New robotic surgery option for throat cancer patients

Richard Wray had quite a predicament when he learned he had cancer. The treatments his doctors recommended seemed as bad as the disease and didn’t offer much hope of a cure. Fortunately, a new surgical technique available at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics provided the best way forward for him.

Wray’s journey with cancer began when he discovered a lump in his neck. An ear, nose, and throat specialist removed and tested lymph nodes in Wray’s neck, revealing the presence of cancer but not its source. Other doctors had the same problem—an inability to pinpoint the tiny site of his cancer, even with PET scanning. Recommendations of chemotherapy and radiation therapy targeting the entire head and neck left Wray uneasy. His medical

“Robotic surgery” continues on page 2

See how robot-assisted surgery is impacting the training of future ENT specialists — page 8

IN THIS ISSUE:

Patient Care & Clinical Updates  page 2
Research News & Awards  page 6
Resident & Education News  page 8
Philanthropy Impact  page 9
Faculty & Staff News  page 10
Events & Activities  page 11
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“I’d recommend to anybody to go to the University of Iowa,” Wray said. “It wasn’t just Dr. Bayon, it was the whole staff.”

Learn more and view Richard Wray’s story online at http://medcom.uiowa.edu/health/new-robotic-surgery-option-for-some-throat-cancer-patients/

TORs is used to treat cancers of the neck and throat, as well as some cancers associated with human papillomavirus.

Upcoming observances

April 16 — World Voice Day: www.entnet.org/HealthInformation/worldVoiceDay.cfm

April 21–27 — Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week: www.entnet.org/AboutUs/oralHeadNeckCancer.cfm

May — Better Hearing & Speech Month: www.entnet.org/AboutUs/betterHearingSpeechMonth.cfm

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Pediatric patients selected as Hawkeye “Kid Captains”

Thirteen current and former University of Iowa Children’s Hospital patients received special recognition from the Iowa Hawkeyes serving as a 2012 Kid Captain. Included were Chaz Renken and Cian Bonnett who both received care from specialists in the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery.

Chaz Renken
Chaz was born with his umbilical cord wrapped around part of his head. When doctors removed the cord, they discovered he had a facial cleft that split the left side of his face, leaving an opening where his cheek should have been. The Renken family was first referred to UI Children’s Hospital when Chaz was 10 days old and his first surgery came at six months old when surgeons closed the opening in his cheek. He later had a tracheostomy to help him breathe while sleeping. Several additional surgeries have been performed to repair the cleft leading to final reconstructive repair.

Chaz doesn’t consider himself different from his friends and they don’t treat him differently than anyone else. His mother, Candy, says, “We don’t see a disability, only his countless abilities. He’s been given extra challenges in life, but has the added strength, courage, and character to overcome them successfully.”

Cian Bonnett
At just 8 days old, Cian was referred to the UI Children’s Hospital where he underwent surgery to remove tissue that seemed to be blocking his airway. Breathing problems persisted and Cian was later diagnosed with subglottic stenosis, the narrowing of the airway below the vocal cords caused by cartilage that hasn’t formed properly during prenatal development. Pediatric otolaryngologists have performed several surgeries to help his breathing and continue to monitor him as he grows.

Cian lives with hearing loss, developmental disabilities, and other health issues, but he approaches each day with boundless energy and a bright outlook. “We owe our son’s life to them,” his mother, Jodi says of Cian’s care team. “If not for the medical staff, we wouldn’t have a little boy to hug and kiss goodnight.”

The four-year-old Kid Captain program is a partnership between UI Children’s Hospital and the Iowa Hawkeye football team to honor patients and celebrate their inspirational stories. The 2012 Kid Captains were selected from a field of 403 nominations.

