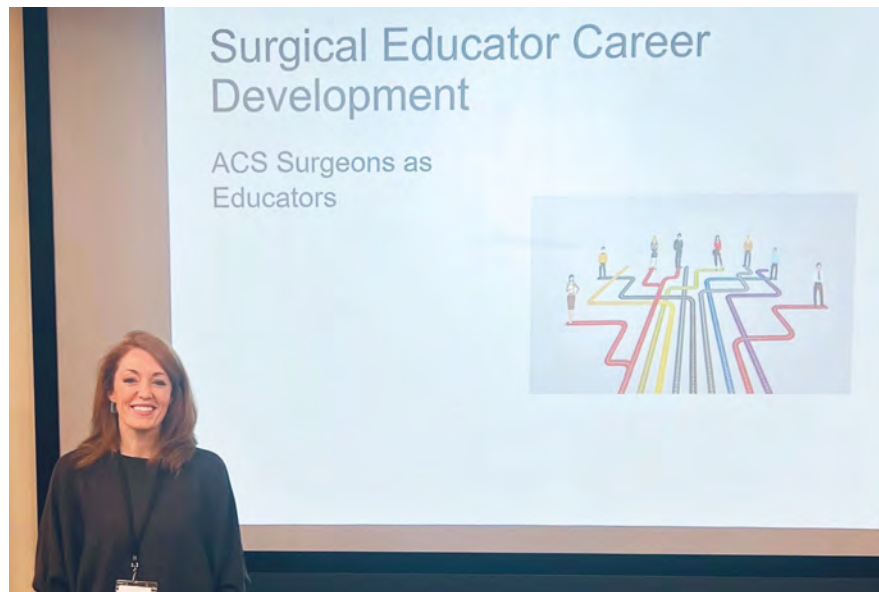


# Otolaryngology Events: Looking Back

## Cottrill Participates in ACS Course

During the first week of April, **Elizabeth Cottrill, MD** participated in the Surgeons as Educators course through the American College of Surgeons—an intensive, seven-day program featuring lectures, workshops, small group discussions, and hands-on learning.

She found the experience truly inspiring and looks forward to bringing fresh ideas and renewed energy to surgical education within our department!



## AHNS Tumor Board Participation

On April 2, 2025, **Harleen Sethi, DO (F'25)** and **Joseph Curry, MD** participated as expert case discussants on the American Head & Neck Society's Cutaneous Section Virtual Tumor Board on the Current State of Management of Cutaneous Melanoma.



## Cleveland Clinic Laryngectomy Course

**David Cognetti, MD** travelled to the Cleveland Clinic on April 3, 2025 where he co-directed The Future of Laryngectomy Course sponsored by Atos Medical with Brandon Prendes, MD. The course featured a cadaver dissection and was attended by speech and language pathologists from all across the country.



## Microvascular Course in Cincinnati

Arielle Thal, MD was in Cincinnati with former fellow, **Ameya Jategaonkar, MD (F'22)**, for the microvascular reconstruction course at the University of Cincinnati in April, 2025.



## Elevating Surgical Skills at SimFest

Our department participated in another successful SimFest in early April! The course offered invaluable hands-on experience for our PGY-3 residents, helping them strengthen their surgical skills in a dynamic, real-time learning environment.

Faculty in attendance included **Richard Goldman, MD, Elizabeth Cottrell, MD, Kathleen Tibbetts, MD, Christopher Fundakowski, MD** and **Harleen Sethi, DO (F'25)**, who provided expert instruction and guidance throughout the day. Resident participants included PGY3s **Vivian Xu, MD, Christopher Valentini, MD, Hannah Kenny, MD, Daniel Campbell, MD, Angela Alnemri, MD** and **Jack Palmer, MD**. We're proud of everyone's commitment to surgical education and excellence in training!







