

THANC Foundation Research Associates

Research Associates for the THANC Foundation must hold a bachelors degree and typically have a strong interest in pursuing a career in medicine. Working alongside physicians and PhDs, Research Associates run clinical studies, coordinate projects, and write manuscripts for publication. They also spend one day per week in the operating room with Dr. Urken observing head and neck surgical cases in order to understand operating room procedures and the course of treatment. Additionally, Research Associates will collect data in the operating room to advance ongoing research initiatives and they have the opportunity to attend multidisciplinary head and neck tumor board meetings and interact with clinicians of various specialties involved in the care of head and neck cancer patients.

History of the Program

The Research Associate program began in June of 2011 as a means to carry out the education aspect of the Foundation's mission. From the start, the associates who joined our team left a lasting impression. With their fresh perspective and enthusiasm, they have profoundly enhanced our initiatives. Successful applicants of this program have demonstrated their ability to flourish in a team environment.



A research associate observing a surgical case in the operating room.

Research



Research Associates work with an interdisciplinary team of doctors to write and publish scientific papers and posters. THANC Research Associates have presented their work at a variety of head & neck and thyroid related conferences and have submitted manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, including Laryngoscope, Thyroid, and Archives of Otolaryngology. They also independently obtain institutional review board protocol approval and are involved in consenting patients for participation in research. Research Associates follow patients throughout their entire clinical course and collect data for clinical studies.

Collaboration



Research Associates work together on many levels and gain professional team experience by leading the development of patient education initiatives. The THANC Foundation is continuing development of the Thyroid Care Collaborative (thyroidccc.org) which is now providing education for doctors and patients, research data for the scientific community and record portability and security for patients. THANC has recently launched the Head & Neck Cancer Guide (headandneckcancerguide.org) an educational website for head and neck cancer patients, their caregivers, and their families.

Immersion



Research Associates spend one day per week observing thyroid and head and neck surgery in the operating room. They develop an understanding of the role of surgery in the treatment of thyroid and head and neck cancer patients, as well as how medical professionals from different specialties collaborate on patient care from diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately to rehabilitation.

Current Associates



Laura Dos Reis

Laura grew up in New Paltz, New York and graduated from Williams College in 2012, where she majored in mathematics.



Grace Haser

Grace grew up in New York City and graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 2014 with a degree in history.



Meghan Rowe

Meghan graduated magna cum laude from Williams College in 2014, where she earned a degree in sociology and global health. She is originally from Bangor, Maine.



Rosalie Machado

Rosalie graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in Health and Societies. She is from Lawrenceville, NJ.



Marcela Osorio

Marcela graduated from Williams College with a degree in American Studies. She plans to pursue a career in medicine and public health.

Past Associates



Will Karle

Resident in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary



Jason Clain

Tufts University School of Medicine, Class of 2017



Sophie Scherl

Albany Medical College, Class of 2017



Erin Alpert

Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Class of 2018



Eliza Dewey

Eliza accepted a permanent position at THANC assisting to develop the TCC.



Henry Su

Harvard Medical School, Class of 2019

Program Directors

Research Associates work closely with Mark Urken, MD, Erika Rauscher, and Cathy Lazarus, PhD in research and other capacities. Dr. Urken is an otolaryngologist / head and neck surgeon at Mount Sinai Beth Israel. Erika Rauscher is the Executive Director of the THANC Foundation. Dr. Lazarus is a speech and language pathologist at Mount Sinai Beth Israel.



Mark L. Urken, MD
*Otolaryngologist – Head & Neck Surgeon,
Mount Sinai Beth Israel*



Erika Rauscher
Executive Director, THANC Foundation



Cathy Lazarus, PhD
Research Director, THNRC

Recent Publications

Su HK, Wang BY, Mannan AA, Dewey EH, Alpert EH, Reis LL, Urken ML 2015 Very delayed cervical lymph node metastases from hyalinizing clear cell carcinoma: Report of 2 cases. *Head & Neck* 37:E19-21.

