Dear CU Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery,

I am thrilled to have completed my first 3 months as Chair of the Department, and I could not be more grateful for the outstanding faculty, staff and trainees I have had the chance to connect with over the last 3 months. I’ve had the opportunity to visit our adult and pediatric practice sites throughout the region including in Boulder, Broomfield, Highlands Ranch and Colorado Springs, and at some of our partner hospitals like Denver Health and the VA, and have done the walk many times between UCH and CHCO. I’ve also had the chance to hear our visiting sub-I’s present over the summer, participate in a specific aims review with our research faculty, and spend time getting to know our administrative and clinical staff. There is excellence and good will everywhere! I’d like to use this bimonthly Headlines newsletter to highlight the great things happening in our Department for us to celebrate the impact we are having on one another, our patients, and our communities. We may be living and working across the Front Range, though share in our commitment to excellence and representing the Department by delivering the best Otolaryngology care to our patients now and in the future. Thank you for all you do, and please keep the stories and updates coming at Erika.kroll@cuanschutz.edu.

All the best,

Yuri Agrawal, MD
Department Chair, Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

A Message From Our Chair

Announcements

Congratulations to Scott Hirsch! His daughter, Margot, arrived in September.

Erika Kroll has returned from maternity leave! Her son, Liam, arrived in August.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!
Ana is a promising second year student in CU Boulder’s Audiology program. Ana is a first generation Hispanic/Latina woman who has a physical and mental disability. Regardless of these conditions, Ana is doing exceptionally well in her doctoral studies and is highly committed to improving access to hearing health in underserved populations. As part of her diversity initiative, Ana wants to work on offering education about hearing loss and providing clinical hearing screenings in minority neighborhoods in the Denver/Front Range area. She will supervise Audiology undergraduate students and first year AuD graduate students who volunteer to conduct the screenings. Given her fluency in Spanish, Ana will be able to counsel patients who may not pass the screenings and refer them to UCH or other appropriate clinics. She will also inform them about possibilities for participating in a joint research project between CU Boulder and Anschutz campuses where participants will be eligible to receive free hearing tests, cognitive screenings and hearing aids at no cost for a year.
The department is pleased to welcome the following faculty and staff members who joined us this Fall:

- **ERIN AMACK, NP-C**
  - Inpatient Nurse Practitioner
  - 10/1/2023

- **MACKENZIE CASWELL, PA-C**
  - Advanced Practice Provider
  - 12/1/2023

- **CHRISTOPHER DISCOLO, MD**
  - Associate Professor
  - 9/1/2023

- **MACKENZIE CASWELL, PA-C**
  - Advanced Practice Provider
  - 12/1/2023

- **CHRISTOPHER DISCOLO, MD**
  - Associate Professor
  - 11/1/2023

- **EMILY GALE, PA-C**
  - Advanced Practice Provider
  - 10/1/2023

- **OMAR LOPEZ-RAMIREZ**
  - Research Associate
  - 10/1/2023

- **ALYSSA MORGAN, PA-C**
  - Advanced Practice Provider
  - 12/1/2023

- **SAMANTHA ROECKER, FNP**
  - Advanced Practice Provider
  - 10/1/2023

- **SARA STONER**
  - Postdoc
  - 9/1/2023

- **ADRIANA WARWICK, DNP, CPNP-AC, RN**
  - Advanced Practice Provider
  - 12/1/2023

- **BLAIR WHITESIDE**
  - Speech-Language Pathologist
  - 8/15/2023

- **JULIANGA SMELTZER**
  - SLP Fellow
  - 8/14/2023

- **EMILY TAMKIN**
  - Research Associate
  - 10/1/2023

- **ADRIANA WARWICK, DNP, CPNP-AC, RN**
  - Advanced Practice Provider
  - 12/1/2023

- **BLAIR WHITESIDE**
  - Speech-Language Pathologist
  - 8/15/2023

**WELCOME** to the team!
Leadership evening with Dr. Reilly and Don Elliman

March 27, 2024

The Benson Hotel & Faculty Club

*More information to come

Departmental Faculty Retreat

April 12, 2024

*More information to come
A Career Enhancement Award has been created in an effort to support the professional growth of Associate and Full Professors. This award will provide funding to be used towards the development of clinical, scholarly and leadership skills to advance a faculty member’s career and expertise in the field of Otolaryngology. One awardee per academic year will receive up to $15,000. All MD faculty who have been in the Department for at least five years are encouraged to apply.

Additional information on the application process will be sent out to faculty.

**T32 SEMINAR SERIES**

Please visit our [website](#) for a detailed seminar schedule, and reach out to Dr. Sue Kinnamon with questions.

**RESIDENCY INTERVIEWS**

Residency interviews will be held January 4th and January 11th. Social nights will take place the night before each residency interview day (1/3, and 1/11) at 6:30 pm at FlyteCo Tower. Faculty attendance is encouraged!

**FACULTY CAREER ADVANCEMENT AWARD**

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**BETTER TOGETHER COACHING**

Enrollment will open 1/2/24 for Feb-May 2024 session. Repeat participation is encouraged.

Please reach out to anne.getz@cuanschutz.edu with questions.

**WELLNESS SURVEY**

The survey is anticipated to launch on January 8, 2024. It will be open for three weeks. Please participate!
Did you know people usually look online to get a first impression of an organization? Our website and Facebook page are the best place to provide our real voice. Regularly posting quality content has a big impact on gaining people's interest in us. We are turning to you – our valued faculty, alumni and staff - to help generate this content!

Did you recently learn something interesting at a conference? Did you encounter an unusual case that would be a fascinating read for your peers? Do you have a piece of work you want to share? Send anything you would like included in our content calendar to Erika Kroll (erika.kroll@cuanschutz.edu). Copy editing is available, so you can concentrate on the ideas and not on the writing!

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**DEI Update**

**Dr. Ashoke Khanwalkar has been named Department Diversity Leader!**

The current objectives of the DEI committee include creating an environment where diverse students, trainees, and faculty feel heard, validated for their identities and contributions, and respected as well as increasing the proportion of women and minority students, trainees, faculty, staff, and leadership where underrepresented. Stay tuned for updates from Dr. Khanwalkar.

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**Department Fun for a Good Cause**

Several members of our department recently volunteered at the Denver Botanic Gardens. They spent their time preparing pumpkins for the Glow in the Gardens exhibit.

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**Request for Content**

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