## Herbert Kean, MD Lecture in Facial Plastic Surgery

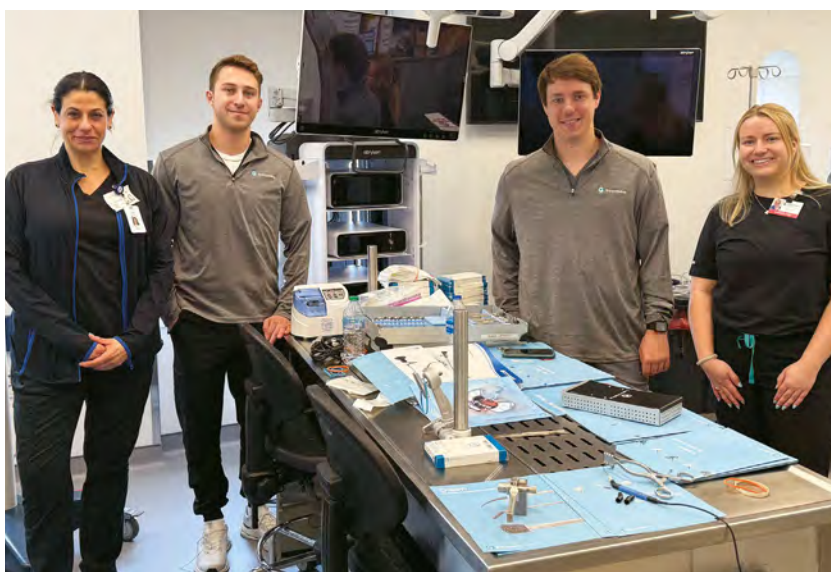
The Annual Herbert Kean, MD Lecture in Facial Plastic Surgery was held on April 23, 2025 and featured distinguished guest lecturer, **Jessyka Lighthall, MD, FACS**, from Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA. Dr. Lighthall delivered an engaging and insightful presentation on "Advances in Facial Reanimation."

Dr. Lighthall is pictured alongside **David Cognetti, MD**, **Stacey Baer, MSOT**, **Ryan Heffelfinger, MD** and **Howard Krein, MD**.

## Annual PGY-3 Temporal Bone Course

The annual PGY-3 Temporal Bone Course was held on Thursday and Friday, April 24–25, 2025, in our temporal bone lab. The two-day course featured a mix of didactic lectures and hands-on learning opportunities.

We were fortunate to have a distinguished faculty lineup, including **Ravi Samy, MD** and **Sri Chennupati, MD** from Lehigh Valley, **Jenna Briddell, MD** and **Bill Parkes, MD** from Nemours, and **Michael Teixido, MD** along with Jefferson faculty **Thomas Willcox, MD**, **Jacob Hunter, MD** and **Rebecca Chiffer, MD**.



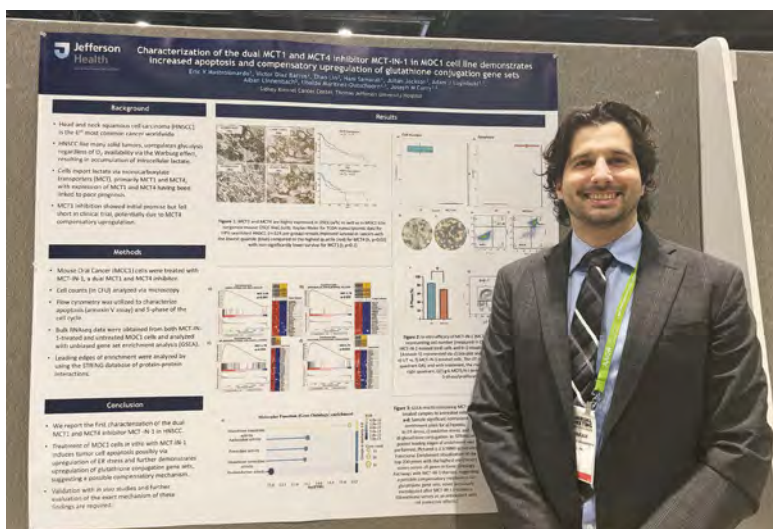
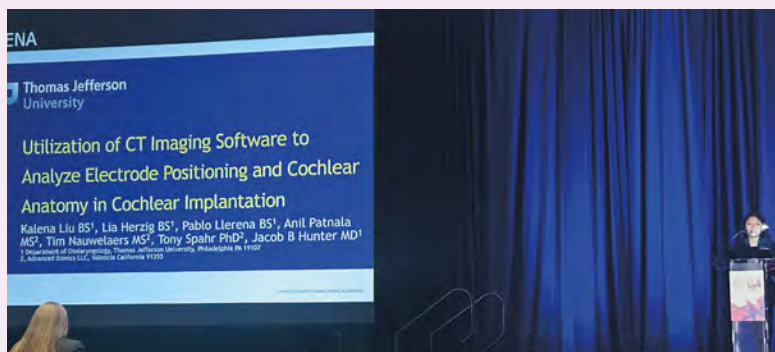
In addition to our PGY-3 residents, we welcomed visiting residents from Lehigh Valley Health Network and Dr. Teixido's fellow. We also appreciated the support and participation of our vendor partners from Stryker, Advanced Bionics, Med-El, and Grace Medical. Overall, the course offered valuable opportunity for education, collaboration, and hands-on experience!





