

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to our winter 2023 edition of ENTell, the newsletter of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

The last several months have been quite eventful. Perhaps the most significant news is the flooding of the 5000/5100 tower in the main UR Medical Center complex; the location of our departmental offices, educational spaces, and labs. The estimated time for rehabilitation is 18 months. This has proven a trying time, but we are determined to take advantage of the need to rebuild to improve our office and education spaces. Additionally, while the COVID-19 pandemic has receded, in its wake we have been left with staffing shortages and burnout throughout much of healthcare.

Despite these obstacles, our faculty, providers, residents, and staff continue to do remarkable things. In this issue, we focus on our robust sleep surgery program, share news on research in Dr. Hitomi Sakano's laboratory, introduce you to our newest team members, and update you on our trainees.

We hope you enjoy the latest issue of ENTell. As always, your feedback, suggestions, and story ideas are welcome.

- Shawn D. Newlands, MD, PhD, MBA

New clinic opens in Batavia



The 21,455-square-foot medical campus offers adult and pediatric allergy/immunology, neurosurgery, oncology, otolaryngology and audiology, urology clinics, and UR Medicine's Batavia-based primary care practice.

[Learn more about the clinic](#)

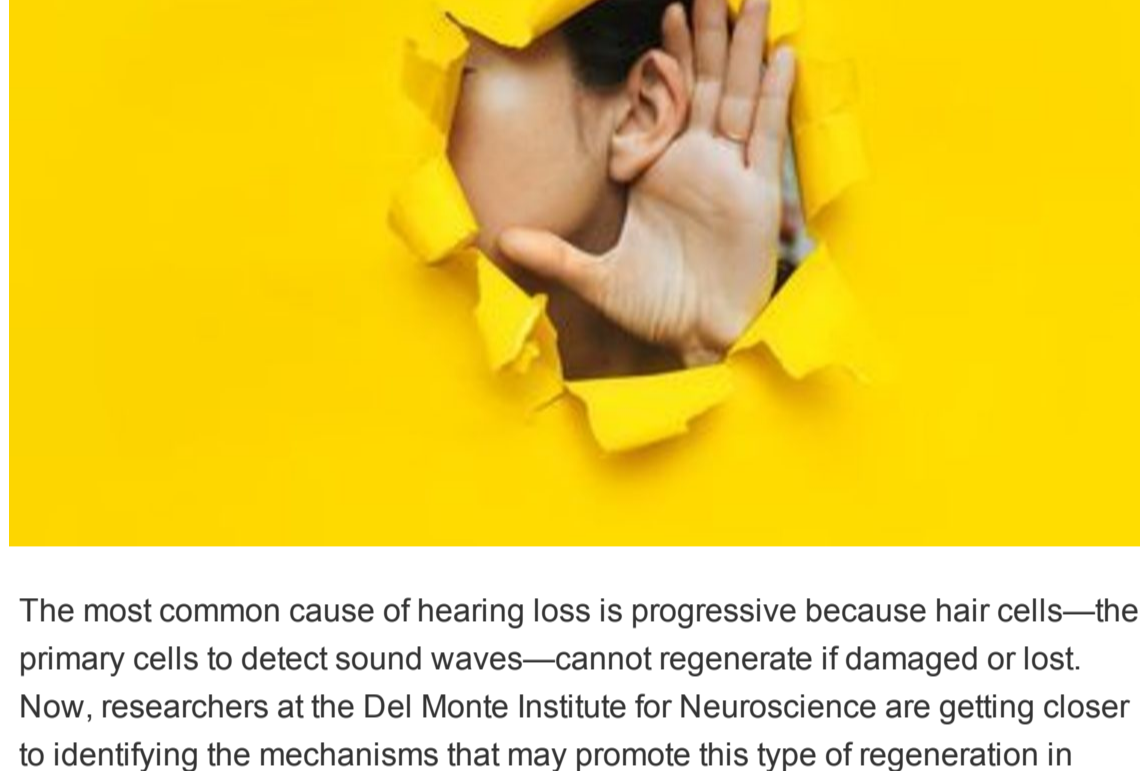
A serendipitous discovery and the choreographed dance of fragile X research



Lynne Maquat, Ph.D., founding director of the Center for RNA Biology at the University of Rochester, and professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, Oncology, and Pediatrics, did not set out to study fragile X. It was through another line of research – her seminal discovery of and decades' worth of work on nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD) – that fragile X syndrome entered her radar.

[Read about the discovery](#)

Can hearing loss be reversed?



The most common cause of hearing loss is progressive because hair cells—the primary cells to detect sound waves—cannot regenerate if damaged or lost. Now, researchers at the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience are getting closer to identifying the mechanisms that may promote this type of regeneration in mammals.

