

# PROfiles

*in Head and Neck Surgery*



News from the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Head and Neck Surgery is to deliver the highest possible clinical care for patients with head and neck cancer, to lead the world in head and neck oncologic research and cancer prevention, and to educate the future leaders in the field.

## On the inside...

**Center for Global Oncology Expands Cancer Care Worldwide ... page 2**

**Head and Neck Surgery Welcomes New Faculty ... page 3**

**Upcoming Events... page 4**

### Editor

Erich M. Sturgis, MD, MPH

### Managing Editor

Mariann Crapanzano, JD, ELS

### Contributing Editor

Karen B. Gruver, MBA

### E-mail us at:

headandnecksurgery@mdanderson.org

## Chairman's Corner

In this issue of *PROfiles*, we highlight M. D. Anderson's Center for Global Oncology and the work of Eduardo M. Diaz, Jr., MD, professor of head and neck surgery and Vice President of Global Clinical Programs. The Center for Global Oncology orchestrates the development of sustainable M. D. Anderson cancer programs nationally and abroad that can positively impact the communities in which they serve by delivering quality cancer care through a proven multidisciplinary approach. Forging key alliances with select institutions is central to this mission.

The Department of Head and Neck Surgery's Section of Ophthalmology is a key player in the new Retinoblastoma Center of Houston, which boasts a collaboration of specialists from the Children's Cancer Hospital at M. D. Anderson, Texas Children's Cancer Center, The Methodist Hospital, and Baylor College of Medicine. The center brings together experts in retinoblastoma, a cancer that disproportionately affects children. Dan Gombos, MD, associate professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, is clinical co-director of the center, which will have its own tumor bank, offer state-of-the-art treatments such as proton therapy, and serve as a base for cutting-edge research.

Our Acoustic Neuroma Service continues to expand, and new-patient referrals remain strong. Neurotologist Paul W. Gidley, MD, associate professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, neurosurgeon Franco DeMonte, MD, FRCS(C), professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, and radiation oncologist Eric Chang, MD, associate professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology, offer an interdisciplinary approach to provide patients with the latest treatment options. M. D. Anderson has purchased and installed a newest-generation Gamma Knife, a stereotactic radiosurgery instrument that offers patients the

option of a one-day, noninvasive outpatient treatment for acoustic neuromas.

In April, we were pleased to welcome Arlene A. Forastiere, MD, as the 2008–2009 Helmuth Goepfert Distinguished

Visiting Professor. Dr. Forastiere, professor of oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is one of the world's preeminent head and neck medical oncologists. Her talks, entitled "The Potential for Biomarkers and Risk Stratification in Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Trials" and "Larynx Preservation: Lessons Learned and Future Directions," were well attended and well received.

We look forward to sponsoring the "3rd Current Concepts in the Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Neoplasms," in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in October 2009. I extend my thanks to Gary L. Clayman, DMD, MD, professor of head and neck surgery, for organizing the conference. We also look forward to the fourth annual "Current Concepts in Head and Neck Surgery," an event co-sponsored by M. D. Anderson, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the University of Toronto. This year's conference will take place at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Thank you to Ehab Y. Hanna, MD, professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, and to all faculty and organizers from the sponsoring institutions for this exceptional collaborative program.



Randal S. Weber, MD, Chairman

Randal S. Weber, MD  
Hubert L. and Olive Stringer Distinguished  
Professor in Cancer Research and  
Chairman, Department of Head and Neck Surgery

# Center for Global Oncology Expands Cancer Care Worldwide

**T**he mission: “Eliminate cancer in Texas, the nation, and the world.”  
The strategy: Extend the M. D.

Anderson model into communities that request our help and have a demonstrated need for cancer care. *The time:* Now. It is with this focus that The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center is partnering with select institutions in the United States and internationally to provide quality cancer care around the globe. At the core of this outreach is the Center for Global Oncology (CGO), chartered in 2007 to manage the academic, clinical, and business aspects of M. D. Anderson Cancer Center outside of the Houston campus.

Eduardo M. Diaz Jr., MD, professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, is Vice President of Global Clinical Programs at M. D. Anderson. In this position, Dr. Diaz oversees the development and operations of M. D. Anderson’s clinical programs beyond the main campus in Houston and helps ensure that each new relationship meets with our strategic initiatives and is sustainable over the long haul.

