WELCOME!

We know that you are interested in the latest treatments for your patients, and are eager to find new resources and options for them. This newsletter updates you on the innovative procedures and unique care available right here in Chicago. Our surgeons are doing amazing things, and we want you to see how we can work together to benefit your patients.

It’s easy to refer a patient — please see the back panel.
In this issue of Chicago Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery ACCESS, I’m thrilled to announce the addition of Nishant Agrawal, MD, as professor of surgery and surgical director of the head and neck cancer program at the University of Chicago Medicine.

Dr. Agrawal is a highly acclaimed surgical oncologist specializing in head and neck cancer. His reputation as a gifted surgeon is strengthened by his extensive scholarly achievements in the study of head and neck cancers and tumors. His clinical and academic endeavors make him an excellent fit for our institution, where we are always looking for better, safer and more efficient ways to treat our sickest patients.

I welcome you to read more about Dr. Agrawal and the head and neck cancer program in this newsletter. As the Section chief, I would like to iterate our faculty’s deep commitment to our physician colleagues: to work together closely and communicate frequently to achieve the best possible outcomes for patients.

If you have a question about any one of our clinical programs or would like to speak directly to a faculty member about a particular patient, please reach out to us by phone or email. We eagerly look forward to working with you in the care of your patients.

The Section of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery offers a wide range of clinical programs. To learn about any of these services, please don’t hesitate to contact us at 773.702.1865.

- Allergy
- Audiology
- Chronic Nasal & Sinus Disorders
- Ear & Hearing Disorders
- Head & Neck Cancers
- Minimally Invasive ENT Surgery
- Pediatric Otolaryngology
- The Center for Speech & Swallowing Disorders
- Vocal Cord Disorders
- The Voice Center
Renowned Head and Neck Surgical Oncologist Joins UChicago Medicine

The University of Chicago Medicine is pleased to announce the addition of Nishant Agrawal, MD, as a professor of surgery in the Section of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.

Dr. Agrawal, a renowned surgeon subspecializing in the surgical treatment of benign and malignant head and neck tumors, will oversee the institution’s head and neck surgical oncology program.

He is deeply experienced in the surgical treatment of a wide range of complex and challenging diseases, including upper aero-digestive tract tumors, salivary gland tumors and cancers, thyroid disorders and cancers, and cutaneous malignancies of the head and neck.

Bolstering his strong reputation as a surgical oncologist is Dr. Agrawal’s commitment to academic medicine.

Early in his career, Dr. Agrawal spearheaded scholarly efforts that eventually led to the publication of a landmark study that shed light on genetic alterations in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Subsequent studies elucidated the application of tumor DNA as a biomarker in saliva and plasma of patients with head and neck cancer.

Dr. Agrawal’s dedication to excellent cancer care and scholarship in medicine make him a perfect fit for the University of Chicago Medicine, where faculty are entrusted to uphold the institution’s pursuit of rigorous inquiry and discovery.

“I am committed to providing the best patient care and truly know that the experienced multidisciplinary team at the University of Chicago Medicine is also dedicated to the care of our patients,” Dr. Agrawal says. “It is only through the strength and courage of our patients that we can further our mission of research and teaching.”

Dr. Agrawal began his career at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he completed his medical education, as well as his surgical residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery and a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular genetics.

Following his residency training, Dr. Agrawal underwent further fellowship training in head and neck surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. He joins us from Johns Hopkins Medicine where he served on faculty in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.
UChicago Medicine: At the Forefront of Head and Neck Cancer

One of our institution’s crowning achievements is its innovative and pioneering approach to cancer care. The University of Chicago Medicine mission — to integrate high-quality healthcare with agenda-setting research and medical education — is especially pertinent in our head and neck cancer program.

Why the University of Chicago Medicine?

The University of Chicago Medicine’s head and neck cancer team combines the expertise and insights of subspecialists across the continuum of care, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, head and neck surgical oncologists and reconstructive surgeons.

Such an approach ensures patients can have peace of mind knowing that every aspect of their disease is carefully considered, from the initial diagnosis and staging to the development of a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary treatment plan. Our experts are prepared to treat all types of benign and malignant head and neck tumors.

Our team offers the full range of diagnostic and treatment options, including:

- Combined radiation and chemotherapy designed to locally treat challenging head and neck tumors while preserving the critical function of nearby organs, including speech and swallowing
- Groundbreaking immunotherapies to enhance the body’s ability to fight the spread of cancer
- State-of-the-art diagnostic procedures
- Cutting-edge surgical options, such as laser surgery, robotic surgery and skull base surgery
- Salvage surgery for persistent/recurrent cancers or revision surgery

Support Beyond the Point of Care

Many cancer patients can suffer secondary emotional trauma, even after surviving cancer, resulting from cosmetic or functional impairment. For this reason, surgical oncology and reconstructive surgery provide combined management approaches to maximize form and function.

“We are entirely committed to the care of our patients. We will provide world-class, patient-centered care that will ensure timely evaluation, discussion at a multidisciplinary tumor board and personalized treatment.”

— NISHANT AGRAWAL, MD

Beyond surgery, cancer patients also benefit from further support and rehabilitation provided by a team of professionals including nutritionists, speech and swallowing therapists and physical/occupational therapists. These professionals are equipped to help patients gain control of conditions that may result from surgery, including difficulty with swallowing or speech. A head and neck cancer support group for survivors is also available at the University of Chicago Medicine.

Through these endeavors, our physicians and healthcare professionals are committed to bringing forth the best quality healthcare so patients expect to thrive — not just survive — in life after cancer.

“We are entirely committed to the care of our patients,” Dr. Agrawal says. “We will provide world-class, patient-centered care that will
Amanda Ruiz was 18 weeks pregnant when she learned she had head and neck cancer. Otolaryngologist Louis de Guzman Portugal, MD, and medical oncologist Jonas de Souza, MD, were part of the multidisciplinary team that helped her survive cancer and deliver a healthy baby girl. To read her story, visit uchospitals.edu.

ensure timely evaluation, discussion at a multidisciplinary tumor board and personalized treatment. And as a partner in their patients’ care, we will keep our referring physicians informed of their patients’ progress in a timely manner.”

**Cancer Research: A Goal Toward Better Care**

Additionally, our renowned experts are also investigators in ground-breaking research and national clinical trials. These efforts explore the potential safety and efficacy of emerging treatment methods that may become the new standard of care for complex head and neck cancers. In many cases, these clinical trials are not available at nearby institutions.

We believe academic medicine is what sets our institution apart, as our clinicians and scientists work tirelessly toward a deeper understanding of challenging diseases and pioneer better healthcare options for patients.

The University of Chicago Medicine’s head and neck cancer team combines the expertise and insights of subspecialists across the continuum of care, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, head and neck surgical oncologists and reconstructive surgeons.
Ask Us More Questions!
We’re here to talk, and to listen.
Please call 773.702.1865.

Patient Referrals as Easy as 1-2-3!

1. Please have your patient’s name and information ready
2. Call 773.702.1865
3. One of our patient coordinators can provide a referral to a University of Chicago Medicine surgeon and set up an appointment

OR If you request, we’ll call your patient to discuss appointment times with him/her.