DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

2021

in retrospect
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**INTRODUCTION**
INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement

The mission of the McGill Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is to provide high quality and specialized patient-centered clinical and surgical care, train the next generation of clinicians, surgeons and scientists, and lead in the innovation, development and transfer of new knowledge – all in an environment that is welcoming, collegial and supportive, both for those receiving and those providing care.

Message from the Chair

The McGill Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery carries with it a proud history with its academic mission at the core of its foundation. Over the years, we have developed into an internationally renowned department recognized for excellence in patient care, education and research, with esteemed alumni spread across the continents. One of my strategic priorities as I assumed the role of Chair was to further enhance the education and research elements of our department’s mission, building upon the tradition of excellence in clinical and surgical care.

The challenges encountered with COVID-19 most certainly impacted our personal and professional lives. Nonetheless, because of our resilience, collaboration, and the assurance of each other’s unwavering support, we responded with a push forward, reaching for new heights. Our greatest asset – our people, as reflected in the following pages, carried our mission throughout 2021 to grow a stronger department despite any adversities and hurdles brought on by this pandemic.

In 2021, during a lull in the pandemic, our department, along with the MUHC administration and with the collaboration of the MSSS and other local health care partners, developed a framework for the implementation of a Montreal-based cochlear implant program to be headquartered at the MUHC that will serve the adult and pediatric patient population of western Quebec. This is a major project, now in its final stages, to be implemented in 2022.

We recruited three talented clinical and research faculty in 2021. We built a functional genomics research team for our cancer laboratory. We developed new collaborative research programs and investigator-initiated clinical trials. We revamped our graduate program and curriculum, which triggered a surge in attracting talented new graduate students to our team.

We re-energized our grand rounds, employing digital communications and virtual formats, and recruited local and international high-caliber speakers and panelists to enrich our continued medical education. We made grand rounds more accessible to our alumni, wherever and whenever, successfully expanding our outreach and increasing participation, and we introduced new feedback and self-reflection tools to further enhance the educational impact of the sessions presented.

We started on the redesign of our departmental website and developed this new format for our annual report as a means of providing you with a glimpse of who we are and the inner workings of what we’ve accomplished over the past year.

It is with great pride that I share with you the achievements of our talented and hardworking people—faculty, residents and students, nursing and support staff, and allied health professionals alike who stood tall and delivered our shared mission every day. Please read on, and enjoy!

Nader Sadeghi, MD, FRCSC
Professor and Chair,
Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
Director,
McGill Head and Neck Cancer Program
Designation of "specialist" appears for the first time in the 63rd annual report of the Montreal General Hospital: Dr. Frank Buller as an oculist and aurist; Dr. William Gardner as a gynecologist; and Dr. George W Major as a laryngologist treating diseases of the nose, the throat, and the windpipe.

Dr. H.S. Birkett joins the Royal Victoria Hospital as laryngologist. Dr. Buller practices otology as well as ophthalmology. Drs Birkett and Buller decide that at the Royal Victoria Hospital, otology and laryngology will be combined after Dr. Buller’s retirement.

Dr. Birkett performs the first thyrotomy for a malignant disease of the larynx.

Dr. Buller is appointed the first professor and chairman for the Department of Otolaryngology, McGill University.

Dr. William McNally introduces the fenestration operation for the treatment of otosclerosis.

Dr. Grossman’s concerns for the deaf child are the stimulus that leads to programs for auditory screening in the Montreal schools as well as the creation of the Iona School for the Deaf.

Opening of the Royal Victoria Hospital with four clinical departments: Medicine, Surgery, Diseases of Women, and Ophthalmology and Otology.

1898

Dr. Birkett joins the Royal Victoria Hospital as laryngologist. Dr. Buller practices otology as well as ophthalmology. Drs Birkett and Buller decide that at the Royal Victoria Hospital, otology and laryngology will be combined after Dr. Buller’s retirement.

1898

Dr. Birkett performs the first thyrotomy for a malignant disease of the larynx.

1904

Opening of the Montreal Children’s Hospital.

1905

Creation of the Department of Otolaryngology at both the hospital and at McGill University in its present departmental form.

1914

Dr. Birkett is appointed Dean of Medicine at McGill University.

1929

Opening of the Jewish General Hospital.

1946

Dr. William McNally introduces the fenestration operation for the treatment of otosclerosis.