A recent agreement between M. D. Anderson and Banner Health, an established health services provider in Arizona, laid the groundwork for a new cancer program to be developed near Phoenix, bringing to that community a proven model for multidisciplinary cancer assessment and management. The new facility, officially termed an *extension* (a term signifying a multidisciplinary clinical model outside of the main campus in Houston), will be designated “M. D. Anderson Banner Cancer Center.” That cancer program will be located just outside of Phoenix, in Gilbert, Arizona, on the campus of a relatively new hospital, Banner Gateway. According to Dr. Diaz, 76 beds of that acute-care facility will be dedicated to cancer services, and a new outpatient professional building will be built. Banner will provide the facilities, and M. D. Anderson will establish the clinical services, hire personnel, and oversee operations, a level of involvement seen only with M. D. Anderson extensions.

“When we place our name on the side of the building, as is done with an extension, it

indicates we’re deeply involved in the running of the program,” said Dr. Diaz. “Each time we are approached with a proposition to develop a cancer program, we look at it from an academic standpoint, from a clinical standpoint, and from a business standpoint. Ultimately, our goal is to serve the community.”

Two extensions already in existence are M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando and M. D. Anderson International—España. The Orlando facility, the first to share the M. D. Anderson name, brought our multidisciplinary model to central Florida, and M. D. Anderson International—España provided Spain with its first multidisciplinary full-service cancer center. Both have made substantial impacts on the communities that they serve, and their well-laid foundations help to ensure their continued success. According to Dr. Diaz, the development of other extensions is also a possibility.

“Ultimately, we’d like to have three or four extensions globally, outside of the United States. Right now we’re considering opportunities in the Middle East and Latin America,” Dr. Diaz said.

M. D. Anderson has also forged collaborative research relationships with cancer centers worldwide that share our commitment to the fight against cancer. The Department of Head and Neck Surgery is particularly active with three of these institutions—dubbed *sister institutions*: Tata Memorial in Mumbai, India; Institut Gustave Roussy in Villejuif, France (outside of Paris); and A.C. Camargo in São Paulo. All are major cancer centers. And in the United States, M. D. Anderson is working through the M. D. Anderson Physicians Network, which is closely aligned with the CGO, to share with other institutions our protocols, treatment pathways, and quality controls in the treatment of patients with cancer.

Closer to home, the CGO has established satellites in collaboration with Christus Health System and with St. Luke’s Episcopal Health System to provide radiation treatment and medical oncology services in communities in the greater Houston area. Through these agreements, M. D. Anderson is able to deliver its model of first class, research-driven, multidisciplinary patient care to the communities served by St. John’s Hospital in

Nassau Bay, St. Catherine’s Hospital in Katy, St. Luke’s Sugar Land Hospital, St. Luke’s The Woodlands Hospital, Oak Bend Hospital in Fort Bend County, and at our own radiation oncology facility in Bellaire. According to Dr. Diaz, the physical space is leased from our partners, while M. D. Anderson maintains complete clinical and operational control of the programs, offering the M. D. Anderson standard to patients in an oftentimes more convenient setting.

M. D. Anderson has also partnered with Presbyterian Healthcare Services in New Mexico to provide radiation oncology services at Presbyterian Kaseman Hospital in Albuquerque. As with the other outreach programs, this radiation program offers M. D. Anderson protocols and state-of-the-art treatment to patients in that community. The radiation oncologists are M. D. Anderson physicians, and M. D. Anderson maintains control over the Albuquerque program. According to Dr. Diaz, M. D. Anderson is exploring also providing medical oncology services through that satellite.

At all of these satellite facilities, local, nonaffiliated oncologists may also present their patients at M. D. Anderson–hosted multidisciplinary treatment-planning conferences. This promotes the multidisciplinary model that has proved so successful at M. D. Anderson and hence benefits the patients.

“We found that, as soon as we opened our doors and started holding our tumor boards, oncologists from other practices started attending,” said Dr. Diaz. “The multidisciplinary model works. When physicians talk to physicians about their patients before treatment is started, the patients benefit.”

In the end, providing good cancer care is M. D. Anderson’s goal with every program that it builds.

“The patients win,” said Dr. Diaz. “And the good thing for all is that, while good business does not always make good medicine, good medicine does make good business. So if we can do that, then I think it will benefit M. D. Anderson and, most importantly, enable us to keep serving our goal of Making Cancer History®.” ■

# Department Welcomes New Faculty



Stephen Y. Lai, MD, PhD

In August 2008, we welcomed Stephen Y. Lai, MD, PhD, to our faculty. Dr. Lai is an assistant professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery with a dual appointment in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncology. After graduating from Stanford University in Stanford, California, Dr. Lai earned his MD and PhD from the University of California, San Francisco. He then completed an internship in surgery and a residency in otorhinolaryngology-head and neck surgery, both at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Lai completed a fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he practiced until joining our faculty in August.