Meet our Kid Captains and view their stories at www.uichildrens.org/kidcaptain/
Treatment and services are available for:
- Otolaryngology (General)
- Otolaryngology (Pediatric)
- Acoustic Neuroma
- Balance Disorders
- Cleft Palate (Pediatric)
- Cochlear Implants
- Diagnostic Audiology
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Hearing Aids
- Nasal and Sinus Conditions
- Otology/Neurotology
- Plastic Surgery and Cosmetic Services - Facial
- Skull Base Surgery
- Speech and Swallowing
- Tinnitus

Contact Us
Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
200 Hawkins Drive, 21201 PFP
Iowa City, IA 52242

Department general information:
319-356-3574
iowaoto@uiowa.edu
www.uihealthcare.org/oto

Appointment scheduling: 319-356-2201

UI Health Access for the general public: 800-777-8442

UI Consult for referring providers: 800-332-8442

For complete information on continuing education opportunities, visit www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/cme/

Department events, news and information may be found at www.medicine.uiowa.edu/oto/

UI CareLink a tool for referring providers

Referring providers now have secure online access to the most up-to-date medical records for patients referred to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). UI CareLink provides 24-hour remote access to view medical records, including procedure notes, surgery reports, clinic notes, medications, and lab results.

You can download and print patient records related to your referral and/or import patient records into your electronic medical record. You are also able to upload your patient records and information directly to UIHC via UI CareLink.

For further information, contact the Office of Physician Relations at 319-384-6103 or visit https://uicarelink.uihealthcare.org/link/common/epic_login.asp
Doctors and researchers from the UI Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and several other departments of the UI Children’s Hospital have combined their expertise to focus on providing world-class care for children with vascular anomalies.

The Iowa Pediatric Vascular Anomalies Center provides comprehensive diagnosis, treatment, and support services for all types of vascular anomalies. Medical, surgical, reconstructive, radiologic diagnostic and radiologic interventional therapies are available, as well as support services that include physical, speech, audiologic, nutritional, and occupational therapy.

Specialists within the center also pursue collaborative research centered on innovative treatments that advance patient care. No other facility in the state offers the same expertise or breadth and depth of specialization for children with vascular anomalies.

Vascular anomalies include vascular tumors such as infantile hemangiomas, which are the most common tumor of infancy seen in 5–10 percent of infants. Also included are lymphatic malformations, or lesions, which occur in about two or three children per 100,000 hospital admissions.

To refer a patient or for more information, contact vascularanomalies@uiowa.edu or Jodi Klein at 319-356-2177.
Advancing knowledge of the human genome:

Iowa Institute of Human Genetics
The era of personalized medicine is upon us. Exponential growth in human genetics research is driving the ever-increasing application of genetics in day-to-day medical practice. New DNA sequencing technologies are making it easier to know more about your entire genetic blueprint and your genetic risks for medical problems.

The University of Iowa recognizes these trends and recently created the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics (IIHG) as a statewide resource to promote clinical care, research, and education that focuses on the medical and scientific advances around the human genome. The IIHG also serves as a resource for outreach about issues related to understanding the extent and meaning of human DNA sequence variation.

Director of the IIHG and professor of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery, Richard Smith, MD, says the Institute builds on existing university-wide strengths in human genetics, including translational genetic research that is ongoing in many colleges, divisions, and departments across the UI campus.

Advances in genomic medicine, coupled with those in computational biology and informatics, are pushing personalized medicine to the mainstream. The IIHG seeks to advance these findings by expanding the area of human genetics as applied to personalized medicine by integrating genome-driven advances with large-scale analytic platforms, computational biology, and informatics.

The Institute will play an integral part in the “Live Healthy” initiatives for Iowans by facilitating the implementation of personalized genomic medicine as a component of the high quality of clinical care the University of Iowa provides to all Iowans.

To learn more about the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics, visit www.medicine.uiowa.edu/humangenetics/

Understanding DNA sequencing: the next generation

The Iowa Institute of Human Genetics (IIHG) is engaged in education at multiple levels from community research to continuing training for health care providers, molecular scientists and geneticists.

