

President's Message



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy spring to everyone! I hope we are all enjoying the warmer weather, the beautiful flowers, and abundant pollen in the air.

Thank you to all who attended the Fall 2022 meeting at Lake Oconee. We learned so much from the presentations on dysphagia and the importance of failure in innovation given by Dr. Peter Belafsky from UC Davis. Many local speakers also helped make the meeting a huge success.

I encourage everyone to register for and attend the Summer 2023 meeting, July 13-16, at the Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island, which is always such a beautiful venue for us. We have an exciting line up of honored guest speakers - Dr. Joseph Han, Chief of both the Rhinology and Allergy Divisions at the Eastern Virginia Medical College; Dr. Stacey Ishman, Professor of Pediatric Otolaryngology and Sleep Medicine at the University of Cincinnati; and Dr. Stephanie Wetzel, Oral Pathology from here in Decatur, Georgia. I personally can't wait to learn how to better diagnose and treat oral mucosal lesions! We again plan to have the Sunday morning journal club format which has proven to be an engaging way to end the weekend. Please bring your families and prepare for a wonderful few days of education, camaraderie, and fun in the sun!

We could not do this without Tara Morrison, Karrie Kirwan, and their entire talented team, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to guide our society and make possible the exceptional meetings that are put on year after year. We are lucky to have such excellent management!

And as always, thank you for your continued support of the GSO/HNS. Your membership and participation are what make our society so strong. See you on the beach!

Sincerely,

Jenny Kim, MD

President GSO/HNS

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of Georgia Updates

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Dr. Aisha Harun, MD

Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology -
Head and Neck Surgery
Chief, Laryngology Service, Emory
Decatur Hospital
Emory Decatur Site Director



Resident Updates

Please welcome our new interns who will be starting July 1st!



Andee Fontenot
LSU SOM-Shreveport

Kathryn Hardin
Virginia Tec Carilion SOM

Oliver Liu-Lam
Emory University SOM

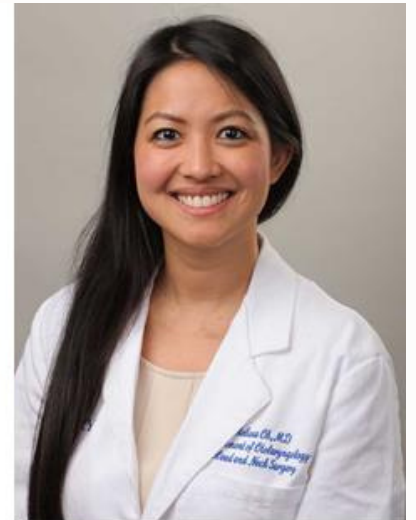
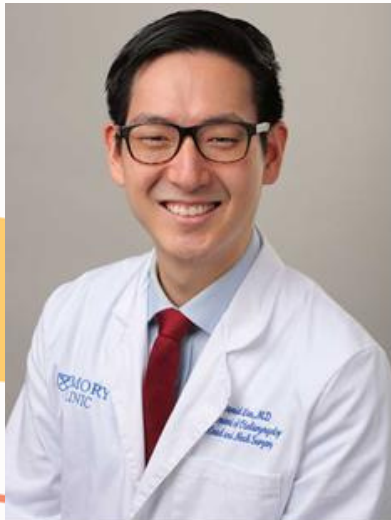
Emily Wright
Emory University SOM

This is what our chief residents will be doing next year!

Dr. Juno Lee will be starting
Neurotology Fellowship at
Puget Sound ENT in Seattle, WA

Dr. Meredith Lilly will be
staying at Emory to start Head
and Neck Endocrine Fellowship

Dr. Melissa Oh will be starting
private practice in Atlanta, GA



Juno Lee, MD

Meredith Lilly, MD

Melissa Oh, MD

Congrats, and thank you for all of your hard work these last five years!

Fellow Updates

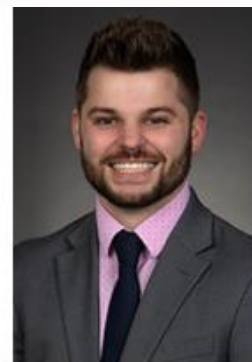
Please welcome our new fellows!



