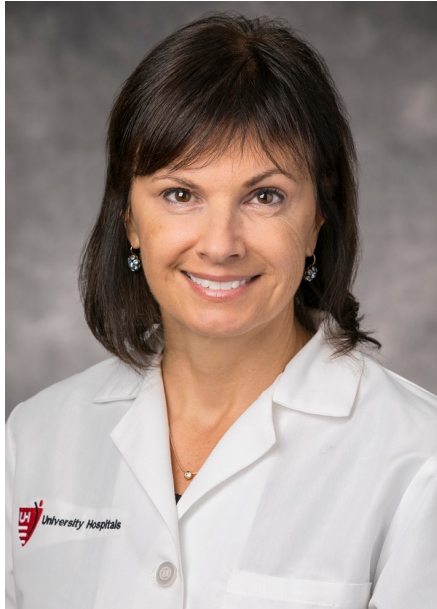


JUNE 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, NICOLE MARONIAN, MD, FACS



The impending arrival of summer, along with steady improvements in COVID-19, have provided us a sense of hope and renewal. Thank you to all of our caregivers, for your unwavering commitment to our patients, their families and the communities we serve during this very difficult last year, and now through our return to a new normal. In this inaugural issue of the ENT Institute newsletter, we highlight key initiatives in ENT, as well as treatment articles for our colleagues in the UH Primary Care Institute. Below, you'll read about the variety of ways we are connecting and collaborating to provide patients the highest quality of care, close to their homes.

Sincerely,
Nicole Maronian, MD, FACS

ENT INSTITUTE UPDATES



Better Hearing and Speech Month

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, a time to raise awareness about communication disorders and available treatment options that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems speaking or hearing. As part of Better Hearing Speech Month, please join **Alejandro Rivas, MD** for a presentation to the Great Lakes Cochlear Implant Support Group on "Expanding Indications in Cochlear Implants."

[Read more.](#)



Oral Cancer Awareness Outreach

We had a hugely successful community outreach event for April Oral Cancer Awareness Month. Our 2nd annual Oral Cancer Screening was held at Cogswell Hall in Cleveland. We screened 26 very appreciative patients. **Dr. Akina Tamaki** and **Dr. Nicole Fowler** were able to attend. Special thanks to **Chelsea Hamill, Kate Clancy, Lauren Sahagian, Kayleigh Ruszkiewicz** and **Jasmine Boggan** for their assistance.

[Read more.](#)



World Voice Day

On Friday, April 16, the UH Ear, Nose & Throat Institute presented an event celebrating World Voice Day, streamed over Zoom for UH caregivers and patients from the UH Cleveland Medical Center. The event celebrated the many ways we use our voices and raised awareness about prevention and treatment of voice disorders. Featured UH speakers included **Nicole Maronian, MD**, Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, **N. Scott Howard, MD**, Director of the UH Center for Voice, Airway and Swallowing Disorders, **Tracey Newman, MA, CCC-SLP**, **Lex Rakowski, MS, CCC-SLP**, speech-language pathologists who work with patients with voice disorders and **Seneca Block, MA, MT-BC** an expressive therapy program manager for University Hospitals Connor Integrative Health Network.

[Read more.](#)

Cochlear Implant Services during COVID-19

As part of the 2021 American Cochlear Implant Alliance 2021, our cochlear implant team curated a video highlighting our program during the COVID pandemic. The video was selected and presented amongst other leading centers from around the world. The cochlear implant team has experienced significant change and development throughout the last year due to the pandemic. Our program provides services to northern Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan residents.

[Read more.](#)





Top ENT Physician to Know

Becker's ASC Review recently recognized **Marc Guay, MD** at the University Hospitals Sheffield Health Center as a *Top Physician to Know*. Dr. Guay is a clinical instructor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He received his medical degree at Maywood, Ill.-based Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and did his residency at Cleveland Clinic.

[Read more.](#)



Got Ringing in Your Ears?

Sarah Mowry, MD was featured in a Health.com article regarding treatment options for tinnitus. She commented on a new study published in the Journal of American Medical Association Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery which found that 1 in 10 adults suffers from the condition.

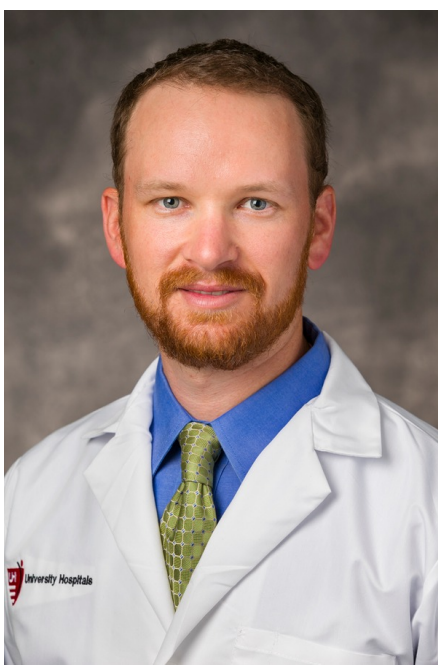
[Read more.](#)



The Truth about Cochlear Implants

Alejandro Rivas, MD was featured in the April issue of the AARP Bulletin. Circulation of this publication is more than 22 million recipients. The goal of the educational outreach is to encourage individuals to get their annual hearing exams and also to assist those who are interested in scheduling an appointment at their preferred center, but need additional assistance.

