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Visit [www.entnet.org](http://www.entnet.org) to download the new Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Mini-Program brochure.

## Welcome

The Research and Quality Improvement unit would like to introduce and welcome new staff member Jean Breton, MBA. Jean has accepted the position of Senior Director for Research and Quality and will be an excellent addition to our staff. We would also like to congratulate Kris Schultz, MPH on her new position as Research Officer.



## 2009 AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO

The AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO is the world's largest gathering of otolaryngologists, together with the world's largest collection of products and services for the specialty. The 2009 Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO will take place at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, October 4-7, 2009, and is expected to draw more than 9,000 attendees and more than 300 exhibitors. Advanced registration and housing deadline is August 31, 2009.

## Don't miss the 2009 Neel Distinguished Research Lecture

Monday, October 5, 9:30am – 10:30am

Introduction by:

**Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH**

Presenter:

**Martin J. Burton, DM, FRCS,**

Department of Otolaryngology, University of Oxford, and the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, United Kingdom

The Cochrane Collaboration's mission is to improve healthcare decision-making globally, through systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions. Dr. Burton is the chair of the Cochrane ENT Group and will share its activities to date, then walk the audience through the systematic review for *Functional endoscopic sinus surgery for chronic rhinosinusitis*.

Visit [www.entnet.org](http://www.entnet.org) to register.

## Upcoming GDTF Meeting

7

December 2009

TIME: 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

LOCATION:

AAO-HNS Alexandria Office

## Save The Date

### Research Department Realignment

The Academy staff, specifically Kris Schulz, David Nielsen, MD, and Paul Markowski, have worked diligently to realign the Research Business Unit so that it meets the strategic recommendations of the AAO-HNS Research Advisory Board. As a result, new strategic discussions led to the creation of the position of Research Officer within AAO-HNSF.

The Research Officer is a new position, whose salary and activities are funded through the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI) NIDCD CHEER grant funding. This position will primarily be responsible for the following: oversight of the Clinical Scholars Program; oversight of the Research Training Workshop; project leadership for the otology (dizziness, tinnitus) data collection project; and overall co-project leadership of the CHEER grant with Duke.

Given Kris Schulz's background and experience, she will now assume the Research Officer position. Kris will continue to work closely with the current R&Q staff on grant activities. Kris will continue to work out of the Alexandria office and will travel to Duke once a month to work with Dr. David Witsell and the DCRI team.



Jean Brereton will fill the position of Senior Director of Research & Quality. This will now focus more heavily on patient safety and quality and work toward the practical utility of products from research and quality—e.g., guidelines, research manuscripts, data registries—in collaboration with other departments to fill needs for content for future MOC modules. Jean comes to AAO-HNSF with over 20 years of experience in healthcare and over 10 at a multispecialty hospital system where, in addition to operational responsibilities, she instituted and monitored performance measures and quality initiatives and oversaw JCAHO audits.

Kris noted that this realignment would not be possible without the efforts of the entire unit and the DCRI's confidence in the full team — Stephanie, Milesh, Danielle, Ebony, and Jean.

**Fall 2009:  
Multi-Disciplinary Clinical  
Practice Guideline:  
Tonsillectomy in Children**

Chair: Dr. Baugh  
Panel member: Dr. Mitchell  
Consultant: Dr. Rosenfeld  
Staff lead: Milesh Patel

**Panel Members Needed**

Panel recruitment for the multidisciplinary clinical practice guideline, *Tonsillectomy in Children*, will begin in August 2009. The tonsillectomy literature review will set the stage for the first specialty-specific guideline that the Academy will develop in the winter of 2009: *Polysomnography for Sleep-disordered Breathing*.

Contact [mpatel@entnet.org](mailto:mpatel@entnet.org) if you are interested in joining this panel or would like to recommend a colleague.

**Topic information on Tonsillectomy**

Approximately 186,000 tonsillectomies are performed annually in the United States, making it one of the most common surgical procedures in children often associated with substantial cost (Russo 2007). Average complication rates from surgery approach 9% (Brigger 2006), but almost 4% of children experience postoperative hemorrhage, most often within 6 hours of surgery (Crysdale 1986). Furthermore, children under 4 years of age have a higher risk of perioperative complications (Brigger 2006). Common causes of readmission include dehydration, poor oral intake, or postoperative infection. Children are more susceptible than adults to the two main indications for tonsillectomy: sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) and recurrent pharyngitis (Rothschild 1994; Smith 2007).

SDB in children has recently been recognized as an under-treated and under-diagnosed important health problem responsible for developmental delays and poor school performance. The primary cause of this pathophysiology is adenotonsillar hypertrophy, affecting as much as 5% of the overall pediatric population.

There are large regional variations in indications for surgery, preoperative assessment (coagulation testing, sleep studies), perioperative management (antibiotics, steroids, need for overnight stay), and surgical technique. There is also increasing evidence that some children continue to have clinically significant sleep-disordered breathing after surgery. The primary goal is to provide evidence-based guidance on optimal indications for surgery. Additionally, secondary benefits would include improved preoperative assessment, perioperative management, and selection of surgical technique to minimize morbidity.