Tripti Brar, MD
Maulana Azad Med College
Pediatrics



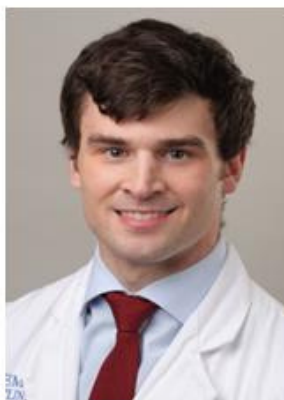
Kastley Marvin, MD
Naval Med Center San Diego
Pediatrics



Kolby Bolk, MD
LSU- New Orleans
Rhinology



Michael Sylvester, MD
University of Michigan
Rhinology



Jackson Vuncannon, MD
Emory
Neurotology



Debra McGuire, MD
Duke University
Laryngology



Scott Hong, MD
Saint Louis University
Head and Neck



Meredith Lilly, MD
Emory
Head and Neck Endocrine



Rachel Norotsky, MS
Boston University
SLP

New Faculty and Staff Members

Please welcome our new otolaryngology faculty surgeons who will be joining us:



David Chou, MD
Facial Plastics



Max Klingerman, MD
Head and Neck



Tyler Halle, MD
Head and Neck



Sweeti Shah, DO
Pediatrics



Lori Gentile, MD
Pediatrics



Kenneth Kennedy, MD
Pediatrics



Joshua Wiederman, MD
Pediatrics

We also welcome the following clinicians who will be joining our staff

- Heather Buckley, PA-C, Pediatrics
- Joy Becker, PA-C, Pediatrics
- Tammie Brickhouse, NP, Pediatrics
- Bissel Landis, NP, Pediatrics
- Dana Libman, Au.D - Winship Cancer Center

Emory New Facilities

Emory Decatur Hospital

Emory Decatur has finished its renovations. We now offer general otolaryngology, rhinology, laryngology, speech pathology, and audiology services!



Winship Cancer Institute

The Winship Cancer Institute at Emory Midtown will be fully opening its new tower on May 9th! This will be a 17-story, full-service inpatient and outpatient cancer center, integrating groundbreaking research into cancer prevention and treatments. This new facility was made possible by a Robert W. Woodruff Foundation donation.



Congrats to Atlanta Magazine 2023 Top Doctors:



Amy Y. Chen, MD
Endocrine



Aisha Harun, MD
Laryngology



Jeanne L. Hatcher, MD
Laryngology



Adam M. Klein, MD
Laryngology



Anthony B. Law, MD
Laryngology



Joshua M. Levy, MD
Rhinology



Douglas Mattox, MD
Otology



Merry E. Sebelik, MD
Endocrine



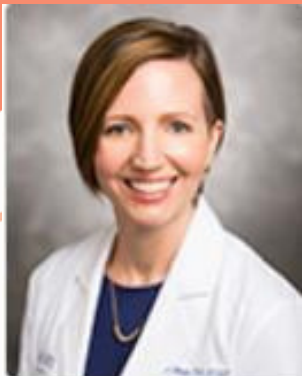
Clementino Solares, MD
Skull base, H&N



Andrew Tkaczuk, MD
Laryngology



Sarah Wise, MD
Rhinology



Dr. Amanda Gillespie, PhD is the Director of Speech Pathology and the Co-Director of the Emory Voice Center.

She has been awarded an Emory University Provost's Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education. She leads numerous clinical research projects that challenge existing voice therapy and diagnostic paradigms. She has authored numerous publications and book chapters and is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences.

Congrats, Dr. Gillespie!



Follow us on
Instagram!