Dr. Lai is a board-certified head and neck surgeon. His clinical interests include oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma, salivary gland neoplasms, thyroid and parathyroid diseases, and conservation laryngeal surgery. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Lai maintains an active laboratory program, with interests in microenvironment influences on head and neck cancer invasion and metastasis, focusing on hypoxia and hypoxia-inducible factor 1 (HIF-1), and erythropoietin. His laboratory also examines microRNA regulation of head and neck cancer disease progression and targeted therapies for thyroid cancer.

Dr. Lai has received research awards from the American College of Surgeons, American Head and Neck Society, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, the Thyroid Head and Neck Cancer Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health. He was recognized in *Best Doctors in America 2007-2008* and is currently funded with a National Institutes of Health K08 grant and a grant from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI).

## Fellows Profiles

In 2008-2009, eleven fellows participated in the several fellowships offered by the Department of Head and Neck Surgery. We have enjoyed a successful year and have all benefited from their contributions to the department. While some of them will remain at M. D. Anderson to complete their fellowship training, others will apply their knowledge and skills to serve communities elsewhere.

Mauricio A. Moreno, MD, completed the Fellowship Program in Surgical Endocrinology, after having previously completed the Combined Surgical Oncology and Microvascular Surgery Fellowship, a two-year program offered jointly by the Department of Head and Neck Surgery and the Department of Plastic Surgery. He will join the faculty of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Chad Galer, MD, completed the three-year Fellowship Program in Advanced Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and has accepted a position as assistant

professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Indiana. Yitzchak "Etan" Weinstock, MD, completed the one-year Fellowship Program in Advanced Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

Genevieve A. Andrews, MD, and Carol M. Lewis, MD, MPH, will remain at M. D. Anderson to complete the second year of the Fellowship Program in Advanced Head and Neck Surgical Oncology. Dr. Andrews will continue her laboratory research in a National Cancer Institute T32-funded research position, and Dr. Lewis will proceed with clinical work. Zvonimir Milas, MD, will continue his training in the Combined Surgical Oncology and Microvascular Surgery Fellowship in the Department of Plastic Surgery at M. D. Anderson, focusing on microvascular reconstructive surgery.

Roman Shinder, MD, and Aaron Savar, MD, will remain in the department to complete the second

year of the Fellowship in Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Avinash S. Bidra, BDS, MDentSc, Elizabeth Feldman, MS, DMD, MS, and Sujei Rodriguez-Lozano, DDS, have completed the Advanced Education/Fellowship Program in Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Oncologic Dentistry. Dr. Bidra will join the faculty of the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio School of Dentistry as an assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics. Dr. Feldman has accepted a position as a maxillofacial prosthodontist / dental oncologist at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando. Dr. Rodriguez-Lozano has accepted a position as an instructor in the Department of Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston.

We extend our best wishes to all for a successful 2009-2010 and wish them all well in their careers.

## Hats Off...

Dan Gombos, MD, has been appointed clinical co-director of the new Retinoblastoma Center of Houston. In this capacity, Dr. Gombos is part of a team of clinical experts and researchers in a multi-institutional collaboration that is the nation's first to use gene therapy in clinical trials for retinoblastoma, a rare cancer of the eye that largely affects children.

...

Ehab Y. Hanna, MD, was recently elected Treasurer of the North American Skull Base Society. It is the mission of the NASBS to disseminate to health care professionals throughout the world information about diseases of the skull base and about treatment for these diseases.

...

Jade S. Schiffman, MD, was recognized for the 15th consecutive year in *Best Doctors in America*. She was also named in regional Castle Connolly's Top Doctors, Texas Super Doctors 2008, and Houston area Top Doctors. She also received the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award and was nominated for the 5th Annual Robert M. Chamberlain Distinguished Mentor Award.

...

Erich M. Sturgis, MD, MPH, received the Honor Award in September 2008 from the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. In April 2009, he was elected to serve as the American Radium Society Representative to the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer 2008-2011. Dr. Sturgis was also recently appointed as Associate Editor for *Head & Neck, Journal for the Sciences and Specialties of the Head and Neck*.

