



From the Chair

A Message From Pete S. Batra, MD, FACS



Voting is now open for the 2021 *U.S. News & World Report* physician survey through Doximity. This survey measures the expert opinion of physicians, who are asked to select the top hospitals in their specialty for outstanding clinical care. Rush Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has been ranked amongst the top 50 programs in four of the past five years, reflecting the excellent work in patient care, research and education performed by our team each and every day.

This year, we have even more to be proud of. Despite the extraordinary circumstances posed by the global health crisis, our team rose to meet the challenge. We never closed our doors even at the height of the pandemic. With an eye toward the future, we continued to pursue innovative research, and our commitment to educating the next generation of physicians never wavered. It is clear that over the past year, our program has grown even stronger.

Our team includes 18 otolaryngologists, 10 dermatologists, 7 audiologists, 2 oral maxillofacial surgeons, and 6 APPs, making us one of the largest ENT departments in the country. Our providers deliver outstanding clinical care at Rush University Medical Center, Rush Oak Park Hospital, Rush Copley Medical Center, and three regional ambulatory sites, including Oak Brook, River North, and South Loop. We deliver a comprehensive array of ENT, dermatology, and audiology services through 13 established clinical programs.

I am incredibly proud to be a part of this amazing department and organization. The clinical differentiation at Rush is second to none as affirmed by the many accolades bestowed upon us. Rush University Medical Center has earned US News and World Report Best Hospitals Honor Roll. Rush holds the 17th spot among the nearly 3,000 U.S. hospitals evaluated, with 11 programs ranked among the nation's best. Vizient has recognized Rush University Medical Center with the top ranking for delivering the highest quality care amongst the leading 93 major academic medical centers across the country. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has designated Rush University Medical Center its highest five-star rating for quality and patient experience.

I hope you will vote for Rush University Medical Center in this year's *U.S. News & World Report* survey.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your part in making Rush's ENT program among the top in the nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Batra'.

Pete S. Batra, MD, FACS
Stanton A. Friedberg, MD Chair in Otolaryngology
Professor and Chairman
Clinical Leader, ENT, Dermatology, and Audiology Service Line
Medical Director, Rush Sinus, Allergy, and Asthma Center
Co-Director, Rush Center for Skull Base and Pituitary Surgery
Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
Rush University Medical Center

Clinical Recruitments



Dean Toriumi, MD, joins the Division of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as Professor and Co-Director of the Facial Plastics fellowship.



Mihir Bhayani, MD, joins the Division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology as an Associate Professor and Director of the Rush Salivary Gland Program. He will also spearhead the head and neck cancer translational science program in the Rush University Cancer Center.



Anatoli Karas, MD, joins the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology as an Assistant Professor after completing her residency at Duke and fellowship at University of Alabama Birmingham. She will further augment our pediatric ENT services at main campus, Rush Copley, and South Loop.



David Reid, MD, joins the department as Chief of the Division of Dermatology. He brings strong clinical and academic leadership to the Division after 10 years in clinical practice at Stroger Hospital of Cook County. He also previously served as Program Director of their highly successful residency program.



Kyle Amber, MD, joins as Assistant Professor in the Division of Dermatology to further support complex medical dermatology and basic science research. He is one of the foremost national experts on blistering skin diseases and was previously on faculty at University of Illinois College of Medicine.



Ashley M. Knies, PA-C, joins the department after previously working at NorthShore University Health System. She specializes in managing head and neck cancer and rhinology patients and performs ultrasound guided lymph node and thyroid biopsies.



Joan A. Pohutsky, NP, joins the Division of Dermatology after completing her APP training at Rush University. She will practice full breadth of dermatology at Rush Oak Park, South Loop and River North.

New Clinical Program Highlights

- **Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation Program**, under the leadership of Dr. Philip LoSavio, is ranked #1 in Illinois for total patients implanted since the program inception in 2005. The program is currently designated in the region for providing tertiary care-level support for complex cases or patients requiring revision implant surgery.
- **Smell Disorders Program** was launched under the leadership of Dr. Bobby Tajudeen, Assistant Professor and Head of Division of Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery. The program provides comprehensive diagnostic and treatment strategies for smell disorders, including COVID-19 related olfactory disorders.
- **Eustachian Tube Disorders Program** was initiated under the leadership of Dr. Michaelides, Associate Professor in the Division of Otolaryngology and Neurotology. He is a nationally recognized hearing and balance expert and offers innovative surgical options for ETD and patulous Eustachian tube.
- **Salivary Gland Disorders Program** was established under the leadership of Dr. Mihir Bhayani to provide comprehensive treatment options for inflammatory and neoplastic salivary gland diseases. Dr. Bhayani is a foremost national expert in salivary endoscopy and has developed the highest volume sialendoscopy practice in the state of Illinois.
- **Professional Voice Program** expanded services to Rush South Loop under the leadership of laryngologist Dr. Inna Husain and sleep language pathologist Cindy Hildner.
- **Multidisciplinary Cosmetic Center** was established at main campus, South Loop and Oak Brook in partnership with plastic surgery and dermatology.
- **Head and Neck Cancer Program** expanded services to Oak Park, Oak Brook, and Rush Copley Medical Center. Enhanced Recovery After Surgery and next generation sequencing are part of a standard management algorithm for all new head and neck malignancies.
- **Voice, Airway, and Swallowing Disorders Program** has introduced in-office 24-hour pH impedance testing for LPR, superior laryngeal nerve block for chronic cough management, and comprehensive evaluations for post-COVID intubation laryngeal trauma under the leadership of Dr. Inna Husain.
- **Pediatric Otolaryngology Division** under the leadership of Dr. Jill Jeffe and Dr. Toli Karas is establishing a multidisciplinary Pediatric Chronic Cough Clinic in partnership with pulmonology, allergy, gastroenterology and sleep medicine.