Among the IIHG’s educational activities is a Bioinformatics Short Course which focuses on the most popular next-generation sequencing platforms—the Illumina HiSeq and MiSeq systems. A series of lectures introduces basic concepts interwoven with practical examples of data generation and analysis. Hands-on sessions enable participants to analyze data from its generation to interpretation. After completing the course, participants understand the design of a next generation sequencing experiment and the workflow to achieve a particular result.

UI team a finalist in international genetics challenge

A University of Iowa team of more than 30 researchers from five different colleges has been named and awarded $5,000 in a competition involving the sequencing of DNA.

The CLARITY Challenge, which was organized by Boston Children’s Hospital, challenged international research teams to provide the best interpretation and communication of DNA sequencing results for three children with rare, undiagnosed genetic diseases. The first-of-its-kind contest produced approaches that contest organizers hope will become best practices in genome analysis, interpretation and reporting.

“As the cost of genome sequencing drops and its availability rises, patients are more likely to make use of this technology to learn how their genes affect their health,” says Richard Smith, MD, director of the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics. “But a huge challenge is how to help physicians and patients interpret the genetic data in ways that will improve patient care and protect patient privacy. This competition generated some really sound, innovative ways to use genomic sequencing in patient care safely, responsibly, and in a meaningful way.”

Read more about the Challenge and the UI team’s approach at: http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/humangenetics/clarity_results/
Robot-assisted surgery impacting training of future physicians

Robotic surgery offers numerous benefits associated with minimally invasive surgery. For patients, it means less tissue damage than with traditional surgery and faster recovery times with less pain. This also means that physicians receive the proper surgical training experience.

The Robotics Training Laboratory in the UI Carver College of Medicine now includes the daVinci® Si Surgical System. The system provides surgeons with a three-dimensional view of the operating area, magnified up to 12 times. Sitting at a console away from the patient, the surgeon uses joystick-like controls to manipulate tiny surgical instruments that are used in hard-to-reach areas and turned in ways that would be impossible with normal wrist dexterity. The system also comes equipped with a simulation program that teaches surgeons how to perform a variety of tasks and procedures in a virtual environment.

Otolaryngology resident physicians at the University of Iowa soon will receive dedicated robotics training, allowing them to develop and refine their surgical skills in a realistic environment. Dr. Rodrigo Bayon is working with colleagues in otolaryngology, cardiothoracic surgery, urology, gynecology, and other departments to enhance the education curriculum that residents receive while at Iowa. Bayon and other educators are incorporating more robotics training into current residency curricula. This includes planned lectures about the anatomy of robotic surgery and simulation use in TORS procedures, as well as on-line modules that residents and fellows can pursue at their convenience.

“Robotic surgery has only just begun to impact the field of otolaryngology. As the technology improves, robotic surgery is likely to become an important part of our specialty. Exposure to surgical robotics during training will allow our residents to more easily integrate this technology into their future practice,” says Dr. Bayon.

For information about TORS and robot-assisted surgery simulation, contact Dr. Bayon at rodrigo-bayon@uiowa.edu

Seeking opportunities for continuing education?

46th Head and Neck Cancer and Reconstructive Surgery Course
June 3–8

This year’s course features an exciting agenda of speakers from the UI departments of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, Radiology, Radiation Oncology, Dermatology, and Internal Medicine, as well as guest speakers from other leading institutions.

Course topics include contemporary management of oral cavity, salivary, sinonasal, skull base, laryngeal and pharyngeal cancers, as well as head and neck melanoma. Robotic and endoscopic surgical techniques and primary chemoradiation treatments will be presented. Surgical prossections will include all major head and neck ablative procedures, local, pedicled and free tissue transfer procedures. Participants will also be offered personal didactic sessions during the hands-on laboratory sessions.

For information, visit www.medicine.uiowa.edu/oto/headandneckcourse/

21st Annual Tinnitus Conference on Management of the Tinnitus Patient
June 14–15

Regarded as the oldest continually running course focused on the condition of tinnitus, this course brings together leading experts in the fields of hearing research and sound therapy. Last year’s conference drew over 100 participants from across the world and this year’s should do the same.

