

OTOLARYNGOLOGY – HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

Residency Application Information

Personnel to contact:

- Rodney C. Diaz, MD FACS Residency Director rcdiaz@ucdavis.edu
- Lisa Yee-Isbell Residency Coordinator lyeeisbell@ucdavis.edu
- UC Davis ENT Residency Program Office: 916-734-5005

About the specialty:

- Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is a highly competitive specialty.
- The specialty offers surgeons an opportunity to practice a wide variety of surgical procedures and cutting edge techniques and yet maintain longitudinal medical care of their patients.
- Consistently ranked by NRMP in the top 3-5 most competitive specialties
- Applicant volume is typically 2-3x number of available residency positions nationwide
- Interested students should seek advice from ENT faculty and demonstrate an interest in the field early, during their MS-I or MS-II year if possible.
- This does not mean someone who chooses Otolaryngology during the MS-III year is at a certain disadvantage, but early exposure to the specialty is always helpful.
- Students who would like to spend a day or two in clinic or in the operating room (OR) to see if this is a good specialty for them are welcome.

Advice on applying:

- **MS3 year:** Students with an interest in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery should request this as an optional rotation during their MS3 General Surgery Clerkship.
- **MS4 year:** Students seriously interested should complete the 4 week Acting Internship (AI) with our department. During the rotation the student will spend time with all our faculty and residents in both the clinic and the OR, participate in morning rounds, on-call, cleft panel, tumor board, otology lectures, journal club, and grand rounds. You will give a 30 minute Grand Rounds case presentation near the conclusion of the rotation. In addition, during the rotation, the student is given an interview with our faculty.
- Applicants should also plan to do 1-2 additional AI rotations at other institutions.
- Exceptional knowledge of anatomy, particularly of the head and neck, is expected of all applicants.
- Research experience is highly valuable in distinguishing applicants. This research experience does not necessarily have to be within the typical ENT research fields. Your contribution within the lab and impact on the research, as well as in-depth knowledge and understanding of the research work that was done are more important.
- **M1 and MS2 course grades** are important in narrowing the field of competitive applicants.
- **USMLE Step 1 and Step 2CK scores** are important in narrowing the field of competitive applicants
- **MS3 core clerkship evaluations and grades** are absolutely critical in determining match success.
- **AI clerkship performance** is absolutely critical in determining match success.
- **STRONG letters of recommendation**, from UCD and away AI faculty members who know you well, are absolutely critical in determining match success.
- UCDSOM applicants have historically been competitive, but all applicants are advised to consider, apply, and interview with ENT programs broadly – both geographically and academically.

Our goal is to choose applicants who are academically superior, highly motivated, dependable, well-rounded, dedicated team members and future leaders.