1948

Dr. Grossman’s concerns for the deaf child are the stimulus that leads to programs for auditory screening in the Montreal schools as well as the creation of the Iona School for the Deaf.
1950
Audiology as a hospital service is introduced at the Royal Victoria Hospital with the appointment of audiology technician Mr. Eric Smith.

1960
Dr. Patrick Gannon initiates a program for basic research in cochlear physiology.

1962
An electronystagmography laboratory is established and a sound-proof room built for clinical research in audiology at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

1963
Under Dr. William McNally’s chairmanship, the Honourable Jean Lesage, Premier of Quebec, officially opens the Institute of Otolaryngology at McGill University and the Royal Victoria Hospital. Dr. McNally becomes recognized as an international authority on vestibular disease.

1970
Dr. James D. Baxter becomes the first full-time otolaryngologist-in-chief and director of the Institute of Otolaryngology at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Dr. Baxter proceeds to integrate the residency training program across all McGill hospital sites and initiates a program of healthcare for the Native Peoples of Northern Quebec and Canada. Dr. Baxter acts as chair of the department for 20 years.

1975
Dr. Marvin Black inaugurates the Dizzy Clinic at the Jewish General Hospital equipped with computerized electronystagmography for the study of the vestibular system.

1976
Dr. Melvin Schloss is appointed the first geographic full-time university-based director of otolaryngology at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. The first physical department of pediatric otolaryngology is established at the Montreal Children’s Hospital.

2009
The McGill Senate and MUHC Board of Governors approve a name change for the department to be known as Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.
## Academic Appointments

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(Source: SciVal 2021/12/22)

RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

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Publications

Fellowships Available

ONE YEAR
- Auditory Sciences Laboratory
- Laryngology
- Pediatric Otolaryngology
- Skull Base and Advanced Rhinology
- Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery

TWO YEAR
- Head and Neck Surgery and Microvascular Reconstruction
- Pediatric Otolaryngology

FACULTY
### FACULTY

**In alphabetical order:**

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<td>Faculty Lecturer (Clinical)</td>
<td>Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery</td>
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Dr. Alexander (Alex) Mlynarek joined our department as an assistant professor in 2009 and has since proven to be a most active member of our team. Earlier this year, Alex was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (CAS) Clinical in the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Mlynarek is an essential contributor and a most valued mentor for the head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstruction fellowship platform. To date, he has trained six (6) international fellows in head and neck surgical oncology and reconstruction. Providing high-level training in tertiary and quaternary head and neck oncologic care and surgery, including microvascular reconstruction – a technique he introduced to the department and with which he developed a thriving program at both the Jewish General Hospital and the McGill University Health Centre. His clinical and surgical expertise has allowed for the further development of head and neck surgical oncology at McGill University to the highest standard, as evidenced at both of our teaching hospitals.

As a clinician-scientist, Dr. McHugh plays an important and complementary role in our multi-disciplinary pediatric otolaryngology team. His clinical expertise is primarily in anterior skull base pathology and rhinology/allergy. He will be appointed as a scientist at the Research Institute and has already begun contributing as an instructor in the McGill graduate courses in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. His research interests include pediatric otolaryngology, anterior skull base pathology and rhinology/allergy.
A native of Montreal, **Dr. Marco Mascarella** completed his undergraduate medical degree, as well as his residency in otolaryngology - head and neck surgery at McGill. Concurrent to his residency training, he completed a master’s degree in epidemiology and biostatistics, investigating frailty in head and neck cancer patients and its effect on perioperative risk indices. Based on his research, he developed a new perioperative risk index model which was widely received by the head and neck surgical community in North America.

Marco returned to McGill in July 2021 after completing his fellowship training in advanced oncological head and neck surgery and reconstruction at the University of Pittsburgh, a school recognized as one of the top international training centres in the field. Marco joined our head and neck service as a clinician-investigator and is involved in all aspects of head and neck surgical oncological care, including microvascular reconstruction at the MUHC, as well as at the Jewish General Hospital.

**Dr. Sampath Loganathan** completed his PhD in biochemistry at the University of Alberta under the supervision of Dr. Joe Casey. In 2015, he joined Dr. Daniel Schramek’s lab at the Lumenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Sinai Health System of the University of Toronto as a post-doctoral fellow where he studied head and neck squamous cell carcinomas (HNSCC) using CRISPR-based mouse models, ultra-sound guided lenti-viral injections, and functional genomic tools for identifying several novel tumor suppressors in HNSCC.