For details, visit http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/otorlaryngology/tinnituscourse/

Or, contact Richard Tyler, PhD, at 319-356-2201 or rich-tyler@uiowa.edu
Endowments help support all aspects of department’s mission

Philanthropy helps fund research, training and patient care innovations and also provides unrestricted resources that can be used when and where the need is the greatest. The UI Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery is pleased to have several endowed positions and funds that acknowledge excellence in teaching, research and clinical care.

Endowed positions with active faculty holders include the Brian F. McCabe Distinguished Chair in Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery (Bruce J. Gantz, MD), the Sterba Hearing Research Professorship (Richard J. H. Smith, MD), and the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Head and Neck Cancer Professorship (Gerry Funk, MD). The Marvin and Rose Lee Pomerantz Professorship in Otolaryngology has also been established to help support research and clinical care efforts. Funds exist for research involving cleft lip palate, cochlear implant, lymphangioma, tinnitus, speech and swallowing, and several other areas.

New legislation provides tax benefits for donations

On January 2, Congress enacted the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Among the provisions in this piece of legislation is the option for taxpayers to make tax-free contributions directly from their IRAs to charity. This new legislation is in place for all of 2013 and is also retroactive to January 1, 2012.

If you are interested in learning more about how to make tax-free lifetime gifts from your IRA or other planned giving options in support of the UI Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, please visit www.uifoundation.org. Near the top center of the page, click on “Ways to Give”, then “Planned Giving”; or contact Susan Hagan, Executive Director-Planned Giving, University of Iowa Foundation, at 319-335-3305 or susan-hagan@uiowa.edu

Meet the new development officer

Sean Matthys recently joined the University of Iowa Foundation as assistant director of development. He joins us from a development position at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Boston, Mass.

The move represents a homecoming of sorts. Born and raised in Eldridge, Iowa just north of Davenport, Sean received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Northern Iowa. “I am excited and honored to have joined such an esteemed medical team in the otolaryngology department. I am also eager to begin raising financial support for this department that continues to be recognized as one of the best in the nation for their training of the next wave of otolaryngologists, groundbreaking research and compassionate patient care,” states Sean.

The University of Iowa Foundation

The UI acknowledges the UI Foundation as the preferred channel for private contributions that benefit all areas of the university. For more information or to make a donation in support of the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, visit the UI Foundation’s secure website at www.givetoiowa.org/oto

“The generosity of our faculty, alumni, colleagues, and patients continues to be essential in creating opportunities for faculty to pursue promising lines of research and advanced teaching methods, as well as enhance the quality of patient care we are able to provide.”

Bruce Gantz, MD

Additionally, there are resident awards and travel funds made possible through the generosity of former trainees and grateful patients.

To learn more about how endowment funds support our mission and advance our efforts against ear, nose and throat disease, visit www.givetoiowa.org/oto

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Excellence in workplace award goes to Van Daele

Douglas Van Daele, MD, associate professor of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery, received the 2012 University of Iowa Physicians Clinical Award—“Excellence in Our Workplace Award” for his leadership and innovation in improving the delivery of patient care and practice life of health care providers.

As chief medical information officer for UI Health Care, Dr. Van Daele has been key to the multi-year implementation of Epic, the electronic medical record platform at UI Hospitals and Clinics. Physicians and clinical staff, information technology specialists, and administrators have lauded his perseverance to ensure that colleagues have the tools, resources, and training to transition to the new system.

“We have a lot of people here at University of Iowa Health Care who work really hard every day and show their excellence in their work every day. To be singled out is tremendous,” states Dr. Van Daele.

Learn more about all the awardees at https://www.uihealthcare.org/Newsarticle.aspx?id=235744

Manaligod receives medical education award

Each year the UI Carver College of Medicine hosts the Medical Education Celebration Day, which recognizes faculty members nominated by each academic department who play a key role in medical education. Faculty recognized at this event have significantly contributed to medical student education or gone above and beyond the requirements of his or her job over the past year. The 2012 awardees included Jose M. Manaligod, MD, associate professor of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery.