Keep up with all things new
within our department

@emory_ent





AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
**MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA**

Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery



**Dr. Still Kountakis,
MD, Ph.D.**

Edward S. Porubsky, MD Distinguished Chair
in Otolaryngology
Professor and Chairman, Department of
Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Medical College of Georgia - Augusta University

Dear Fellow Georgia Otolaryngologists,

I hope you are doing well and are ready for spring arrival. For us in Augusta, spring is in full swing, as the Masters tournament is about to begin. But the seasons are not the only change happening in town. As you heard by now, Wellstar Health System and Augusta University Health System reached an agreement for a statewide health care partnership. We are excited about the opportunities presented and we are committed to continue our hard work to provide the best possible patient care, and education and training for all our learners. We know we are on the right track, as we matched three highly qualified individuals in our residency program and preparing to graduate three highly competent chief residents.

To celebrate the graduation of our chief residents, we are holding our 21st Annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event, June 9-10, 2023, in Augusta, GA. Please join us for this free CME event, to make new friends or see old ones and celebrate with us.

I wish you a safe, healthy, and beautiful spring.
Get out there and enjoy it!

Sincerely,

Stil Kountakis, MD, PhD

Faculty Highlights



Dr. Sarah Hodge has become a Fellow Member of the American Neurotology Society. Dr. Hodge completed a two-year Otology/Neurotology fellowship at the prestigious House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, California.



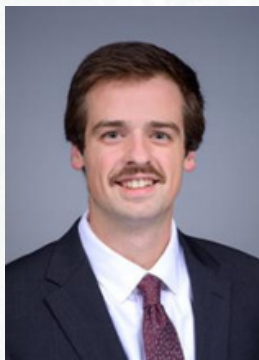
Dr. Heather Koehn is our newly appointed co-director of Medical College of Georgia longitudinal preclinical course titled You+. The course focuses on aspects of medical education beyond the classical preclinical curriculum. Her course spans 18 months and supports education of future physicians in areas of leadership, ethics, advocacy and much more!



Dr. Dan Sharbel is the new Director of Research for the Department of Otolaryngology-HNS. Responsibilities for the position include mentoring medical students and residents in developing investigative inquiries, formulating research methods and design, and organizing manuscripts into a publishing format. Dr. Sharbel earned his medical degree at University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine, Memphis, TN. He completed his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University followed by a fellowship in Head and Neck, Microvascular Reconstruction and Cranial Base Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Sharbel joined our Head & Neck Division this past summer.

Welcome New Residents!

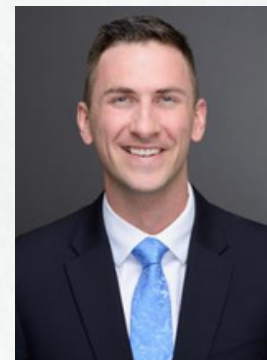
We are pleased to announce the results of this year's very successful residency match: Stephen Nash from UofL, Jamie Russell from MUSC and Brandon Tapasak from UCF. All three will make an excellent addition to our residency program. We are excited to begin working with them in July!



Stephen Nash, MD
University of Louisville



Jamie Russell, MD
University of South Carolina



Brandon Tapasak, MD
University of Central Florida

Neurotology Case Report

Petrous Apex Cholesterol Granuloma Causing Trigeminal Nerve Dysfunction

Sarah Hodge, MD

This case involves a 41 year-old male who presented with a multiple year history of significant right-sided facial numbness in all divisions of the trigeminal nerve. The numbness therefore extended from his right forehead, cornea, entire cheek, and perioral region down to his chin. An MRI brain was performed for further evaluation which demonstrated an approximately 1x1.5 cm petrous apex lesion extending from the medial wall of the internal auditory canal to the posterior lateral border of Meckel's cave and inferiorly to the region of Dorello's canal. The lesion was T1 hyperintense, T2 hyperintense, and T2 flair hyperintense without contrast enhancement or diffusion restriction, most consistent with a petrous apex cholesterol granuloma. He had normal hearing bilaterally, slight occasional vertigo, no diplopia, no facial twitching, spasms or weakness.