Mehra S, Tuttle RM, Milas M, Orloff L, Bergman D, Bernet V, Brett E, Cobin R, Doherty G, Judson BL, Klopper J, Lee S, Lupo M, Machac J, Mechanick JI, Randolph G, Ross DS, Smallridge R, Terris D, Tufano R, Alon E, **Clain J, DosReis L, Scherl S, Urken ML** 2015 Database and registry research in thyroid cancer: striving for a new and improved national thyroid cancer database. *Thyroid : Official Journal of the American Thyroid Association* 25:157-168.

Alpert EH, Wenig BM, Dewey EH, Su HK, Dos Reis L, Urken ML 2015 Size distribution of metastatic lymph nodes with extranodal extension in patients with papillary thyroid cancer: a pilot study. *Thyroid : Official Journal of the American Thyroid Association* 25:238-241.

Khorsandi AS, **Su HK, Mourad WF, Urken ML, Persky MS, Lazarus CL, Jacobson AS** 2015 Osteoradionecrosis of the subaxial cervical spine following treatment for head and neck carcinomas. *The British Journal of Radiology* 88:20140436.

Dewey EH, Castro JR, Mojica J, Lazarus CL, Su HK, Alpert EH, DosReis LL, Urken ML 2014 Reconstruction of expanding tracheoesophageal fistulae in post radiated total laryngectomy patients with a bipaddled radial forearm free flap: report of 8 cases. *Head & Neck*.

Clain JB, Mehra S, Scherl S, Dos Reis LL, Turk A, Wenig BM, Dewey EH, Urken ML 2014 Intrathyroidal tumors presenting with extranodal extension: what are we missing? *Endocrine Pathology* 25:385-389.

Mehra S, **Scherl S, Lazarus C, Dewey E, Urken ML** 2014 Transtracheal approach to repair of a tracheo-colonic fistula 44 years after colonic interposition. *Head & Neck* 36:E117-120.

Su HK, Urken ML, Khorsandi AS 2014 Growing mass on the right side of the neck. *JAMA Otolaryngology--Head & Neck Surgery* 140:1085-1086.

Dos Reis LL, Tuttle RM, Alon E, Bergman DA, Bernet V, Brett EM, Cobin R, Doherty G, Harris JR, Klopper J, Lee SL, Lupo M, Milas M, Machac J, Mechanick JI, Orloff L, Randolph G, Ross DS, Smallridge RC, Terris DJ, Tufano RP, Mehra S, Scherl S, Clain JB, Urken ML 2014 What is the gold standard for comprehensive interinstitutional communication of perioperative information for thyroid cancer patients? A comparison of existing electronic health records with the current American Thyroid Association recommendations. *Thyroid : Official Journal of the American Thyroid Association* 24:1466-1472.

Urken ML, Mechanick JI, Sarlin J, **Scherl S, Wenig BM** 2014 Pathologic reporting of lymph node metastases in differentiated thyroid cancer: a call to action for the College of American Pathologists. *Endocrine Pathology* 25:214-218.

Su HK, Dos Reis LL, Lupo MA, Milas M, Orloff LA, Langer JE, Brett EM, Kazam E, Lee SL, Minkowitz G, Alpert EH, Dewey EH, Urken ML 2014 Striving toward standardization of reporting of ultrasound features of thyroid nodules and lymph nodes: a multidisciplinary consensus statement. *Thyroid : Official Journal of the American Thyroid Association* 24:1341-1349.

For a full listing of publications, please visit our website.
www.thancfoundation.org/research



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE



THE THANC FOUNDATION

is a non-profit whose three-pronged mission funds research, provides education, and supports patients who suffer from cancers of the thyroid and head & neck. Under the direction of Dr. Mark Urken, Chief of Head & Neck Surgical Oncology, the THANC Foundation funds research that evaluates the impact of thyroid, head and neck cancer on patient function, disease progression, and long term survival. In addition to research, THANC sponsors patient education, community awareness, and family support programs. The THANC Foundation is based in New York City's Union Square at the Institute for Head & Neck and Thyroid Cancer at Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

Join the THANC Team

Please contact Erika Rauscher, THANC's Executive Director for more information.
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