Dr. Loganathan joined the team in August 2021 as Co-Director of the Head and Neck Cancer Research Laboratory, part of the functional genomic subgroup of the Cancer Research Program (CRP), based at the RI-MUHC. His work is in collaboration with other faculty members of the head and neck surgical oncological team - MUHC and JGH, as well as with colleagues from the Cancer Research Program (CRP) of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) and the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute.
A Tribute to Dr. William H. Novick

This inaugural edition of “In Retrospect” presents the perfect opportunity for our Department, our colleagues and community alike to extend our profound appreciation in paying tribute to Dr. William (Bill) Novick – a leader, veteran, and hero.

Dr. Novick first joined the attending staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital on February 1, 1960. Throughout his outstanding medical career, Bill was acknowledged for his ability to mentor and teach students right up until his last “resident clinic” day with us on March 17, 2020 – a retirement forced upon him due to the impending COVID-19 pandemic.

His academic accolades include a teacher of the year award, Presidency of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in 1977, and most noteworthy to us, our Department’s annual William H. Novick CanMeds Resident Award named in his honour.

A Tribute to Dr. William H. Novick

All of these laurels, however, are clearly overshadowed by his distinguished military career. From 1941-1945 he served as a bomber pilot in the 433 Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service to our country during World War II. Following that, in 1948, Bill set his medical ambitions aside to volunteer with the Israeli Mahal in setting up the air force for the newly created nation-state of Israel. His international exploits during these turbulent times seem to be straight out of a spy novel; however, they are real and authentic like the man himself. He is a decorated and revered veteran and an invited member of the Canadian delegation for the annual anniversary of D-Day celebrations held in Normandy, France.

Bill was a devoted and cherished colleague to many. Dedicated, learned, patient and kind, he made a difference in the lives of countless people. He leaves a legacy of a most respected and beloved ENT surgeon – someone we all should aspire to be. Our Department salutes and honours Dr. William H. Novick for his many contributions to our country and specialty.

Saul Frenkiel, MD, FRCSC
Head and Neck Surgery and Reconstruction, integrated under the McGill Head and Neck Cancer Program, is a thriving service based at the McGill University Health Centre and the Jewish General Hospital. This specialty provides state-of-the-art patient care for a wide range of malignant and non-malignant tumors of the head and neck, including skin, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, salivary glands, thyroid and parathyroid glands. Our service provides surgical care covering a wide range of procedures: complex ablative surgery, transoral robotic surgery and transoral laser microsurgery, as well as reconstructive surgical procedures including microvascular reconstruction, facial animation, and voice restoration.

We are an academic team of dedicated scientists and surgeon investigators promoting streamlined and innovative research with cutting edge clinical trials, as well as fundamental research on head and neck cancer. We provide expert cancer care to all of our patients using an interdisciplinary comprehensive head and neck cancer care team approach at both of our affiliate hospitals.
Despite the pandemic, new patient-centred quality of care initiatives were launched: a patient-reported quality of life and functional outcomes initiative and associated data and bio bank was established across our Rossy Cancer Network affiliated hospitals; new head and neck cancer care pathways for complex surgery and microvascular reconstruction were developed and implemented.

Dr. Richard Payne was appointed Committee Director for the Projet de démonstration sur l’évaluation du test moléculaire ThyroSeq v3, an initiative launched by the Programme québécois de cancérologie du ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. Under his leadership, the committee, drawn from thyroid cancer experts from across the province, is piloting a project in evaluating the effectiveness of using molecular testing in thyroid tumors for the population of Quebec.

Lead by Dr. Nader Sadeghi, our service is known internationally for its pioneering role in the field of TransOral Robotic Surgery (TORS) in treating oropharyngeal cancer. In addition to offering TORS as a first line of treatment for early oropharyngeal cancer, neoadjuvant chemotherapy followed by TORS was also developed as a novel approach for treating advanced oropharyngeal cancer.
This protocol has a high success rate in curing oropharyngeal cancer and minimizes treatment-related after effects, thus improving quality of life and functional outcomes for our patients. As a result of our TORS program, our centre is at the cutting edge of paradigm shifting surgical innovations for oropharyngeal cancer, not only in Canada, but world-wide.

