

Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery

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 95% pass rate on first attempt over the past 26 years.

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), and residents spend 3 months on clinical assignment in Pediatric Otolaryngology and 9 months in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery at EVMS. In addition to these outside clinical assignments, interdisciplinary training with specialties to include 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 residents and faculty at EVMS occur from September through May, and guest speakers from other institutions are invited to speak at least quarterly. There is a monthly teaching conference in head and neck pathology and neuro-radiology, a biweekly multidisciplinary head and neck tumor conference, a quarterly 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 seven weeks at the University of Iowa for Basic Science Course in Otolaryngology, which includes anatomic dissections, temporal bone dissection and maxillofacial plating courses. Outside courses integral to resident training additionally include microvascular surgical techniques and an additional temporal bone dissection course as an OTO-4.

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.

About the Department and Facility

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 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, speech pathologists, and allergy support personnel who work as a team to coordinate all aspects of our patients' care.