[Read more.](#)



Technology Driving Telemedicine Explosion

Brian D'Anza, MD was interviewed by the Ashtabula Star Beacon.com for an article entitled, "Rx For Rural Health: Technology Driving Telemedicine Explosion." University Hospitals operates two hospitals in Ashtabula County covering a mix of rural and urban areas. Dr. D'Anza, Medical Director of Digital Health and Telehealth with UH, explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has propelled telehealth services forward immensely.

[Read more.](#)

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Kumar Alagramam, PhD and **Ruben Stepanyan, PhD** received a 2-year \$250,000 research grant from the US Army Medical Research Program. The research will focus on repurposing a therapeutic candidate to mitigate synaptopathy and associated hearing loss in a preclinical model of noise-induced hearing loss.

Scott Howard, MD has been awarded the ADVANCE Opportunity Grant through the ACES+ initiative. His proposal for a pilot study as awarded full funding in the amount of \$5,000 for development of a nanoparticle mucosal bandage.

The American Hearing Research Foundation newsletter highlighted 2021 grant recipient **Justine Renaud, PhD**. Congratulations to her and her PI, **Martin Basch, PhD**.

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES



Matthew Gropler, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology
Starts on August 1st



Tekin Baglam, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology
Starts on August 1st

Cochlear Implant Evaluation and Programming services will expand to UH Portage Audiology. **Karen Burkey, AuD**, has completed formal training in the Cochlear Americas Nucleus cochlear implant technology and will begin to offer services for older pediatric and adult patients in June 2021. These incremental services will expand the UH Cochlear Implant program from five to six programming sites across the region, and will enable follow-up closer to home for our patients from the Kent, Ravenna, Youngstown and southeast regions of Ohio.

UH Audiology Services will offer five days of weekly Audiology clinics, Monday through Friday, at UH Parma and UH St. John Medical Centers, with the arrival of incremental audiologists this summer.

New Audiology Hires:

- **Madelane Harmon, Audiology Secretary**, will assist in covering the front desks at UH Twinsburg Audiology, Bolwell Health Center, and Audiology Scheduling.
- **Katie Mahoney, AuD**, Audiologist started in January. She is seeing ENT/Audiology patients at RBC Zagara, Bolwell, Suburban, and Twinsburg Health Centers.
- **Teresa Cannon, AuD**, Audiologist, started in March. She is seeing ENT/Audiology patients at Bolwell, Mentor and Suburban Health Centers.
- **Hannah Ross, AuD**, Audiologist, will join the department in July. She will support the new Pediatric ENTS at their clinic locations.
- **Abby Maurer** and **Hanna Spears**, two of our UH 2020 – 2021 Audiology Student Externs, will complete their academic programs in May 2021. We are very pleased to announce that both will be staying on as UH Audiologists following graduation.
- **Anna Braam** and **Holly Yako**, will join us as our 2021 – 2022 Audiology Student Externs in June. Anna is enrolled in the Audiology Graduate program at The Ohio State University and Holly is enrolled in the Audiology Graduate program at the University of Akron.

REFERRAL UPDATES FOR ENT INSTITUTE

As of February 23, referring parties can use Schedule Me Now (SMN) to improve patient experience by scheduling their speech therapy appointment before leaving the office. Please consider using SMN to schedule a patient's speech therapy appointment at point of service. All of our speech therapy locations are available to schedule via SMN so patients may conveniently receive therapy near their home. Speech therapy referral types are available in UHCare Ambulatory.

The ENT Institute referral guide has been updated and is ready for distribution to any primary care practice or referring specialty provider. The referral guide provides a simple, streamlined options to call or email referrals to our UHPS providers.

ENT INSTITUTE STARS

As part of the 'Cliff Appreciates' initiative, **Nicole Maronian, MD** was recognized as a select physician caregiver who demonstrated an exceptional commitment to value or who have advanced systemness in a meaningful way. Dr. Maronian was recognized for creating a highly reliable system-wide sleep program for University Hospitals, which has included recruiting physicians with sleep specialty, aligning operations across our system, forming collaborative relationships with our community hospitals, and quickly pivoting during the pandemic to develop a home sleep service so that patients still had access to care.