Given his symptoms, the location of the lesion and the carotid artery, drainage of the petrous apex lesion was offered via a middle cranial fossa approach. The patient was taken to the operating room. Upon completion of the middle fossa, anatomical landmarks and intraoperative navigation were utilized to localize the cholesterol granuloma. The lesion was then entered with a diamond drill and opened on all sides releasing a thick yellow liquid. The granuloma capsule was dissected away from the bony walls and sent to pathology. The cavity was thoroughly irrigated. After closure, the patient was extubated and monitored in the Neuro ICU. He reported no significant hearing changes, was a HBI/VI bilaterally, and had subjective improvement in his right facial numbness. Postoperative imaging revealed successful drainage of the cholesterol granuloma. There was no remaining lesion that exhibited T1 and T2 hyperintensity. He was discharged home on post-op day 2 and has been doing very well with slow but continual improvement of his facial numbness.

Discussion:

The petrous apex is pneumatized in only 30% of temporal bones¹. Cholesterol granulomas are uncommon though when compared to other primary petrous apex lesions, they were found to be 10 times more common than cholesteatomas and 40 times more common than petrous apex mucocoeles². A cholesterol granuloma is thought to be a foreign body giant cell reaction to cholesterol deposits leading to fibrosis and vascular proliferation³. These lesions tend to remain clinically silent until infringement of adjacent cranial nerves causes facial numbness, diplopia, facial weakness, hearing loss, and/or imbalance. Treatment is surgical intervention with one of multiple approaches depending on granuloma location, symptoms, and patient factors.

Conclusion:

Cholesterol granulomas of the petrous apex are overall rare but can cause symptoms when encroachment on nearby cranial nerves occurs. Depending on the location of the granuloma and its relation to other vital structures, drainage via the middle fossa approach can provide excellent visualization and access and prove invaluable in the surgical treatment of these lesions.