Top ENT Doctors

Several UI specialists were recognized as U.S. News “Top Doctors” in 2012–13. The highly selective list represents those doctors who achieve national recognition for their outstanding work. Based on a peer nomination process, the list is produced in conjunction with Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.

Gerry Funk, MD  Oncology, Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery, Reconstructive Microsurgery

Bruce Gantz, MD  Neurotology

Henry Hoffman, MD  Oncology, Laryngology  Also selected for “America’s Top Doctors” for Cancer” by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.

Jose Manaligod, MD  Pediatric Otolaryngology

Richard Smith, MD  Pediatric Otolaryngology, Nephrology

Research into therapies for cystic fibrosis and sinusitis underway

Eugene Chang, MD, assistant professor of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery, received an NIH-funded K08 award for his research on a novel animal model investigating therapies for cystic fibrosis and chronic sinusitis. He and his colleagues are looking at airway changes in obstructive sleep apnea using a computational flow dynamics model. During the past year Dr. Chang has published three papers detailing the electrophysiology of sinus epithelia in chronic sinus disease as well as topical gene therapy vectors to correct this defect. He presented his research at the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery annual meeting and the Triological Society Combined Sections meeting this past January.

Image depicts 3-dimensional morphology of normal porcine sinus/skull (A), normal porcine sinus (B), and hypoplastic CF porcine sinus (C).
Mini Medical School program examines personal genetics

The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine hosted a community education event in Iowa City focused on the promise and questions regarding personal genetics.

Richard Smith, MD, director of Iowa Institute of Human Genetics and professor of otolaryngology, joined colleagues from the University of Iowa College of Nursing to discuss the research that will shape the future of personalized medicine and how that might change the care patients receive.

Video of the program and helpful handouts about genomics may be found at http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/minimedicalschool/past.html

AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting

The Iowa Alumni Reception at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. was a hit! “Thank you to all our alumni and friends who attended the Iowa reception last fall. We had a wonderful time catching up with colleagues and look forward to gathering this year in Vancouver!” — Bruce J. Gantz, MD, Professor and Head, Brian F. McCabe Distinguished Chair in Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. Details about 2013 Iowa Alumni Reception will be shared as soon as they are available.

Tell us your story

Sharing your story can make a difference in the work we do. Help inform others about the compassionate patient care we provide. Your story can inspire others to support innovative research and care with a charitable gift.

Contact us at iowaoto@uiowa.edu

ALUMNICORNER

Bruce Haughey, MBChB ('84 F), received a Thesis Award - Honorable Mention Award at the 2012 Triological Society Annual meeting

Receive a special award or changed contact information lately? Let us know so we can share the news and keep in touch. Send us an email with details at iowaoto@uiowa.edu

LOUD & CLEAR is published periodically for alumni, colleagues, and friends of the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery at The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine.

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If you are interested in receiving future editions of this publication electronically or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email specifying your desire to iowaoto@uiowa.edu
LOUD&CLEAR EVENTS

Mark your calendars

May 17–18 21st Endoscopic Sinus Course, Iowa City
June 3–8 46th Head and Neck Cancer and Reconstructive Surgery Course, Iowa City
June 7–8 UI Carver College of Medicine Alumni Reunion (Classes of ‘43, ‘48, ‘53, ‘58, ‘63, ‘68, and ‘73), Iowa City
June 14–15 21st Annual Tinnitus Conference, Iowa City
June 22 Research Day and Graduation, Iowa City
July 1–Aug 2 Iowa Basic Science Course, Iowa City
October 3–5 UI Homecoming Reunion Weekend (Classes of ‘78, ‘83, ‘88, ‘93, and ‘03), Iowa City

Future Dates
Aug. 23–29, 2014 Continuing Education Meeting, Homer and Seldovia, Alaska

Join us in Vancouver
The AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting and Iowa Alumni Reception
Vancouver, British Columbia
September 29–October 2, 2013

For reception information, contact iowaoto@uiowa.edu