Pierre Lavertu, MD is stepping down from the position of Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs after many successful years. The department is pleased to announce that **Todd Otteson, MD, MPH** will assume this role for the Department of Otolaryngology. His experience with Case Western School of Medicine will help us to further align in process and function. He will also work collaboratively with Drs. Mowry and Greenfield in assuring we put in place a comprehensive academic engagement plan. Dr. Lavertu will maintain his role as Chair of the D-CAPT committee.

Congratulations to **Sarah Mowry, MD** and the ENT Residents! Every year the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery invites 4 ENT programs nationally to participate in the Annual AAOHNSF Academic Bowl. UH/CWRU ENT will select 3 residents to participate in this highly prestigious event. The participants compete as a team in a Jeopardy style competition at the upcoming AAOHNSF annual meeting in Los Angeles, CA in October 2021.

Congratulations to **Akina Tamaki, MD** who will take the role of Associate Program Director, UH/CWRU ENT residency, replacing **Nicole Maronian, MD** who has served in this role for the past two years.

Westlake Medical Assistant, **Geralynn Szombatfalvy** retired on May 3rd, although has gracious enough to remain PRN in a sort term capacity. Geralynn has been primarily located at the Westlake Health Center for her entire 20 years of UH service.

May 4 marked a milestone of **Pam Howard's** 40 years of service with University Hospitals. Pam Howard's journey with UH includes working as UH first female transporter in Physical Therapy, a short time in Dietary as a tray passer, Division Secretary in Rainbow with 26 years in PICU and all of Rainbow floors, Liver, Kidney & Lung Transplant as a Data Control Specialist, Doctor Secretary I in Pediatric Cardiology for 9 years, General Pediatrics for 6 years and Otolaryngology for more than 2 years.

We are pleased to share **Era Fedak, CNP** has been approved for promotion to Associate APP by the APP Council Career Ladder Advancement Committee effective June 6, 2021.

The department is pleased to a to share **Kenneth Rodriguez, MD** and **Nicole Fowler, MD** have formally accepted new leadership positions. Dr. Rodriguez is assuming the role of Director of Clinical Operations and Dr. Fowler is assuming the role of Director of Quality Management.

Todd Otteson, MD, MPH was elected as the University Hospitals representative for the Case Western Reserve University Faculty Committee on Professionalism.

Presentations:

Rod Rezaee, MD was a faculty expert speaker/panelist for UC reconstruction board. Dr. Rezaee is also the head and neck surgery sub group lead and endocrine surgery co lead for the academy fall meeting planning committee. **Nicole Maronian, MD** also serves on the AAO annual program committee.

Akina Tamaki, MD gave two recent Grand Round Presentations: Tracheostomy and Surgical Airway Management, Tamaki A. Grand Rounds at UH Ahuja Hospital and at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center a PACU conference on Free Flap PACU Care.

Alejandro Rivas, MD presented "Keynote: Improving CI Access with a Spanish Test Battery" at the 2021 American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACIA) conference. **Nauman Manzoor, MD** also moderated "ePoster Highlights 2", with topics related to hearing preservation surgery, cochlear implant outcomes and novel expanded indications for cochlear implants, as part of the same conference. At the same conference **Lindsay Zombek, CCC-SLP** presented the sessions "Benefits of Pre-Operative Counseling by Speech Language Pathology" and "How Recent Scientific Discoveries are Advancing Cochlear Implant Benefits: Adult Session."

Samantha Evans, AuD and **Lindsay Zombek, MS, CCC-SLP** presented a discussion entitled "Auditory Fatigue" at the Great Lakes Cochlear Implant Group in March 2021. Lindsay also was invited to present "Spoken Language Development and the Older New Listener" at the Hear Indiana Virtual Conference in February 2021.

Sarah Mowry, MD moderated a panel for the spring American Neurotology Society meeting entitled, "Lessons learned in neurotology in the COVID 19 pandemic". In addition, Dr. Mowry also presented a poster at the American Otologic Society, along with co-authors Jorge Gutierrez, Claudia Cabrera, Sarah Mowry "Predictors of tympanoplasty success, a systematic review". 1. Dr. Mowry also gave a presentation "Medical Considerations in Cochlear Implant Candidates" at the University of Akron School of Speech-Language in May 2021.

Brian D'Anza, MD has accepted an offer to lecture at HIMSS Global Conference, Las Vegas, August 2021, with a talk titled "It Takes a Virtual Village: Creating Pediatric Emergency Department Telehealth." He is also featured in the podcast: Digital Voices with Ed Marx, Episode 2: How to Digitally Transform Fast – featuring Dr. Brian D'Anza, Feb 24th 2021. He also joined Ed Marx of the HCI Group for a webinar on Telehealth/Digital Health.

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