## GDTF Society Representation

**David Barrs, MD**

American Neurotology Society

**Reginald F. Baugh, MD**

American Academy of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

**Amy Y. Chen, MD, MPH**

American Head & Neck Society

**Mark S. Courey, MD**

American Laryngological Association

**Cindy J. Dawson, MSN, RN, CORLN**

Society of Otorhinolaryngology Head-Neck Nurses

**Ellen S. Deutsch, MD**

American Broncho-Esophagological Association

**Jolene Eicher,**

Association of Otolaryngology Administrators

**Michael G. Glenn, MD**

American Academy of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

**Joseph Han, MD**

American Rhinologic Society

**Amy C. Hessel, MD**

American Head & Neck Society

**Michael E. Hoffer, MD**

American Laryngological, Rhinological, &  
Otolological Society, Inc.

**Charles F. Koopman, MD, MHSA**

American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology

**Jami Lucas**

American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy

**Robert H. Miller, MD, MBA**

American Board of Otolaryngology

**Ron B. Mitchell, MD**

American Academy of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

**David R. Nielsen, MD**

American Academy of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

**John S. Rhee, MD, MPH**

American Academy of Facial Plastic  
& Reconstructive Surgery

**Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH**

American Academy of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

**Rodney J. Schlosser, MD**

American Rhinologic Society (alternate)

**Robert J. Stachler, MD**

American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy

**Peter C. Weber, MD**

Board of Governors,  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

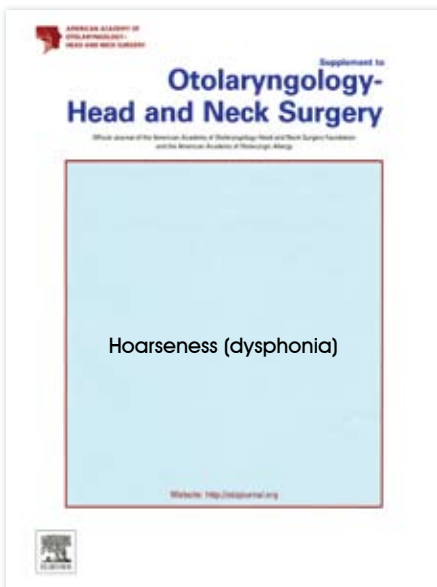
**David L. Witsell, MD, MHS**

Research Coordinator,  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

### Reminder: Report back to your societies

Thank you for your time and help. Your voice is crucial to the success of the educational products designed to improve patient care.

If you or your societies have any questions, please feel free to contact: [qualityimprovement@entnet.org](mailto:qualityimprovement@entnet.org)



### Guideline Products

#### Hoarseness (dysphonia):

The guideline will be published as a 2009 September supplement in *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. Additionally, it will be presented as a miniseminar at the 2009 Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO in San Diego, CA on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 9:30 am – 10:20 am in Room 20D.

#### The panel consists of:

Seth Schwartz, MD, MPH  
Chair/methodology

Seth Cohen, MD, MPH  
Assistant Chair/laryngology

Seth Dailey, MD  
Assistant Chair/laryngology

Robert Stachler, MD, GDTF/allergy

Ellen Deutsch, MD, GDTF/  
bronchoesophagology

Boyd Gillespie, MD  
Neurology/head and neck

Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH  
Consultant/methodology

Dana Thompson, MD, PSQI/  
laryngology

Edie Hapner, PhD  
Speech-language pathology

Joseph Stemple, PhD  
Speech-language pathology

J. Scott McMurray, MD  
Pediatric otolaryngology

J. Paul Willging, MD  
Pediatric otolaryngology

Safdar Medina, MD  
Pediatrics

Eve Kimball, MD  
Pediatrics

Steven Strode, MD, MEd, MPH  
Family medicine

Karen O'Brien, MD  
Family medicine

Barbara Messinger-Rapport, MD, PhD  
Geriatric medicine

Evelyn Granieri, MD, MPH, MEd  
Geriatric medicine

Daniel Ouellette, MD  
Chest medicine

Helene Krouse, PhD, RN  
Nursing

Peter Bernad, MD, MPH  
Neurology

Terrie Cowley, BA  
Consumers

Scott McCoy, DMA  
Professional singing

For questions or concerns, please email:  
mpatel@entnet.org.

#### Nasal Valve Repair Clinical Consensus Statement (CCS):

The workgroup is chaired by John Rhee, MD, MPH. Danielle DiVittorio serves as staff liaison. This guideline product has gone through the appropriate Delphi process and currently is in the manuscript writing phase. This product is expected to be published by early 2010.

