

### **Kaitlyn July**

Disclosures: Kaitlin July is the director of the MCC Multidisciplinary Complex Dysphagia Clinic.

Bio: Kaitlin July, MD is from Kansas City, MO and received her medical degree from the University of Missouri School of Medicine, where she was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and Gold Humanism Honor Society. She completed her Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery residency at the University of Kentucky and her Pediatric Otolaryngology fellowship at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, where she now works as faculty as an Assistant Professor in Pediatric Otolaryngology.

Dr. July helped develop and is the Director of the Multidisciplinary Complex Dysphagia Clinic at MCC. Her clinical interests are in dysphagia or swallowing disorders, endoscopic airway and breathing disorders, otology and hearing loss, sleep surgery, and sialendoscopy/salivary gland disease. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Michael, daughter, Penelope, and dogs Theo and Riley.

### **Cara Donohue**

Disclosures: Cara W. Donohue receives a salary from VUMC. Her research work is funded by the American Heart Association, the Alzheimer's Association, the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, and NHLBI.

Bio: Cara W. Donohue is a practicing speech-language pathologist, an Assistant Professor, Director of Medical Speech-Language Pathology, Co-Director of the Medical Speech-Language Pathology specialty track, and Director of the Innovative Research in Aerodigestive Disorders (iRAD) Laboratory at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

### **Amy Obenauer**

Disclosures: No disclosures.

Bio: Amy Obenauer, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S is the Associate Clinical Team Lead for the acute pediatrics speech pathology team at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and is the speech pathology representative for the pediatric aerodigestive team as well as the multidisciplinary complex dysphagia team. Her clinical interests include complex dysphagia management through the lifespan including VFSS and FEES, level IV NICU, cardiac ICU, and level 1 trauma care.

## **Alexander Gelbard**

Disclosures: No disclosures.

Bio: Dr. Gelbard is a board-certified Otolaryngologist and tenured professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville Tennessee. His clinical efforts focus on adult laryngeal and tracheal disease. He completed his undergraduate education at Stanford University, medical school at Tulane School of Medicine, and internship and residency at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston Texas. Dr. Gelbard completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in Immunology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center as well as a clinical fellowship in Laryngeal Surgery at Vanderbilt School of Medicine. He is surgical co-director of the Vanderbilt Center for Complex Airway Reconstruction, has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and lectures internationally on adult airway disease.

Scientifically, Dr. Gelbard is Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and an NIH-funded principal investigator studying obstructive fibrotic diseases in the larynx and trachea (collectively termed laryngotracheal stenosis, i.e. LTS). LTS are a group of devastating disease resulting in fixed extrathoracic obstruction of the large airway. LTS can occur without known antecedent injury (idiopathic subglottic stenosis), it also can accompany collagen vascular disease (e.g. Wegeners Granulomatosis) or follow iatrogenic injury (e.g., endotracheal intubation). Novel investigations designed to understand LTS pathogenesis are needed to innovate precision therapies to reduce the burden of these devastating diseases on affected patients.

Dr. Gelbard's research includes studies of genetic associations, immunology, host-pathogen interaction, clinical epidemiology, outcome measure development, and clinical trial design and conduct. This work has been supported by both the NHLBI and PCORI. To facilitate this work, He founded the North American Airway Collaborative (NoAAC), a 40-center research network that has enrolled more than 1,200 patients in studies investigating the factors underlying the pathogenesis and outcomes of voice box injury. It is composed of outstanding collaborators who pursue a unique combination of genetic, molecular, and epidemiologic based approaches to investigate the critical factors underlying the pathogenesis and outcomes of laryngotracheal stenosis.

### **Meredith Oakey Ashford**

Disclosures: Meredith Oakey Ashford receives a salary from Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Bio: Meredith Oakey Ashford, MS, CCC-SLP has worked as an acute care speech pathologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for 17 years. She is involved in clinical instruction, SLP training, and guest lecturing around the medical center on the topics of dysphagia and swallowing with tracheostomy. She serves as the co-chair of Vanderbilt University Hospital's multidisciplinary tracheostomy team. She has previously presented at national conferences on the SLP's role in collaboration with Palliative Care as well as communication options for patients who are trach and vent dependent.

### **Hannah Malamud Hoffman**

Disclosure statements: Hannah Malamud Hoffman receives a salary from Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She has no other financial or non-financial relationships to disclose.

Bio: Hannah Malamud Hoffman, MS, CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist at the Vanderbilt Medical Center specializing in the evaluation and management of dysphagia in medically complex populations, with particular focus on patients with head and neck cancer. She earned her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from Vanderbilt University and practices within a multidisciplinary team alongside otolaryngology, oncology, and rehabilitation specialists. Her clinical interests include swallowing outcomes following head and neck cancer treatment, evidence-based dysphagia rehabilitation, and interdisciplinary approaches to optimizing patient care.

