



## Department News



### **A Message From Our Chair**

Dear Members and Friends of the CU Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery,

I am thrilled to have completed my first 4 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 these last 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 University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital of Colorado. I've also had the chance to spend time with our residents as we come together to select our next cohort, visit the labs of our talented research faculty, and spend time getting to know our administrative and clinical staff. There is excellence and good will everywhere! I have also had the pleasure to interact with several alumni of the residency and faculty, and have been learning about the men and women who played a pivotal role in building the Department, including the first Department Chair Dr. Robert Levy who also went on to found the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, and Dr. Marion Downs, the Audiologist whose groundbreaking work led to universal hearing screening and early amplification which are standard practice today. I am pleased to share with you the many outstanding contributions our Department continues to make to our patients, our community, and the field of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. In particular, I would like to highlight the new adult multi-disciplinary Sleep Clinic launching this spring, our Department's new Diversity Director, a new national leadership position in pediatric Otolaryngology, and a new faculty member recruit who is a nationally and internationally-renowned pediatric cleft surgeon. I would also like to spotlight one of our CU alumni who is the Founding Chair of a new Otolaryngology Department. Thank you for being a friend and supporter of our Department!



All the best,

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



## Department Highlights

### New Multidisciplinary Sleep Clinic

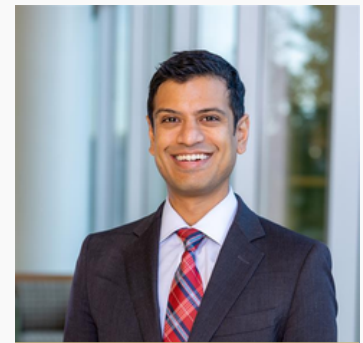


**KATHERINE GREEN**  
MD, MS

The Sleep Medicine program has seen exponential year-over-year growth and expansion in the past 6 years under the leadership of Dr. Katherine Green, and we are pleased to announce that January 2024 will mark the opening of the new UCHealth Multidisciplinary Sleep Center at the University of Colorado Hospital. The new center will include 16 exam rooms and additional consult/patient education rooms, and will also include an expansion of overnight sleep testing services, with 10 additional sleep testing bedrooms scheduled to open July 2024. In addition to the Anschutz Sleep Medicine Clinic moving into its new space in January, the sleep surgery clinics of Dr. Katherine Green, Dr. Amy Schell, and Mindy Busby PA-C will move into the new sleep center space in March 2024. This will create a truly multidisciplinary sleep center that can offer patients the complete breadth of testing and treatment options for the full spectrum of sleep disorders.

### 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.



**ASHOKE KHANWALKAR**  
MD

**Congratulations to Dr. Soham Roy, who is the President-Elect of the Society of Ear, Nose, Throat Advancement in Children (SENTAC), the premier pediatric otolaryngology professional society. Dr. Roy will become President at next fall's SENTAC meeting in Denver!**



**Join us in welcoming Dr. Christopher Discolo to the pediatric team at Children's Hospital Colorado. He has served as an academic pediatric otolaryngologist for over 15 years prior to joining our department!**





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**The Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery is pleased to announce the 2023/2024 recipient of the Richard D. Wyant Endowed Award in Audiology, Ana Sanchez!**

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.

**Dr. Laura Campos' research was recently highlighted in NPR story by their health correspondent. She was interviewed about her recent publication linking consistent hearing aid use with reduced fall risk in older adults.**



[Read Full Story](#)

**Pearls from Your Peers: Functional Septoplasty Surgery - Dr. Andrew Winkler and Dr. Cabrera-Muffly discuss tips and recommendations for septoplasty surgery.**



[Read Interview](#)

*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.





*Alumni Spotlight*

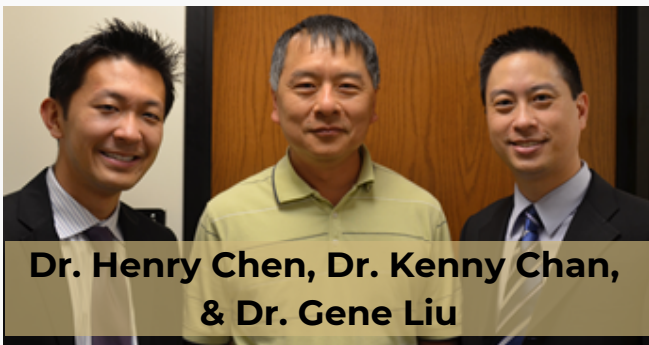
**A note from Dr. Gene Liu - a CU Alumni and Founding Chair of the new Otolaryngology Department at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**

Reflecting on my journey, I'm reminded of an amusing mix-up from years past when I was thought to be the candidate who brought his own pool cue to the residency interview social. Despite this quirky mis-remembering, I still matched into our program at the turn of the millennium and completed my residency in 2005, right before the hospital's transition to Aurora.



Upon graduation, I began my career in solo private practice based out of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. The amazing training at Colorado prepared me for a case mix that ranged from NICU airways to endoscopic skull base surgeries, awake laryngeal procedures to ablative cancer. Although this remarkable breadth and depth of cases deterred call-sharing arrangements with other area physicians, I firmly believe that it was also responsible for super-charging the growth of my practice.

My quality of life immensely improved upon becoming the first Otolaryngologist employed in the system and recruiting Dr. Henry Chen after he completed FPRS fellowship with Dr. Edwin Williams in Albany. I truly believe only another CU alum could have stepped into the breach of my practice mix! Since then, our group has continued to flourish, now boasting 18 physicians, 8 PAs, and 4 audiologists – and still growing. Additionally, we launched a residency program in 2020 with 2 residents per year.



Over the past few years, I have transitioned exclusively to Pediatric Otolaryngology and have had the privilege of contributing to the establishment of the Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's. In conjunction with my role as Chair of the residency program and Director of the Division of Otolaryngology, I am also serving as President of a 350-provider Cedars-Sinai Medical Group and as Medical

Director of Business Development and Strategy for our expansive 900+ physician medical network.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also wish to share Dr. Henry Chen's exciting new venture. He will be embarking on a solo practice in FPRS in Beverly Hills, a move befitting his impeccable and well-earned reputation in the region.

**Gene Liu, MD, MMM, FACS, FAAP**

Director of Academic Otolaryngology  
Program Chair, Otolaryngology Residency Training Program  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



*Events*



**January 28 –  
February 1, 2024  
The Hythe - Vail, CO**

[MORE  
INFORMATION](#)

**We are pleased to have a robust educational program with renowned speakers who will be visiting our Department in the coming year. Please join us live or via zoom. Please see our Department website for links.**

**Head & Neck Block**

- February 8: Jean-Luc Puel, PhD. University of Montpellier, Sound coding in the auditory nerve: from animal research to human

**General Block**

- February 29: Peter Santa Maria, MD PhD, Otolaryngology and Neurotology, Director of SPARK, OHNS Stanford University

**Rhinology Block**

- March 28: Brad Goldstein, MD PhD, Rhinology, OHNS Duke University
- April 4: Lora Bankova, MD, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard University, Allergy and Infectious Diseases

**Laryngology Block**

- May 2: Alexander Hillel, MD, Laryngology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**General Block**

- June 14: Research Day, Graduation speaker, Dr. David Brown, Pediatric Otolaryngology, University of Michigan

[Additional Information](#)

*Publications*

Please take a moment to read some notable recent publications from our faculty and trainees.



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