#### The Nasal Valve Repair workgroup consists of:

Shan Baker, MD

Peter Hilger, MD

David Kriet, MD

Craig Murakami, MD

Stephen Park, MD

John Rhee, MD, MPH

Brent Senior, MD

Edward Weaver, MD, MPH

For additional information on the Delphi process, see the AAO-HNS Clinical Consensus Statement Guide.



## Quality Update



### National Quality Forum (NQF)

Fred Edwards from STS shared their memos to NQF on the risk adjustment issues with the efficiency and outcome measures and the SQA agreed to disapprove, based on this issue.

Health Professionals Council Chair/Vice-Chair nominations were discussed. It was agreed that the SQA would do an internal SQA vote and share the results, which SQA members could use to determine their own vote.



### American College of Surgeons - Surgical Quality Alliance (SQA)

We will participate in an initiative to develop a data registry which will ultimately provide a data repository with a minimal, common, surgical core data set upon which each society can further add its own specialized data elements, measures or other content. Interviews with the vendor have begun.

Materials and analysis from the pilot for the surgical CAHPS have been submitted to AHRQ with a request for acceptance and logo support. In addition, there is work taking place to secure funding for the joint development of a pediatric surgical CAHPS tool.

The SQA was approached by NQF to see if we had interest in "cross-cutting measures" such as: Return to the OR in 30 days; Rate of SSI; Measures related to transitions; Health IT structural measures from registries. The SQA agreed

we are interested but need more information on the goal, intent, process for developing, etc.

The foundation of Comparative Effectiveness Research was presented and discussed. Frank Opelka expressed the importance of being both involved and well-educated on the work that will be done with the stimulus funding over the next two years, and its impact on quality and measures.



### AQA Alliance

Several ACS staff representatives, along with Frank Opelka and Fred Edwards from STS, attended AQA and are active in various committees. They discussed the various agenda items pertaining to Data Sharing and Aggregation Workgroup, Public Reporting and Performance Measurement. ACS staff will send out any relevant updates from the meeting.



### American Medical Association

Dr. Kienstra approved the Care Transition Performance Measure Set.

- Kris Schulz approved the PCPI position statement.
- Adult Sinusitis measures were approved for development of a comprehensive measure set with overuse as a component.
- A letter was submitted to CMS on behalf of the SQA providing comments on PQRI reporting options for 2010.

## Quality Issues in Legislation

PQRI continues to be in both the House and Senate bill. On the House side it is voluntary and non-punitive; includes an appeals process; and allows for consideration of credit for clinical registry participation. On the Senate side, it includes an appeal process, as well as MOC credit as an option for submitting. More information will be provided when the bills go through mark-up.

## New Guidelines Manual Published

*Clinical practice guideline development manual: A quality-driven approach for translating evidence into action* was published as a journal supplement in June 2009 and has received 1,910 media hits. To access the new manual, visit: [www.entnet.org/Practice/ClinicalPracticeguidelines.cfm](http://www.entnet.org/Practice/ClinicalPracticeguidelines.cfm)

## Stakeholder Summit on Using Quality Systematic Reviews to Inform Evidence-Based Guidelines, Baltimore, MD June 4-5, 2009

Richard Rosenfeld, MD, MPH, presented "Making guidelines actionable: Overcoming obstacles." The presentation was well received, with active feedback and discussion. Recognition was made of the positive addition of CUE (Consumers United for Evidence-Based Healthcare) on our guidelines panels, which was the result of a recommendation from Kay Dickerson, US Cochrane.

The newly updated guidelines manual was distributed to over 200 attendees. The national impact of this should be significant. The conference was well at-



tended by the Quality leadership, including AHRQ, NGC, AMA-PCPI, IOM, NIH, G-I-N (Guidelines International Network), Cochrane, and Kaiser.

We spoke with Mark Antman from the AMA, who is their Senior Policy Associate for the PCPI. He was very complimentary of our processes and accomplishments and expressed his eagerness to collaborate with the AAO-HNS for the development of the Adult Sinusitis measures later this year.

#### Call for Guideline-related Topics

We are seeking topic suggestions for the next round of guideline-related products. We hope to receive broad-ranging ideas to discuss at the fall 2009 GDTF meeting. The topic submission process can be found at <http://www.entnet.org/Practice/quality.cfm>.

Please submit topics to Danielle DiVittorio at [ddivittorio@entnet.org](mailto:ddivittorio@entnet.org) by November 6, 2009.

#### Upcoming Meetings of Interest

October 11-14, 2009

Cochrane Colloquium, Singapore

November 1-4, 2009

6th International G-I-N Conference, Lisbon, Portugal

Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH, and Richard Shiffman, MD, MCIS, will be presenting a 90-minute workshop entitled "A quality-driven, pragmatic approach to crafting guideline action statements and evidence profiles."

December 7, 2009 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

AAO-HNS Guidelines Development Task Force face-to-face meeting, AAO-HNS offices, Alexandria, VA

August 25-28, 2010

7th International G-I-N Conference, Chicago, IL

October 18-22, 2010

Cochrane Colloquium, Keystone, CO

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