

Focus on Faculty #67

Michael Hier



Dr Michael Hier is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology. He graduated with a BSc in Physiology (University Scholar) in 1986 and with his MD (University Scholar) in 1990, both from McGill. He underwent his residency training in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery from 1990-1995 at McGill and subsequently completed a clinical fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois in 1996-97. He has been part of the full-time staff at the Jewish General Hospital and a researcher at the Lady Davis Institute since 1997. Since 2010 he has been the Chief of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at the Jewish General Hospital and has steered it through significant growth and expansion, in order for it to be able to provide all facets of tertiary and quaternary sub-specialty care.

Dr Hier's clinical interests include thyroid and parathyroid surgery, salivary gland surgery, and the management of mucosal head and neck cancers including transoral robotic surgery. He, along with his colleague, Dr Alex Mlynarek, performed the first transoral robotic surgery case in Quebec and subsequently went on to participate in a pivotal international Phase 2 transoral robotic surgery trial that was initiated at the University of Western Ontario.

Dr Hier's driving career passions are performing surgery in order to help head and neck cancer patients and teaching residents and fellows to do the same. In 2005, he developed the McGill fellowship program in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and it is now fully accredited by the Canadian Association of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology (CAHNSO). This program has trained fellows from New Zealand, Europe and the Middle East. Dr Hier, who has always viewed teaching as an immense responsibility, an honour and a distinct privilege, was awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award by the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr Hier's research activities are broad, and include clinical, translational and basic components. He enjoys a multitude of close research collaborations with colleagues from several other clinical disciplines as well as basic scientists. He has published over 130

peer-reviewed journal articles and has lectured extensively locally, nationally and internationally.

Dr Hier has always strived to preserve a healthy work-life balance and this has been enabled by the support of his incredible wife Leslie (Social Worker), son Bradley (Finance), daughter Jessica (Medical Student), daughter Caitlin (Dietetics student) and pooch Rigby (Mini Goldendoodle). His off work passion is his cycling. In fact, if you are unable to reach him, he is almost certainly about to summit some mountain pass in the Alps, Dolomites or Pyrenees.

His most satisfying publications are:

Arbit E, Kaplan R, Gillick A, Brem S, **Hier M**. Can calcium antagonists affect the hemostatic mechanism and promote re-bleeding? An experimental study. *Neurosurgery*. 20:5:732-735, 1987

Hier M, Black MJ, Shenouda G, Sadeghi N, Karp SE. Immunotherapy of squamous cell carcinoma: A murine model. *Laryngoscope* 105:10 1077-1080, 1995.

Madana J, Morand GB, Barona-Lleo L, Black MJ, Mlynarek AM, **Hier MP**. A survey on pulmonary screening practices among otolaryngology-head & neck surgeons across Canada in the post treatment surveillance of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. *J Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2015 Feb 4; 44:5. doi: 10.1186/s40463-015-0057-7.

Nichols A, Theurer J, Prisman E, Read N, Berthelet E, Tran E, Fung K, Almeida J, Bayley A, Goldstein D, **Hier M**, Sultanem K, Richardson K, Mlynarek A, Krishnan S, Le H, Yoo J, MacNeil D, Winquist E, Hammond A, Venkatesan V, Kuruvilla S, Warner A, Mitchell S, Chen J, Corsten M, Johnson-Obaseki S, Eapen L, Odell M, Parker C, Wehrli B, Kwan K, Palma D, Radiotherapy versus transoral robotic surgery and neck dissection for oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (ORATOR): an open-label, phase 2, randomised trial. *Lancet Oncol*. 2019 Oct;20(10):1349-1359.