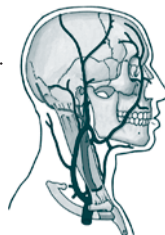
## Calendar of Events

**October 21–24, 2009**

3rd Current Concepts in the Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Neoplasms. Santa Fe, New Mexico. For additional information, contact CME/Conference Management at 713-792-2223 or toll free at 866-849-5866. Online registration is available at [www.mdanderson.org/conferences](http://www.mdanderson.org/conferences)

**November 14–15, 2009**

Current Concepts in Head and Neck Surgery 2009. Co-sponsored by M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the University of Toronto. Location: Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York. For more information and online registration, go to <http://www.mskcc.org/headandneckcme>.



### Visiting Fellowship Program Head and Neck Surgery

A Four-day Intensive Study of the Multidisciplinary Management of Patients with Head and Neck Cancer

Directors: Randal S. Weber, MD, Ehab Y. Hanna, MD,  
Erich M. Sturgis, MD, MPH

Designed for the practicing surgeon with a significant interest in neoplasms of the head and neck

For scheduling and other information, contact Mariann Crapanzano.  
Phone: 713-792-6920; Email: [mcrapanz@mdanderson.org](mailto:mcrapanz@mdanderson.org)

# How to Help

Our head and neck surgery team continuously strives to improve treatment and outcomes for our patients. If you are interested in supporting our research efforts through a donation, visit our website at [www.mdanderson.org/Departments/headandneck](http://www.mdanderson.org/Departments/headandneck), and click on How to Help, or contact the Development Office at 713-792-3450 or 800-525-5841.

## M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Department of Head and Neck Surgery Staff and Areas of Interest

**Randal S. Weber, MD, *Chairman***  
Skin cancer, salivary gland tumors,  
thyroid, parathyroid

**Carlos Caulin, PhD**  
Molecular mechanisms of and genetic  
alterations in head and neck cancer

**Mark S. Chambers, DMD, MS**  
Xerostomia, osteoradionecrosis, mucositis

**Gary L. Clayman, DMD, MD**  
Thyroid, parathyroid

**Eduardo M. Diaz, Jr, MD**  
Larynx, salivary gland, thyroid, skin and  
melanoma

**Bitá Esmaeli, MD**  
Ocular adnexa, orbital and eyelid tumors,  
oculoplastic surgery

**Mitchell J. Frederick, PhD**  
Angiogenesis, chemotaxis, transcription  
factors, proteinase inhibitors

**Paul W. Gidley, MD**  
Ear, temporal bone, lateral and posterior  
fossa

**Ann M. Gillenwater, MD**  
Oral cavity, thyroid, salivary gland, skin

**Dan Gombos, MD**  
Ocular oncology

**F. Christopher Holsinger, MD**  
Larynx, tonsil, thyroid cancer, salivary gland

**Ehab Y. Hanna, MD**  
Skull base, orbit, thyroid, salivary glands

**Amy C. Hessel, MD**  
Oral cavity, larynx, pharynx, salivary  
gland, thyroid

**Rhonda F. Jacob, DDS, MS**  
Oral/craniofacial rehabilitation and  
endosteal implants

**Stella K. Kim, MD**  
Conjunctival malignancies, lymphoma,  
ocular GVHD, cataracts

**Michael E. Kupferman, MD**  
Skull base, thyroid, skin, salivary gland

**Jan S. Lewin, PhD**  
Voice and swallowing rehabilitation/  
restoration

**Stephen Y. Lai, MD, PhD**  
Salivary gland, larynx, thyroid/  
parathyroid, oral cavity

**Guojun Li, MD, PhD, MSc**  
Molecular and clinical epidemiology,  
chemoprevention

**Jack W. Martin, DDS, MS**  
Oral rehabilitation/restoration, oral  
pre-malignant lesions

**Jeffrey N. Myers, MD, PhD**  
Oral cavity, melanoma

**Jade S. Schiffman, MD**  
Eye, nervous system

**Erich M. Sturgis, MD, MPH**  
Head and neck sarcomas

**Béla B. Toth, MS, DDS**  
Polymicrobial oral infection, effects  
of cancer therapy, chemoprevention,  
mucositis, osteonecrosis of jaws

**Xiangwei Wu, PhD**  
p53, NF-kappa B

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON  
CANCER CENTER

Department of Head and Neck Surgery  
1515 Holcombe Boulevard — Unit 1445  
Houston, TX 77030

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 713-792-6920 • Fax: 713-794-4662  
[www.mdanderson.org/Departments/headandneck](http://www.mdanderson.org/Departments/headandneck)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HOUSTON, TX  
PERMIT NO. 7052