We are developing new methods for the diagnosis and surveillance of human papilloma virus (HPV) related pharyngeal cancer with liquid biopsies using digital PCR technology. This is a RI-MUHC Cancer Research Program collaborative initiative involving molecular scientist Dr. Julia Burnier, and head and neck surgeon-investigators Dr. Anthony Zeaitou and Dr. Nader Sadeghi.

Under the directorship of Dr. Michael Hier and Dr. Nader Sadeghi, the McGill Head & Neck Surgery and Microvascular Reconstruction Fellowship was expanded to provide an opportunity for two-year fellowship training to be made available every year to qualifying post-graduates.

Dr. Richard Payne was this year’s chair for the 2nd Annual JGH OTL-H+N SKM Race which took place at the Lachine Canal in September. For this physical and inspiring challenge, five teams: “Head and Neck Tumournators”, “Laryngology A’s”, “Thyroid Storm”, “Otology Ear We Go” and “Rhinology Running Noses” took part and raised over $90,000.

HIGHLIGHTS

2021-2026
Identification of Biological and Molecular Signatures to Predict Treatment Response in Patients with Advanced HPV Positive Oropharyngeal Cancer

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Sabrina Silva Wurzba, Nader Sadeghi

CO-INVESTIGATORS:
Guillaume Bourque, Michael Hier

FUNDING SOURCE:
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

AMOUNT: $665 550

2019-2024
Role of CD109 in Regulating Cellular Signalling and Responses in Skin and Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Cells

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Anie Philip

CO-INVESTIGATORS:
Alex Gregorieff, Nader Sadeghi

FUNDING SOURCE:
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

AMOUNT: $1 074 825

2021-2023
In vivo CRISPR to Study Tumor Suppressors in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Sampath K. Loganathan

FUNDING SOURCE:
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

AMOUNT: $150 000

2021-2022
Deciphering the Role of Metabolic Genes in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Sampath K. Loganathan

COLLABORATORS:
Nader Sadeghi, Lawrence Kazak (Goodman Cancer Centre), KM Antony Michaelraj

FUNDING SOURCE:
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

AMOUNT: $100 000

2021
In Vivo Mouse Models of Head and Neck Cancer to Elucidate Tumor Suppressors, Oncogenes and Therapeutic Targets

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:
Sampath K. Loganathan

FUNDING SOURCE:
Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

AMOUNT: $300 000
SPECIALTIES: FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

Our facial plastic surgery program complements the reconstructive surgery provided by the head and neck surgery program at our teaching hospitals. We provide services on complex functional and cosmetic nasal deformities, facial paralysis, reconstruction of traumatic, oncologic, and other nasal and facial surgical defects.

Our facial plastic surgery team is involved in the surgical education of our residents, and dedicated to enriching their educational experience through a comprehensive curriculum that includes hands-on practice and workshops, one-on-one instruction as well as exposure to live surgery performed at off-site private surgical centres.

We provide annual hands-on courses of applied head and neck anatomy and facial plastic surgical techniques offered through the McGill Steinberg Simulation Centre. Our annual McGill Facial Plastic Surgery Course that could not be offered due to the pandemic for the last 3 cycles, will be back on track for May 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Samaha is a team member of an annual surgical mission to the West Indies providing needed reconstructive surgical services to the underserved population and training of local physicians. Dr. Samaha is a team member in another similar yearly mission to Hanoi, Vietnam.

CLINICAL TEAM

Nabil Fanous, MD
Division Lead

Mark Samaha, MD

Yalon Dolev, MD

Amanda Fanous, MD
Our department is the largest laryngology group in Canada, staffed by a dedicated multidisciplinary team including three full-time, fellowship-trained laryngologists, several speech-language pathologists, and a nutritionist. We are fortunate to have a team that is dedicated, passionate and engaged in offering cutting edge care to our patients while pushing the boundaries of innovation. Our group provides care at our state of the art Voice and Dysphagia Clinic. What we do is often described as «cool» and «amazing» because of the profound positive impact it has on the quality of life for our patients with clinic-based interventions. We love demonstrating and teaching what we do to medical students and residents who watch in awe as we restore voices and smiles with office-based procedures. Our talented team, huge volume of patients and enormous variety of diagnoses have earned us national and international recognition as a centre of expertise in voice and dysphagia-related disorders. Our laryngology fellowship program is competitive and attracts candidates from across the globe.