[Learn more about the research](#)

Inspire sleep



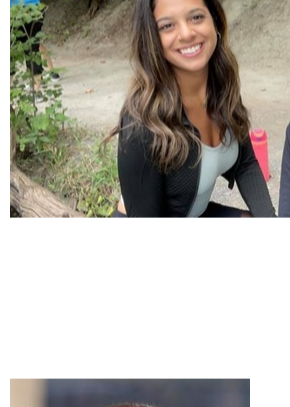
Dr. Sveta Karelsky completed her 200th Inspire implant on December 15th, 2022. Inspire Upper Airway Stimulation is the only FDA-approved implantable treatment for people with Obstructive Sleep Apnea.

[Learn more](#)

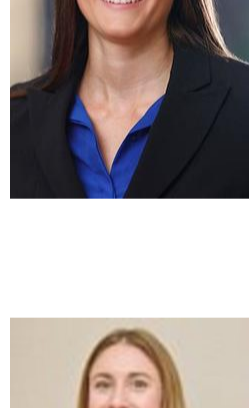
Meet our newest team members



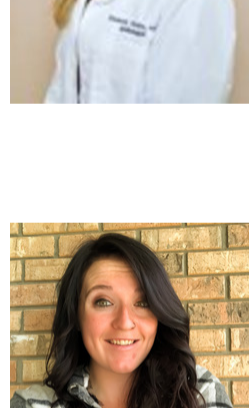
Dr. Farshad Chowdhury comes to us from the University of Alabama, where he completed a Fellowship in Head & Neck Surgical Oncology/Microvascular Reconstruction. Dr. Chowdhury will be at the Wilmot Cancer Institute in the SMH and Webster offices.



Ariana Falletti started in December 2022 and works with adult general ENT. She received her Master of Science in Nursing in August 2022 and worked in Kessler Burn/Trauma Step-down ICU. Also worked in the Wilmot Cancer Institute caring for post-operative urology, surgical oncology, ENT, and colorectal patients.



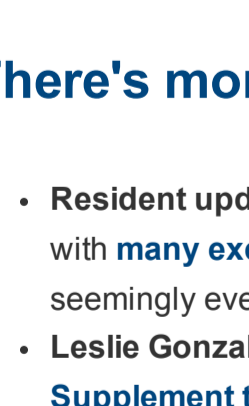
Theresa G. Foit started in February with our pediatric team. Previously, she worked at Golisano Children's Hospital Strong as a Nurse Practitioner, Division of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Surgery Lead APP. She received her Master of Science, in Family Nurse Practitioner in 2014.



Kimberly B. Holden joined URM C Audiology in 2022. She completed her Fellowship at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She works at our Clinton Woods location.



Alyssa Kalen is our new communication specialist for ENT. Her background is in Broadcast/Journalism and Communications and she previously worked at the East River Roads Pediatrics department. Her specialties are graphic design, photography, and video production.



Claire B. McIntosh re-joined URM C Audiology in 2022. She completed her fellowship at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She works at our Clinton Woods location.

There's more to tell

- **Resident updates:** The ENT department has been quite busy as of late, with **many exciting opportunities/experiences** happening seemingly every month.
- **Leslie Gonzales** in the Henry lab **has been awarded a Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research** from the National Institute on Deafness and Communication Disorders.
- **Patricia M White** and colleagues from URM C **worked on Single-cell RNA sequencing analysis** of mouse cochlear supporting cell transcriptomes with activated ERBB2 receptor indicating a cell-specific response that promotes CD44 activation.
- **Mark S Orlando** and a team of URM C faculty **examined auditory function** in a population exposed to low-level methylmercury (MeHg) exposure from fish consumption and mercury vapor (Hg0) from dental amalgams.
- **Margo K McKenna Benoit** and colleagues from Otolaryngology Johns Hopkins University (including the senior author, University of Rochester Residency Alumni Jonathan Walsh) studies **aimed to describe a novel 3-point classification system for ULT** and compare its inter-rater reliability to the Koflow and Stanford systems.
- **Timothy Doerr** and colleagues **discuss clinical scenarios for facial trauma**.
- The Sawgrass Surgery Center created a **welcoming video tour of the Pediatric Surgery facility** to help patients feel more comfortable and informed ahead of surgery.

[View more publications](#)

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You can support our mission to improve health through caring, discovery, teaching and learning. Consider a tax-deductible gift to the Department of Otolaryngology. Gifts of all amounts play a huge role in creating opportunities for our doctors, researchers and staff, and for the community to receive the best care possible. For additional information about giving, please contact Valerie Donnelly, Director, URM C Clinical Advancement at (585) 276-4978 or valerie.donnely@rochester.edu.

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