### **Faith Lemke**

Disclosure statements: Faith Lemke receives funding support from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders of the National Institutes of Health (T32DC020141), the Russell G. Hamilton Scholar Provost's Graduate Fellowship from Vanderbilt University, and the Lindsay Sale-Tinney Scholarship from Vanderbilt University. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Bio: Faith Lemke is a certified speech-language pathologist and PhD student at Vanderbilt University in the Innovative Research in Aerodigestive Disorders (iRAD) Laboratory under the

mentorship of Dr. Cara Donohue. She earned her master's in speech-language pathology in 2021, followed by four years of clinical practice in acute and outpatient settings prior to commencing her doctoral training. Her research interests focus on the mechanisms underlying aerodigestive dysfunction, with the goal of advancing detection and interventions for individuals with swallowing impairment.

### **Amanda Hereford**

Disclosures: Amanda Hereford receives a salary from Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Bio: Amanda P. Hereford received her Master of Art degree in Communication Sciences from the University of Connecticut and Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders from Auburn University. For more than 20 years, she has been working primarily with patients that have suffered traumatic brain injuries at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; as well as providing dysphagia assessments to patients with a variety of diagnoses. She is the clinical team lead of Medical Speech Pathology at VUMC. Beyond her clinical work, Amanda contributes to professional education through graduate course instruction, conference organization, and guest presentations across medical and community platforms.

### **Elizabeth Norberg**

Disclosures: Elizabeth Norberg is a salaried SLP at Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Bio: Elizabeth Norberg is a Board-Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders working as an acute care medical speech-language pathologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She earned her master's degree from University of Alabama in 2006. Elizabeth's specialties include: diagnostics and treatment of swallow dysfunction in medically complex patients, artificial airways, FEES for upper aerodigestive tract assessment, and head and neck cancer.

### **Sarah Essaied**

Disclosures: Sarah Essaied receives a salary from Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She has no other financial or non-financial relationships to disclose.

Bio: Bio: Sarah Essaied, M.A., CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist at Vanderbilt Medical Center working to evaluate and treat medically complex patients with dysphagia and cognitive communicative disorders in the acute care setting. She earned her graduate degree from the

University of Memphis, completed her clinical fellowship at VUMC, and has been a part of the acute care team since. Sarah's clinical interests include implementing evidence-based dysphagia management across populations.

### **Christopher Wootten**

Disclosures: No disclosures

Bio: Dr. Christopher T. Wootten, MD, MMHC, FACS, FAAP, attended medical school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where he fell in love with the surgical management of communication disorders. Dr. Wootten completed an internship in general surgery and a residency in otolaryngology—head and neck surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where his interest in the management of complex airway diseases was formed.

Dr. Wootten then spent two years at Cincinnati Children's Hospital after residency completing a fellowship under the direction of Dr. Robin Cotton, renowned airway surgeon and thought leader in aerodigestive care. Dr. Wootten joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2009. He promptly began to participate in several multi-disciplinary teams performing cutting edge comprehensive care in children. Teams include the pediatric cochlear implant team, the velopharyngeal insufficiency team, the complex aerodigestive evaluation team (CADET), and he founded the refractory obstructive sleep apnea (ROSA) team.

Dr. Wootten founded the Aerodigestive Society ([www.aerodigestive.us](http://www.aerodigestive.us)), which has blossomed into an international not-for-profit organization focused on education and innovation to help children with airway and aerodigestive disorders. He has served in many roles within this organization including President, and he has spoken nationally and internationally about the multidisciplinary care of the pediatric airway. He chairs two national aerodigestive research collaboratives. With a growing interest in health care leadership, Dr. Wootten obtained a Master of Management in Health Care from the Owen School of Business at Vanderbilt in 2017. Dr. Wootten has authored or co-authored over 90 peer reviewed articles and book chapters in many aspects of pediatric otolaryngology—head and neck surgery, and in the diagnosis and management of pediatric and adult airway disorders. His research interests include understanding chronic airway inflammation and its role in airway reconstruction. He also maintains an avid interest in the use of minimally invasive surgical techniques in the ear, in the management of sleep apnea, and in the airway.

### **Pamela DuVall**

Disclosures:

Financial: Salary from Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Non-Financial: None

Bio: Pamela DuVall has been a Speech Pathologist for 34 years and with the Vanderbilt Adult Acute Care team for 14 years. Since coming to Vanderbilt she has specialized in dysphagia management of the head and neck cancer patient and the management of delirium and dysphagia of the medically complex patient. She is co-facilitator of the Head & Neck Cancer Support Group at Gilda's Club of Middle Tennessee. She has presented at the American Delirium Society 2025 Conference on Humanizing the ICU Experience by Elevating Patient Communication. Pamela obtained her Master's of Science degree at California State University East Bay and Bachelor's degree at Chico State University.

### **Kimberly Vinson**

Disclosures: Kimberly Vinson, MD, has no relevant relationships to disclose.

Bio: Kimberly N. Vinson, M.D., is an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and the Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs for the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She holds the Directorship in Leadership for the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. She completed her undergraduate education at Birmingham-Southern College, medical school at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and internship and residency at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She completed her fellowship in Laryngology and Care of the Professional Voice at Vanderbilt Voice Center. Clinically, she cares for patients with voice, airway, and swallowing disorders and works closely with the department's voice and swallowing speech-language pathologists in the care of her patients. As a medical educator within the School of Medicine and Department of Otolaryngology, she works to support a spectrum of students and trainees pursuing careers in medicine and to ensure that trainees are able to learn in psychologically safe learning environments.