Our laryngologists have extensive experience in outpatient clinic-based procedures and continue to push the boundaries of outpatient treatment by expanding the number of procedures offered. Well established procedures include: i) a variety of vocal fold injections including steroids, cidofovir, botulinum toxin and substances for temporary/permanent augmentation; ii) upper airway biopsies; iii) esophagoscopy and biopsy; and iv) KTP laser treatment for variety of laryngeal pathology. The remarkable success of the Voice and Dysphagia clinic is a credit to the remarkable dedication of the team that we are fortunate to work with every day. The enthusiasm and commitment they bring to their work and to our patients provides the glue that allows us to achieve wonderful things.

**SPECIALTIES:** LARYNGOLOGY

**CLINICAL TEAM**

Karen Kost, MD  
Division Lead

Françoise Chagnon, MD

Jonathan Young, MD

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Dr. Chagnon is a member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons – 2021-2022

Dr. Kost was the guest of honor at the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (CSO-HNS) Annual Meeting in September 2021. She delivered a keynote speech based on the history of the society through a personal lens, tracing the growth of the CSO to include women and embrace diversity.

Dr. Kost is also an honoured member of the council of the prestigious American Laryngological Association (ALA), a position leading to the presidency of the ALA in 2025.

Dr. Young instituted a new dysphagia clinic at the Jewish General Hospital. This clinic works in conjunction with speech and language pathology and clinical nutrition, much like the dysphagia clinic at the MUHC. The clinic was created in order to follow-up on discharged patients who were treated for dysphagia and sent home on modified textures. Patients seen in the clinic are thoroughly evaluated and given exercise programs/texture modifications/lifestyle modifications in order to improve safety and recovery of their swallowing function.
In the last year, the establishment of two programs broadened the scope of services provided by the voice and dysphagia lab at the MUHC Glen site. These include the management of laryngeal dystonias and transgender voice therapy consisting primarily of voice feminization. Also this year, outpatient balloon dilatation of subglottic/upper tracheal stenosis was successfully performed in the clinic. In addition, transtracheal steroid injections of stenoses were also added to the services provided in the voice and dysphagia lab. We are particularly proud of these innovations, as they occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Kost has a particular interest in mentoring and sponsoring young women in the specialty. She founded the Women in Otolaryngology Section of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (CSO-HNS) in 2013, and continues to secure dedicated funding to sustain this fledgling group which has evolved into a valuable asset for the OTL-HNS community across the country. A local chapter was created here at McGill, under the mentorship of senior OTL female staff, with the goal of providing a safe and comfortable environment for young women to share concerns and seek advice, whether personal or career related. A bi-annual McGill WID dinner provides an opportunity for open discussion on topics of concern in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

The Voice and Dysphagia Lab is fortunate to work closely with Nicole Li-Jessen, Assistant Professor in the School of Communication Sciences and Luc Mongeau, Professor of the Department of Engineering at McGill University. We are grateful for our close and collegial collaboration, which continues to generate grants and produce important basic science research.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**2018-2024**

A Paper-based Microfluidic Platform for Rapid Point-of-Care Diagnosis of Laryngopharyngeal Reflux

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:**

Xinyu Liu, Karen Kost, Nicole Li-Jessen

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

**AMOUNT:** $118,728/year

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**GRANTS**

**2020-2024**

Bioprintable Composite Materials and Microfluidic Tools for Vocal Fold Restoration and Repair

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Luc Mongeau

**CO-INVESTIGATORS (MCGILL):**

Jianyu Li, Nicole Li-Jessen, Paul Wiseman, Karen Kost

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

**AMOUNT:** $2,474,309 (USD)

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**2018-2025**

Patient-Specific Computational Models of Vocal Recovery from Phonosurgery

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Nicole Li-Jessen

**CO-INVESTIGATORS:**

Luc Mongeau, Karen Kost

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

**AMOUNT:** $111,690/year

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**2018-2024**

A Paper-based Microfluidic Platform for Rapid Point-of-Care Diagnosis of Laryngopharyngeal Reflux

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:**

Xinyu Liu, Karen Kost, Nicole Li-Jessen

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

**AMOUNT:** $118,728/year
Rhinology treats a wide spectrum of disorders of the sinonasal tract, including anatomical nasal obstruction, inflammatory disorders, and sinonasal tumors. We provide team-based comprehensive care for the diagnosis and treatment of these disorders that are largely common in the general population and contribute to a significant reduction in the quality of life. Our team of otolaryngologists with advanced training in rhinology are experts in diagnosing and treating nose and sinus problems and have extensive experience in advanced surgical techniques, such as endoscopic skull base surgery - a procedure done to access the intracranial space without having to cut through the skull, usually through the nasal cavity.