# American Cochlear Implant Alliance Meeting Held in Boston

Jacob Hunter, MD, Lauren Lucas, AuD, Karla Belcastro, AuD, Naomi Fireman, AuD and medical students Lia Herzig and Kalena Liu attended American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACIA) in Boston from April 30 through May 3, 2025. Lia and Kalena presented research they have been collaborating on with Dr. Hunter on Pre-implantation Predictors of Binaural Summation Benefit Following Cochlear Implantation and utilization of CT Imaging Software to Analyze Electrode Positioning and Cochlear Anatomy of CI. The conference also highlighted strategies that clinics can use to increase candidacy and improve access to cochlear implant care. In our program, we are offering remote cochlear implant programming sessions and are continuing to expand this ability for all of our CI recipients.



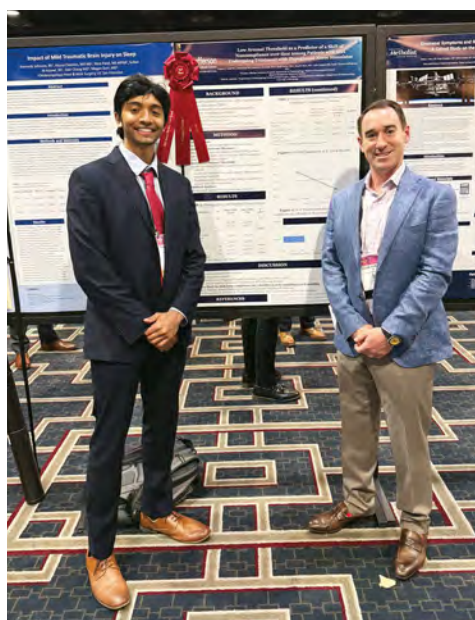
## Advancing Cancer Research

Hani Samarah (RF'25) recently represented our department at the American Association for Cancer Research 2025 in Chicago, presenting two posters under the mentorship of **Joseph Curry, MD**. His work included "Mapping Cell Death Pathways Across Immune Microenvironment Subtypes in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma" as well as "Characterization of the Dual MCT1 and MCT4 Inhibitor MCT-IN-1 in MOC1 Cell Line Demonstrates Increased Apoptosis and Compensatory Upregulation of Glutathione Conjugation Gene Sets," which he presented on behalf of **Eric Mastrolonardo, MD (PGY4)**.



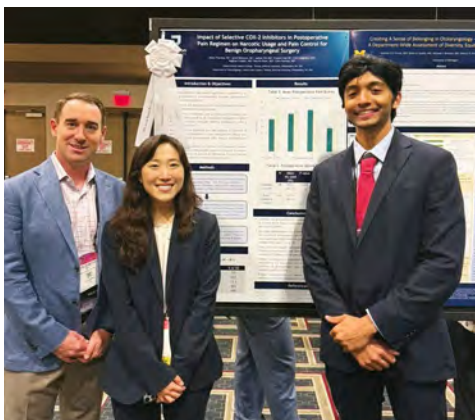


## Great Showing at Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings!



Members of our department traveled to New Orleans, LA in May for the 2025 Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings (COSM). Held annually, COSM brings together the leading subspecialty societies in otolaryngology for a week of cutting-edge research presentations, surgical innovation, and collaboration across the field. Jefferson was proudly represented by faculty, residents, and research fellows who presented posters, podium talks, and panel contributions.

Special thanks to all who contributed their time, research, and expertise to make Jefferson's presence at COSM 2025 a success. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue to lead in collaboration, education, and innovation! View our presentations here <https://tinyurl.com/COSM2025>





# AHNS 2025 Annual Meeting Award Winners

Congratulations to our Poster Award Winners from the American Head & Neck Society 2025 Annual Meeting at COSM meeting!

