Welcome to the inaugural edition of the UVM Otolaryngology Newsletter
We are excited to share updates and ongoing activities in our program!

New Leadership in the Division
Heather Herrington, MD has transitioned as Division Chief this year. We are grateful to William Brundage, MD for his steady hand and leadership for the past 13 years. Mirabelle Sajisevi, MD has assumed the role of residency program directory in place of Donna Millay, MD. We thank her for her dedication to the residents and our program.

Recently Retired Colleagues
In the last three years, we have had three wonderful colleagues retire after fulfilling careers: Donald Leopold, MD, Gary Landrigan, MD, Donna Millay, MD. We thank them for all their contributions to our patients and trainees.
Welcome to our New Faculty Members
Mirabelle Sajisevi, MD—Head & Neck Cancer, Microvascular Reconstruction
Dr. Sajisevi joined our division in October 2017. She completed her Fellowship in Head & Neck Cancer and Microvascular Reconstruction at the Mayo Clinic after completing residency at Duke University Medical Center.

George Kurien, MD—Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery
Dr. Kurien joined our division in November 2017. He completed Residency at the University of Alberta then pursued Fellowship in Neurotology at University of Toronto.

Carolyn Orgain, MD—Rhinology and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery
Dr. Orgain joined our division in August 2018 after completing residency at UC Irvine followed by Rhinology and Skull Base fellowship at the Sydney Rhinology Center in Sydney, Australia.

Erin Ostby, MD—Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Dr. Ostby is our newest faculty member, she joined us in August 2020. She completed her residency at Loma Linda University followed by fellowship in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Miami.

Welcome to our Newest Resident!
Luke Arnell, MD—PGY1
Luke grew up in San Diego, California and attended the University of Virginia for his undergraduate studies, where he majored in Neuroscience. He then moved to Burlington to attend medical school at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. Luke enjoys hiking, skiing, listening to music, and watching his favorite sports teams, the San Diego Padres and UVA basketball.

Residency Research Updates:
- This year the American Academy of Otolaryngology Annual Meeting went virtual. Our chief resident Dan Gerges, MD gave an oral presentation on Opioid Prescribing Practices for Pediatric Tonsillectomy Before and After Policy Interventions
- Dan Gerges, MD (PGY5) also had a poster presentation titled “Cochlear Implantation in Hearing and Vestibular Loss after Capnocytophaga Canimorsus Meningitis”
- Courtney Miller, MD (PGY3) has been working on a study involving anosmia and COVID-19 patients. In this study, patients who undergo Covid-19 testing at the UVMMC Emergency Department perform a Brief Smell Identification Test (BSIT) with the goal to associate the degree of anosmia with COVID 19 positivity.
- Donald Bennett, MD (PGY4) is using auditory brainstem response testing in adult athletes, with the goal of evaluating for changes pre and post concussion—ultimately potentially providing reliable, timely, and cost-effective diagnosis and monitoring of concussion patients.
- We are grateful for the generosity of the Sudbay Research Funds which supports our resident education and research!