We also help to advance our field through the investigation of novel treatments, as well as by innovation in surgical techniques and surgical education. Small group to large class teaching, didactic lectures, case studies, simulations, etc. are made available to up-and-coming medical students, residents, and peer otolaryngologists alike as part of our curriculum. Our staff is also involved in mentoring our next generation of specialists through our work on program and competence committees, as well as tutoring our residents for Royal College exams.

Our Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery team includes five otolaryngologists with advanced training in rhinology and/or skull base surgery, as well as a post-graduate clinical fellow specializing in advanced rhinology and skull base surgery.
HIGHLIGHTS

New endoscopic sinus navigation systems with augmented reality were acquired for both the McGill University Health Centre and the Jewish General Hospital sites, allowing surgeons the ability to plan and perform frontal sinus surgery with enhanced precision and safety.

An inaugural departmental resident sinus course using telesimulation was introduced in April 2021. Co-directed by Drs. Tewfik and Himdi, all rhinology team members were involved in this teaching endeavor which took place on site at the MUHC ENT-H+N ambulatory clinic. Subsequent to this, in September 2021, a larger national-scale telesimulation course in endoscopic sinus surgery was held in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery Annual Meeting, again onsite at the MUHC ENT-H+N clinic.

We were the lead initiative in the creation of novel combined-specialty ENT-Respirology-Allergy and Immunology Allergic Airway teaching rounds.

Dr. Tewfik was featured in various news media pertaining to COVID-19 and the management of its symptoms and effects.

- 2022/01/11 entrevue AMI-Télé sur l’anosmie associé à la COVID-19
- Two interviews on CBC daybreak to provide expertise about anosmia
- Guest host of Doctor Radio on Sirius XM radio (USA)
- www.journaldemontreal.com/2021/01/05/le-docteur-qui-reeduque-les-nez
- www.tvanouvelles.ca/2021/01/05/le-docteur-qui-reeduque-les-nez

Under the direction of Dr. Rickul Varshney, an endoscopic sinus surgery program is in development at the Lakeshore Hospital introducing new technologies for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

Dr. Tewfik is co-Chair of the certifying examination committee in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Dr. Tewfik is also the course director for the North American Masterclass in Endoscopic Sinus Surgery and Endoscopic Management of Vascular Injuries Workshop.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Frédérique Poncet

**CO-INVESTIGATORS:** Johannes A Frasnelli, Marc Tewfik, Aurélie Houle, Lyne Boissonneault, Nathalie Farley, Perrine Ferre, Fanny Lecuyer, Myrian Grondin

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Réseau provincial de recherche en adaptation-réadaptation (REPAR), supported by the FRQS.

**AMOUNT:** $50 000

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Endoscopic Polypectomy Performed in Clinic for Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Polyps: The EPIC Multicentre Randomised Controlled Trial

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Shaun Kilty (Nominated), Dean Fergusson

**CO-INVESTIGATORS:** Arif Janjua, John Lee, Kristian MacDonald, Eric Meen, Damian Micomonaco, Brian Rotenberg, Luke Rudmik, Leigh J Sowerby, Marc Tewfik, Kednapa Thavorn

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

**AMOUNT:** $ 240 818

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**SPECIALTIES: OTOLOGY/NEUROTOLOGY**

The Otology and Neurotology section was established this year within the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. Our members are highly skilled and prolific at clinical, surgical, research and educational levels. Under this new section’s umbrella, the team is united with a common vision to combine skills and efforts to further McGill’s local, national and international leadership role in the field of otology and neurotology. This is already evidenced by our past and present-day commitment to serving the northern region of Nunavik as well as our most recently appointed mandate in the development and implementation of a Programme québécois d’implants cochléaires headquartered here in Montreal to provide a much needed service to the patient population of western Quebec.
HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Tamara Mijovic, along with co-applicants Ms. Amy Lorincz, Dr. Suzanne Morin and Dr. Greg Berry, was awarded $350K from the TD Ready Challenge Grant to explore patient care and education facets of telehealth. Dr. Mijovic’s focus is on the applications of telehealth with regards to otology care delivery to patients in Nunavik.

