

### ***Program History***

The Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery (OTO/HNS) program is a five-year residency, including a categorical internship year, leading to board eligibility/board certification in this diverse specialty. The residency program was established in 1978 and has maintained full accreditation status since its inception. The program continues to attract individuals of high caliber and diverse backgrounds, and over the years this specialty has become one of the most desirable and sought after surgical subspecialties. Our training program has a very strong history of superlative performance on the American Board of Otolaryngology certification exam, with a 100% pass rate over the past 26 years that exceeds the national average.

### ***About the Program***

The academic mission of the department is to train residents in both the science and the art of clinical otolaryngology, to teach both competence and compassion, and to provide a solid foundation and exposure to medical research.

The residency consists forty-eight months of training in otolaryngology and its subspecialties following the categorical Otolaryngology internship. The program at NMCP is partially affiliated with the Otolaryngology residency program at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), where the residents spend 3 months on a clinical assignment in Pediatric Otolaryngology and 3 months in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) where residents spend 3 months in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery. In addition to these outside clinical assignments, interdisciplinary training with specialties including neurosurgery, pathology, neuro-radiology, endocrinology, plastic surgery, and maxillofacial surgery remain an integral part of the NMCP training program to enhance the multidisciplinary approach to complex clinical problems.

There is a coordinated educational program and curriculum at NMCP, with a dedicated academic day for instruction weekly. The program has been designed to ensure that all aspects of the specialty are introduced to the residents in a graduated fashion and includes formal temporal bone dissection and cadaver dissection. Weekly grand rounds with the Otolaryngology residents and faculty at EVMS occur from September through May, and guest speakers from other institutions are invited to speak at least quarterly. There are monthly teaching conferences in head and neck pathology and neuro-radiology, a biweekly multidisciplinary head and neck tumor conference, a bimonthly journal club meeting, monthly departmental Morbidity and Mortality conference and a weekly pre-op conference where residents present cases and pre-op planning is discussed in detail. OTO-3 residents will also spend two weeks at the University of Iowa's head and neck anatomic dissection course. Outside courses integral to resident training additionally include microvascular surgical techniques, an additional temporal bone dissection course as an OTO-4, a maxillofacial plating course, basic and advanced otolaryngic allergy instruction courses from the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy, etc.

### ***About the Faculty***

The OTO/HNS Program at NMCP has numerous experienced faculty members who are able to offer comprehensive care to our patients. There is a fellowship trained neurotologist who offers expertise in the treatment of hearing and balance disorders. There is also a very active cochlear implant and implantable hearing aid program at NMCP. There are fellowship trained staff with expertise in Otolaryngic Allergy, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Pediatric Otolaryngology, and Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery. Several staff have a diverse practice in comprehensive otolaryngology, and bring a great deal of experience to this training program. Several residents and staff are on numerous specialty committees of the American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery. Members of our department are also very active with academic participation at both the regional and national levels. Our residents also work regularly with the staff of the NMCP Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

### ***About the Department and Facility***

The clinical area of the department has over 12,000 square feet of clinic space with state of the art equipment and a temporal bone lab. Evaluation and treatment of patients with disorders affecting the ear, nose, throat, head, and neck occurs in both the outpatient and inpatient settings. A very busy surgical practice is a known strength of the residency program, and graduating residents finish their training with nearly 2,000 cases, of which almost 40% are index cases. In addition to the physician staff, there are specialty nurses, audiologists, a speech pathologist, and allergy support personnel who work as a team to coordinate all aspects of our patients' care.

The administrative area of the department is separate from the clinical area and includes individual offices for each intern, resident and staff member, a library, lounge and state of the art, multimedia conference center with theater seating. In addition, the hospital has a full-service library with all major Otolaryngology texts and journals available online, including remote access.

#### *Otolaryngology Internship Program*

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Residency Coordinator: Mrs. Cathy McCullom  
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#### *The Hospital*

Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth occupies a 112-acre site along the Elizabeth River in downtown Portsmouth, Virginia. It is located on the original site of Fort Nelson which was built in 1776 to provide harbor defense for Norfolk and Portsmouth. In 1827 construction began on the Naval Hospital, and by July 1830 a portion of Building One was occupied. Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth has provided continuous care since that time and remains the oldest hospital in the U.S. Navy. In 1960 Building 215 was constructed to accommodate the ever-increasing demands of the Naval Medical Center. As the military establishment grew, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth became the major military medical facility serving active duty Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, their families, retired personnel, their dependents and other beneficiaries authorized treatment in uniformed services clinics and hospitals. In June 1990, the Naval Medical Center broke ground on a major construction project designed to build a modern replacement hospital with extensive support structures and services. The project was completed in 1998 and began operations in 1999. The Charette Health Care center is a 1.02 million square foot facility and the most modern available in the naval inventory. The center contains over 300 clinical exam rooms, 140 specialty exam rooms and 17 operating rooms. In addition, the base features a research facility equipped for animal research projects, a mini mall with a Navy Exchange, banking services, galley and fast food operations, Olympic size pool, state-of-the-art gyms (including one in-house), MWR services and library.