**Hani Samarah, BS (RF'25)** – “Timing Matters: Investigating the Impact of Immunotherapy Start Time on Clinical Outcomes and Gene Expression in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma”

**Kelly M. Bridgham, MD (PGY3)** – “Bone Dust Generated During Oncologic Surgery Contains Viable Tumor Cells”



## Advancing Sleep Surgery

In May, 2025, **Colin Huntley, MD** and sleep fellows **Hank Ideker, MD** and **Stephen White, MD** represented our department at the Resident and Fellow Sleep Surgery Transition to Practice Course.

In addition to attending, Dr. Huntley delivered a well-received lecture titled “Top 10 Research Articles in Neurostimulation,” highlighting the latest breakthroughs in the field.

## Celebrating Alumni Achievements at the Free Flap Course

**Joseph Curry, MD** served as a Visiting Professor at the Cleveland Clinic Free Flap course on May 2, 2025. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our alumni, including **Peter Ciolek, MD (F'19)**, **Richard Wu, MD (RF'23)** who is now a PGY2 at the Cleveland Clinic and Dr. Michael Fritz. It's always inspiring to see our alumni doing such impactful work.



## Celebrating Clinical Trials Day

On May 20, 2025, our research coordinators **Maya Childs** and **Morgan Kyser** joined fellow Clinical Research Professionals from across Jefferson last Tuesday in celebration of International Clinical Trials Day. The event—hosted by the SKCCC Clinical Trials Office and the Jefferson Clinical Research Institute (JCRI)—was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the essential contributions of clinical research in advancing science and improving patient care.



## Penn State Thyroid RFA Course

**Elizabeth Cottrill, MD** was honored to teach at the Penn State Thyroid Radiofrequency Ablation Course held on May 30–31, 2025. Participants attended from around the world, including Canada and Australia, to learn this innovative technique. Dr. Cottrill taught alongside David Goldenberg, MD, her fellowship mentor from Penn State, and Brazilian experts Leo Rangel, MD and Erivelto Volpi, MD, who have over 15 years of RFA experience.



## Leading the Way at Southern States Rhinology

**Elina Toskala, MD, PhD, MBA** and **David Kennedy, MD** recently traveled to Kiawah Island, South Carolina, to participate in the Southern States Rhinology Course. Between them, they delivered three lectures and contributed their expertise to four panel discussions. Their involvement highlights our department's continued leadership and commitment to advancing education and collaboration in the field of rhinology!





## Building an Academic Health System Panel



On May 28, 2025, **David Cagnetti, MD** moderated a panel with **Baligh Yehia, MD**, President, Jefferson Health and **Said Ibrahim, MD**, The Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at the Jefferson Health/Lehigh Valley Health Network Clinical Leadership Retreat. The panel, entitled "Building an

Academic Health System", explored the importance and the benefits of the partnership of the health system and the medical school in both clinical and academic efforts.

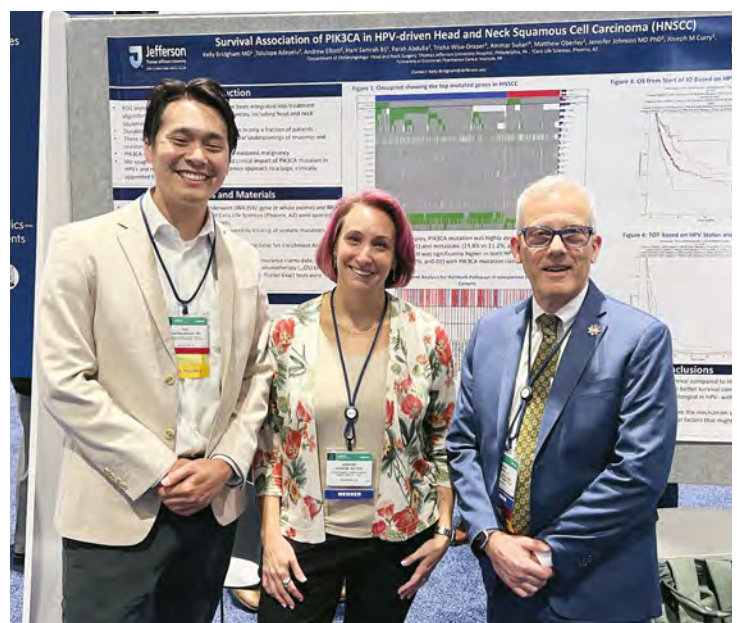


## Leadership & Practice Building

As part of our Leadership & Practice Building curriculum, on May 28, 2025, **Lindsay Goodstein, MD (R'17)** returned to share her journey from residency to running her own private practice. Speaking to our residents, Dr. Goodstein offered 10 key lessons she's learned as a comprehensive otolaryngologist navigating the world of private practice—insights on clinical care, business strategy, and everything in between.