Dr. Anthony Zeitouni and Alexandre Lehmann, PhD received renewed funding from the Richard and Edith Strauss Foundation in the amount of $85,000 in support of the McGill Cochlear Implant Research Program. Both investigators have contributed over many years to the CI Research Program and have trained graduate students with a focus on cochlear implant research.

For more than 40 years, McGill’s Department of Otolaryngology has been involved in providing specialty care to the Nunavik. State-of-the-art otology care is provided on site in the patients’ own environment. In 2021, despite the ongoing pandemic, Dr. Mijovic, Dr. Jamie Rappaport and Dr. Jeffrey Yeung were able to periodically return to the Nunavik region to pursue their “northern mission”.

In May 2021, Dr. Rappaport successfully applied for a “Financing Program for Medical Teaching in a Clinical Setting” grant from the McGill Faculty of Medicine to fund the purchase of a teaching microscope for the Jewish General Hospital ENT Clinic (value: $41,790).

Dr. Rappaport facilitated a very generous donation from Jonathan Kantor. The commitment is for $100,000 over the next four years ($25,000 each year).
Important to highlight are the successful negotiations between the MUHC and the MSSS that led to the establishment of a nordic PRO (poste en réseau obligatoire) in otolaryngology - this to ensure regular ENT service visits and presence, an anchor for the region of Nunavik. Dr. Lamiae Himdi was recruited to the position to complement the team and expand the scope of care provided.

In 2021, the adult and pediatric otology leadership (Dr. Tamara Mijovic and Dr. Mélanie Duval) with the support of site chiefs (Dr. Nader Sadeghi and Dr. Sam Daniel) and the Department of Professional Services collaborated with the MSSS and local healthcare partners in the development of a framework for the implementation of a Montreal-based Cochlear Implant Program. With full Ministry support, the McGill University Health Centre was designated the principal hub for this program that will bring together combined medical, professional and clinical-administrative expertise from the MUHC (Royal Victoria Hospital and the Montreal Children’s Hospital), the CIUSSS Centre-Sud-de-l’Île-de-Montréal (CCSDIM) and the CIUSSS Centre-Ouest-de-l’Île-de-Montréal (CCODIM), the Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal (CHUM) and the Centre hospitalier universitaire Ste-Justine to service the adult and pediatric patient population of western Quebec.

Our annual Temporal Bone Drilling Course was held at the Mendelsohn Temporal Bone Drilling Laboratory in May 2021. It was organized by Dr. Tamara Mijovic in collaboration with McGill’s Department of Anatomy and with the supervising help of Dr. Melanie Duval, Dr. Jamie Rappaport, Dr. Jeffrey Yeung and Dr. Joshua Gurberg.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**GRANTS**

**2020-2025**

Neuroplastic Impacts of Hearing Augmentation on Cognitive Abilities  
**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Etienne De Villers-Sidani  
**CO-INVESTIGATORS:** Sylvain Baillet, Nancy E. Mayo, Patrice Voss, Robert Zatorre, Anthony G. Zeitouni  
**AMOUNT:** $ 573,750

**2019-2023**

Neuroplastic Mechanisms Underlying the Pathophysiology of Tinnitus  
**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Etienne De Villiers-Sidani  
**CO-INVESTIGATORS:** Sylvain Baillet, Sylvie Hébert, Patrice Voss, Anthony G. Zeitouni  
**AMOUNT:** $ 413,101
Our pediatric otolaryngologists provide high quality and evidence-based care for a variety of ear, nose, throat, neck and airway pathologies in children. We offer full evaluation and leading edge medical and surgical treatments with a patient and family centered approach.