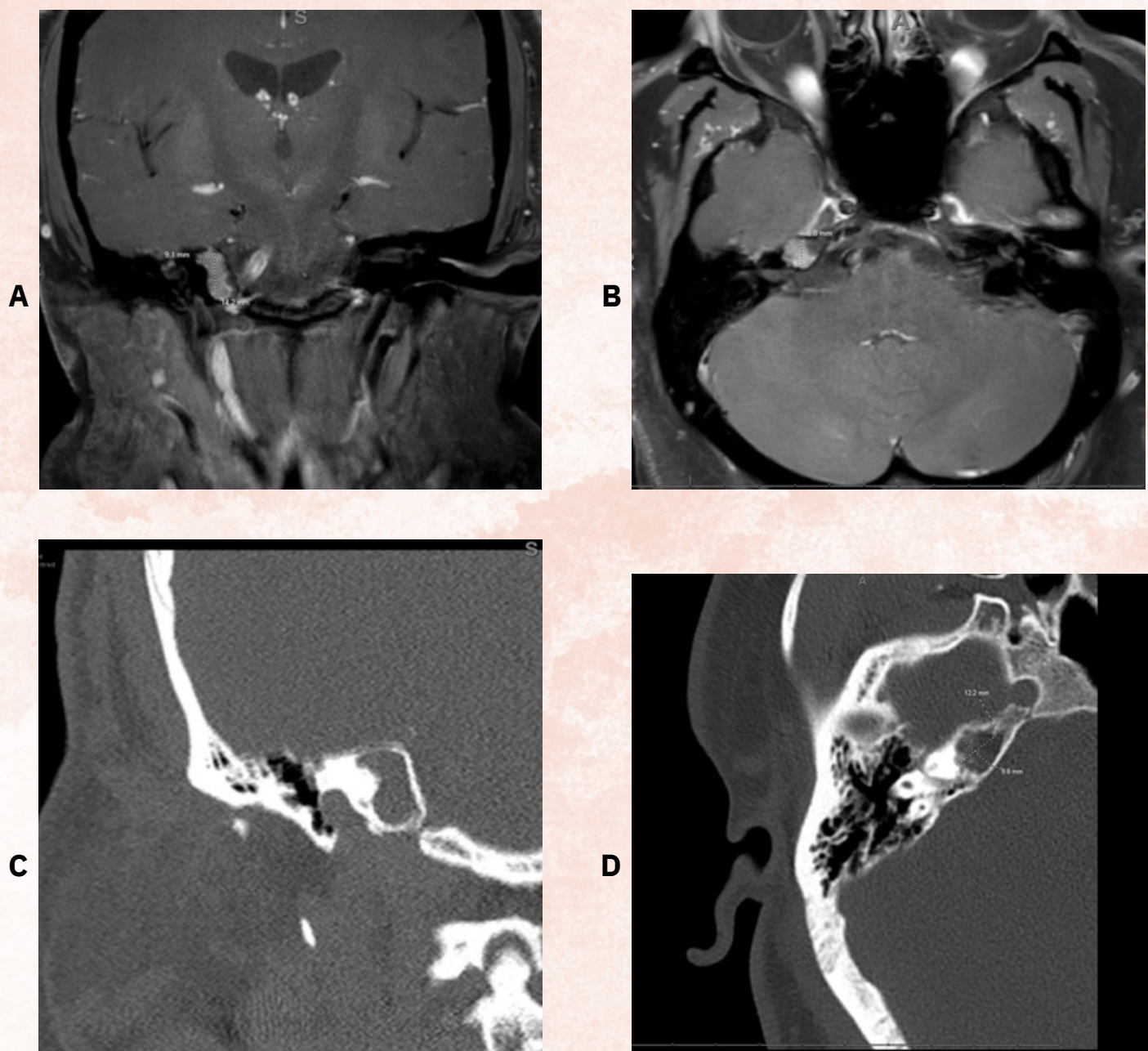


Figure 1: Preoperative Imaging. A & B: Coronal and Axial MRI images of a T1 post-contrast study revealing a right petrous apex lesion measuring approximately 1.5 x 1cm. C & D: Coronal and Axial images of a non-contrasted CT temporal bone further characterizing the right petrous apex lesion.

