



Departmental highlights

Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Academic updates

- A new facial plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship has launched.
- Mike Eggerstedt, MD, chief resident, matched in the facial plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship program at UCLA

Clinical programs

Established multidisciplinary cosmetic center virtually at main campus, South Loop and Oak Brook.

Head and Neck Cancer

Research and clinical trials

- The ECOG 3163 trial includes T3, T4a, and select T4b (as specified in eligibility criteria 3.1.5) nasal and paranasal sinus squamous cell carcinoma. Patients are randomized to either upfront standard of care surgery or three cycles of neoadjuvant chemotherapy followed by surgery. All surgery is followed by standard radiation +/- chemotherapy. [Learn more.](#)
- The HN006 trial is meant to compare sentinel lymph node biopsy vs neck dissection for patients with oral cancer. [Learn more.](#)
- The HN005 national study, which is a de-escalation study for patients with Oropharyngeal cancer. [Learn more.](#)

Faculty achievements

- The International Head and Neck Cancer meeting is scheduled for July 22-25 in Chicago. Rush physicians are involved as moderators, presenters and panelists.
- Mihir Bhayani, MD, and Kerstin Stenson, MD, were named Top Doctors by *Chicago* magazine.
- Samer Al-Khudari, MD, was promoted to Associate Professor.

Laryngology

Clinical programs

- We now offer in-office 24-hour pH impedance testing offered for laryngopharyngeal reflux disease.
- We introduced superior laryngeal nerve block for management of chronic cough.

Faculty achievements

- Inna Husain, MD, presented at the 8th Annual International Laryngology Symposium on surgical management of anterior commissure laryngeal papillomatosis.
- Inna Husain, MD, was co-author on AAO-HNSF online course on Laryngeal Manifestations of Autoimmune Disease.

Pediatric Otolaryngology

Clinical programs

We are working to establishing a multidisciplinary Pediatric Chronic Cough Program with providers from ENT, pulmonology, allergy, gastroenterology and sleep medicine.

Research and clinical trials

Rush faculty members are conducting clinical research on assessing the feasibility, correct patient population, and parent preferences for home sleep testing (HST) in the pediatric population.

Sleep Surgery

Clinical programs

The Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation program was started at Rush in 2015. At the end of 2020, Rush ranked #1 in Illinois in total patients implanted since program inception. We currently participate in the national Inspire Adhere registry tracking outcomes after surgery. In addition, Rush is experienced in providing tertiary care level support for complex cases or patients requiring revision surgery.

Faculty achievements

Phillip LoSavio, MD, moderated live educational sessions at the AAO-HNS meeting in September 2020 titled, "Update on Scientific Trials and Systematic Reviews in Sleep Surgery 2020." This session was sponsored by the General Otolaryngology and Sleep Education committees.

General Otolaryngology

Academic updates

Trainees in the master's program for the Global Health Track approved by the Graduate College at Rush University have been working on the following:

a. Hearing program for pediatric patients in the Dominican Republic

For the last two years we have conducted hearing screens amongst pediatric patients in the Dominican Republic and screened about 800 patients. At present, we are starting a hearing program where we will be training the local Dominican health care nurses to be able to independently screen the pediatric patients in small towns and schools in the western region of the Dominican Republic. Those children who fail the hearing screen will be evaluated by us during our global health trips for surgical intervention or hearing aids.

b. Virtual telemedicine program for homeless shelters

We are developing a model for implementing virtual care related to otolaryngology care in homeless shelters. We are partnering with one specific shelter (Featherfist) which houses families, both adults and children. The Featherfist shelter has been attended by the Rush Pediatric group for several years. The Otolaryngology Virtual Care platform for the homeless shelters will be the first such program at Rush University.

c. Rural outreach initiative program

We have a rural health elective for medical students and residents in partnership through Rush Global Health and the Gibson Rural Hospital. The objective remains to continue to build bridges and partnerships with the rural hospitals to address the health inequities related to otolaryngology care in rural communities. Some of the areas of focus would include sleep medicine and implantable hearing device program.

Research and clinical trials

Rush researchers are part of a nanoparticle study involving noninvasive transfer of ototopical antibiotics via the tympanic membrane. We have been able to demonstrate translocation of the nanopeptide/ciprofloxacin complex invitro. The research has been done in collaboration with the National Argonne Laboratory.