#### *Otolaryngology Residency Program*

The Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery (OTO/HNS) program at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is a five-year residency leading to board eligibility/board certification in this diverse specialty. The residency program was established in 1978 and has maintained full accreditation status since its inception. The residency consists of a categorical Otolaryngology surgical internship followed by forty-eight months of otolaryngology training, and is approved for two residents per year. The program at NMCP is affiliated with the otolaryngology residency programs at Eastern Virginia Medical School and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. One hundred percent of our graduating residents have passed their certification board exams.

The OTO/HNS Program at NMCP has numerous board certified otolaryngologists, residents, specialty nurses, audiologists, a speech/language pathologist, allergy support personnel and other faculty members who work as a team to offer comprehensive care to active duty and retired military personnel and their

dependents in the Virginia/North Carolina region. There is a fellowship trained neurotologist who offers expertise in the treatment of hearing and balance disorders and a very active cochlear implant and implantable hearing aid program as well. Other staff have fellowship training in Head and Neck Surgery, Microvascular Reconstruction and Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.

The department has over 12,000 square feet of clinic space with state of the art equipment. Evaluation and treatment of patients with disorders affecting the ear, nose, throat, head and neck occurs in the outpatient, ambulatory surgery, and inpatient settings. The department also has a temporal bone dissection laboratory and a separate administrative area for staff, resident and intern offices, a state of the art multimedia conference room and departmental library.

The program is oriented toward a comprehensive experience in general otolaryngology. Graduating residents typically complete their residency with a caseload of approximately 1800 as the primary surgeon and 250 as an assistant surgeon. The educational program at NMCP is robust and includes a dedicated academic day with formal, didactic curricula, and weekly combined Grand Rounds with the Eastern Virginia Medical School program. The educational experience at NMCP is supplemented with a number of rotations at other institutions. These include a head & neck anatomic dissection course at the University of Iowa, a rotation at the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters, a head & neck oncologic surgery rotation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, a temporal bone dissection course at the House Ear Institute or equivalent institution, a facial trauma plating course, a microvascular surgery instruction course and the basic and advanced allergy courses of the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy. Additional information can be accessed through the following link:  
<http://www-nmcp.med.navy.mil/EduRes/AcademicAffairs/index.asp>

*Our Staff*

**ENT**

Allen O. Mitchell, MD, FACS  
Commander, MC, USN  
Chairman, Otolaryngology Department  
Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Reconstruction

Eric M. Gessler, MD  
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Comprehensive Otolaryngology  
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William Recupero  
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Facial Plastics and Reconstruction

Thomas Q. Gallagher, MD  
Lieutenant Commander  
Associate Residency Program Director  
Pediatric Otolaryngology

Michelle Morrison, MD  
Lieutenant Commander  
Laryngology

George S. Conley, MD  
Lieutenant Commander  
Otology/Neurotology

**Audiology**

Naomi Boldt, MA, Au.D.CCC-A  
Audiologist

Terry Bowen, MA, CCC-A  
Audiologist

Joseph DeChant, Au.D., CCC-A  
Audiologist

Cathleen Schinker, Au.D.  
Audiologist

Bruce Snowden, Au.D., CCC-A  
Audiologist

**Speech Pathology**

Carla H. Bright, M.A., CCC/SLP  
Speech and Language Pathologist

*How to Apply*

Interested applicants must apply for U.S. Navy Graduate Medical Education training on active duty and meet all eligibility requirements for service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Interested USUHS and HPSP students are encouraged to spend time on our service and should coordinate a rotation by contacting our Program Coordinator, Mrs. Cathy McCullom, at 757-953-2791, via email at [catherine.mccullom@med.navy.mil](mailto:catherine.mccullom@med.navy.mil), or by mail at: Otolaryngology Program Coordinator, Naval Medical Center, 620 John Paul Jones Circle, Portsmouth, VA 23708

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