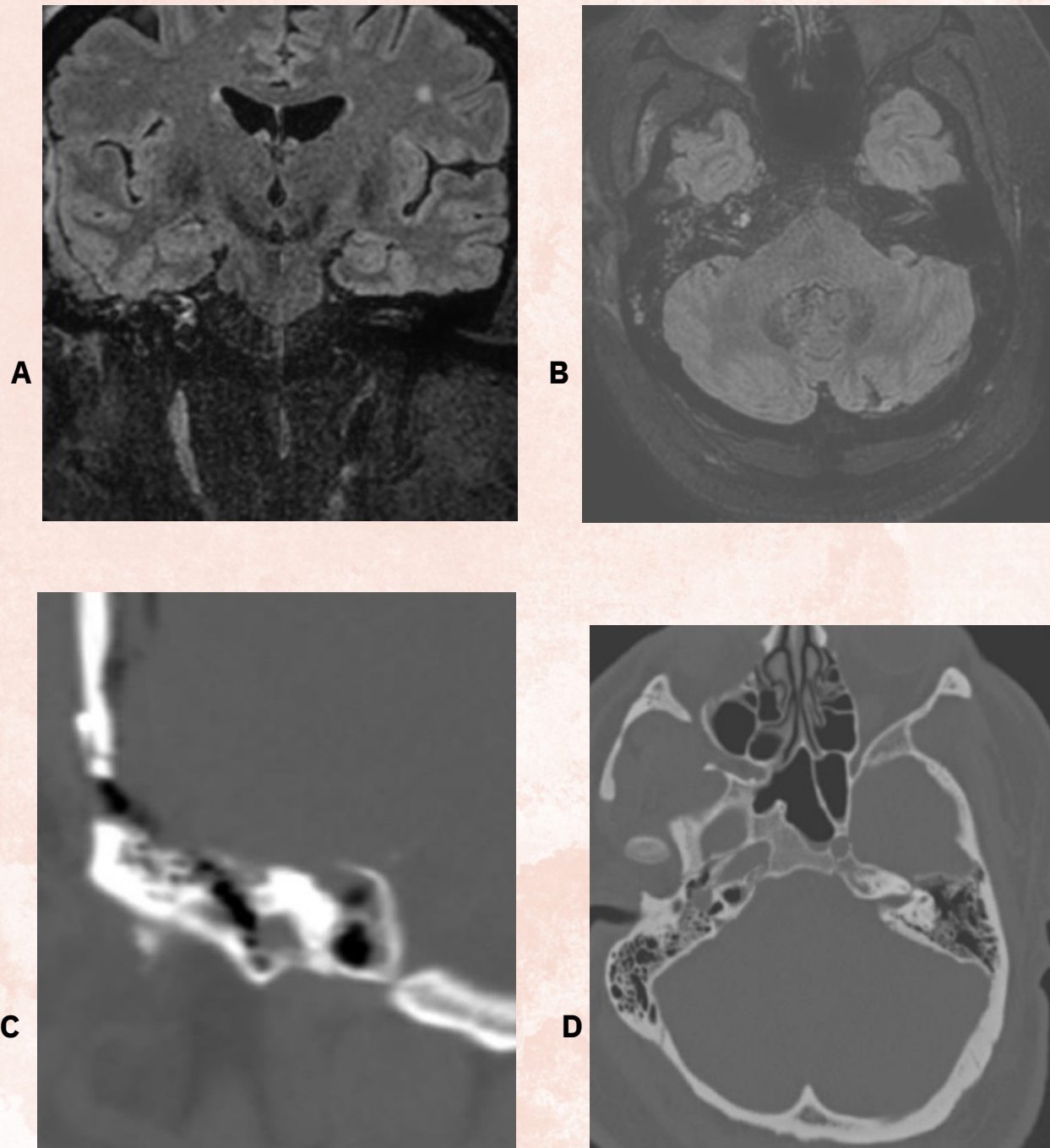


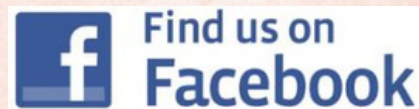
Figure 2: Postoperative Imaging. A & B: Coronal and Axial MRI images of a T1 post-contrast study revealing drainage of right petrous apex lesion. No residual lesion that exhibited hyperintensity on T1 and T2 images was noted. C & D: Coronal and Axial images of a non-contrasted CT temporal bone further characterizing the drainage of the right petrous apex lesion.

References:

1. Myerson MC, Rubin J, Gilbert JG. Anatomic studies of the petrous portion of the temporal bone. *Arch Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg* 1934;195–210.
2. Arriaga MA, Brackmann DE. Differential diagnosis of primary petrous apex lesions. *Am J Otol* 1991;12:470–4.
3. Brackmann DE, Toh EH. Surgical management of petrous apex cholesterol granulomas. *Otol Neurotol*. 2002 Jul;23(4):529-33.

MCG Otolaryngology Social Media

The department has continued to establish a social media presence on Instagram and Facebook. We have found that this is a great opportunity to keep alumni, referring physicians and friends updated on some of the developments in our department. Over time we will be adding patient education posts as well. Our current sites can be reached at @mcgotolaryngology. We would love to hear from alumni. If you have interesting pictures or stories, please send them to Greg Postma at gpostma@augusta.edu.



Upcoming Educational Events

April 20-22, 2023

Southern States Rhinology Symposium

Kiawah Island, South Carolina

www.southernstatesrhinology.org

June 9-10, 2023

Annual Porubsky Symposium and Alumni Event

Augusta, Georgia

www.aoefdtm.org/Porubsky

To make an appointment for your patient, please call:

Adults 706-721-4400

Pediatric 706-721-5500

Adult Head & Neck Cancer 706-721-6744

Utilize our physician referral tool making it simple for you and your patients –

augustahealth.org/referral

Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

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Augusta, GA 30912

Academic Office: 706-721-6100

Register Now!

GSO  **HNS**
The Georgia Society of
Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery

2023

**Annual Summer
Meeting**

**JULY 13 - 15, 2023
THE RITZ-CARLTON
AMELIA ISLAND, FL**



GSO/HNS Members

If you have not done so yet, be sure to renew your dues!

Please spread the word, and send this link for new members to join:

<https://gsohns.wildapricot.org/Join-Us>

**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!**



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on Twitter [@gasocietyofoto](https://twitter.com/gasocietyofoto)