

## Teaching Responsibilities

An extremely important duty of residents in this program is to teach medical students, nurses, fellow otolaryngology residents, and other residents from General Surgery, Family Practice, Anesthesiology, Dentistry, and other disciplines. The most consistent relationship is that with medical students, wherein residents provide a substantial amount of the clinical instruction.

The major teaching responsibility of the residents regarding medical students occurs during the medical student's third-year otolaryngology rotation. Medical students are assigned to the chief resident, who serves as their preceptor. The objectives of the third-year elective are: 1) to increase competence in the examination of the head and neck, 2) to improve skill in taking an ENT history, 3) to help the student accumulate sufficient knowledge about otolaryngologic pathologies such that the student begins to understand the differential diagnosis process, and 4) to allow the student to develop treatment plans for common head and neck disorders.

Specifics of the learning experience to be had by medical students on our service include (but are not necessarily limited to) the following:

1. The use of the tools of otolaryngologist:
  - Pneumatic Otoscope
  - Headlamp/head mirror
  - Tongue Depressors
  - Laryngeal Mirror
  - Nasal Speculum
  - Tuning Forks
  - Bimanual Palpation
  - Fiberoptic Telescope (Optional)
2. An appreciation for critical signs and symptoms:
  - Unresponsive Sinonasal Disease
  - Unresponsive Ear Disease
  - Hoarseness/Stridor/Dysphagia
  - Airway Emergencies
  - Head and Neck Mass Lesions/Tumors
3. Counseling regarding career choices, when appropriate
4. Counseling regarding research opportunities, when appropriate

Medical students are to be provided with a largely clinic-based experience, although operative exposure is certainly to be included. It is expected that the senior resident on each service will conduct the clinic such that the medical student examines patients independently as well as together with the resident (as schedules allow). Residents will then review each patient's history and physical findings with the student, evaluating the examination and conclusions, questioning their student in whatever areas seem appropriate to the situation, and then answering the student's

questions. Thus, not only is the resident performing a supervisory role, but a didactic role as well.

On the final day of the student's rotation, the chief resident is to forward to the Department of Otolaryngology a written evaluation of the student. If a resident other than the chief resident has had substantial contact with the student, then each of the involved residents should have input into the student's evaluation. Any student who shows deficiencies in basic qualities such as intellect, motivation, personal integrity, or honesty must be reported to Dr. Fazekas-May (Director of Undergraduate Medical Education) or to Dr. Nuss as soon as they are noted, rather than waiting until the student has finished his/her rotation. This allows the faculty to intervene more effectively.

Philosophically, our department considers it a privilege, as well as an important responsibility, to have students on our service. Every student should be treated as a junior colleague, in a way that fosters an understanding of our specialty and how it relates to each student's chosen field of pursuit. For the majority of students (who will not become otolaryngologists), this experience will give them the resources to manage basic otolaryngological problems, and to know when it is appropriate to request consultation for more difficult ones. Students who express an interest in careers in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery should be encouraged to speak with staff members for guidance in making their plans.

Senior medical students, residents from other medical and surgical specialties, and other health care professionals who rotate on our service should be given the same general experience outlined above, along with other more advanced concepts and techniques as dictated by their level of training and interest.