## ASCO 2025 & Beyond

**Eric Mastrodonato, MD (PGY4)** recently represented our department at The American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting in Chicago from May 30–June 3, 2025, presenting **Joseph Curry, MD's** trial-in-progress titled "Neoadjuvant cemiplimab in cutaneous basal cell carcinoma of the head and neck." On behalf of **Kelly Bridgham, MD (PGY3)**, **Jennifer Johnson, MD** also presented their project with Dr. Curry titled "Survival Association of PIK3CA in HPV-driven Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma." Drs. Mastrodonato and Johnson had the opportunity to discuss our department's work with some of the most well-regarded leaders in the field! Andrew Chapman, MD, Director Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, also stopped by both posters to show his support!





## Fueling the Future of Audiology

**Anna Bixler, AuD** and **Julia Croce, AuD** attended the Fuel Medical Symposium in New Orleans from June 5–8, 2025, where they explored topics including audiology billing, hearing aid adoption, marketing, compliance, AI, change management, and HR solutions. Dr. Croce also participated in the leadership panel “Words to Lead By,” offering insights on team performance, engagement, and workplace culture.



## Big Show at PAO!

As always, our department was represented throughout the halls of the Hershey Hotel at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery which was held on June 13–14, 2025. We caught up with **Emily Funk, MD (F'24)** who has had a highly successful first year in practice. **Jenna Bridell, MD**, **Udayan Shah, MD** and **David Cognetti, MD** each participated in a panel. **Arielle Thal, MD** moderated the resident research section and was named program Co-chair for next year's meeting. Future Jefferson medical student, **Yash Dixit**, won first place for his oral presentation on obstructive sleep apnea. **Jack Palmer, MD (PGY3)** joined the Executive Council as the resident representative for the East. **Annie Moroco, MD (PGY5)** was awarded the **Ellie Goldenberg Award**, an incredible honor in memory of Ellie's legacy of hard work, dedication, and kindness. **Colin Huntley, MD** assumed the role of **President of PAO-HNS**, for a two-year term. We are excited for the future under his leadership! Congratulations to all on a successful meeting!





# Giving Back

## Honoring the Legacy of Joyce and Dr. Herbert Kean

On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, we proudly celebrated the ribbon cutting for the **Honorable Joyce Kean and Dr. Herbert Kean Family Gathering Area** at the Honickman Center. Thank you to **Dr. Herbert Kean** and his wife, the **Honorable Joyce Kean** for their generous support and lasting impact on our community space!





## Turning Up the Volume on Community Care

On April 17, 2025, the JeffHope team brought hearing health directly to the community with a screening event at Our Brother's Place, one of our student-run clinics. Armed with a portable audiometer and big hearts, **Naomi Fireman, AuD** and **Whitney Wright** screened nearly half of the 20 patients who visited the clinic. The results? Five patients were successfully scheduled to follow up with audiologists at Jeff Otology—an amazing first step toward better hearing health!



## Shaping Future Careers

Career Day, held on April 9, 2025 at the Community Academy of Philadelphia was a huge success! Jefferson Audiologists, **Kathleen Kammerer, AuD** and **Michelle Kiedaisch, AuD** had the opportunity to present to 9th-12th grade students to provide insight into the field of audiology. They were able to share information about the basics of audiology, the education and skills required to be an audiologist, as well as what their typical day to day looks like. The students were engaged, asked thoughtful questions and showed genuine interest in the career. Overall, it was a fantastic experience to inspire the next generation and offer them a glimpse into the possibilities that lie ahead in their own careers!



# OTOSCOPE Quarterly

OTOSCOPE QUARTERLY is a publication for friends and colleagues of Jefferson's Department of Otolaryngology– Head & Neck Surgery.

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