For more information on our clinical programs, visit
rush.edu/services/otorhinolaryngology-head-and-neck-surgery-ent-services

Education Updates

- **ARS-accredited Advanced Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery fellowship** launched with Pete Batra, MD, Bobby Tajudeen, MD, and Peter Papagiannopoulos, MD, as fellowship directors.
- **AAFPRS-accredited Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery fellowship** started with Dean Toriumi, MD, Peter Revenaugh, MD, and Ryan Smith, MD, as fellowship directors.
- **Global Health Education Track** was introduced with an option for residents to obtain a **Masters in Clinical Research** through Rush University. Trainees have the opportunity to develop health improvement projects for underserved communities in Dominican Republic, rural communities in downstate Illinois, and homeless shelters in the city of Chicago.
- **Leadership Education Track** was introduced with an option for residents to receive a **Masters in Health System Management** through Rush University.
- **Phillip LoSavio, MD, Inna Husain, MD, and Jacob Friedman, MD**, were awarded the highly competitive simulation grant from Society of University Otolaryngologists to develop a regional bootcamp for all otolaryngology trainees in the region.
- Construction began on an **eight-station Rush Otolaryngology/Neurosurgery Education and Research Lab** to further augment resident and fellow training in temporal bone and skull base surgery.
- The book "Anti-inflammatory Diet in the Era of Covid-19" was published by Dean M. Toriumi, MD, renowned facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon.
- An app titled "Anti-inflammatory Keto Diet" was published by Dean M. Toriumi, MD.
- Annual national departmental course **Rush Update in Otolaryngology** continues to provide salient information about contemporary issues in the specialty for physicians in practice and trainees.
- New departmental course titled **Otorhinolaryngology for Primary Care Providers** launched to cover specialty topics for PCPs and APPs.
- **National Acoustic Neuroma Patient Event** in cooperation with the Acoustic Neuroma Association sponsored by Rush Otorhinolaryngology and Neurosurgery. The course will be directed by Mark Wiet, MD and Stephan Munich, MD and is scheduled for September 11, 2021 at Rush University Medical Center.
- Citywide **facial plastic and reconstructive surgery journal club** implemented for residents in partnership with other Chicago institutions.

Research and Innovation Highlights

- 70 prospective and retrospective clinical studies in progress within the department.
- Six active head and neck cancer clinical trials with 6 more currently being negotiated through Rush University Cancer Center.
 - ECOG 3163 activated for advanced stage nasal and paranasal sinus squamous cell carcinoma for upfront standard of care surgery or 3 cycles of neoadjuvant chemotherapy with surgery followed by standard radiation +/- chemotherapy.
 - HN006 was activated to compare sentinel lymph node biopsy vs. neck dissection for patients with oral cancer.
- Six active clinical trials in rhinology, sleep surgery, and otology with 3 additional trials being negotiated within the department.
 - Sleep Surgery Division is participating in the national Inspire Adhere registry to track outcomes after hypoglossal implant surgery.
 - Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery Division is participating in the FDA clinical trials assessing efficacy of exhalational delivery device Xhance for management of chronic rhinosinusitis with or without polyps in adult and pediatric patients.
- 57 peer-review articles published in FY20.
- 34 peer-review articles published in FY21 to date.
- Departmental microbiome initiative launched in rhinology, laryngology, and sleep surgery in partnership with Allergy/Immunology under the leadership of Pete Batra, MD, and Maha Mahdavinia, MD.
- Precision medicine cancer initiative launched in partnership with Tempus for head and neck and skull base cancer in partnership with Tempus under the leadership of Samer Al-Khudari, MD, and Pete Papagiannopoulos, MD.
- Smartphone otoscope prototype developed to enhance telemedicine otologic care under the leadership of Ashok Jagasia, MD, and Mark Wiet, MD. The prototype is in the final stages of completion and will be presented at a national audiology conference in May 2021.
- Nanoparticle research involving noninvasive translocation of ototopical antibiotics in an in vitro model by Ashok Jagasia, MD.