Otolaryngologists on our team have extra specialized training and expertise obtained from world-renowned centres. We are leaders in tertiary interdisciplinary clinics of complex pathologies including: dysphagia, vertigo, otology, apnea, tracheo-esophageal anomalies, voice lab, velopharyngeal insufficiency, reflux, saliva management, and bone anchored hearing aid implants. We also perform surgery for sleep apnea, hearing loss, nasal and sinus pathology, and neck masses. The Montreal Children’s Hospital was designated the principal site for a pediatric cochlear implant centre for Western Quebec.
Dr. Lily Nguyen obtained a Master of Health Professions Education (MPHE) from the University of Illinois Chicago, for her thesis entitled “Trying to Stand Out: Analysis of ‘Extracurricular’ Activities of Otolaryngology Residency Applicants.”

Dr. Sam Daniel was nominated Director at Large on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, as well as 2nd Vice-President of the Executive Council of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.

Dr. Sam Daniel was nominated Pediatric-Otolaryngology Co-Chair on the Scientific Program Organising Committee for the International Federation of ORL Societies (IFOS).

Dr. Sam Daniel was awarded the CMQ prix d’excellence du college des médecins 2021.

Under the co-leadership of Dr. Melany Duval, the MCH was designated the principal pediatric site for a Montreal-based Cochlear Implant Program that will bring together allied medical, professional and clinical-administrative expertise from health centres across Montreal.

Dr. Lily Nguyen is a leader in inter-professional team training for faculty (MUHC-wide). In consequence, our department remained active in simulation activities throughout the MUHC, with the aim of improving team work and ultimately patient care. Some highlights of this past year include: Running of multiple hospital-wide simulations for COVID preparedness, such as a code blue called in the operating room on a COVID positive child. Large-scale simulations that brought together over 40 healthcare workers from both the adult and pediatric sites to practice on EXIT procedures - highly specialized, rare events when a baby is delivered through an incision in the uterus, and an airway has to be established while the baby is still attached to the placenta. Given that the last EXIT at the MUHC occurred a decade ago, these simulations provided the multidisciplinary team the opportunities to practice together, to identify weaknesses and to find solutions prior in case of a real event.

Dr. Daniel was featured in La Presse for saving the life of a premature baby requiring a slide tracheoplasty:

and more recently on CTV news for providing a new lease on life to a young patient:
Undergraduate Medical Education

During the 2021 academic year, 116 students completed OTL-H+N Surgery rotations at the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Montreal Children’s Hospital and Jewish General Hospital. We also expanded our clinical OTL teaching network to our Campus Outaouais in Gatineau providing the opportunity for students to learn about otolaryngology and head and neck surgery entirely in French.

In addition to clinical teaching, our faculty was busy in the classrooms and simulation centres giving didactic lectures on the fundamentals of medicine and dentistry, leading small group sessions, and running surgical skills practice sessions.

Residency Training Program

McGill Otolaryngology is a leader in medical education, with multiple simulation courses devised to improve our residents’ comfort level with various surgical procedures. An additional strength of our program is the rich informal teaching that we benefit from throughout our clinical rotations, working alongside dynamic and highly knowledgeable staff who love to teach and are actively involved in our learning.

McGill Otolaryngology is a well-balanced surgical program, providing great exposure across all otolaryngology subspecialties. Our department serves a broad patient population with complex and challenging pathologies, allowing for ample hands-on experience to train highly skilled surgeons comfortable with a wide range of surgical procedures, ranging from simple “bread-and-butter” procedures to intricate subspecialty otolaryngology surgeries.

Our program is highly supportive of residents wishing to lead or be involved in impactful research endeavors. We benefit from both formal and informal mentorship from well-respected academic leaders in our field, three months of dedicated research rotations and funding for presentations at national and international conferences. Additionally, to further strengthen the foundational knowledge of our trainees, a newly-founded basic science and research methodology course has been implemented for the junior residents. Residents are encouraged to present their research projects at our annual Resident Research Day.
Onwards And Upwards

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS WHO GRADUATED IN 2021!

RESIDENTS

Naif Fnais, MD
Fellowship - Head & Neck and Microvascular Reconstruction
Western University, London, Ontario

Mohammed Alnoury, MD
Fellowship - Pediatric Otolaryngology
Montreal Children’s Hospital

Sarah Khalife, MD
Fellowship - Rhinology and Skull Base Surgery
Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois

David Chan Chun Kong, MD
Fellowship - Rhinology, Skull Base Surgery and Head and Neck Oncology
Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, Australia

FELLOWS

Ching Yee Chan, MD
Majid Al-Abdulla, MD